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Map of the Route pursued by US Troops from Fort Smith, Arkansas to Santa Fe New Mexico via South Side of Canadian River in the year 1849.....

Stock#: 49761
Map Maker: Simpson
Date: 1849
Place: Philadelphia
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 27 x 21 inches
Price: \$675.00



Description:

Important early map of parts of New Mexico and Arizona, prepared during the survey explorations and military campaigns in New Mexico and West Texas in 1849.

Prepared by Topographical Engineer James H. Simpson and the artist Edward Kern, the map reports the route and observations from an expedition against the Navajos led by Colonel John M. Washington, the military governor of New Mexico, in 1849. The campaign was an important one, as Wheat observes, "following up that of Colonel Doniphan in 1846 before he went on to Mexico, and though the Indians remained restless it served its primary purpose of preserving the New Mexican settlements from Navajo raids." The expedition traveled northwest from Santa Fe by way of the Jemez Pueblo and over the Jemez Mountains to Chaco Canyon and finally to Canyon de Chelly, "the very citadel of the Navajos," as Goetzmann notes, where a treaty with the Navajos was signed.

Simpson and Kern mapped the route, and Kern's brother Richard, also an artist, created illustrations of Pueblo Indian settlements, Indian leaders, and archaeological ruins at Chaco and Chelly canyons. The most important contribution of the expedition was its discovery of these spectacular ruins, which Simpson recorded with his usual precision. Simpson was "the first American to make an accurate eyewitness survey of the region west of the Rio Grande past the Puerco. . .," writes Goetzmann. "As such, his report was the forerunner of the later works by Morgan and Bandelier."

Simpson's map presents the route of the expedition as a red line. He designates camp sites by numbers and sometimes by star symbols, which "denote points determined by astronomical observations." The



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return route went south from Chelly canyon to Zuñi Pueblo, past Inscription Rock, on to Laguna Pueblo and Albuquerque, and finally back to Santa Fe. Wheat calls the map "an arresting production, bringing out many new details of the region directly west of New Mexico." This seldom-seen map is a noteworthy document of Simpson's significant contribution to the archaeology of the Southwest.

Detailed Condition:

Minor fold splits.