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GEOG 590 Web Mapping
05/24/18
Project Proposal

For my final project, I plan to make an animated and interactive map showing genealogical information that my grandmother has collected on our family. My grandmother has always been interested in family history, and since the death of my grandfather five years ago, she has spent a considerable amount of time tracking down additional information and ancestors to expand the family tree. My final product will ultimately be a gift to my grandmother (as well as other members of our family) which will supplement all of the work she has done by displaying the information in a different way.

Both her family and my grandfather's family have been in the US since at least the early 1800s, and the different branches slowly migrated from the East Coast to the interior of North America as the frontier opened. By pairing my own family history with the broader history of the US, it is possible to see how major events in the history of the country affected the lives of individual people. This helps make the story that I will tell with my web map interesting to more than just my family; hopefully people will think of their own family history as they view the final product.

Migration is inherently mappable, as at its core it is movement from one area to another. By pairing key genealogical information such as birth and death dates with the locations that these events happened in, it will be much easier to visualize how my ancestors were involved in the settling of North America.

As previously mentioned, my grandmother has extensively researched our family history. She has been able to track both her ancestors and my grandfather's ancestors as far back as the 1600s. She has given me access to her Ancestry.com account and family tree, where she has recorded her findings. The geographic information is often vague and can be as general as "East Tennessee" or "Germany"; this will be an interesting challenge to overcome. The vast majority of ancestors in this family tree lived within the US, and this will be the primary focus of my map. However, where available, I will put the country of origin for each "line" of ancestors (Western Europe in nearly every case), where available. I am tentatively planning on only showing the direct ancestors of my grandmother, though if time permits I may expand out to include my grandfather's ancestors as well. I intend for the final product to be animated when first opened,

showing movement across the country. One idea that I am playing with is allowing the user to first select specific “lines” of ancestors to show during the animation, with the different lines shown in different colors. Specific events in history that impacted my ancestors, such as the Indian Removal Act of 1830, will also be displayed on the screen at the appropriate times. Once the animation is complete, the user will be able to click on individual locations to see information about the specific person who lived (or died) in that location as well as learn more about the major events in US history are highlighted during the animation. They will also be able to return to the animation, stepping through different time periods at their own speed. Last, there are some family stories tied to specific ancestors that I would like to include when those ancestors are investigated.

TITLE

Pick who you want to follow

- ☐ Jimmerson
- ☐ Alison
- ☐ Crum
- ☐ Ryan

Historic Events?

☐ Show

PLAY ▶



(also control animation here)

Skip animation?

Credits

CANADA

USA

State boundaries appear as states join the union?

Gulf of Mexico

MEXICO

TIMELINE (for animation & user controlled after)

Play lines appear as you step forward in time and STAY - click on lines for more info when paused.

popup!

flow lines

flow lines

Atlantic Ocean

Events IN HISTORY (popup as appropriate)

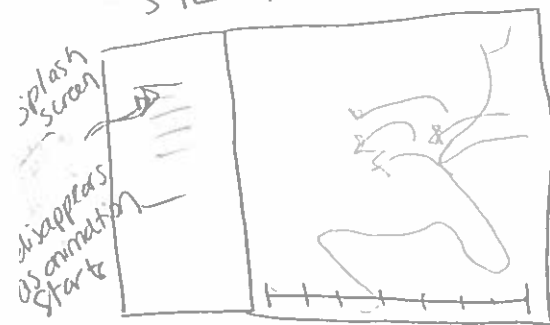
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STEP 1



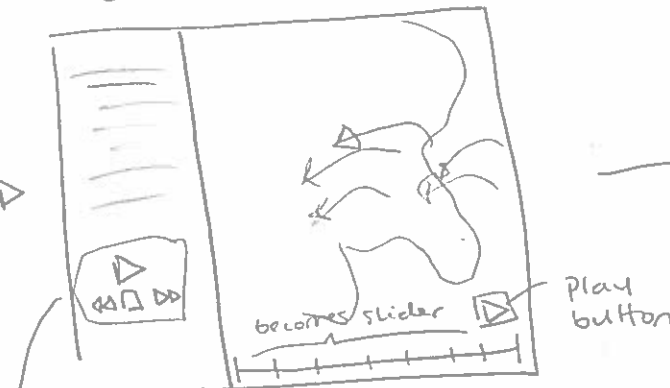
animation plays

- migration flow lines
- historic events

★ historic events popups only shown as titles / few word summaries and vanish after 5-10 seconds

★ migration flow lines stay visible but "older" lines fade to less saturated color than "current" lines

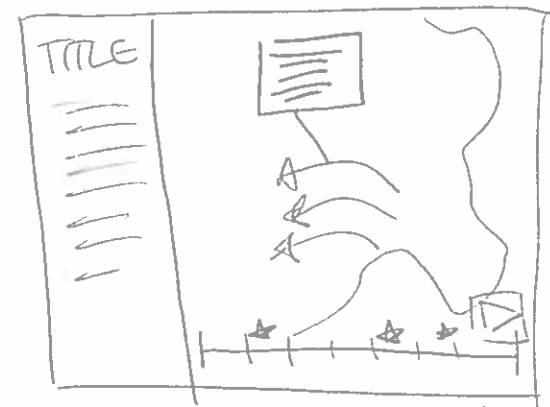
STEP 2



Animation over; replay controls appear, including menu sidebar

- which ancestry lines to show (check boxes)
- animation replay / move through time w/ slider tools
- historic events checkbox

STEP 3



User exploration!

- click on specific flow lines for more information
- major events in US history indicated on timeline w/ symbol; click for popup w/ blurb (and link to more info?)
- can replay animation if desired! (change speed?)