



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

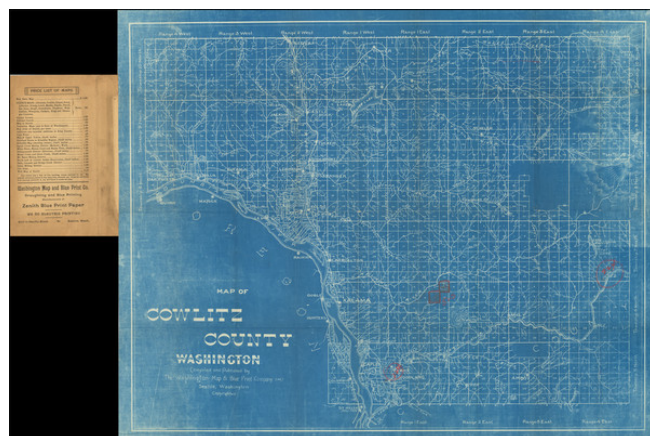
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Map of Cowlitz County Washington Compiled and Published by The Washington Map & Blue Print Company (Inc) Seattle Washington . . .

Stock#: 83394
Map Maker: Washington Map and Blue Print Co.
Date: 1898 circa
Place: Seattle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 25.25 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

Donation Land Claims -- One of the Earliest Printed Maps of Cowlitz County

Unrecorded separately published map of Cowlitz County, published in Seattle, replete with dozens of the earliest pioneer claims dating back to Oregon Territory Donation Land Law, pre-dating the creation of Washington Territory.

The map depicts the county, which has been nearly completely subdivided into townships, except for the areas immediately west of St. Helens. Four different sections are marked in red by an early owners, along with an extension of the road to the Lewis River from Martin's Bluff, which suggests a crossing at that point.

The map locates the Donation Land Claims of a number of early Oregon land owners along the major rivers, including Columbia River, Cowlitz River and the lower Lewis River and Kalama River, These claims date back to the earliest Pioneer settlers in Washington Territory, including

The map notes that the Washington Map & Blue Print Company were the Successor to O.P. Anderson Map and Blue Print Company, which was originally established in 1885 in Seattle. The inside cover includes a list of about 40 other maps published by the company, including a wall map of Seattle and 4 Alaska Gold Rush maps.

Oregon Donation Land Law of 1850

The Oregon Donation Land Law in 1850, the law legitimized the 640-acre claims provided in 1843 under



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the Oregon Provisional Government, with the proviso that white male citizens were entitled to 320 acres and their wives were eligible for 320 acres. For citizens arriving after 1850, the acreage limitation was halved, so a married couple could receive a total of 320 acres. To gain legal title to property, claimants had to reside and make improvements on the land for four years.

The law set a two-year window for surveying lands open for claims, but Congress amended the law twice. In 1853, the rights of widows to land claims was added, and the law was extended until 1855 to address complaints about the slow progress in surveying lands. In 1854, Congress again amended the law by reducing the residency requirement from four years to one year.

Cowlitz County

The name Cowlitz was taken from that of a local Native American name, Cow-e-lis-kee.

Cowlitz County, Washington Territory (which was part of the Oregon Territory until 1850) was first settled by non-Native Americans by the Hudson Bay Company, at a time when the British were still claiming the boundary with the United States as the Columbia River and the region was neutral territory. In 1844, the Oregon Territorial government created Clark County out of the Vancouver District (which comprised most of what is now Western Washington and British Columbia). In 1845, Lewis County was created from Clark County. From Lewis, four other counties were created: Pacific (1851); Thurston (and later Pierce; 1852); Cowlitz (1854) and Wahkiakum (1854).

One of the first settlers in the Cowlitz County region was Peter Crawford, one of the first important surveyors in the Oregon Territory. His donation land claim was near the present-day site of Kelso (shown on the map). The Cowlitz, Lincoln and Columbia Rivers became the sites of numerous settlements. The first school was built in Monticello (near present-day Longview) in the Fall of 1850. The school was built by Alexander and Nathaniel Stone, Harry Darby Huntington, Seth Catlin, Jonathan Burbee and Peter Crawford (all identified on the map). The first teacher was Fredrick Huntress.

On November 25, 1852, at Harry Darby Huntington's home in Monticello (H.D. Huntington's Donation Lands are shown on the map), the Monticello Convention was signed, asking for the establishment of a Washington Territory. Among the signers were Huntington, Seth Catlin, Nathaniel Stone, Jonathan Burbee, Peter Crawford and Alec Crawford (all shown on the map)). The Monticello Convention was forwarded to the U.S. Congress, who ratified the convention, with the one exception that the territory be named Washington instead of Columbia.

Upon the creation of Washington Territory, Isaac Stevens was appointed the first governor. Hunt and



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Kaylor (p. 446) described the establishment of Cowlitz County: "Famous old Monticello became the county seat of Cowlitz County when the Legislature on April 1, 1854, adopted the bill introduced by H. D. Huntington March 8. Thomas Roe, Alexander S. Abernathy and Taylor Rue were the first commissioners; Charles Holman, auditor; Alexander Crawford, treasurer; James Huntington, sheriff; Nathaniel Ostrander, probate judge; Benjamin Huntington, assessor; Nathaniel Stone and W. H. Harris, justices of the peace."

Rarity

The map is unrecorded. O.P. Anderson issued a map of the Cowlitz County in the same size and format which survives in 2 examples in the Washington State Library and Library of Congress (also a blue print map).

We note only the OP Anderson map of Cowlitz County as printed before this map.

Detailed Condition:

Folding map in original printed covers.