



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A New Map of Our Country Present and Prospective Compiled From Government Surveys and other Reliable Sources. . . . 1856

Stock#: 65716
Map Maker: Johnson & Gaston
Date: 1856
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 61.5 x 56 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine early wall map of the United States, published shortly after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854.

Extending from Coast to Coast, the map is of greatest interest for its depiction of the Western States and Territories shortly after the creation of Kansas.

- Massive Minnesota Territory, covering much of the Dakotas
- Nebraska extends to the Rocky Mountains and the Canadian Border
- Oregon & Washington extend to the Rocky Mountains
- New Mexico Territory and Utah Territory extend from California to the Rocky Mountains.

The west is filled with Indian Tribes, early forts, and the major wagon roads. The map makes an excellent attempt to depict the earliest Western Counties.

Kansas Nebraska Act

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was an 1854 bill that mandated “popular sovereignty”—allowing settlers of a territory to decide whether slavery would be allowed within a new state’s borders. The bill was proposed by Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln’s opponent in the influential Lincoln-Douglas debates and overturned the Missouri Compromise’s use of latitude as the boundary between slave and free territory. The conflicts that arose between pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers in the aftermath of the act’s passage



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led to the period of violence known as Bleeding Kansas, and the American Civil War (1861-65).

This 1854 bill to organize western territories became part of the political whirlwind of sectionalism and railroad building, splitting two major political parties and helping to create another, as well as worsening North-South relations.

The act passed Congress, but it failed in its purposes. By the time Kansas was admitted to statehood in 1861, southern states had begun to secede from the Union. The Independent Democrats and many northern Whigs abandoned their affiliations for the new antislavery Republican party, leaving southern Whigs without party links and creating an issue over which the already deeply divided Democrats would split even more. The railroad was eventually built but not along the route Douglas wanted and with funds voted by a Republican Congress during a Republican Civil War administration.

Rarity

This is the third state of the map, which was first published in 1854 and again in 1855 and later by J.G. Wells, New York. Mack R. Barnitz, Cincinnati, Ohio.

All states of the map are rare, especially in nice condition.

Detailed Condition:

Minor chipping. Laid on linen, with original wooden rods.