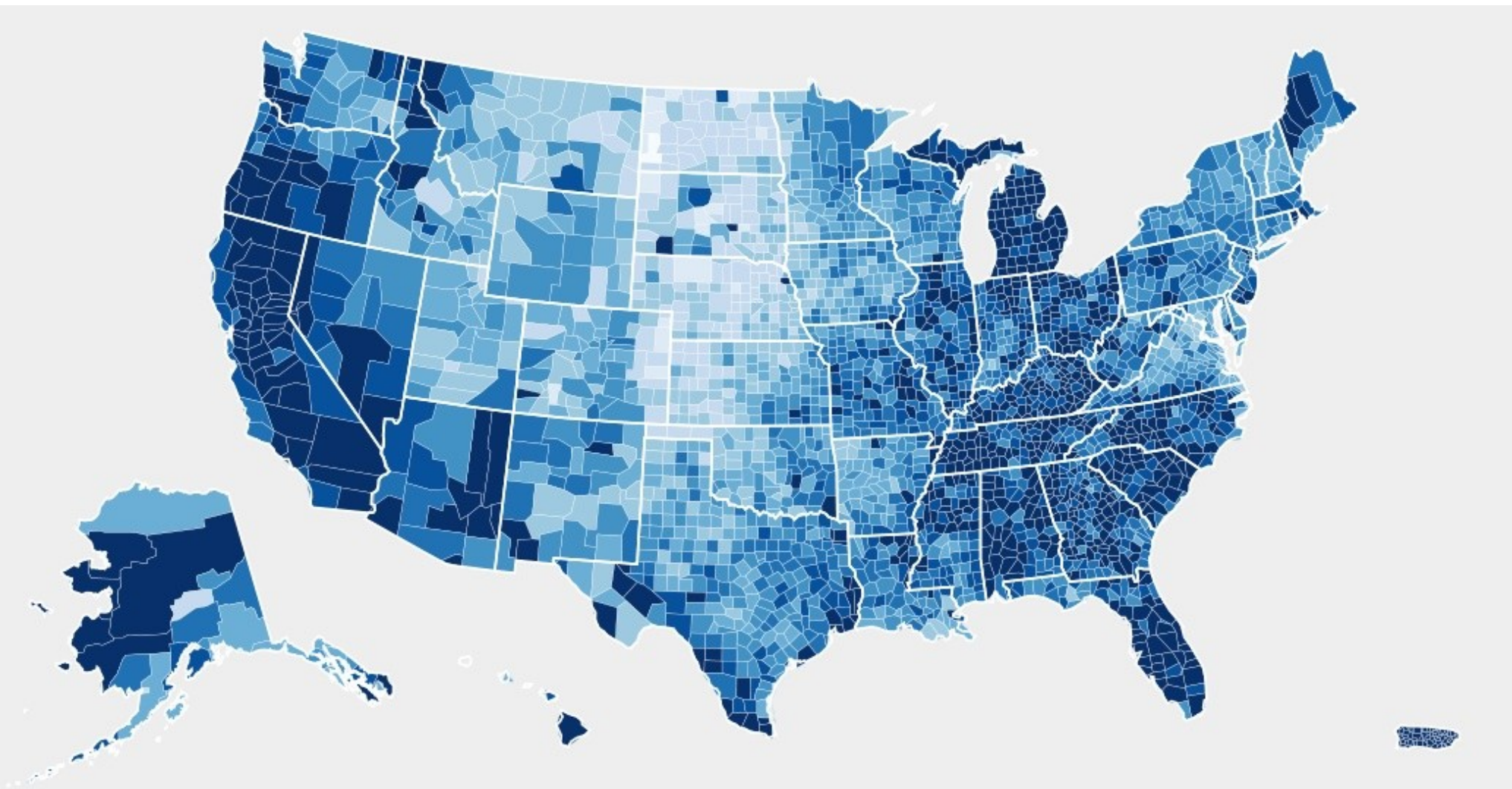


What is the Thing that Changes?

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?*



Choropleth map example (unemployment density, 2009) distributed with the D3.js JavaScript library: <http://mbostock.github.com/d3/ex/choropleth.html>



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:

1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870
1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960

- **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:

General Population	Ethnicity/Race/Place of Birth
Education & Literacy	Agriculture
Economy/Manufacturing/Employment	Slave Population

- **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)

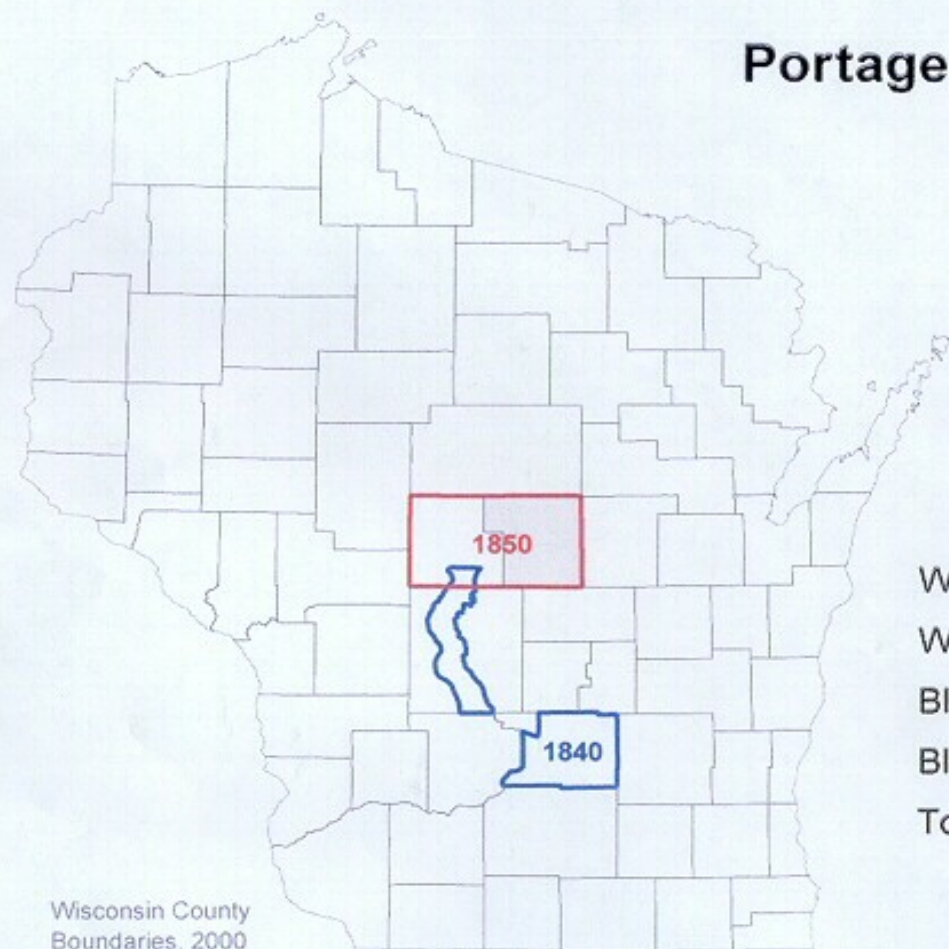
(2004). Historical Census Browser. Retrieved [Date you accessed source], from the University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: <http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/collections/>

Portage County, Wisconsin Population Change

	1840	1850
White Males	1,507	828
White Females	112	421
Black Males	4	0
Black Females	0	1
Total	1,623	1,250

Boundaries Make a Difference

Portage County, Wisconsin Population Change



Wisconsin County
Boundaries, 2000

	1840	1850
White Males	1,507	828
White Females	112	421
Black Males	4	0
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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.)

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

The Newberry Library Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture

Select a State



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Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

The Newberry Library Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture

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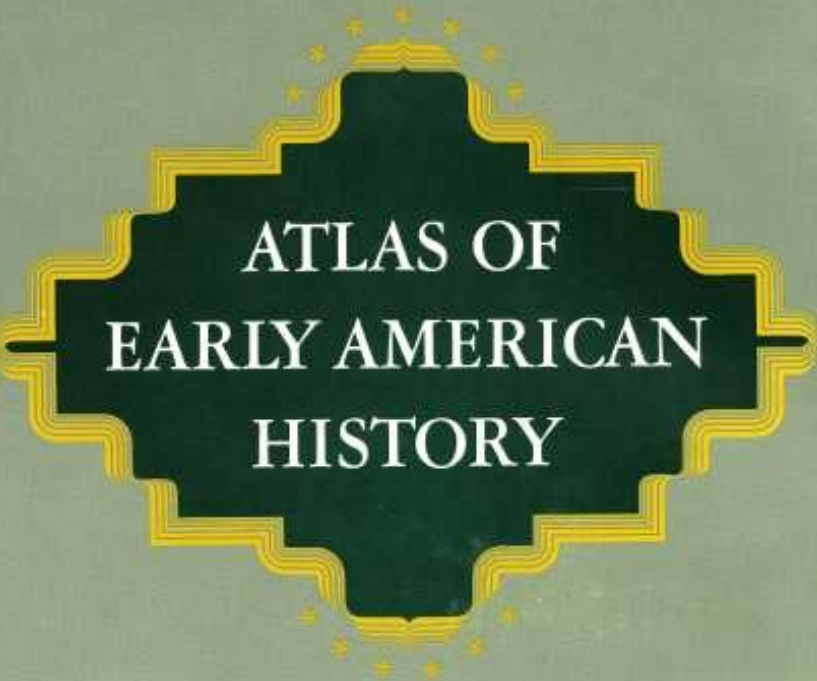
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<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>



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

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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

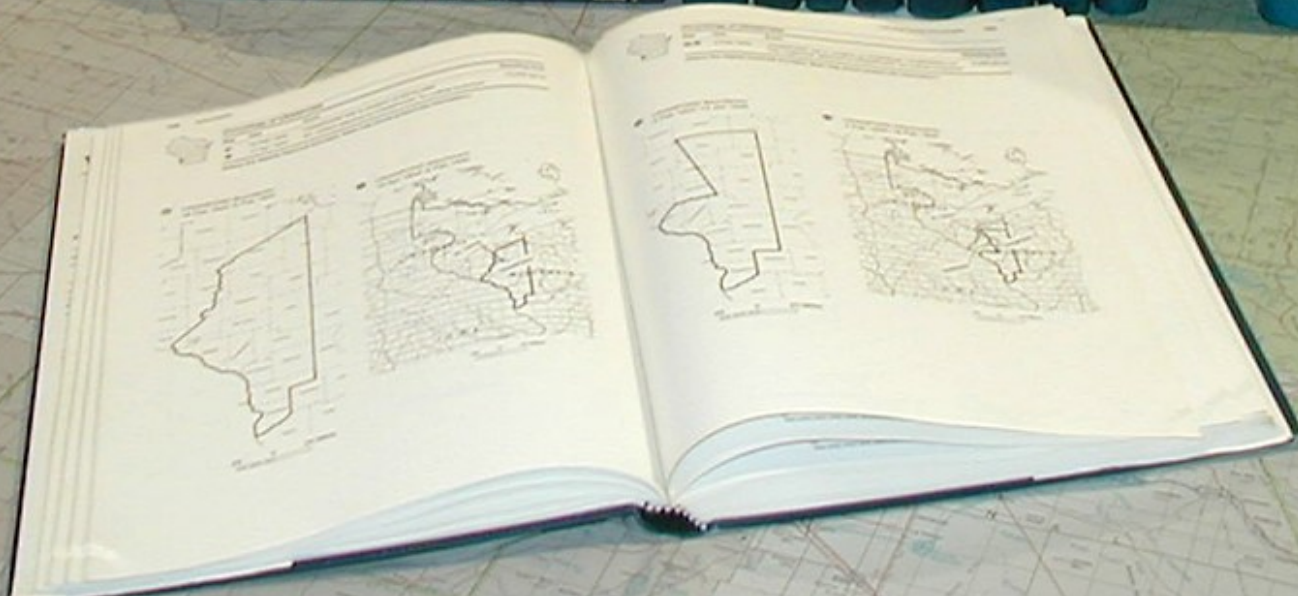
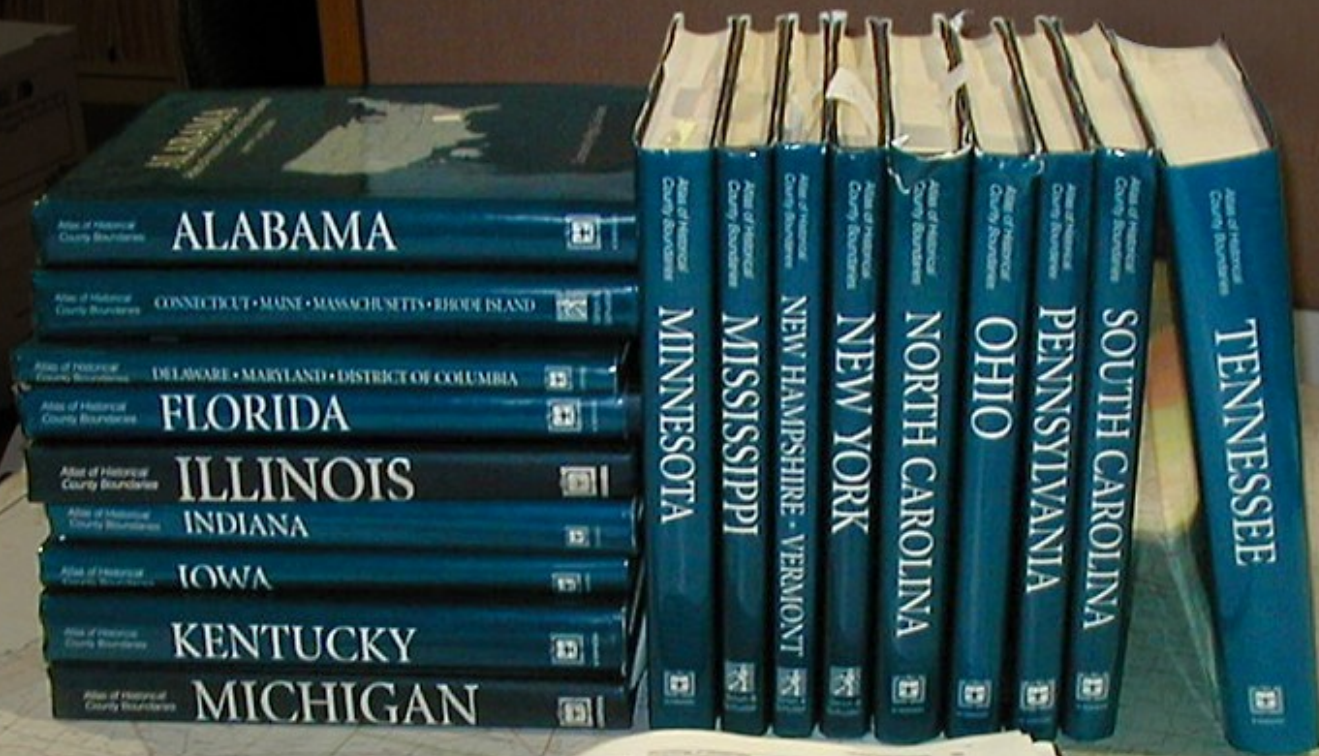
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DA9025.P3

Part 3: Datesfile: Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania [MDDLPA46];
88,314 bytes.

DA9025.P4

CONTENTS.TXT



Rhode Island

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

State Page



5 Counties

[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

[Interactive Map](#)

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[Individual County Chronologies](#)

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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	17750	11585	17689								
5	2	11585	17689	10610	15555								
6	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



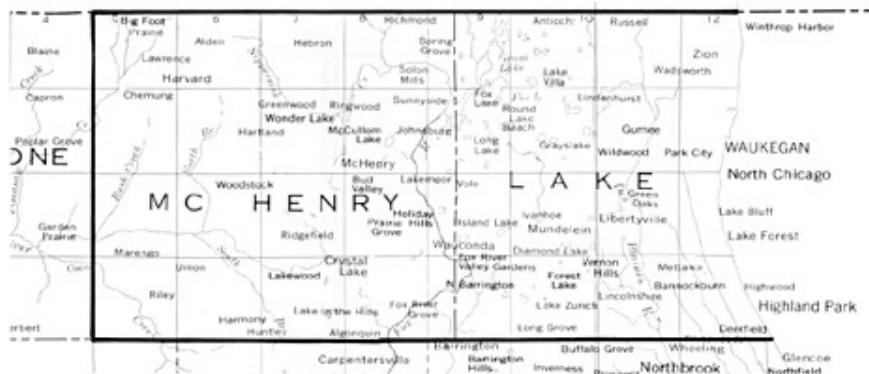


Chronology of McHENRY

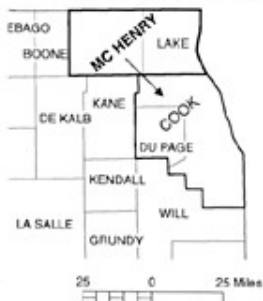
Map	Date	Event	Resulting Area
1/2	16 Jan 1836	McHENRY created from COOK and non-county area attached to LA SALLE / McHENRY not fully organized, attached to COOK until "organized"	1,100 sq mi
1	1 Mar 1837	McHENRY fully organized, detached from COOK. McHENRY's boundaries extended to state limits in Lake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

(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 1839–1990



Wisconsin Historical Counties

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

[Help](#)

Select Map Date

Dec 7 1837

Map Legend

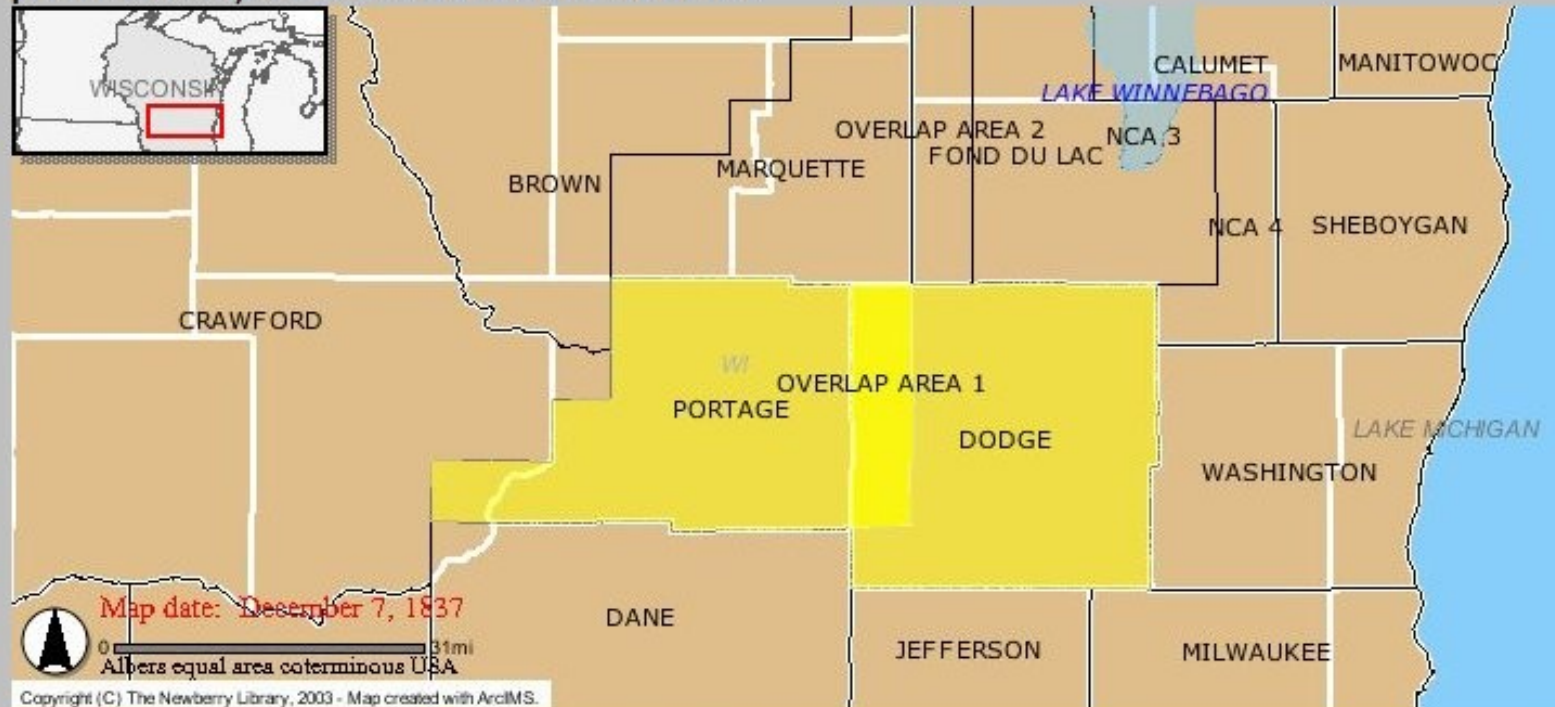
- Historical County Boundaries
- Modern County Boundaries

Refresh Map

Layers

Visible Active

- ☐ Modern County Seats
- ☒ Lake Winnebago
- ☐ Unsuccessful Proposals
- ☐ Historical



2	DODGE	WI	55027	1	1836 00:00:00	Jan 1838 00:00:00	DODGE created by Wisconsin Territory from BROWN and MILWAUKEE. DO
3	Overlap Area 1	WI		1	Wed, 07 Dec 1836 00:00:00	Thu, 11 Jan 1838 00:00:00	Overlap Area 1 created when DODGE and PORTAGE were both given ju

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

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)
- 20 Mar 1923 Boundary between PICKENS and OCONEE redefined [no discernible change]. (S.C. Acts 1923, no. 157, sec. 1/pp. 237-238)
- 20 Feb 1967 PICKENS gained from OCONEE. (S.C. Acts 1967, no. 45, sec. 1/pp. 46-47)
-

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

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

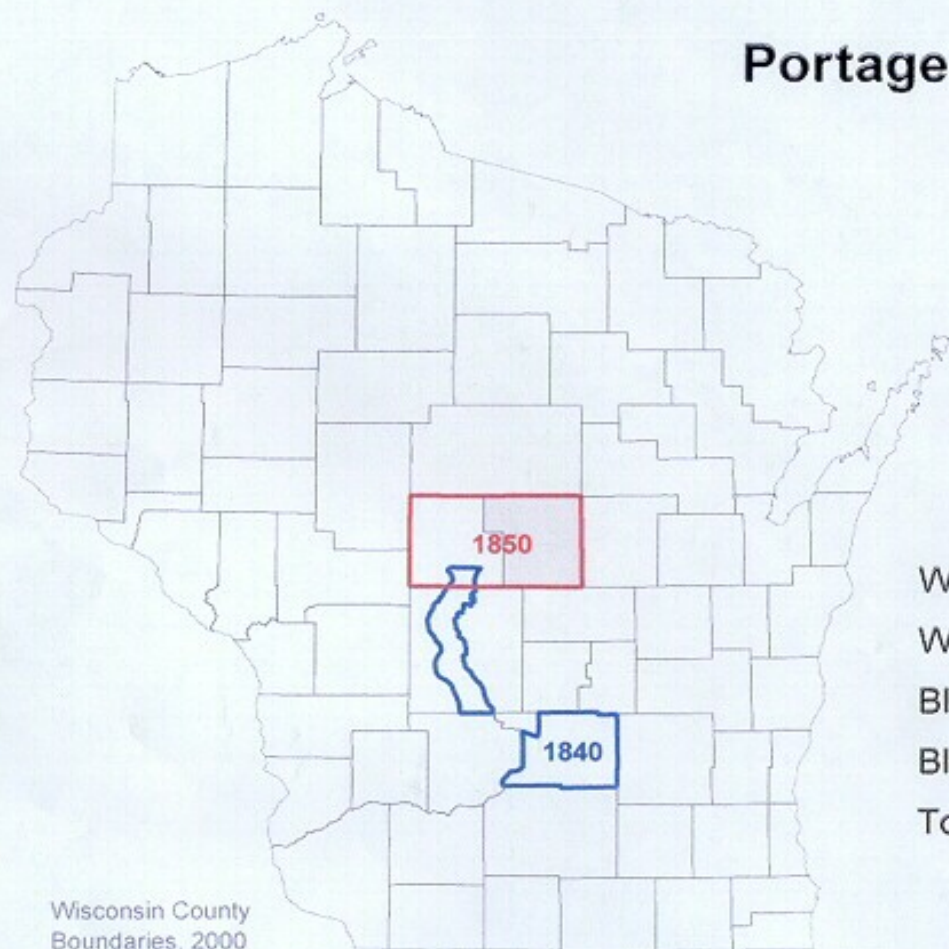
Disputes

Misunderstandings

Population characteristics

Boundaries Make a Difference

Portage County, Wisconsin Population Change



Wisconsin County
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White Males	1,507	828
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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:

<u>1830</u>	<u>1850</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1890</u>
free white	white	white	white
free colored	black	black	black
slave	mulatto	mulatto	mulatto quadroon octoroon
		Indian Chinese	Indian 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

“Racial Reorganization and the United States Census, 1850-1930: Mulattoes, Half-Breeds, Mixed Parentage, Hindoos, and the Mexican Race”

Spring 2008

Studies in American Political Development

22(1):59-96.

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