



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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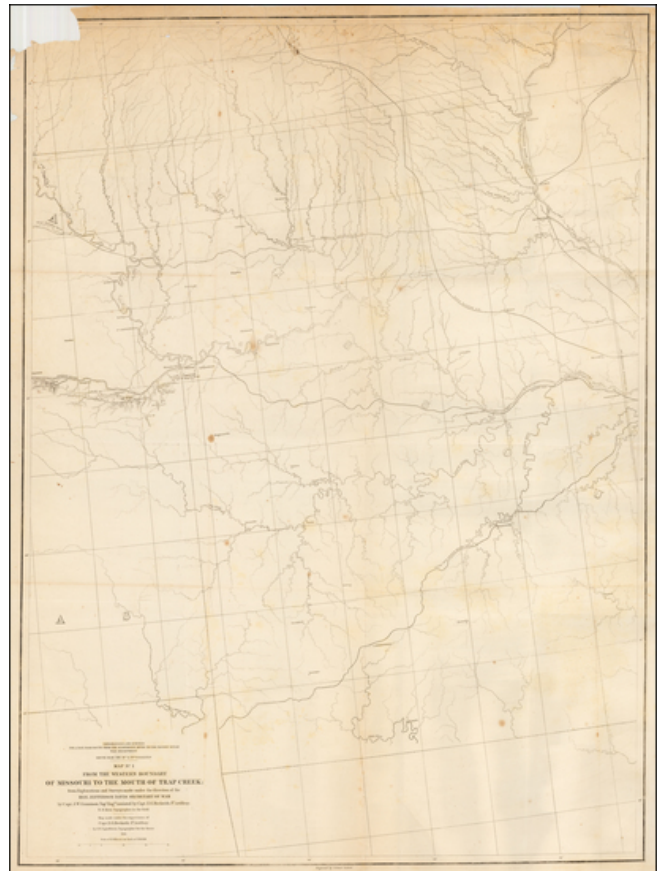
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**Map No. 1 From the Western Boundary of Missouri to the Mouth of Trap Creek: from
Explorations and Surveys made under the direction of the Hon. Jefferson Davis
Secretary of War by Capt. J.W. Gunnison Topl. Engrs. assisted by Capt. E.G. Beckwith . .
. R.H. Kern Topographer in the Field . . . 1855**

Stock#: 55935
Map Maker: U.S. Pacific RR Surveys

Date: 1855
Place: Washington, D.C.
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 23.5 x 31 inches

Price: \$ 245.00



Description:

Detailed survey map of the region centered on the course of the Missouri River, published as part of the Surveys to find the most practicable routes from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

The present map is one of the first maps created by the so-called Gunnision-Beckwith Expedition, which would end tragically in modern day Utah, the so-called Gunnison Massacre, and led to a controversy which included a theory that the massacre was the result of a militant Mormon conspiracy to keep the Transcontinental Railroad out of Utah (see below).

This map details the proposed routes across the territories of Missouri and part of Kansas. Three proposed



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railroad routes are shown and named:

- The *North Missouri R.R.* heads north from above Washington on the Missouri River
- The *Pacific R.R.* follows the Missouri R. to Jefferson City then on to Independence where it reconnects with the Missouri and then moves upstream along the Kansas River.
- The *South West Branch* heads southwest to Springfield and beyond

The map begins just west of St. Louis and the confluence of the Mississippi River and the Missouri River. Towns shown including Hannibal, Jefferson City, Naples, Quincy, Burlington, Warsaw, Keokuk, St. Joseph, Lexington, Independence, Kansas City, West Port, Lawrence, and Springfield.

The map provides the best Hydrographical detail of the region to date.

Gunnison-Beckwith Expedition

On May 3, 1853, John Williams Gunnison received orders to take charge of an expedition to survey a route for a Pacific railroad between the 38th and 39th parallels. The surveying party left St. Louis, Missouri, in June 1853 and arrived by mid-October in Manti, Utah Territory. In Utah Territory, with Lieutenant E. G. Beckwith as assistant commander, Gunnison began the survey of a possible route, surveying areas across the Rocky Mountains via the Herfano River, through Cochetopa Pass, and by way of the present Gunnison and Green rivers to the Sevier River. His journey took him through the Tomichi Valley in Colorado, where the town of Gunnison is named in his honor. After crossing the Tomichi Valley, the survey team encountered the Black Canyon, carved by the Gunnison River which was also named in his honor. The team was forced to turn South to get around the canyon.

The weather was beginning to turn "cold and raw" with snow flurries and Captain Gunnison sought to speed up mapping before returning to winter quarters. At Lake Sevier, the team was divided into two detachments. On the morning of October 26, 1853, Gunnison and the eleven men in his party were attacked by a band of Pahvants (Ute). In the resulting massacre, Gunnison and seven of his men were killed. Several survivors of the attack alerted the other detachment of the survey team, who rode to aid Gunnison and his party. An additional survivor of the attack and the bodies of the victims were retrieved later that day. Killed with Gunnison were Richard H. Kern (topographer and artist), F. Creuzfeldt (botanist), Wiliam Potter (a Mormon guide), Private Caulfield, Private Liptoote, Private Mehreens, and John Bellows (camp roustabout.).



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Most contemporary accounts of the massacre maintain that the Mormons warned Gunnison that his party might be in danger from local bands of Pahvant Utes. It seems that Gunnison had entered Utah in the midst of the Walker War, a sometimes bloody conflict between the Mormons and the Ute Chief Walkara. Lt. Beckwith later wrote that the expedition found the local Mormons "all gathered into a village for mutual protection against the Utah Indians." But after the killings, rumors circulated that the Pahvants involved in the massacre were acting under the direction of Brigham Young and an alleged secret militia known as the Danites. Some claim that leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were initially concerned that the railway would increase the influx of non-Mormon settlers and non-Mormon economic concerns into the territory. However, the Utah Legislature (dominated by LDS officials) had repeatedly petitioned Congress for both a transcontinental railroad and telegraph lines to pass through the region. Indeed, when the railroad finally came to Utah, LDS leaders organized cadres of Mormon workers to build the railway, welcoming the income for the economically depressed settlers.

Martha Gunnison, widow of Captain Gunnison, was one of those who maintained that the attack was planned and orchestrated by militant Mormons under the direction of Brigham Young. Gunnison's letters to his wife throughout the expedition left her with the impression that "the Mormons were the directors of my husband's murder." She wrote to Associate Justice W.W. Drummond, the 1855 federal appointee to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Utah. She received confirmation of this belief in his response to her letter. Drummond drew this conclusion from informant and witness testimonies in several trials after the murders. He cited numerous reports by whites and natives of white attackers dressed up as Indians during the massacre.

However, Lt. Beckwith concluded that the Mormons had nothing to do with the attack and that the Pahvants acted alone. He wrote in his official report that the "statement which has from time to time appeared (or been copied) in various newspapers...charging the Mormons or Mormon authorities with instigating the Indians to, if not actually aiding them in, the murder of Captain Gunnison and his associates, is, I believe, not only entirely false, but there is no accidental circumstance connected with it affording the slightest foundation for such a charge."

Nevertheless, the Gunnison Massacre resulted in much controversy and added additional strain to the relationship between Governor Brigham Young of the Utah Territory and the Federal Government. This incident and related events, including the Mountain Meadows massacre, where Mormons killed over 100 settlers of the Baker-Fancher wagon train, eventually culminated in the Utah War, wherein President Buchanan sent the U.S. Army to the Utah Territory in order to stop a reported Mormon insurrection.



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Detailed Condition:

Paper loss at upper left corner of the sheet.