



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

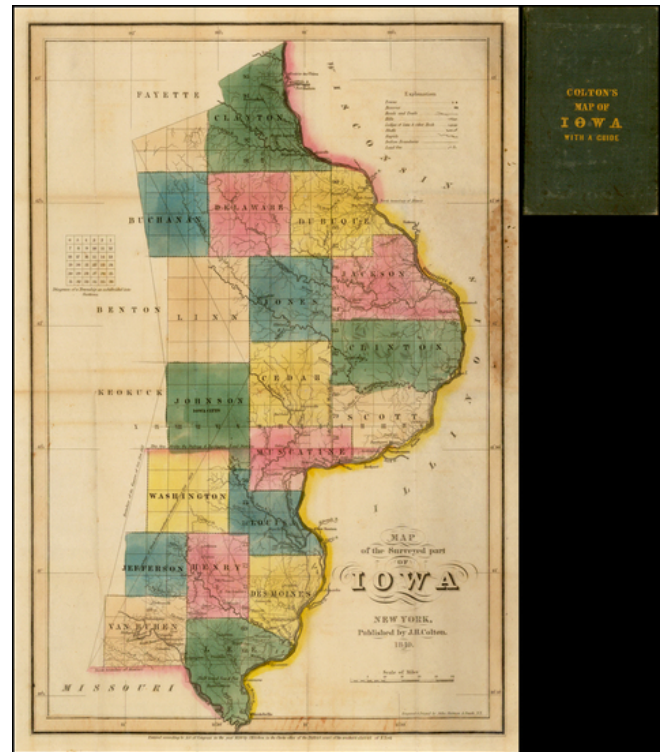
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Map of the Surveyed part of Iowa . . . 1840 (with Guide For The Territory of Iowa, With A Correct Map, Showing Townships Surveys, &c., &c.)

Stock#: 37399
Map Maker: Colton
Date: 1840
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 17 x 11.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of this rare early travel guide for Iowa Territory, published in New York by J.H. Colton only months after the formation of the Territory.

Colton's map of Iowa is perhaps the earliest printed map to focus on Iowa Territory. First published in 1839 and revised in 1840, it is one of the earliest glimpses at the populated regions of the territory printed in large format.

Colton's *Guide* is quite likely the earliest printed guide book to focus exclusively on Iowa Territory. By an Act of June 12, 1838, Iowa, until then part of Wisconsin Territory, was made a territory, with its eastern boundary the Mississippi River to its source, then to the Canadian boundary. In the two years from 1836 to 1838, Iowa's population had doubled, being 22,859 in 1838, creating the need for a separate territory.

In describing the second edition of 1840, Rumsey notes:

Eberstadt: "A very rare guide, with a description of the new territory, its government, judiciary, counties,



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population, list of townships etc." The map shows the eastern part of the Iowa Territory, along the Mississippi River, and is more detailed than the General Land Office survey maps of 1839-40.

In comparing the two editions, we note changes in the southern half of the map, including the addition of Washington County and Jefferson County, and the reconfiguration of Louisa County. Slaughter County (which appears on the 1839 edition) no longer exists, having been absorbed by Louisa and the newly created Washington County.

In Frank Harmon Garver's *History of the Establishment Of Counties in Iowa, Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Volume 6 at page 393-94, published in 1908, the author notes that two errors in the first edition of the map, which are corrected in the second edition:

The map contains two errors; (1) The boundary line between Johnson and Slaughter counties is placed one township too far north, making Slaughter County four townships square or equal to Johnson in size and (2) . . . the boundary line between Des Moines and Lee counties where the line between the townships 68 and 69 is made the boundary whereas the Skunk River actually formed the boundary for about six miles.

In the second edition, Slaughter County disappears, replaced by Washington County in a different configuration. In the second edition, Skunk River is now shown as the boundary between Des Moines and Lee Counties.

We are aware of only a few other early Iowa guide books with maps, including:

- Galland's *Iowa Emigrant: containing a Map and General Descriptions of the Iowa Territory* (1840)
- Williams's *A Description of the United States Lands in Iowa* (Colton: 1840) (different map)
- Williams's *A Description of the Lands of Iowa being a minute description of every section and quarter section, quality of soil, etc* (1840)
- Newhall's *Sketches of Iowa, or the Emigrant's Guide...* (1841)

The guidebook and map are of the utmost rarity. The last example of the 1839 edition to appear at auction was the Streeter Copy, in 1967. Prior to Streeter, Midland catalogued the book in 1959 (likely the Streeter copy) and the C.G. Littell copy was sold at auction in 1945.

The 1840 edition is apparently even rarer than the 1839. OCLC lists only 1 copy (Newberry) of the 1840 and 3 copies of the 1839 (Newberry, Yale, Library of Congress). Eberstadt listed 1954 and Goodspeed offered a copy in 1929. The Rumsey copy is the 1840 edition.



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Detailed Condition:

Folding map and guide book. Some glue staining where the map is joined and a small repair. Original green cloth printed covers, with title on cover in gilt. Guide book consists of 6 pages of text, which are present, but detached and in fine condition.