



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

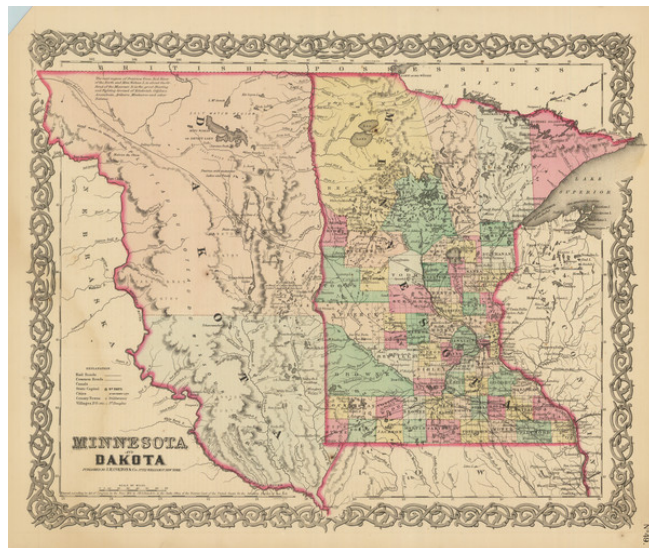
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### Minnesota and Dakota

**Stock#:** 94908  
**Map Maker:** Colton  
**Date:** 1860  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 16 x 13 inches  
**Price:** \$ 245.00



#### Description:

#### *J.H. Colton's 1860 Map of Dakota and Minnesota: A Snapshot Before the Civil War*

The mid-19th century was a period of significant transformation in the American Midwest. The emergence of new states, territorial boundaries, and a relentless westward push painted a picture of a nation in flux. The 1860 map of Dakota and Minnesota, created by the renowned cartographer J.H. Colton, offers a revealing snapshot of this transitional period, shortly before the tumultuous Civil War disrupted the nation's trajectory.

At a cursory glance, the division between Dakota and Minnesota is prominently marked. This separation, made official on May 11, 1858, was still relatively fresh at the time of the map's creation.

Colton's map does not include Wadena County, established just a month after the division on June 11, 1858. Conversely, the map does showcase Kandiyohi County (formed October 12, 1858) and the early traces of Becker County, which came into existence on November 2, 1860.

One of the striking features of this map is the sparse demarcation of counties, especially in the northern expanses. Northern Minnesota, a region characterized by its dense forests and lakes, has only a few counties marked. Even more sparse is Dakota, with a mere two counties indicated. This scarcity underscores the nascent stages of territorial organization and settlement in these areas.

Colton's map provides more than just political boundaries. The early proposed railroad lines, a testament



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to the burgeoning age of steam and steel, snake across the landscape. These rail lines, while merely proposals at the time, hint at the imminent infrastructural transformation that would forever change the Midwest's economic and demographic fabric.

Another fascinating feature is the inclusion of "Indian information." While not detailed, this inclusion speaks to the original inhabitants of these lands and the interactions (often fraught) between settlers and Native American tribes. Given the era, the map would likely reference key tribal territories, trading posts, or significant sites of interaction.

A noteworthy annotation on the map is a "note on the prairies." The vast prairies of the Midwest, characterized by their sprawling grasslands, played a pivotal role in shaping the region's ecology and early agricultural pursuits. These prairies, while essential for grazing and farming, were also emblematic of the vast, untouched wilderness that awaited settlers.

Lastly, the early township surveys in Minnesota, indicative of the meticulous process of division and organization, are displayed. These surveys reflect the systematic approach to land distribution and settlement, a precursor to the vast agricultural expanses that would come to define Minnesota in the subsequent decades.

### Detailed Condition: