



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
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(First State!) A New Map of Texas, with the Contiguous American & Mexican States . . . 1835

Stock#: 91639
Map Maker: Mitchell / Young
Date: 1835
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 15 x 12.5 inches
Price: \$ 27,500.00



Description:

First State of The Mitchell-Young Map of Texas -- Published the year before Texas became the independent 'Lone Star Republic'

First state of the iconic Mitchell-Young *A New Map of Texas*, perhaps the single most commercially successful map of Texas during the earliest years of its transition from Mexican state to the Republic of Texas to the Eve of the Mexican War.

While not yet not claiming Texan Independence, the map clearly lays the groundwork for this event by showing the region to be a distinct and separate political entity traversed by the improvements of the Anglo-Texan colonists. By being one of the earliest separate maps of Texas and showing the land in such great detail, this work cements its place in the founding cartographic sequence of Texas.

In the early 1830s, the settlement of Texas and rising tensions between the Anglo-Texan settlers and the Mexican government generated intense interest amongst the American public. The publication of Stephen Austin's groundbreaking *Map of Texas* (1830) sparked a great appetite for new maps and geographical information on the region. Austin's map was soon followed by David H. Burr's *Texas* (1833). The first issue of the Mitchell-Young *A New Map of Texas* was issued in 1835, on the eve of Texas's independence, with seven subsequent editions issued up to 1845. This map was largely based on Burr's cartography, but includes some notable improvements, including the correct delineation of the Sabine River that marks the border between Texas and Louisiana.



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This is Streeter's 1st state (of 8, 1178A-1178H) of the map, which was published in every year from 1835 to 1839, and then later in 1842, 1843, and 1845. There is also a very rare 1836 state not recorded by Streeter, which retains the B in La Baca [B], which is removed in 1836.

The Map in Focus

The most engaging aspect of the map is its detailed labeling and original coloring of the numerous 'empresario' grants, which were the Anglo-American colonies that made up much of Texas. The first of these was 'Austin's Colony,' granted in 1821, and which grew to occupy a large area in the heart of the Texan territory. 'San Felipe de Austin', today's Austin, lies at the center of the colony, on the banks of the Colorado River. Originally founded as the village of Waterloo in 1837, it would eventually be renamed after Stephen Austin and would be designated as the Texan Republic's new capital in March 1839, four years after the publication of this map.

Several key settlements are labeled, including San Antonio de Bexar, then the largest town in Texas, founded in 1718, and the site of the Battle of the Alamo, fought in February-March, 1836, where Texan Independence fighters made a heroic stand against the Mexican army. Others include Brazoria, Harrisburg (the first provisional capital of independent Texas, near the future site of Houston), and Nacogdoches, the site of the first Spanish settlement in Texas (1716). Also included on the map are the routes of numerous roads which were considered the lifeline of the Republic.

The depiction of the northern and western frontier regions is captivating. While the delineation of the upper Rio Grande is less than precise, the interior lands feature a wealth of information. As Texas claimed the entire upper east bank of the river, the map labels this region "Santa Fe formerly New Mexico", as both the towns of Santa Fe and Taos laid within Texas's enlarged boundaries as part of "Wilson & Exeters Grant." Expanses of territory, clearly beyond the practical control of Texan authorities, are shown to be dominated by the "Apaches Mescaleros" and "Comanche Indians". Other areas are labeled as "elevated prairies" or home to "Droves of Wild Cattle & Horses". The future state of Oklahoma, north of the Red River, is shown to be 'Indian Territory', where the U.S. Government had recently exiled Native American Nations from the Southeast during the 'Trail of Tears'. On the northern bank of the Red River is "Fort Towson", an important U.S. army outpost guarding the 'Permanent Indian Frontier'.

One will notice that the southern border of Texas, as shown on the map, runs along the Nueces River, to the north of the Rio Grande. This line was historically considered to be the southern frontier of Texas, however, during the War of Independence, the Texans expanded their claims southwards to the Rio Grande to embrace the so-called 'Nueces Strip' or 'Wild horse Strip' (named after the Wild Horse Desert). While the Treaties of Velasco (May 14, 1836), which ended the war, recognized the Strip as henceforth



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belonging to Texas, the Mexican government subsequently disputed the concession. The controversy over the ownership of the Nueces Strip was used as a pretext by U.S. President James Polk to instigate the Mexican American War in 1845.

The map is further embellished with lengthy and very interesting notes on the current state of Texas, included in three insets, entitled 'Remarks on Texas', 'Land Grants', and 'Rivers of Texas'. The remarks paint a highly favorable view of the region. As American sentiment heavily supported the Republic's independence (and the notion of Texas's future entry into the Union), the remarks are geared towards encouraging further Anglo-American settlement in the region. In Land Grants, it is noted that a settler can still acquire:

"50,000 acres at the minimum price of 10 dollars",

which was an amazing deal, with no comparison in the United States. A guarantee is also given that:

New settlers are exempt from the payment of the usual taxes for the term of 10 years."

In the section "Remarks on Texas," the territory is described as having:

a geographical position highly favorable to commercial intercourse with the United States, and the rest of the world, are advantages which doubtless will at no distant period, render it an opulent and powerful State . . . Texas is one of the finest stock countries in the world. Cattle are raised in great abundance, and with but little trouble. Many of the settlers count their herds by hundreds, and great numbers are annually purchased, and driven to New Orleans by drovers, who visit the country for that purpose. The population is estimated at near 45,000 Americans and 4 or 5,000 Mexicans. When the population shall be found to number 50,000, the people will endeavor to obtain a government separate from that of Cohahuila [sic], the establishment of a State legislature at San Felipe [Austin], and the right of electing their own representatives to the General Congress at Mexico.

Historical Background

In 1821, 'Tejas' was a largely neglected frontier province of New Spain, which itself was gripped by the final throws of the revolution which would shortly establish Mexico's independence. The non-indigenous population numbered only 2,500 and was centered on a handful of missions and presidios. Development was hindered by the fierce resistance of Comanche and Apache warriors.

In the dying days of its Spanish hegemony, the regime granted concessions to foreigners, called



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'empresarios' (Spanish for 'entrepreneurs'), to settle certain frontier regions. These settlers were put there in order to act as bulwarks against the Native American peoples. In 1821, Moses Austin became the first of the many Anglo-American empresarios, having agreed to settle 300 Catholic families along Texas's Brazos River. Moses died shortly thereafter and his title passed to his son, Stephen Austin (1793-1836), who was later widely regarded as the "Father of Texas".

The new Mexican Constitution of 1824 devolved powers to the individual states, although it also ordained that Texas was to be merged with a more populous state to the southwest, becoming part of the State of Coahuila y Tejas. This meant that the new regional base of power would be in faraway Saltillo or Monclova. Fortunately, the authorities in Coahuila generally showed themselves to be tolerant, if not supportive, of Anglo-American settlers, as they hoped such developments would secure their northern frontier and raise tax revenues.

Austin energetically set about attracting enterprising settlers to his colony, with the first wave of families, "the Old Three Hundred," arriving late in 1825. Over the rest of the decade, the territory of Austin's grant was progressively expanded, as he managed to attract a further 900 migrants. During the same period, other American empresarios founded colonies, as depicted on the present map. While conditions were challenging, most of these colonies succeeded in establishing permanent settlements. While all new immigrants were to swear allegiance to Mexico as citizens, be Roman Catholic, learn Spanish, and observe a prohibition on slavery, these stipulations were rarely enforced. Gradually, a new society Anglo-American developed, demographically and culturally distinct from the rest of Mexico.

Importantly, Stephen Austin, who had skillfully conducted his own surveys and acquired the best sources from other cartographers, completed his *Map of Texas* (1830), published by Henry S. Tanner in Philadelphia. This was the first comprehensive map of the region and ran into several updated editions.

By 1830, the Anglo-American population of Texas reached 30,000, outnumbering the Mexican-born citizens by a factor of four to one. The Mexican government, perhaps rightly, feared that this demographic shift was a threat to its national security. President Anastasio Bustamante enacted the new laws of April 6, 1830, which effectively banned all foreign immigration to Texas. While Americans continued to arrive illegally, the Texan colonists and the Mexican government were now heading on a collision course.

It was during this period that David H. Burr, the Geographer to the United States House of Representatives, updated Austin's work with a new map, *Texas* (New York, 1833), showing seventeen land grants. Burr's map was the first large-scale map of Texas to show all of the region extending to include the Arkansas River and the Texas Panhandle. Burr's map formed the basis for the Mitchell-Young map, although the latter included notable improvements.



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In 1835, the conservative regime of President Antonio López de Santa Ana announced plans to enact the 'Siete Leyes' (Seven Laws) which would dissolve the elected state governments and to impose direct federal rule over all of Mexico. As was the case in several other Mexican states, the Texans found these developments to be intolerable and in October of that year, commenced an armed rebellion against Mexican rule. This conflict was known as the War of Texan Independence.

After an epic series of military campaigns, the Texan forces decisively defeated and captured Santa Ana at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. The Republic of Texas was born, with Santa Ana (who was then in Texan custody, having been captured at San Jacinto) recognizing Texan independence upon signing the Treaties of Velasco on May 14, 1836. While the Mexican government disavowed the treaties (claiming that they were signed under duress), Texas preserved its autonomy. The Mexican American War (1845-48) conclusively severed Texas from Mexico and Texas joined the Union as the 28th State.

The Mapmakers

The present map was designed and engraved by J. H. Young and published by S.A. Mitchell, a pairing that proved to be one of the most rewarding in the history of American cartography.

Samuel Augustus Mitchell (1792-1868) was the most prolific American map publisher of the 19th Century. Originally a school teacher, his frustration with the poor quality of educational maps led him to form his own mapmaking business. In 1830, he purchased the plates and rights to Anthony Finley's *New American Atlas* (1826) and hired J. H. Young, Finley's chief engraver, to improve and update the plates. He acquired the copyright for Henry S. Tanner's *New Universal Atlas* (1836) in 1845, and extended the life of the copperplates by having the images transferred to lithographic stone for printing. Mitchell was also a pioneer in the use of steel engraving, employing the technique in the early 1830s, almost 20 years before the general switch to steel was approximately 1850. Mitchell retired in 1860, turning the business over to his son Samuel Augustus Mitchell, Jr. The firm prospered until the 1890s.

James H. Young (fl. 1817-66) was an Irish-American cartographer, draftsman and engraver who played a leading role in the creation of 19th Century American maps and atlases. Based in Philadelphia, he was at various times associated with Anthony Finley, Charles Varle, William Kneass, George Delleker, and Samuel Augustus Mitchell, amongst others. His best-known work were the maps for Finley and later Mitchell's *New American Atlas*. While arguably the finest map engraver in America of his day, he was far more than an artisan, but also a knowledgeable and discerning editor of sources, and a designer of maps. Walter Ristow asserted that "Young was the [S.A. Mitchell] company's principal compiler and draftsman as well as chief engraver from 1830" until the 1860s. These varied skills were brilliantly displayed during the creation of the present map of Texas.



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The Mitchell-Young map, especially in the present first state, is one of the great monuments of Texan cartography, and an essential piece for any serious collection of Texana.

The First State

The First state of the map can be distinguished from the 1836 second state of the map by the update in the title (1836) and significant changes to the second state, which include:

- The replacement of "Zavallas" by "Bevil" in Zavala's Grant
- The addition of the town of Teran in Zavala's grant.
- The reworking of the "Atoyae" River
- The labeling of the eastern boundary as the "Boundary of 1819"
- The addition of a "Propd Boundary of Arkansas"
- The addition of mountains to the Indian Territory, Arkansas, Coahuila, New Leon, and Tamaulipas
- The additions of the towns to Tanaha and Jonesboro and associated roads

One interesting feature that appears only on the earliest editions of the map is the location of "Coles Settlement." On later editions, Cole's Settlement (which would be renamed Independence), disappears from the map, and Washington (on-the-Brazos) appears for the first time, often called the "Birthplace of Texas", where delegates declared the independence of the Republic on March 2, 1836.

Rarity

The 1835 Mitchell - Young Texas is rare on the market. We have only offered this state 3 times in our thirty years in business (1992-2022).

Detailed Condition:

Minor toning and soiling. Small area of restoration around San Antonio de Bexar, including facsimile image. Old fold splits, expertly reinforced on verso.