Rosa Parks is known around the world for her famous one-word quote, “No.” Her legacy of involvement in the civil rights movement lives on today through her collection of letters, notes, and other documents known as “The Rosa Parks Papers.” These papers provide insight into her involvement and, more importantly, the reach of her influence.

Like most notes, hers detail her life and contact information of friends and family. Using basic mapping software, the reach of Parks’s influence was demonstrated. She had friends and acquaintances located around the US, all of whom were a part of boycotting the bus system. The analysis of the data demonstrates her ability to organize a movement capable of forcing change in a system designed for discrimination.

Our dataset began as a list garnered from Parks’ notes detailing 87 participants in the bus boycotting system and their addresses. This project involved cleaning the data and updating addresses to the modern mapping system, and then mapping them. We also compiled a list of participants that were more commonly mentioned in her notes to determine the level of participation in the movement by different members.

Our results were all over the map. Parks met a multitude of people, primarily in her hometown Montgomery, AL; Sacramento, CA; and Los Angeles, CA. Her connections through the NAACP and her activism in the country’s capital gave her allies around the country. As we know now, her efforts were successful and she is still a role model for fighting discrimination today.