



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

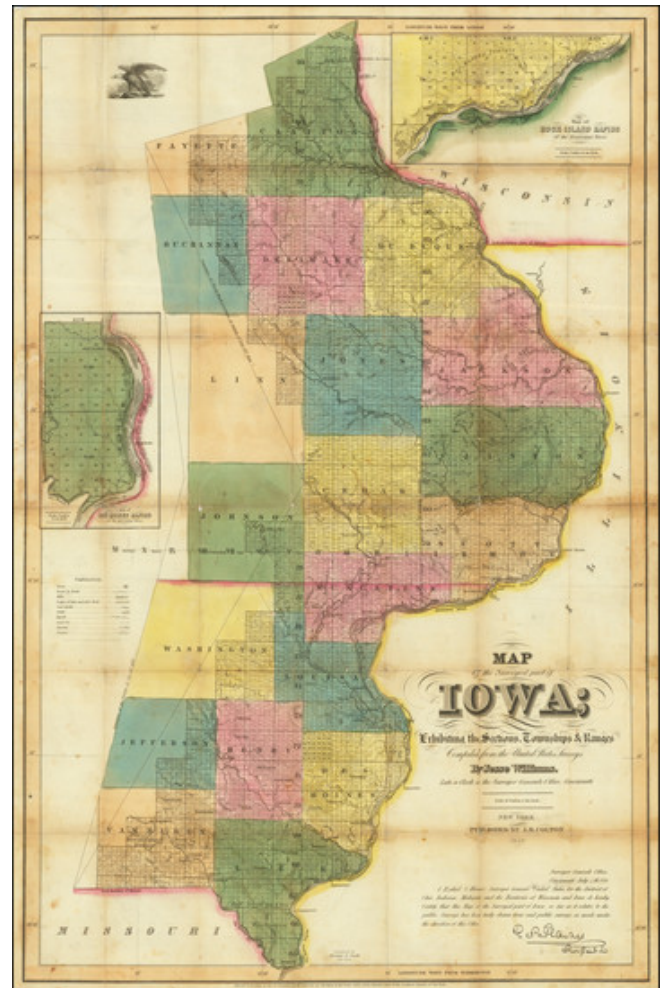
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[Iowa Territory] Map of the Surveyed Part of Iowa Exhibiting the Sections, Townships & Ranges [with book] Iowa with Topographic Map From the U.S. Surveys

Stock#: 86978
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1840
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: Good
Size: 20.5 x 32 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

The Most Detailed of the Early Map of Iowa.

A handsome example of the best early mapping of Iowa, published by J.H. Colton in New York in 1840, based on information compiled by Jesse Williams. The map appears in Williams's description of Iowa, one of the first texts on the new U.S. territory.

U.S. governmental surveys of Iowa began just as the territory was split from Wisconsin in 1838. The results of the surveys flowed through the Surveyor General's Office in Cincinnati. Thus, L. Judson



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produced the first separate map of Iowa Territory (per Karrow) in 1838 in Cincinnati. Demand for materials about new territories often shot up right after the territory was created, and J.H. Colton produced his first separate map of Iowa in 1839.

Perhaps Jesse Williams saw the Colton and Judson maps as inferior to what he could produce; as a clerk in the Surveyor General's Office in Cincinnati, Williams had access to the best versions of the surveys done in Iowa. Because of his inside track, he could compile a map with more detail than before, especially in rendering landform and topographical data. On Williams's map, the bluffs of the Mississippi are carefully shown (lacking from the Judson), prairies and wetlands are rendered pictorially, and small groups of hills are indicated with hachuring. Williams's key lists the following symbols: Towns, Roads & Trails, Hills, Ledges of Lime and other Rock, Coal Banks, Bluffs, Rapids, Lead Ore, Marshes, and Prairies.

The lines of the Black Hawk Cessions of 1832 and 1837 are indicated by dotted lines.

Williams included two inset maps of rapids on the Mississippi. One titled "Map of Rock Island Rapids Of the Mississippi River." The other "Map of Des Moines Rapids of the Mississippi River."

A bald eagle in the upper-left corner faces west, indicating the inclination for American expansion beyond the Mississippi.

Jesse Williams

According to Iowa historian Jack Johnson;

During the time he was Territorial Auditor, and because of his experience with land affairs, Jesse Williams compiled A Description of the United States Lands in Iowa. The one-hundred-eighty- page book, published by J. H. Colton in 1840, was bound in blue paper and contained a detailed map signed by Jesse William, "late a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office, Cincinnati". According to the author, the volume included "a minute description of every section and quarter section, quality of soil, groves of timber, prairies, ledges of rock, coal banks, iron and lead ores, water-falls, mill-seats, etc."

The skill in compiling the information from the records of the United States survey testifies for Williams's training. There was truth in the statement by the author that the "book and map will furnish the possessor with more information concerning Iowa than can be obtained from any other source."



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The First Maps of Iowa

The following is an overview of the earliest separately-published maps of Iowa, from 1838 to 1841:

[1838. Judson, L. *Iowa. A sectional Map of the Black Hawk Purchase with a part of Illinois and Wisconsin.* Engd. by Doolittle & Munson Cini.](#)

[1839. Colton, J.H. *Map of the Surveyed part of Iowa New York, Published by J.H. Colton. 1839.*](#)

1840. Williams, Jesse. *Map Of the Surveyed part of Iowa; Exhibiting the Sections, Townships & Ranges Compiled from the United States Surveys By Jesse Williams, Late a Clerk in the Surveyor General's Office, Cincinnati*

[1840. Colton, J.H. *Map of the Surveyed part of Iowa New York, Published by J.H. Colton. 1840.*](#)

[1841. Newall, John B. *Newhall's Map of Iowa Compiled from the United States Surveys... J.H. Colton, New-York. 1841.*](#)

This example varies slightly in that the accompanying text is a physical description of the land and its organization rather than a guidebook through the Iowa Territory, but it remains a scarce representation of early settlement in the Iowa Territory.

Rarity

Only one example is recorded at auction since the 1967 Streeter sale, sold in 2008. At the Streeter sale (Lot 1880), the book made \$250.

Howes (W459), rates the book "b".

OCLC indicates the Williams book is well-represented institutionally. Some of the entries appear to be "Internet Resource" locations mixed with actual physical copies.

Detailed Condition:

Map: Original hand-color by county. Several fold separations and intersections repaired on verso with clear tape. Some minor fold toning. Separated from the book. Book: Octavo. Publisher's embossed brown cloth, gilt-lettered: "Iowa with a Topographical Map from the U.S. Surveys - Published by J.H. Colton 1840". (Worn; backstrip mostly lacking). 182 pages. Contents generally good or better with scattered light wear and staining. Overall Good to VG.