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 GEOG_3315
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The Journey of Schoolcraft

For this assignment, I worked off of the maps and journals of Henry Schoolcraft who explored southern Missouri and northern Arkansas from 1888 -1889. Since this is a class pertaining to the geology of Arkansas, I only focused on his exploits in northeastern Arkansas along the White River. Throughout his journey, Schoolcraft got lost (a lot), built opinions about the hunters of Arkansas - some not very kind - and met interesting people along the way.

1. What design choices did you make in order to represent features, observations, change in time, the direction of movement, etc? (3 points);

- ❖ Since the assignment was to build a map in the style of one the explorers in our readings I chose to keep my map as simple as I could. I chose to use a basic river map base because there weren't a lot of established roads in Arkansas at this time and a lot of the exploration was being conducted for agricultural or settlement reasons, so they were looking for healthy land and river headwaters. Because of this, I wanted an accurate representation of the river system.

For Schoolcraft's route, I chose to use a solid line with arrows pointing the direction of travel through Arkansas and a little bit of lower Missouri. Cabins and family land are marked with black squares and are the predominant feature on my map. For points of interest, I used a black circle. The single "town" visited by Schoolcraft on his visit was present-day Batesville, which is represented by a star on the map.

Unfortunately for my passage of time I got caught up in my understanding of the material and forgot to put dates into the names of things and within my key. The time of travel through Missouri to Arkansas was much of 1888 through part of 1889 before Schoolcraft made it back to St. Louis.

2. What did you decide to include or exclude from the map and why? Briefly reflect on how your maps differ from the maps produced by the author (Milson) as shown in Unit 2, Week 4 (3 points);

- ❖ For the most part, my map included a lot of the things Milon had on his, however, I did leave out a lot of the family farms/cabins visited because there were a lot of them and they would have cluttered up my map at the scale I chose. My map does include more rivers than Milson as well as reservoirs that were not present during the time of Schoolcraft's expedition. My choices were simple, as I looked at the maps in the books,

and after reading anything that made an impression, I made it a point to include on my map.

3. Finally, reflect on this question: Do you think it is useful to be able to symbolically map and represent historical data like travel narratives? Why/why not? (4 points).

- ❖ I think travel narratives are just as important as the map itself. A big part of this section was getting us to understand cultural differences through the way these individuals mapped their surroundings as they explored. We can see a lot of bias in their maps that is backed up by their travel narratives and journals. What they didn't see as "proper" or "civilized" was often written about poorly. If they happened to stumble upon a group that was kind they often wrote about them as "hardy" or "tough" but still with an err of disdain.

I could stumble upon some of these maps and associated journals and if I knew nothing about America at the time I could get a good picture of its people, beliefs, and prejudices, at least on the frontier, which might translate back to the "civilized" portion of the country.