



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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[San Gregorio / Bellvale Valley] Residence of James W. Bell, San Gregorio, San Mateo Cal.

Stock#: 88379
Map Maker: Brown & Co.
Date: 1878
Place: San Francisco
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 26 x 12.25 inches



Price: SOLD

Description:

An Early California Resort Town South of Half Moon Bay

Fine view of San Gregorio, California, lithographed by famed African American lithographer Grafton T. Brown.

From Moore & De Pue's *Illustrated History of San Mateo County*.

Situated in what is today the Bellvale Valley (named for the James Bell family). James W. Bell and his wife operated a small hotel and post office at Bellvale,

San Gregorio

San Gregorio was an early California resort town. During the 1850s, wealthy San Franciscans traveled to the San Gregorio House by stagecoach to enjoy fishing, hunting, sea bathing, and boat races.

In the nineteenth century, a Chinese community lived along the creek which runs through San Gregorio.

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.



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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 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: