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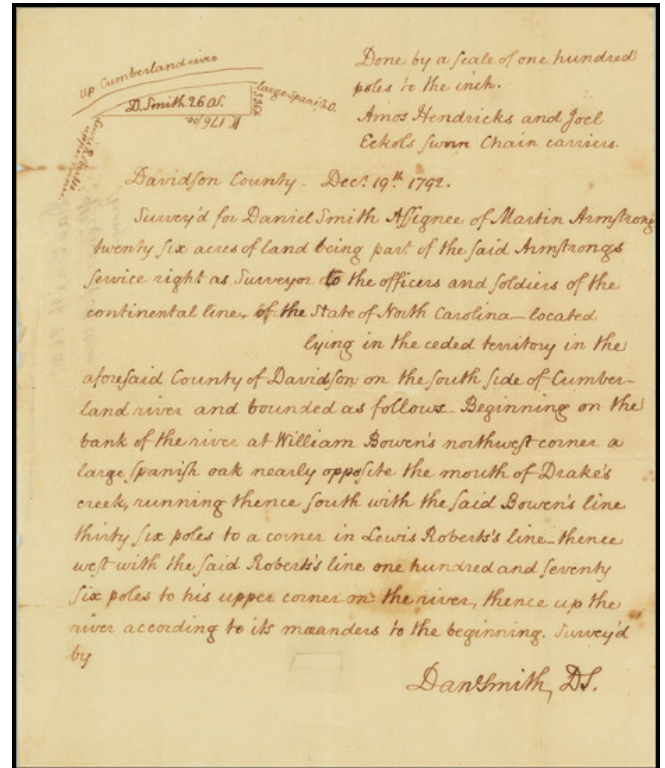
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[Daniel Smith Land Survey on the Cumberland River in Davidson County dated December 19, 1792]

Stock#: 77047
Map Maker: Smith
Date: 1792
Place: Tennessee
Color: Pen & Ink
Condition: VG+
Size: 7.4 x 8.9 inches (sheet size)
Price: SOLD



Description:

18th Century Nashville Area Daniel Smith Survey on the Cumberland River

Extremely early Nashville area survey map, executed by Tennessee's most important early surveyor, Daniel Smith, executed 4 years prior to the creation of Tennessee, at a time when the land was the "Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio" (Southwest Territory).

General Daniel Smith is one of the most important early figures in the history of Tennessee, the author of the first book on Tennessee and the first map of Tennessee and one of its earliest surveyors, beginning with his appointment August 5, 1781 as Assistant Deputy Surveyor in the Southern Department of the Continental Army under Thomas Hutchins.

The land shown consists of 26 acres on the Cumberland River, opposite Drake's Creek, in today's Green Hill area, near Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Farm. The survey was based upon a grant from Martin Armstrong to Daniel Smith, making Smith both the surveyor and the landowner. The land in question is



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downstream from the Castle Rock House, Daniel's Smith home built between 1784 and 1796, the oldest house in Middle Tennessee.

Given the location of the land on the opposite side of the Cumberland River from Drake's Creek, it seems likely that the land was intended as ferry location or crossing point to serve Smith's Castle Rock house and plantation, and may be related to the creation of Sanders Ferry. James Sanders (1764-1836) was an assistant to Daniel Smith in the 1780s. In the 1790s, James Sanders and his family settled in the area and he became a prominent land owner, ferry operator, and tax collector, who established a ferry service at the confluence of Drake's Creek and the Cumberland River (today's Sanders Ferry Park).

As noted below, the land grant relates to Smith's services in laying the boundary line for the state of North Carolina. Lacking funds to pay its officers and men for service in the Continental Line, North Carolina in 1782 passed legislation granting to each soldier who served to the end of the Revolutionary War land in its western district, which would include Middle Tennessee.

The survey identifies Amos Hendricks and Joel Eckols as "Sworn Chain carriers," and provides

Survey'd for Daniel Smith Assignee of Martin Armstrong twenty six acres of land being part of the said Armstrong's Service right as Surveyor to the officers and soldiers of the continental line of the State of North Carolina -- located lying in the ceded territory in the aforesaid County of Davidson on the South Side of the Cumberland river and bounded a follows -- Beginning on the bank of the river at William Bowen's northwest corner a large Spanish oak nearly opposite the mouth of Drake's Creek, running thence south with the Said Bowen's line thirty six poles to a corner in Lewis Roberts's line -- thence west with the said Roberts's line one hundred and seventy six poles to his upper corner on the river. thence up the river according to its meanders to the beginning. Survey'd by

Dan'l Smith, D.S.

At the time of the grant, Martin Armstrong (see below) and Daniel Smith (see biography below) were in charge of the military grant surveys and had received by right of preemption Middle Tennessee, which would become Davidson County. The present survey would seem to be Smith's survey for the land grant record in the *Daniel Smith Papers* at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, described as:



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Land Record: North Carolina land grant #146, 26 acres to Daniel Smith, as assignee of Martin Armstrong, Davidson County, Tenn., 7 January 1794 [16"x13"] (71-212)

Martin Armstrong

As noted above, Smith received the land from Martin Armstrong (1739-1802), a colonel in the Surry County Regiment of the North Carolina militia during the American Revolution, a surveyor, and notable for devising the plan for Clarksville, Tennessee in 1784. Martin was a captain in the Province of North Carolina militia as early as 1773. During the American Revolution, he was a colonel in the Surry County Regiment of the North Carolina militia.

Armstrong was appointed as the North Carolina Surveyor General after the war and was responsible for overseeing veterans land claims in what became Tennessee. After the war, he moved to the western region of North Carolina that later became Tennessee.

North Carolina had declared the region of the Cumberland River as a military reserve in 1782. Martin Armstrong was appointed entry taker and chief surveyor for the military reservation. His office was to be in Nashville, Tennessee. His responsibility was to help eligible soldiers lay claim to their land-grant parcels. Martin's brother John Armstrong was also involved in distribution of the western reserve lands. An office authorized by the state of North Carolina was opened in Hillsboro. Its purpose was to handle the entries for military land grants. John Armstrong was the entry taker. In these affairs, Martin Armstrong operated the only other office for the western reserve, serving as the military entry taker and chief surveyor.

Between 1783 and 1790, both John and Martin Armstrong were accused of becoming involved in activities of fraudulent land grant documentation. The initial report of wrongdoing was reported to a North Carolina senator by Andrew Jackson. Southwest Territory governor William Blount was also accused of wrongdoing in the scandal. Ultimately, a judgment for £50,000 was levied against the bondsmen for General Armstrong by the state of North Carolina. The state of Tennessee moved to block any further land grants to Martin Armstrong.

Rarity

The present survey seems to be a unique survival and likely one of the earliest surviving surveys of land in the Nashville area in private hands.



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Detailed Condition: