



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman  
Antique Maps Inc.**

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500  
blr@raremaps.com

**[Manuscript Map and Grant Translation for Adolphe Sterne's Lands in Tyler County, Texas] Translation of Title to One League of Land to Adolfo Sterne [Tyler County, Texas land grant]**

**Stock#:** 85549  
**Map Maker:** Starr  
**Date:** 1867  
**Place:** Nacodoches, Texas  
**Color:** Pen & Ink with Wash Color  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 7 x 7 inches (map image)  
**Price:** \$ 2,400.00



**Description:**

***Manuscript Map and Translation of Mexican Land Grant of the Lands of Adolphus Sterne -- Endorsed by James Harper Starr, First President of the Board of Land Commissioners of the General Land Office of Texas***

Finely crafted cadastral map illustrating about a 15 mile section of land along the Neches River on the eastern border of Tyler County, identifying the land owned by a number of early Texas land owners, including Adolphus Sterne, an important early Jewish Texas settler, whose claim to one league of land is identified in Green at the center.

The map is accompanied by an 1867 translation of an 1835 grant of one league of land, made by the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas to settler Adolphus Sterne (1801-1852). The translation is signed by Fred W. Moore, chief clerk of the Texas General Land Office and the Spanish translator, Edward Linn, and provides a translation of the original grant to Sterne

Sterne was an important early Jewish settler of Texas who resisted the Mexican government as early as



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the 1825 Fredonian Rebellion, was a friend of Sam Houston, served as a militia commander, and had a seat in the legislature for Nacogdoches. This translation was commissioned in 1867, 15 years after his death. The plat map was drawn and signed by James Harper Starr of Nacogdoches, who had been first President of the Texas General Land Office, treasurer of the Republic of Texas, and an important local official, who then operated one of the first banks in Texas. He presumably traced the map from the original in the Mexican land records.

The purpose of the map was to accompany an 8 page "Translation of Title to One League of Land" to Adolpho Sterne. The original date of title is shown on the verso as October 21, 1835, with attestation on the verso signed by W.D. Kincaid, dated July 9, 1867. Sterne arrived in New Orleans in 1817, where he remained until 1825 or 1826, moving to Nacogdoches, where he established a mercantile business. Shortly thereafter, he began smuggling guns in aid of the Fredonia Rebellion (1826-27), a 2 month attempt by Anglo settlers in Texas to secede from Mexico, led by Haden Edwards. The rebels created the Republic of Fredonia, which lasted less than 2 months. Among those who opposed the newly created Republic was Stephen F. Austin, who convinced local Native American tribes not to support the rebellion.

The map is endorsed by James Harper Starr, with a fee of \$0.50 noted. Starr, who served as the first President of the Texas General Land Office. The names listed on the map include:

- A[dolphus] Sterne
- J.J. Pemberton
- Ephraim Thompson
- Norman Hurd
- Theophilus Cushing
- J.T. Clark
- T.D. Evans
- W.W. Nelson
- J.E. Thompson
- A. Beyerty
- W. Spurlock
- B. Enlee
- C. Morgan

**Nicholas Adolphus Sterne** (1801 - 1852) served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives and one term in the Texas State Senate. He immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1817, living in



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Louisiana for ten years. In 1826, he moved to Nacogdoches, Texas, where he operated a mercantile and smuggled weapons for the colonist who wished to rebel against Mexico. His position as a Freemason helped save him from a death sentence, and Sterne went on to finance the two companies of men known as the New Orleans Greys, to assist in fighting in the Texas Revolution. Sam Houston lived with Sterne and his wife, during which time he was baptized. While Sterne's wife served as godmother, Sterne refused to be godfather, because the ceremony occurred on Yom Kippur. Sterne also worked as an interpreter in English, French, Spanish, German, Yiddish, Portuguese, and Latin.

**Detailed Condition:**

8 manuscript leaves, 12 1/4 x 7 3/4 inches, plus one manuscript map on tracing vellum, 6 3/4 inches square, bound with ribbon on top edge with paper seal;