



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

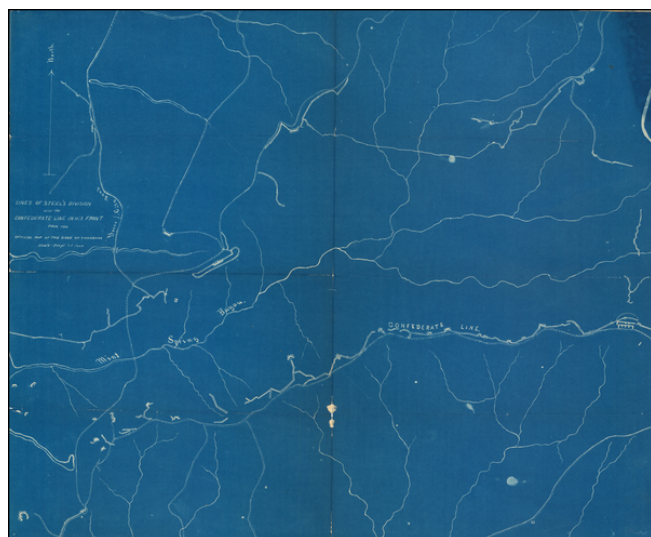
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Line's of Steel's Division and the Confederate Line in his Front From The Official Map of the Siege of Vicksburg

Stock#: 62800
Map Maker:
Date: 1900 circa
Place: n.p.
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 23 x 18.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Blueprint Map of the Siege of Vicksburg

Detailed blueprint map illustrating the location of "Steel's Division" during the Siege of Vicksburg.

"Steel" is Frederick Steele (1819 - 1868), a career military officer in the United States Army, who served as a major general in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

This a handsome and early example of the blueprint method in mapping.

Blueprint maps

Blueprint maps were among the most popular means for the swift printing of maps for which there would be a limited demand. A blueprint map could be made and/or revised much more quickly than a lithograph, cerograph, or other printing method, and at a much lower cost.

Blueprinting as a method was invented in 1842 by John Herschel, a chemist, astronomer, and photographer. A cyanotype process, one starts by drawing on semi-transparent paper, weighted down by a top sheet of paper. The paper would be coated with a photosensitive chemical mixture of potassium ferricyanogen and ferric ammonium citrate. The paper would then be exposed to light, wherein the exposed portions turned blue and the drawn lines, protected from exposure, would remain white.



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The blueprint process was an improvement on the expensive and time-consuming method of hand-tracing original documents. The technique was particularly popular with architects; by the 1890s, a blueprint was one-tenth the cost of a hand-traced reproduction. It could also be copied more quickly.

Blueprint maps began to appear as early as the 1850s and 1860s, but they really began to become the standard for mining and similar limited-purpose maps by the 1880s. The ability to create these maps quickly and at a low cost made them the standard for short-run prints, ideal for mapping mining regions in the West and for similar purposes.

The method still exists today, but in a very limited fashion. In the 1940s, diazo prints (whiteprints or bluelines) became more popular, as they were easier to read and faster to make. The blue lines on a white background of these prints are now what most people call blueprints.

Detailed Condition: