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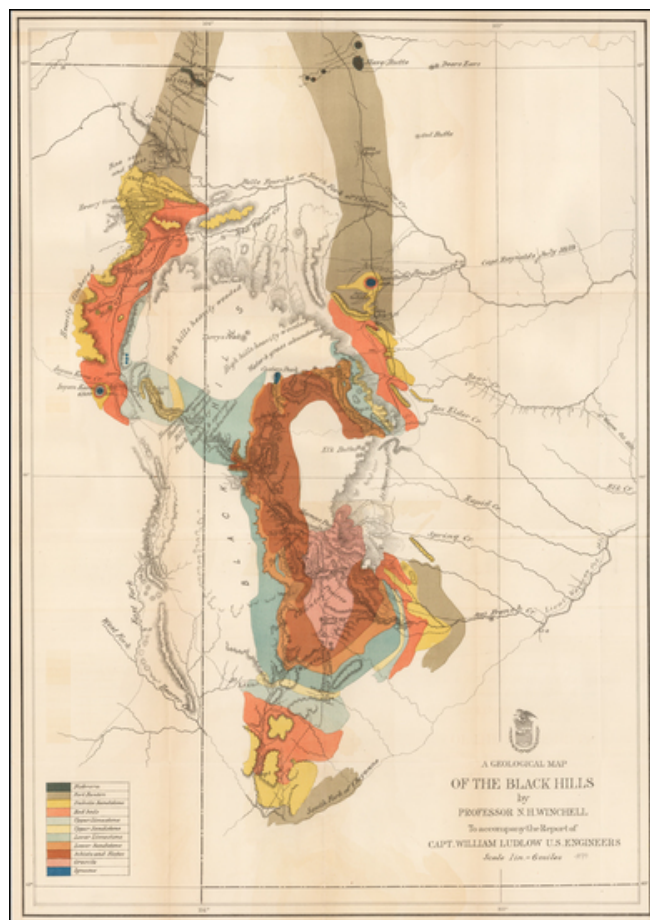
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A Geological Map of the Black Hills by Professor N.H. Winchell To Accompany the Report of Capt. William Ludlow US Engineers

Stock#: 53533
Map Maker: United States Bureau of
Topographical Engineers

Date: 1874
Place: Washington, DC
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 23.5 x 18 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Important early geological survey map of the Black Hills region, undertaken by William Ludlow, while under the command of George Custer.

In 1874, a large group of cavalymen under the command of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer moved into the Black Hills region of Dakota Territory. Though officially American Indian Territory according to the 1868 Treaty of Laramie, rumors had been circulating since the early 19th century that this region harbored rich deposits of gold. Custer and his men were sent to investigate. The expedition included William Ludlow, an officer of the Army Corps of engineers, whose commission was to explore and survey the region, identifying in the process if the rumored gold did indeed exist.



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Report of Capt. William Ludlow US Engineers**

Ludlow and Custer traveled west from Fort Lincoln on the Missouri River (near Bismarck), to the Powder River, then on to the Black Hills. The map meticulously documents the survey triangulation points and encampments. Ludlow offers commentary on the territory such as 'High hills heavily timbered water and grass abundant,' 'grass and water good,' 'bad lands' and 'soil and loose dry clay.'

Ultimately, Custer and his men did find gold in the Black Hills, leading to the 1876 Black Hills Gold Rush.

Detailed Condition: