



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Map of the State of Georgia Compiled By James R. Butts Late Surveyor General Macon 1859 [Owned by 2 Confederate Generals and 2 Union Generals]

Stock#: 44809
Map Maker: Butts
Date: 1859
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 52 x 62 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare Separately Published Wall Map of Georgia -- Previously Owned by 2 Confederate Generals and 2 Union Generals -- Annotated To Show Freedmen's Bureau Districts In Georgia

Fine example of James R. Butts map of Georgia, the largest separately published map of Georgia prior to the Civil War.

The present example includes the names of the following owners inscribed on the inside of the front cover:

- George W. Lay: Inspector General of Conscription (Confederate States of America)
- General P.G.T. Beauregard (Confederate States of America)
- Brigadier General John T. Croxton (Union)
- Brigadier General Edward A. Wild (Union)

A link to the cover (digitally enhanced to better read the signatures) is here: [{{](#)



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After the War, it appears that General Wild utilized this map while serving as Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands to aid African Americans), during his time as Director of the Bureau in charge of Georgia.

We believe the annotations on the map reflect the identification of various districts of the Freedman's Bureau within the state of Georgia. During his time in Georgia, Wild would find himself embroiled in several controversies, as well as an assassination attempt against his life. He was relieved of his duties in September 1865, under cloud of controversy which resulted in his court martial.

Butts' map is drawn on the same scale as William G. Bonner's *Map of the state of Georgia compiled under the direction of His Excellency George W. Crawford*, engraved in New York by Sherman & Smith and published between 1847 and 1859. Printed by R.L. Barnes in Philadelphia, the map was constructed on 6 sheets and published in only a single edition.

The Butts map was unquestionably a continuation of Bonner's official map, and was updated frequently. As such, this is a very different map than the first (and subsequent) editions of the Bonner.

The map includes vignettes of the following places:

- Capitol at Milledgeville
- Executive Mansion
- Asylum for Lunacy Midway
- Female College, Macon
- Academy for the Blind, Macon
- Stone Mountain
- Franklin College, Athens
- Toccoa Falls

The map also presents a look at the then still active boundary dispute between Florida and Georgia, with 3 separate boundary lines set forth on the map. The 3 lines are:

- The northernmost line, called here the McNeily Line, is the line drawn by D.F. McNeil at the request of the Surveyor General of Florida Territory in 1825.
- The middle line, referenced on the map as "Reported the True Line by J.R. Butts, Surveyor on the part of Georgia 1854".



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- The southernmost line, called here Mess. Crawford & Coopers' Line 1831 and Allen's 1854.

The Florida-Georgia Boundary Dispute

The dispute over the boundary between the two states dated back to the Treaty of Paris in 1763, and was intended to have been established by the Treaty of 1795, between the US and Spain (and subsequent 1798-99 Joint Commission, whereby Andrew Ellicott (as US Commissioner) and Stephen Minor (as Spanish Commissioner) set the original boundary (subject to formal survey). Thereafter, several attempts were made by Georgia and Florida to survey the land between 1819 and 1854, without success. The dispute continued until 1857, when the governors of the two states had a conference which resulted in an agreement by which Georgia relinquished its claims to have the eastern terminus of the line changed; and the termini fixed by the commissioners, Ellicott and Minor, were substantially adopted.

The Bonner Map of Georgia

Prior to 1847, the best large format map of Georgia was the Early-Sturges map of 1818. As Georgia grew in population and became increasingly more settled, the Georgia legislature addressed the necessity of an improved large format comprehensive map, which resulted in the retention of William G. Bonner to create such a map. Bonner, a civil engineer, constructed his map by compiling existing material available in Milledgeville and adding information received from county magistrates. As noted in several excerpts from the *Macon Weekly Telegraph*,

We have witnessed the progression of this work, since its commencement, almost daily. It has been executed at the Capitol, where reference has been easy to the statutes regulating boundary lines, and to all the surveys ever ordered by the State authorities (November 24, 1846).

It appears that Mr. B[onner]. is exceedingly desirous of having a particularly correct outline of each county, with all the public places therein, or whatever may be of local or general interest, noted with care. For this purpose he has furnished a number of counties in the State, through the Executive, with a rough map upon which the Inferior Court were requested to [sic] have dotted and marked the particulars above referred to, and return the same (June 9, 1846).

The resulting map was the largest scale map of Georgia produced to date, emphasizing the state's natural geography and topography. The Georgia-Florida boundary, which was still then in dispute, was indicated by three alternative borders. The dispute was resolved in 1854 by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Florida, adopting the northernmost, or "McNeil's Line." The map was apparently well received,



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receiving considerable praise in local newspapers, as well as the backing of the General Assembly, which subscribed to 130 copies of the first edition for distribution to each county and the other states.

The Bonner map was periodically updated over the next decade, with OCLC editions of 1847, 1851, 1854, and 1857, while Phillips' *Maps of America* adds an 1859 edition at the Library of Congress.

A later revised map of Georgia would be published on a similar scale by A.G. Butts in 1870, 1871, 1882 and 1889.

James R. Butts

James R. Butts served as the Surveyor General of Georgia. He was actively engaged in surveying work in Georgia by the 1840s and held the title of Surveyor General by 1849.

Rarity

The Butts map of Georgia is extremely rare. With the exception of this map, purchased in 2015, there are no modern auction or dealer catalog records for the map and the map is apparently not in the Library of Congress or the Hargett Collection at the University of Georgia.

OCLC locates 5 examples (American Antiquarian Society, Harvard, Boston Public Library, Emory University and Columbus State University).

Detailed Condition:

Minor fold splits, expertly repaired on verso. Includes one or two annotations on each of the counties in an early hand. Includes original folder, with inscriptions noting ownership.