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LDS Church History Web Mapping Project

End User Guide

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PURPOSE

This website (see Figure 1), was built for the purpose of displaying events in LDS church history using an interactive web mapping application that allows users to explore each event through a map interface and a timeline selector. We chose to focus on LDS church history in Europe. We displayed 17 events relating to church history represented by 15 points, one polyline and one polygon. Various temples and future temple sites were shown with point features. The polyline on the map represented Orson Hyde's missionary journey through Europe and the polygon displays the extents of the LDS population of Europe. Each event contains geospatial data and attribute information that can be accessed on the website, making it easy and simple for any user. This data includes important dates and historical facts as well as an image and link to a page with more information about a particular place on the map.

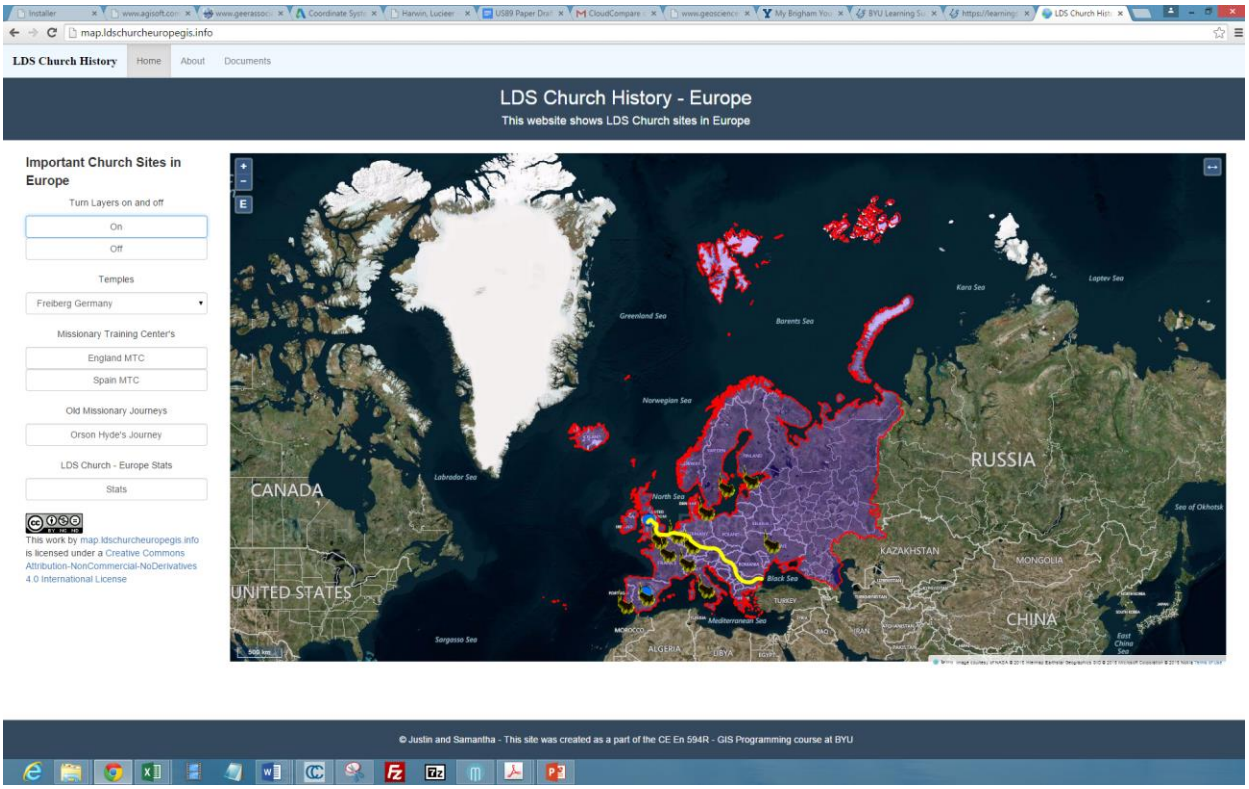

Figure 1. Our interactive web mapping site

RESTRICTIONS & REQUIRED SOFTWARE

Operating the script for this website does not require any software or special programs. As long as you have access to the internet, a compatible web browser and can obtain the proper files, running the script and making the website work can be achieved.

This website uses HTML, CSS and Java script which are common computer languages that are compatible with Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer 11 and Safari.

USING THE SOFTWARE

The code and files for the website can easily be obtained online by anyone. It is stored on a publicly accessible repository called GIS_Web_Mapping_Project on the website GitHub. From there, the accompanying HTML, KML, CSS, pictures and Javascript files can be downloaded by anyone for free. The website can be found at the URL, map.ldschurcheuropegis.info.

INPUT DATA

The data that makes this web mapping website work includes several files. There are HTML files, CSS and Javascript files as well as several KML files and pictures, as shown in Figure 2. The HTML, CSS and Javascript files all contain code that make the website run properly. The KML and picture files are the input data that the code uses to make the interactive web display. All of the KML files contain geospatial data that display as a point, polyline or polygon that show on the embedded map where they are located in the world. The picture data is used as an attribute for each event.

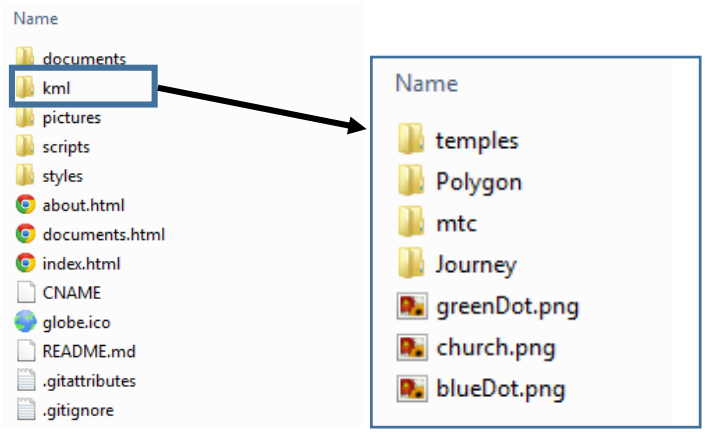

Figure 2. File structure to make the website work

USING THE WEBSITE

The website was designed to be very simple for all users. It has buttons and dropdown boxes (Figure 3) that make it easy to navigate as well as controls on the map itself, shown in Figure 4. Also included are two other pages, as seen in Figure 5. These will be described in more detail in the sections to follow.

NAVIGATING THE WEBSITE

On the left-hand side of the home page are several buttons and a drop-down list that allow the user to navigate through the website.

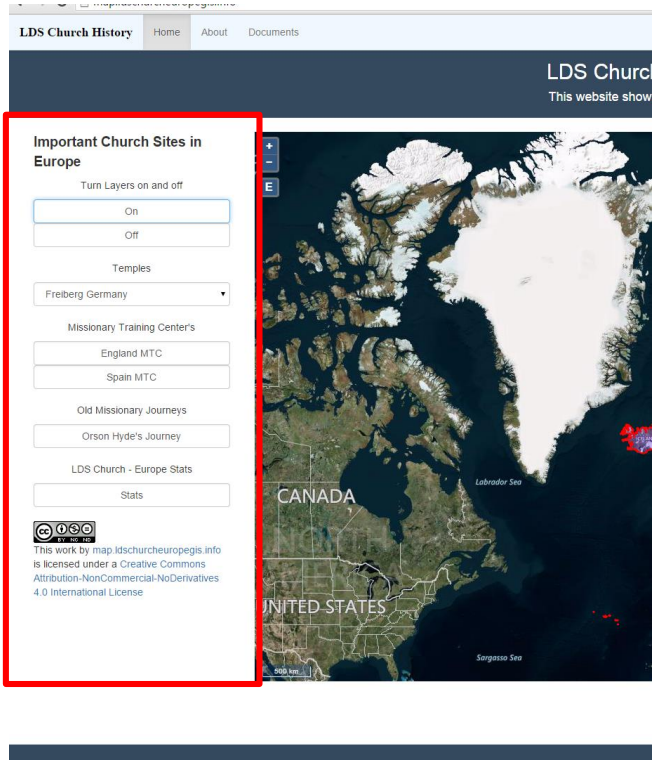

Figure 3. Close up of navigation buttons

The top two buttons are used to turn all of the layers on or off. The drop-down list below that can be used to select any temple or temple site on the map and once selected, the map will automatically zoom to that site so the user can see where it is located. Similarly, the "MTC" buttons will zoom into one of the two MTCs located in Europe. Just below that is the "Orson Hyde's Journey" button which will zoom to the polyline that shows where Orson Hyde travelled during his missionary service in 1842. The Stats button will highlight the polygon of Europe and show the extents of the LDS population there.

Within the map there is a full screen mode button on the right hand side and zooming controls on the left side (Figure 4). The "+" and "-" buttons are used to zoom in and out and the "E" button zooms to the extents of the data.

Along the top of the home page are two additional tabs that will take you to either the "About" page or the "Documents" page. The "About" page provides a brief description of the website and the "Documents" page has links to the Technical Specs and End User documents (see Figure 5).

Figure 4. Controls for maneuvering the map

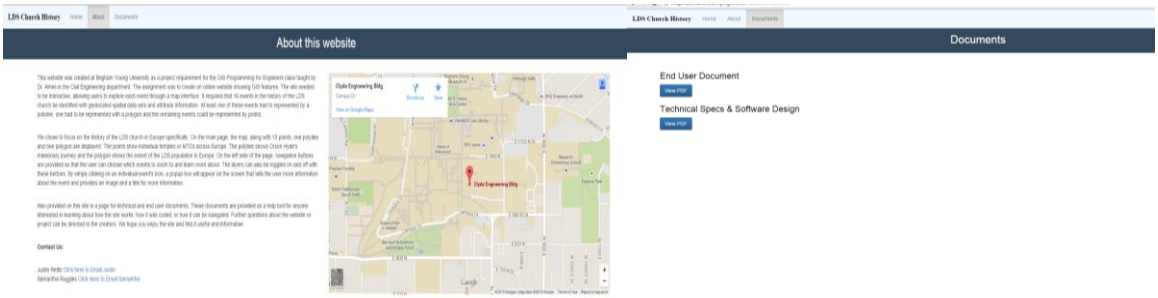

Figure 5. Two additional pages on the website

FINDING INFORMATION

Once the user has identified which event to view, they can click on the icon that appears on that event and a popup box will appear, as seen in Figure 6. This box includes important dates and historical facts associated with each event as well as an image and a link to a site containing more information. A popup box will also appear when any spot on the polyline or polygon is clicked on. To close the popup box, the "x" in the upper right corner can be clicked.

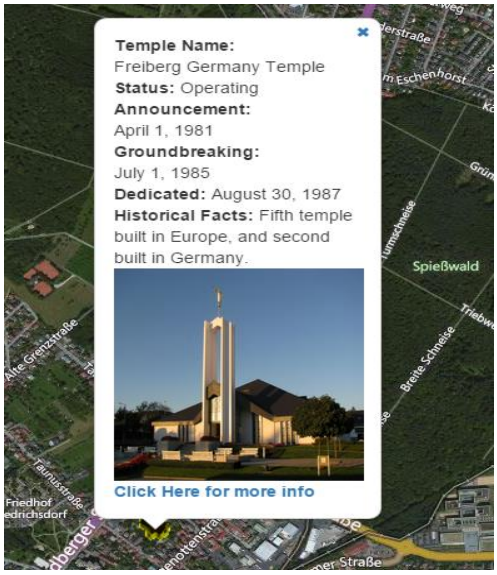

Figure 6. Popup box