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# Mapping the Oratory of Frederick Douglass

Olivia MacIsaac

*Butler University, [omacisaa@butler.edu](mailto: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*

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**Authors**

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

# Mapping the Oratory of Frederick Douglass

Peter Harrah<sup>1</sup>, David Lewis<sup>2</sup>, Olivia MacIsaac<sup>3</sup>, Lynette Taylor<sup>4</sup>, LeAnn West<sup>5</sup>, Matthew Young<sup>6</sup>

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

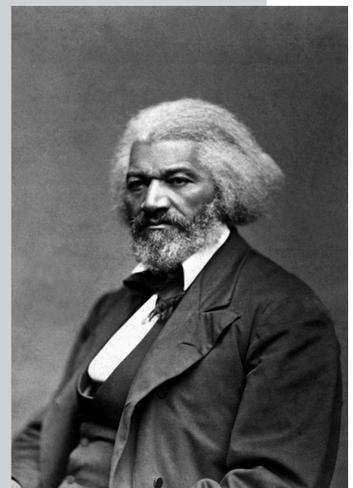
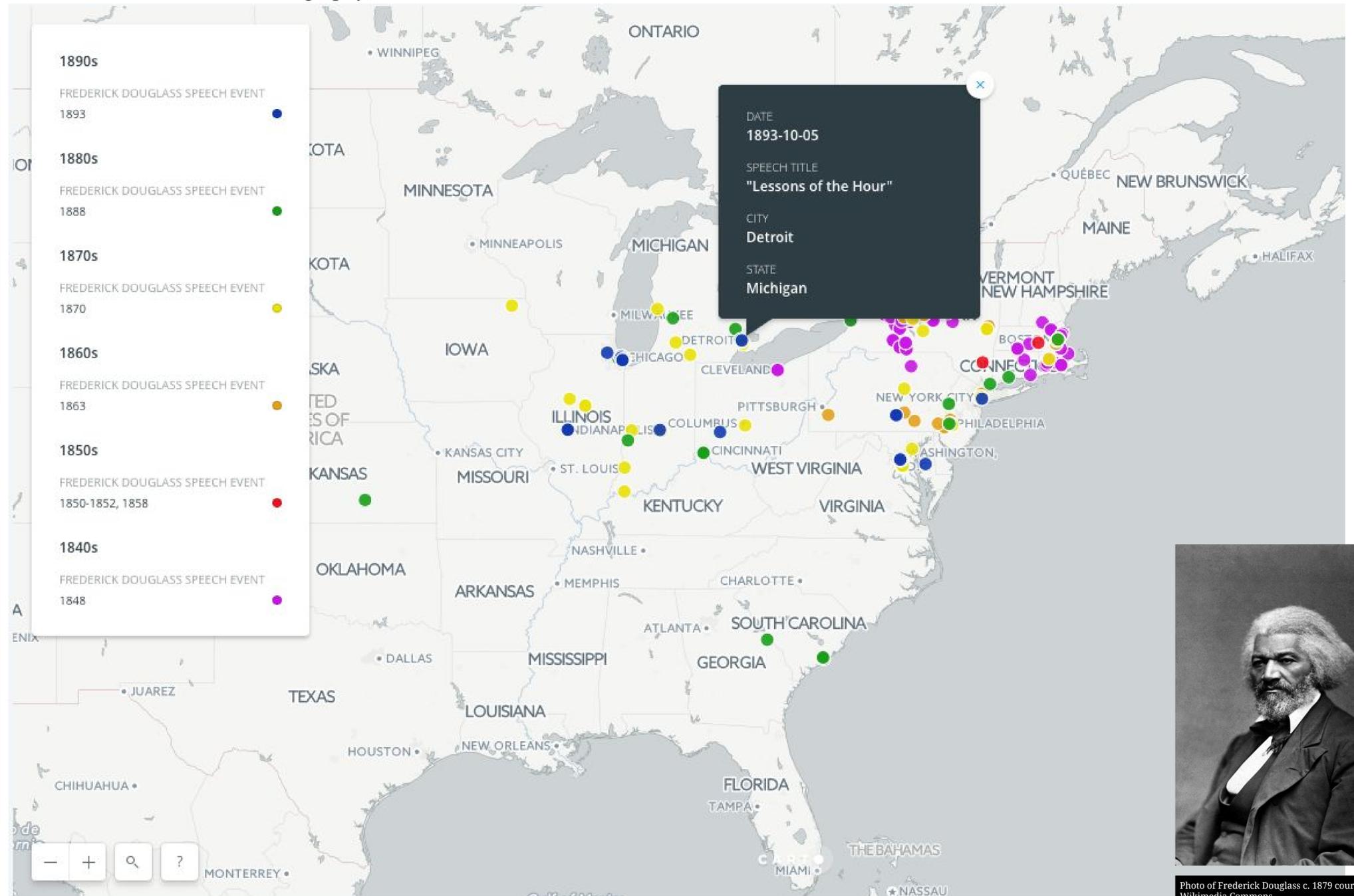


Photo of Frederick Douglass c. 1879 courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## 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.