



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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"Ocean View Ranch" Property & Residence of Jacob Downing . . . / Front View of Residence of Jacob Downing, San Gregorio, San Mateo Co. Cal.

Stock#: 88357
Map Maker: Brown & Co.
Date: 1878
Place: San Francisco
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 12.5 x 12 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Striking lithographic View by an Important African American Lithographer

Attractive hand-colored G.T. Brown lithograph of Jacob Downings "Ocean View Ranch" in San Gregorio (San Mateo County), from Moore & De Pue's *Illustrated History of San Mateo County*.

Located in the Tunitas Valley, the image shows the home of Major Jacob Downing, the first settler in the region, who arrived in the the 1850s and began a dairy farm.

G.T. Brown

Grafton Tyler Brown is perhaps the first and unquestionably the most famous African American artist and lithographer to depict California and the Pacific Coast. Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1841, Brown moved to San Francisco at the age of 20 and learned the art of lithography from C. C. Kuchel. In 1861 and again in 1864, Brown created the two earliest bird's eye views of Virginia City. At the age of 26, he established his own firm, G.T. Brown & Co.

Brown produced skillfully illustrated bank notes, labels, and maps, and stock certificates for Wells Fargo, Levi Strauss and Co., and several mining companies. His significant lithographic production, *The Illustrated History of San Mateo County* (1878), featured 72 views of the county's communities and

Drawer Ref: Northern
California 2

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ranches. Brown traveled throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, and British Columbia (where he settled in 1882), producing maps and illustrations, including many landscape paintings.

In 1893, Brown secured employment as a draftsman at the St. Paul, Minnesota office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sometime during his St. Paul years he married Elberta Brown. Brown's work with the Corps of Engineers ended in December 1897, after which he worked in the civil engineering department of the city of St. Paul until 1910. He died on March 3, 1918, in Nicollet County, Minnesota, bringing to a close a rich and varied career as an artist and illustrator of the American West.

Detailed Condition: