



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

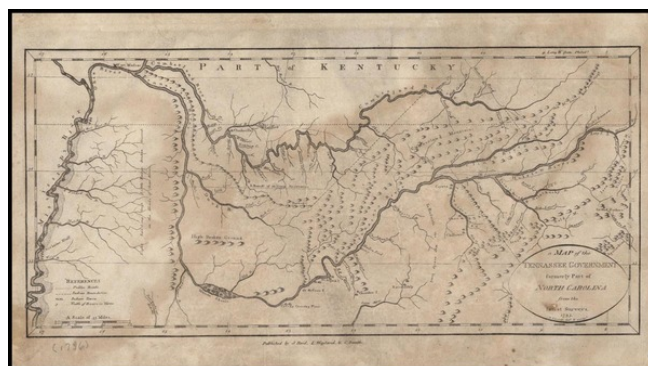
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A Map of the Tennessee Government formerly Part of North Carolina from the latest Surveys. 1795.

Stock#: 7168
Map Maker: Reid
Date: 1796
Place: New York
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 15.5 x 7.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Reid's map of the Tennessee Government is one of the earliest obtainable maps of Tennessee.

Extends from the Mississippi in the West to the Appalachians. Includes notes on the S. Boundary of the Military Reservation, the Kentucky Road, and various public roads, Indian Boundaries, Indian Towns and other details. Nashville, Chickaswa Bluff, Clerksville, Creeks Crossing Place, Crow T., Nickajack Town, Knoxville, Talasse, Ross's Ironworks, Chilwee, Chota, Coyeta and a handful of other towns and settlements noted. This is the true first state of the map, bearing the J.Reid, L. Wayland and C. Smith imprint. The first state of the map rarely appears on the market.

The earliest 6 Tennessee Counties (Washington, Sullivan and Greene in East Tennessee; and Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee in Middle Tennessee) began as western counties of North Carolina, established between 1777 and 1788. After the American Revolution, North Carolina struggled to maintain any governance over the distant western settlements. The early settlers looked to North Carolina's government for protection from the Indians and the right to navigate the Mississippi River, however neither was forthcoming. As a result, in 1784, the East Tennesseans sought to establish the State of Franklin.

The Franklinians named John Sevier governor, and began operating as an independent government. At the same time, leaders of the Cumberland settlements tried for form an alliance with Spain, which controlled the lower Mississippi River and was held responsible for inciting the Indian raids. In drawing up the Watauga and Cumberland Compacts, early Tennesseans had already exercised some of the rights of self-government and were prepared to take political matters into their own hands. Despite best efforts, the independent state movement was suppressed by the North Carolina by 1788.



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After North Carolina ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1789, it ceded its western lands, then known as the Tennessee country, to the Federal government. North Carolina had used these lands as a means of rewarding its Revolutionary soldiers. In the Cession Act of 1789, it reserved the right to satisfy further land claims in Tennessee. Congress designated the area as the "Territory of the United States, South of the River Ohio", more commonly known as the Southwest Territory. The territory was divided into three districts, two for East Tennessee and one for the Mero District on the Cumberland. William Blount, a prominent North Carolina politician with extensive holdings in western lands, was appointed Tennessee's first Territorial governor.

By 1795, there was sufficient population to move for statehood. Governor Blount called for a constitutional convention to meet in Knoxville, where delegates from all the counties drew up a model state constitution and democratic bill of rights. The voters chose Sevier as governor. The newly elected legislature voted for Blount and William Cocke as Senators, and Andrew Jackson as Representative. On June 1, 1796, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union.

Detailed Condition: