



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
Antique Maps Inc.**

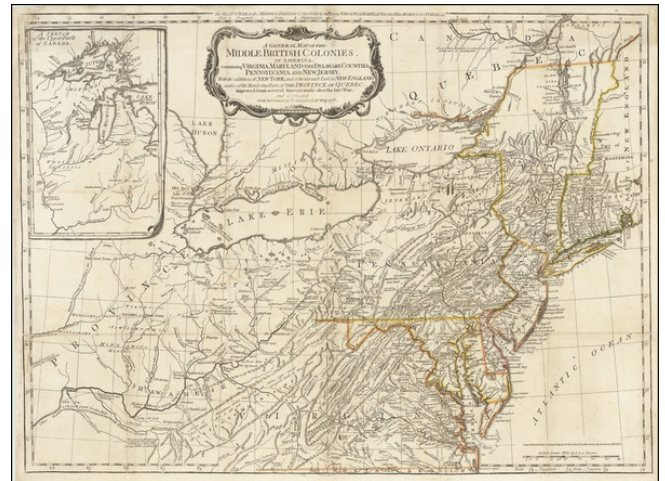
7407 La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500
blr@raremaps.com

[Inscribed on verso with reference to the life of Anne Grant] The Seat of War in the Middle British Colonies containing Virginia, Maryland . . . / A General Map of the Middle British Colonies In America, containing Virginia, Maryland, The Delaware Counties,...Corrected from Governor Pownall's Late Map 1776

Stock#: 67197
Map Maker: Evans / Sayer & Bennett
Date: 1755 (1776)
Place: London
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 26 x 19 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Battle-Ready Map of the Middle Colonies with an Early Inscription Referencing The Life and Work of Scottish Author Anne Grant

Fine example of the scarce "Holster Atlas" edition of Lewis Evans' highly important map of the Middle British Colonies, at the start of the American Revolution.

This edition of the map was prepared specifically for Jeffreys' *American Military Pocket Atlas*, an atlas published for use by British officers during the American Revolution in a size which would fit into the saddlebags of a mounted soldier. Because of its use primarily as a battlefield source, it is among the most interesting and historically important of the later editions of Evans' map.

The present example has an unusual inscription on the verso which seems to refer to Anne Grant, also known as Mrs Anne Grant of Laggan (1755 -1838), a Scottish poet and author best known for her collection of mostly biographical poems, *Memoirs of an American Lady* (1808). She is also known for her earlier work, *Letters from the Mountains . . .* (1806). Grant's father, Duncan Macvicar, served as a British officer in America from 1757 to 1768, a large portion of which was spent with the 55th Regiment in New York. The inscription reads:



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best Map for Albany The Flats New York Ticonderoga Lake Champlain all mentioned in letters on America by Mrs. Grant daughter of an officer of the 55 also for Fort Erie & for Washington taken & burnt by Gen: Robt Ross 1814 -- September 12, 1814 the above Gen: Robert Ross was killed in Battle near Baltimore

The reference to "The Flats" is a reference to the home of Madame Margarita Schuyler (1701-1782), in which the Grant family lived for several years.

Along with John Mitchell's map of North America, the Evans map is considered the most important American map of the eighteenth century. Both maps were intended to spur western expansion into the Trans-Allegheny, Ohio Valley and other westward regions and were in response to French encroachments. Evans' map became the standard for nearly fifty years, being re-issued in this and other pirated editions by Jefferys, Bowles, Kitchen and others.

The map is a milestone both for its political significance and extension of cartographic knowledge in the region. Governor Pownall re-issued an updated edition of the map taken from the original Evans plate, with the addition of New England and a group of tables naming townships in the Colonies. Pownall had been a great supporter of Evans and pledged the proceeds from the map to Evans' daughter. The cartographic importance of the map and its place in the history of cartography are substantial. An essay on this map is available by emailing us a request.

The detail on this map is extensive, and the notes are fascinating. The dense settlements of the coast give way to the mountains of Appalachia to the west. Notes relate to treaties made with Native American tribes, the passability of mountain ranges, or anything else that might be of use to an explorer or a mounted officer.

The maps also includes an inset map of the northern midwest to Lake Superior, labeled as the "upper parts of Canada."

Detailed Condition:

Old folds, as-issued in the Holster Atlas. Some folds and fold intersections reinforced on verso. Some light toning and soiling. Manuscript note on verso referencing historical events that took place on the map.