

Spring 2017

Mapping the Oratory of Frederick Douglass

Olivia MacIsaac

Butler University, omacisaa@butler.edu

Peter Harrah

Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis

David Lewis

Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis

Lynette Taylor


Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis

LeAnn West

Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/librarian_papers

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Geographic Information Sciences Commons](#), [Library and Information Science Commons](#), [Oral History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

MacIsaac, Olivia; Harrah, Peter; Lewis, David; Taylor, Lynette; West, LeAnn; and Young, Matthew, "Mapping the Oratory of Frederick Douglass" (2017). *Scholarship and Professional Work*. 65.
http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/librarian_papers/65

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Scholarship and Professional Work by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact fgaede@butler.edu.

Authors

Olivia MacIsaac, Peter Harrah, David Lewis, Lynette Taylor, LeAnn West, and Matthew Young

Mapping the Oratory of Frederick Douglass

Peter Harrah¹, David Lewis², Olivia MacIsaac³, Lynette Taylor⁴, LeAnn West⁵, Matthew Young⁶

¹Department of History, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; ² IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI; ³Department of Art History, IU Herron School of Art and Design; ⁴ Department of History and Department of Sociology, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI; ⁵IU School of Education; ⁶Department of Geography, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI

Analysis

- Douglass delivered speeches along the east coast of the United States during the 1850s until the 1890s
- Rarely did Douglass travel to the South to deliver speeches however in 1880s, he travelled to both Georgia and South Carolina.
- Due to the Fugitive Slave Act, Douglass never traveled to the South prior to the 13th Amendment.

Methodology

- collection of data from a wide variety of sources and identifying pertinent information in CSV docs
- uploaded the information to create the visual spatial representation of our research
- next steps are to collect more data and increase our sample with more years and create an ArcGIS StoryMap to represent our research and maps.

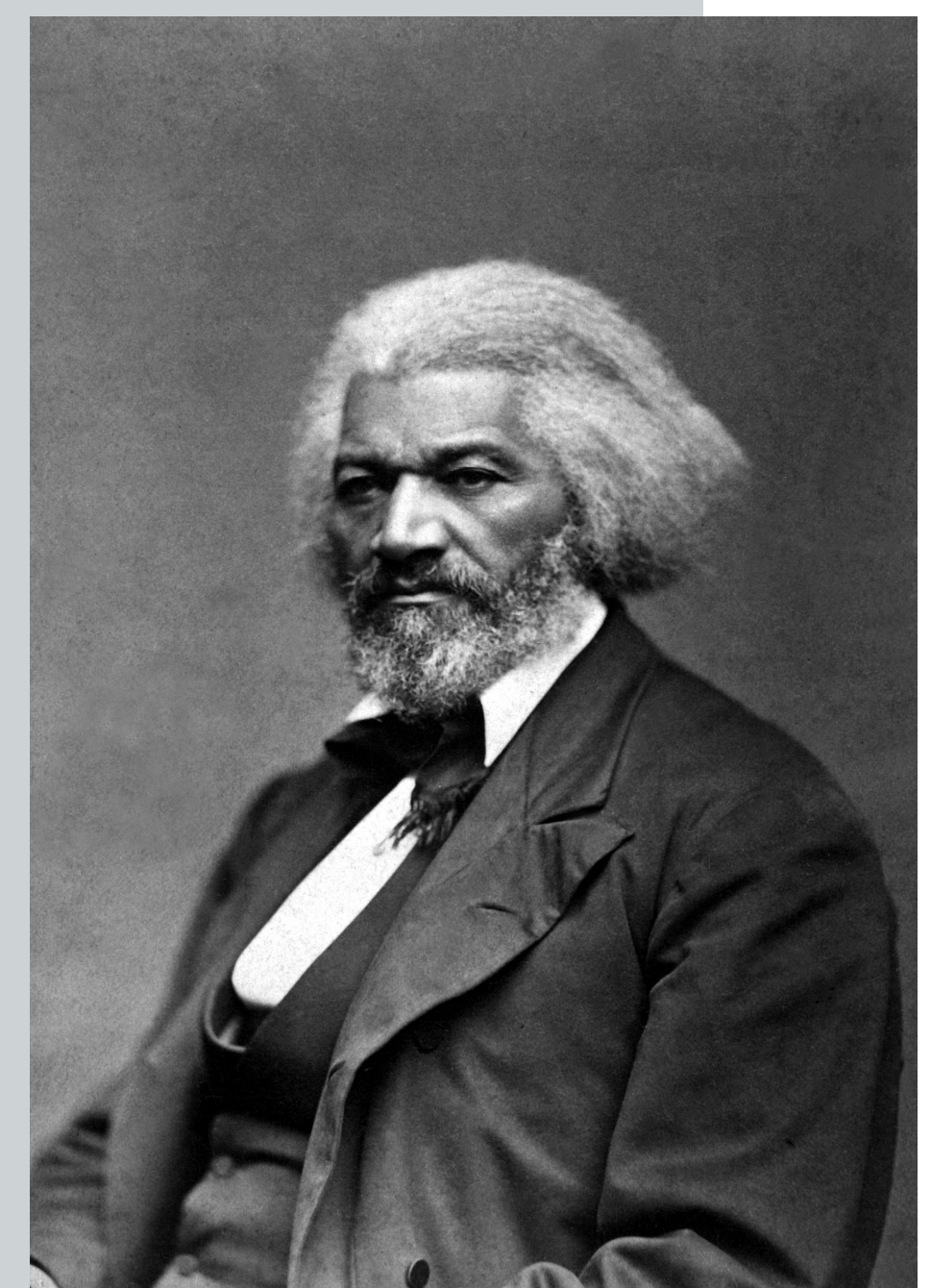
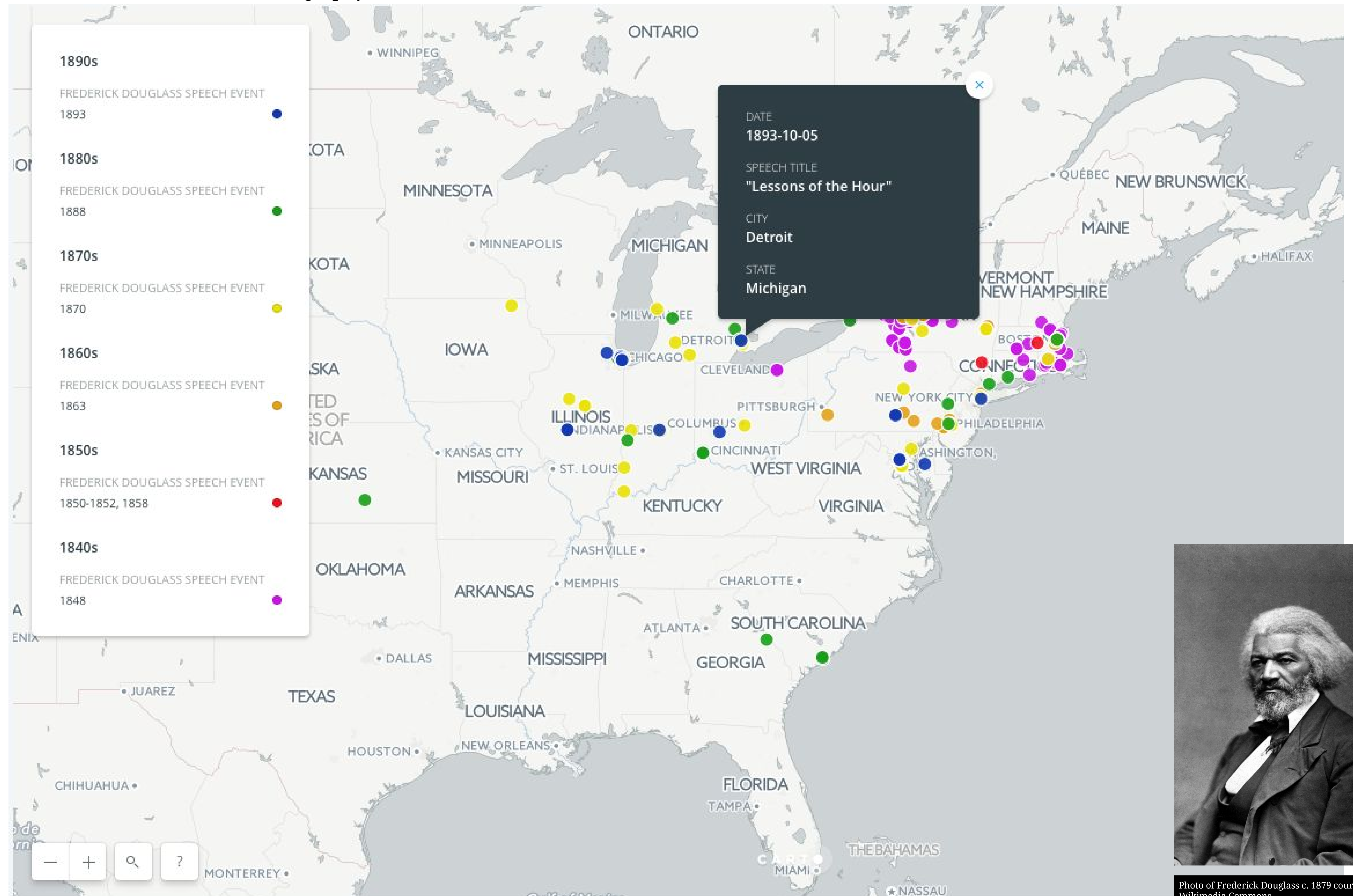


Photo of Frederick Douglass c. 1879 courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Abstract

This project is a multidisciplinary study of Douglass's speaking tours throughout his long public career as an abolitionist, human rights advocate, and politician. For this initial phase, our primary aim was data collection for which our research team sampled a single year from each of the six decades from the 1840s to the 1890s. This was the time period in which well-known runaway slave and civil rights leader Frederick Douglass toured the United States and Europe. The purpose of this study is to develop a spatial representation of the itinerary of Douglass's speaking-related travels. This will not only enable us to have a clearer conception of Douglass's daily life, but will also provide insight into the changing daily lives and hardships faced by African-Americans during the Pre-Civil War era, the Reconstruction era, and the decades after troops were withdrawn from the South. This project was accomplished through the practices established by digital humanities scholars entailing the collection of data from a wide variety of sources and identifying pertinent information including the sponsoring organization, audience composition, place features, media coverage, speech topic, and mode of travel. Once the data was collected, we encoded the information to create the visual spatial representation of our research on a digital map. The ability to analyze this geographic data through interactive queries by GIS software will allow not only us but also future researchers and scholars, to determine significant spatial patterns in Douglass's oratory as well as changes in those patterns from decade to decade.