



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**A Map of the Creek Territory in Alabama, from the United States Surveys, Shewing each
Section & Fractional Section; By John La Tourrette, Mobile, Ala. . . . 1833**

Stock#: 93257
Map Maker: La Tourrette
Date: 1833
Place: Florence, Alabama
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 28 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Mapping The Former Creek Lands Following the 1832 Treaty of Cusetta

Rare separately published map of the "Late" Creek Territory in eastern Alabama, published by John La Tourrette in 1833.

La Tourrette's map was issued in the year following The Treaty of Cusseta, an agreement between the U.S. government and the Creek Nation, in which the Creeks ceded the United States Federal Government



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A Map of the Creek Territory in Alabama, from the United States Surveys, Shewing each Section & Fractional Section; By John La Tourrette, Mobile, Ala. . . . 1833

the remainder of the Creek Nation land east of the Mississippi River, all of which was located in east Alabama.

This is one of two maps published in 1833 by La Tourrette (along with his *Map of the Choctaw Territory in Alabama . . .*), launching his career as the pre-eminent regional mapmaker for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The former Creek Territory is depicted by La Tourrette as covering Benton County, Talladega County, Randolph County, Coosa County, Tallapoosa County, Chambers County, Macon County, Russell County, and Barbosa County, covering the area east of the Coosa River and west of the Chattahoochee River and the Alabama-Georgia State border.

The Treaty of Cusseta followed a period where in the late 1820s, Alabama passed a series of so-called "extension laws," extending Alabama's jurisdiction over vast areas of Creek territory and barring the Creeks from hunting, fishing, and trapping, in an effort to force the Creek to rely solely on farming, to become citizens of the United States and to accept individual homesteads, or to relocate to Indian Territory. In January 1832, the Alabama legislature passed another "extension law" which extended civil and criminal jurisdiction over all Creek and Cherokee Territory and barred the two Nations from passing laws contrary to state law and from meeting in council, thereby undermining the authority of tribal leaders.

By the beginning of 1833, the area shown on La Tourrette's map was rife with land speculation (often fraudulent), illegal squatting and a host of other deprivations which extended the hostile environment for the remaining Creeks. Moreover, Gold had been discovered to the northwest in 1830 at Blue Creek and Chestnut Creek, followed by later discoveries in Talladega, Tallapoosa, Chambers, Coosa, and Randolph Counties, which may also have played a role in the acceleration of legal and illegal settlement in the region and impetus for Creek removal.

The map bears the following note:

Surveyor's Office, Florence, Ala. 13th April 1833

We the undersigned Clerk and Draughtsman in the Surveyor General's Office of Alabama do hereby certify that Mr. John La Tourrette has copied all the original plats of the Surveys of the late Creek lands within this State. From the very great care and labour Mr. La Tourrette bestows on this matter we have no doubt he will be able to present to the Public on of the most correct Maps ever published in the United States.



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

**A Map of the Creek Territory in Alabama, from the United States Surveys, Shewing each
Section & Fractional Section; By John La Tourrette, Mobile, Ala. . . . 1833**

Ja[me]s H[arvey] Weakly Clerk.

F[erdinand] Sannoner Draughtsman.

Creek Removal Act

The Creek Nation was once one of the largest Native American groups in the Southeast, controlling millions of acres of land in the present-day states of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. After the American Revolution, these lands were systematically taken from the Creek Nation through a series of treaties, land scams and theft, as well as corrupt arrangements between Creek leaders and federal agents. By 1836, most of the Creek Nation had been relocated Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

The first major treaty was illegally signed on February 12, 1825, by Coweta headman William McIntosh, whereby the Creek ceded all the Lower Creek land in Georgia and a large tract in Alabama to the federal government, in exchange for \$200,000 and land in present-day Oklahoma. For his transgression, McIntosh was executed at one of his plantations on the Chattahoochee River in May 1825.

After a Creek delegation travelled to Washington DC to object, the so-called Treaty of Indian Springs was nullified on January 24, 1826, the only time that a ratified treaty with a Native American nation was overturned. The Treaty of Washington restored Creek land within Alabama but allowed the state of Georgia to keep ceded Creek lands.

Over the next several years, a number of groups followed. Some were supporters of McIntosh; others were Creeks who had previously resided on land that now belonged to Georgia or simply felt threatened by white settlers who illegally squatted on their land.

Over the next years, there was significant white encroachment on Creek land. Several prominent chiefs travelled to Washington to negotiate an agreement to salvage the Creek Nation. The Treaty of Cusseta, signed in March 1832, modified the Creek Nation's sovereign claims to their land in exchange for legal title, which created 640 acre parcels for chiefs and 320 acre parcels for all there members of the Creek Nation, who were then free sell or retain the land. The Treaty was largely a failure, as a result of white encroachment and unscrupulous land speculators.

Two more voluntary emigrating parties left Alabama in 1834 and 1835, but most Creeks were opposed to emigration and refused to go west. Sporadic violence ensued in 1830s, finally resulting in a war in the spring of 1836, with Creeks from the towns of Chehaw, Yuchi, and Hitchiti, among others,



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

A Map of the Creek Territory in Alabama, from the United States Surveys, Shewing each Section & Fractional Section; By John La Tourrette, Mobile, Ala. . . . 1833

attacking whites and looting and destroying plantations in the present-day Alabama counties of Chambers, Macon, Pike, Lee, Russell, and Barbour, an action which came to be known as the Second Creek War.

The war was used by President Andrew Jackson as justification for removing all the Creeks from Alabama. After capturing the warring Creeks, soldiers chained and marched the warriors and their families to Montgomery, where they were placed on steamboats and taken by ship to Mobile and New Orleans and then being marched to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. A similar forced exodus of "friendly" Creeks followed.

Although Creeks continued to emigrate from Alabama in small, family-sized detachments into the 1840s and 1850s, government-sponsored removal ended officially in 1837 and 1838. Between the McIntosh party emigration in 1827 and the end of removal in 1837, more than 23,000 Creeks relocated to Indian Territory.

Only the Poarch Creek of Atmore, Escambia County, remains today on the only officially recognized Creek lands in the state.

Rarity

The map is extremely rare. We note one prior example at auction at the *Frank T. Siebert Library of the North American Indian and the American Frontier in 1999*, where a damaged example with browning and losses at the folds was offered as lot 634, acquired by Siebert at Goodspeed's in 1981.

We note 4 or 5 known examples:

- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (American Geographical Society copy)
- Birmingham Public Library (heavily damaged)
- Alabama Department Archives and History (heavily damaged)
- New York Public Library (heavily damaged)
- OCLC also lists an example at the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, which we could not verify

Detailed Condition:

Flattened, with cover separate. Some evidence of soiling and old folds. Color retouched.