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A New Map of Upper & Lower Canada, From the Latest Authorities . . . 1807

Stock#: 48457
Map Maker: Cary
Date: 1807
Place: London
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG+
Size: 20 x 18 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Fine Map of Eastern Canada and the Original American West

First edition of John Cary's detailed map of Canada, centered on the Great Lakes.

The map includes several annotations in Ohio and New York, along with remarkable detail along the river and lake system between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. Lower Canada is to the west, with Upper Canada farther east; a dotted line marks the border between them, which follows the Montreal River and a mountain range. The border between the United States and Canada is marked with another dotted line running through the lakes.

Away from the East Coast and the shores of the lakes and some rivers, there are few settlements. This area was little known to those of European descent, as evidenced by labels like "Immense Forests" near Lake Ontario. However, what was known at the time is included by Cary, including tribal names and lands. Also included are significant geographic features. Niagara Falls include this note, "Here the Niagara falls down a stupendous precipice 146 feet perpendicular and 1040 wide."

Another detail are frontier forts, many of which tells stories of conflict as colonists expanded westward onto lands already in use by indigenous peoples. For example, Fort Recovery is centrally marked in the Western Territory. The fort was built in late 1793 and early 1794 on the orders of General Anthony Wayne. Wayne defended the nascent stronghold against attack in June 1794, but the fort was abandoned in 1796.



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Later, a village grew up around the ruins of the fort. Interestingly, the fort is shown here far from the Wabash River, along the shores of which the fort was actually built.

The map includes several routes of early explorers and immigrants west of the Appalachians and northwest of Lake Ontario, underlining the desire of British colonists and American settlers alike to move west and found new towns and farms. For example, a portage route links Nipising Lake (Lake Nipissing) to the Montreal River. The lake empties into Lake Huron farther south. This lake was first visited by Europeans when the French fur trader Étienne Brûlé arrived in 1610. It was known as the Lake of Sorcerers to the French, but the British colonists preferred an indigenous name meaning "big water."

To the east, Lake Superior is linked to Lake Winnipeg by a complicated combination of small lakes, portages, and rivers. In the middle of the route is "Slave Falls 20 feet High 100 Yards wide, tremendous." Other notes include "Cliffs in the Crevitses of which a quantity of Arrows are stuck" and "Provision Store Moving Waters." This information came from Alexander Mackenzie's *Voyages from Montreal* (London: Cadell and Davies, 1801). In the account, Mackenzie recounts his adventures and offers a history of trade in the area. By the time Cary published this map, however, the trade route, which was used by a fur company for whom Mackenzie worked, had moved to the Kaministiquia River.

This underlines the quixotic and changeable nature of geographic knowledge; revisions and updates like this are why Cary reissued the map several times, as the area was of intense interest to his customers. This is a first edition, published in 1807.

Detailed Condition:

Full original hand-color. Very light offsetting. Small marginal repair to centerfold at lower edge.