Transforming 19th Century Archives into 21st Century Analytical Maps

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Trail of Tears
1838-1839
Cherokee removal & southern Illinois
Who were the Cherokee?

- Regional Extent
- Lifeways and Culture
- Writing and Publication
- Treaties and Allies
“The 1828 election of President Andrew Jackson, who made his name as an Indian fighter, marked a change in federal policies. As part of his plans for the United States, he was determined to remove the remaining tribes from the east and relocate them in the west.” (NPS 2014)
“During the harsh winter of 1838-1839 over 13,000 Cherokee Indians passed through southern Illinois on their Trail of Tears. Many perished from cold and hunger on this long, painful journey from their home in the Smoky Mountains to new government-designated lands in eastern Oklahoma. It took almost three months during the winter to cross the 60 cold and rainy miles between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in southern Illinois.” (US Forest Service)
Archival Research into Cherokee Trail of Tears-Related Sites in Southern Illinois

Objectives:

(1) Look at various cultural resources potentially associated with the Cherokee Trail of Tears route through southern Illinois including structures, camp grounds, cemeteries and other facilities recorded in archives;

(2) Provide locational information on sites and map them;

(3) Summarize historical and/or archaeological information;

(4) Elucidate some key aspects of the Trail of Tears experience in southern Illinois

“Trail Finders” Mr. and Mrs. John G. Mulcaster and L. O. Trigg (Saint Louis Post Dispatch 1935)
TOTSI GIS
Trail of Tears Southern Illinois
Archival Research and Geodatabase
Like other GIS projects, the TOT-SI archival research project demanded a solution for storing various types of spatial data and non-spatial data in a centralized location and the ability to apply rules, define geospatial models and maintain data integrity.

http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/geodatabase

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Recent data recorded in a variety of archaeological, geophysical and historical investigations was brought together in a centralized repository for the first time.

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Other State and National Spatial Data Resources

- Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales (ISA 2012b)

- Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

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The TOTSI geodatabase combined new data derived from maps and documents that are nearly two centuries old.
The TOT-SI Geodatabase

A centralized repository of newly combined archival and spatial data resources

TOT-SI, Kayeleigh Sharp & Mark Wagner ESRI UC 2014
Key Contributions and Advantages of Using ArcGIS
“...when the Cherokee came along in droves and made their camp in the woods along the creek near the present Nimmo home ...near it was a large flour mill of 2 stories run by water power.

... between the mound and the present highway bridge (After her father’s recollection, Frances (Morgan) Wiggins (Wiggins 1934, SCRC, Morris Library).
Reconstructing Routes Using Mosaicked Datasets

Map by Kayeleigh Sharp, courtesy of Sharp & Wagner (2014)

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Resolving Accessibility Questions Using Network Analyst

Map by Kayeleigh Sharp, courtesy of Sharp & Wagner (2014)

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Offering a More Complete Vision of the Cherokee Experience along the Trail of Tears in Southern Illinois by *Transforming 19th Century Archives into 21st Century Analytical Maps* using Esri’s ArcGIS

Map by Kayeleigh Sharp, courtesy of Sharp & Wagner (2014)
References Cited


Royce, C. C. (1884) Map of the former territorial limits of the Cherokee “Nation of” Indians; Map showing the territory originally assigned Cherokee “Nation of” Indians. [S.l.].Scale [ca. 1:1,000,000]. 1 map on 2 sheets: col. ; 72 x 80 cm. and 52 x 76 cm. G3861.E1 1884 .R6 TIL [http://lccn.loc.gov/99446145](http://lccn.loc.gov/99446145) (last accessed 27 Jun 2014).


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Thank You