



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

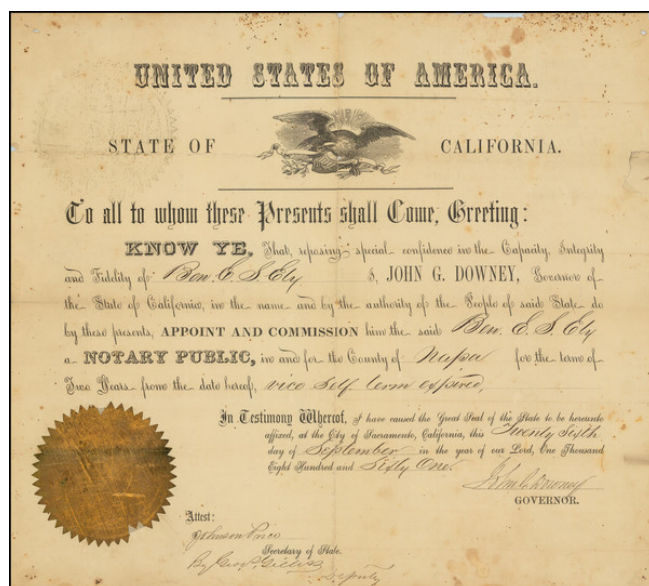
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## [Appointment of Ben E.S. Ely as Notary Public for Napa County, California - September 26, 1861]

**Stock#:** 93309  
**Map Maker:** Anonymous  
**Date:** 1861  
**Place:** Sacramento  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 17 x 15 inches (sheet size)  
**Price:** \$ 275.00



### Description:

#### *Signed By California Governor John Downey*

Sealed notary public certificate appointing Benjamin E.S. Ely as Notary Public in Napa, California.

#### John Downey

California's first foreign-born Governor, John Downey was born in Ireland in 1827. Downey came to America when he was 15 years old.

In 1846, Downey owned and operated a pharmacy in Cincinnati in partnership with John Darling. In 1849, lured by gold, Downey moved to Grass Valley where he mined for a brief time. By December 1850, Downey and James P. McFarland had opened a drug store in the Los Angeles area. His businesses did very well in Southern California, where the town of Downey is named after him. He served on the L.A. Common Council prior to his election to the State Assembly.

After only five days as Lt. Governor, Downey succeeded Milton Latham, who resigned the Governorship in order to fill the U.S. Senate seat of David C. Broderick, who had been killed in a duel. Like Latham, Downey was a Lecompton (pro-Southern) Democrat. Downey's veto of the "bulkhead" bill, which would have allowed ownership of San Francisco's waterfront by a monopoly, made Downey a hero. However, the



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issue remained volatile. On a visit to San Francisco, he called a man a "bulkheader" and fists began to fly. The fight was broken up when witnesses restrained Downey's opponent, crying, "you shan't strike the Governor!"

**Detailed Condition:**