What is the Thing that Changes?

Space and Time through the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

Douglas Knox, Washington University in St. Louis
Data Modeling Symposium
March 16, 2012
How hard can it be?
Historical Census Browser

What can you do on this site?

- Examine state and county topics for individual census years.
  - examine multiple topics within a census year
  - produce tables of data by state or county
  - sort data by selected categories
  - create ratios between any two data categories

Choose a census year to begin examining data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1790</th>
<th>1800</th>
<th>1810</th>
<th>1820</th>
<th>1830</th>
<th>1840</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1860</th>
<th>1870</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Examine state and county topics over time.
  - examine a topic across multiple census years
  - produce tables of data by state or county

Choose a category to begin examining data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>Ethnicity/Race/Place of Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy/Manufacturing/Employment</td>
<td>Slave Population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Generate maps of selected data

About the Historical Census Browser

The data and terminology presented in the Historical Census Browser are drawn directly from historical volumes of the U.S. Census of Population and Housing.

To Cite This Collection (APA Style)

(2004). Historical Census Browser. Retrieved [Date you accessed source], from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/collections/
### Portage County, Wisconsin

#### Population Change

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<th>1850</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Males</td>
<td>1,507</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Females</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Males</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>1,250</td>
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Boundaries Make a Difference

Portage County, Wisconsin
Population Change

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Map of Portage Co, Wis., in 1840 and 1850, with federal census statistics.
Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2006. (See also www.newberry.org/ahcbp.)
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http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp
ATLAS OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

The Revolutionary Era
1760–1790

Lester J. Cappon, Editor-in-Chief
Barbara Bartz Petchenik, Cartographic Editor
John Hamilton Long, Assistant Editor

Published for The Newberry Library and
The Institute of Early American History and Culture
by Princeton University Press
CONTENTS LISTING FOR S9025 CD-ROM
COUNTY BOUNDARIES OF SELECTED UNITED STATES TERRITORIES/STATES, 1790-1980

CONTENTS.TXT
   Contents file; 3,822 bytes.

CB9025.TXT
   Codebook; 483,600 bytes.

DA9025.P1
   Part 1: Map Information/DBGEN File [MPDBRNGS]; 10,318 bytes.

DA9025.P2
   Part 2: DBGEN/Coordinate File [DBCOORDXY]; 2,125,508 bytes.

DA9025.P3
   Part 3: Datesfile: Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania [MDDLPA46]; 88,314 bytes.
Rhode Island
Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

Interactive Map
Index of County and Equivalents
Consolidated Chronology
Individual County Chronologies
Bibliography and Sources
Historical Commentary
Metadata - Summary Form
Metadata - Full FGDC Form
Download GIS Files
Download KMZ Files
Download PDF Files

View Interactive Map
Maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county, and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county
LAWS
OF THE
State of Missouri;
REVISED AND DIGESTED
BY AUTHORITY
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
IN TWO VOLUMES.
WITH AN APPENDIX.

VOL. I.

Published according to an act of the General Assembly, passed 21st February, 1825.

ST. LOUIS:
Printed by E. Charles, for the State.
1825.
COUNTIES:
CHAP. I.
BOUNDARIES.

AN ACT defining the limits of the several Counties in this State, 16 Feb. 1826.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, That all that portion of territory bounded as fol. St. Louis.

lows, to wit: beginning in the middle of the main channel of the river Mississippi, due east of the mouth of the river Merrimack; thence due west to the middle of the main channel of the river Merrimack, at its mouth; thence up said river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point where the township line between the townships forty three and forty four, north, crosses the same; thence west with said line to a point in the middle of the main channel of the Merrimack, where said township line again crosses the same; thence up said river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point where the range line between ranges two and three, east, crosses the same; thence north with said line to the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river; thence down said river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to its mouth; thence due east to the middle of the main channel of the river Mississippi; thence down said river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to the beginning, shall compose one county, and be called and known by the name of Saint Louis.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That all that portion of St. Charles.
territory included within the following boundaries, to wit: commencing at a point in the middle of the main channel of
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 | 4 | 7921 | 17758 | 7855 | 16108 | 7830 | 16104 | 7716 | 13300 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2 | 2 | 7716 | 13300 | 7703 | 13207 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 | 2 | 7921 | 17758 | 8500 | 17750 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | 2 | 8500 | 17758 | 11585 | 17689 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 | 2 | 11585 | 17689 | 10610 | 15555 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 62 | 10610 | 15555 | 10552 | 15520 | 10503 | 15511 | 10416 | 15544 | 10391 | 15541 | 10384 | 1 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 10384 | 15412 | 10384 | 15336 | 10309 | 15261 | 10301 | 15239 | 10311 | 15219 | 10329 | 15207 | 10330 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 10218 | 15100 | 10209 | 15079 | 10150 | 15048 | 10136 | 15032 | 10100 | 14948 | 10086 | 14932 | 10062 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 9951 | 14935 | 9949 | 14909 | 9970 | 14870 | 9974 | 14844 | 9959 | 14799 | 9937 | 14793 | 9913 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 9711 | 14785 | 9704 | 14732 | 9648 | 14668 | 9618 | 14608 | 9577 | 14589 | 9524 | 14582 | 9446 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 9359 | 14463 | 9331 | 14433 | 9339 | 14411 | 9336 | 14384 | 9302 | 14358 | 9254 | 14356 | 9236 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 7 | 2 | 9222 | 14314 | 9315 | 14269 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8 | 33 | 7716 | 13300 | 7829 | 13261 | 7933 | 13307 | 7958 | 13304 | 7969 | 13285 | 7981 | 1 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 8159 | 13447 | 8197 | 13529 | 8261 | 13585 | 8417 | 13760 | 8458 | 13779 | 8516 | 13841 | 8635 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 8695 | 14012 | 8740 | 14027 | 8813 | 14074 | 8841 | 14072 | 8904 | 14099 | 8931 | 14098 | 9009 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 9222 | 14314 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9 | 1 | 8308 | 15012 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | 2 | 11585 | 17689 | 12408 | 17680 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | 2 | 12408 | 17680 | 15276 | 17632 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | 2 | 15276 | 17632 | 15511 | 17632 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 | 40 | 15511 | 17632 | 15523 | 17585 | 15537 | 17569 | 15551 | 17565 | 15563 | 17583 | 15584 | 1 |   |   |   |   |

Chronology of McHENRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Resulting Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 Jan 1836</td>
<td>McHENRY created from COOK and non-county area attached to LA SALLE / McHENRY not fully organized, attached to COOK until &quot;organized&quot;</td>
<td>1,100 sq mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Mar 1837</td>
<td>McHENRY fully organized, detached from COOK, McHENRY's boundaries extended to state limits in Lake Michigan [not mapped]</td>
<td>1,100 sq mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Mar 1839</td>
<td>McHENRY lost to creation of LAKE</td>
<td>620 sq mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 Mar 1839</td>
<td>BOONE authorized to gain the four adjacent townships of McHENRY, dependent upon local referendum that failed [no change]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24 Feb 1843</td>
<td>McHENRY's boundaries defined [no change]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Heavy line depicts historical boundary. Base map shows present-day information.)

1. McHENRY Boundaries
   16 Jan 1836–28 Feb 1839

2. McHENRY Attachment
   16 Jan 1836–28 Feb 1837

3. McHENRY Boundaries
   1 Mar 1839–1996
Wisconsin Historical Counties

Select a date to view historical county boundaries (and press REFRESH). Valid dates are 12/9/1778 - 12/31/2000.

Map date: December 7, 1837

Dodge County created by Wisconsin Territory from Brown and Milwaukee Counties.

Overlap Area 1 created when Dodge and Portage were both given jurisdiction.

Help
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIPS</th>
<th>STA</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>VER</th>
<th>START_N</th>
<th>END_N</th>
<th>CREATION_OR_CHANGE</th>
<th>CITATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47009</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>BLOUNT</td>
<td>tns_blount</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18151102</td>
<td>18231121</td>
<td>BLOUNT lost to RHEA and ROANE.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47187</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>WILLIAMSON</td>
<td>tns_williamson</td>
<td>18151102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Legislature authorized WILLIAMSON to gain from DAVIDSON, dependent on local referendum [local action</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47037</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>DAVIDSON</td>
<td>tns_davidson</td>
<td>18151102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Legislature authorized WILLIAMSON to gain from DAVIDSON, dependent on local referendum [local action</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47185</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>tns_white</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18151106</td>
<td>18191231</td>
<td>WHITE lost to BLEDSOE along entire boundary.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47007</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>BLEDSOE</td>
<td>tns_bledsoe</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18151106</td>
<td>18171225</td>
<td>BLEDSOE gained from WHITE along entire boundary.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47013</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>CAMPBELL</td>
<td>tns_campbell</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18170924</td>
<td>18171121</td>
<td>CAMPBELL gained from ANDERSON and OVERTON.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47001</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>ANDERSON</td>
<td>tns_anderson</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18170924</td>
<td>18171231</td>
<td>ANDERSON lost to CAMPBELL.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47133</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>OVERTON</td>
<td>tns_overton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18170924</td>
<td>18171231</td>
<td>OVERTON lost to CAMPBELL.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47185</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>tns_white</td>
<td>18170925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WHITE lost to OVERTON to accommodate local resident [change too small to display on interactive map; shapefile</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47133</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>OVERTON</td>
<td>tns_overton</td>
<td>18170925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OVERTON gained from WHITE to accommodate local resident [change too small to display on interactive map; shapefile</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47143</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>RHEA</td>
<td>tns_rhea</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18171009</td>
<td>18171231</td>
<td>RHEA gained from ROANE; part of RHEA reverted to Non-County Area 8.</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ROANE lost to RHEA</td>
<td>(Tenn. Acts 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PICKENS

20 Dec 1826  PICKENS created from part of PENDLETON (extinct), with same boundaries as Pickens District. (S.C. Acts 1826, ch. 9, sec. 1/p. 38)

29 Jan 1868  PICKENS lost to creation of OCONEE, by ordinance of the state constitutional convention of 1868. (S.C. Acts 1868, spec. sess., pp. 28-29; S.C. Acts 1875, res. no. 26, p. 1015; Swindler, 8:497)

16 Apr 1868  Pickens District eliminated when new state constitution abolished all judicial districts. PICKENS County continued and assumed all functions of local government from both judicial districts and parishes. (Swindler, 8:497)

27 Feb 1917  Boundary between PICKENS and OCONEE redefined [no discernible change]. (S.C. Acts 1917, no. 90, sec. 1/pp. 164-165)


Pinckney District

19 Feb 1791  Pinckney District created from Camden and Ninety-Six Districts. (S.C. Acts 1791, Jan. sess., pp. 20-21, 28-29, 45)

01 Jan 1800  Pinckney District lost all its territory to creation of Chester, Spartanburg, Union, and York Districts; Pinckney District eliminated. (S.C. Acts 1798, pp. 37-44)

Prince Frederick Parish (superseded)

09 Apr 1734  Prince Frederick Parish created from Prince George-Winyaw Parish within CRAVEN County (extinct). (S.C. Statutes, 3:374)

29 Mar 1735  Prince Frederick gained from non-parish area when its boundaries were extended. (S.C. Statutes, 3:374)
In a given model,

the thing that changes
(with acknowledged time-bound attributes)

is a thing that doesn't change
(an asserted continuity of identity)

until we ask if that kind of thing, too,
has a history
Some things that can change over time:

Counties
County names
County shapes
States, colonies, territories
Governmental status
Legislative acts
Judicial decisions
Corroborating evidence
Line segments
Natural features
Identifiers (FIPS codes)
Precision of measurement
Map projections
Reference base maps
Errors
Disputes
Misunderstandings
Population characteristics
Boundaries Make a Difference

Portage County, Wisconsin
Population Change

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Map of Portage Co, Wis., in 1840 and 1850, with federal census statistics. Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, Newberry Library, Chicago, 2006. (See also www.newberry.org/ahcbp.)
A few U.S. Census categories over time:

1830  1850  1870  1890
free white  white  white  white
free colored  black  black  black
slave  mulatto  mulatto  mulatto
quadroon  octoroon  Indian
Chinese  Chinese  Japanese
“A census both creates the image and provides the mirror of that image for a nation’s self-reflection.”

Jennifer L. Hochschild and Brenna M. Powell
Spring 2008
Studies in American Political Development
22(1):59-96.

http://scholar.harvard.edu/jlhochschild/publications#node-3465