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Lesson plan for American History 373
Week 3: “A New Nation Moves West”

LO: American Memory

Author: Library of Congress

Location in Merlot: Humanities/History/Area Studies/Americas/United States

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html
Overall goals

- To integrating online materials into class meetings and make History 373 more interactive;
- To move from a purely content-based pedagogy and integrate transferable skills (locating and analyzing primary sources) into weekly meetings;
- To use learning objects for making students think about the material and do much of the intellectual work themselves;
- To demonstrate through tutorials how to use the LOC’s catalogues, and to navigate MIRLYN and finding aids to locate resources at campus libraries (such as the Bentley and the Clements).
What will this look like?

- “American Memory” contains a vast array of sources: how to pick and choose?
- Possible thematic approach to online sources: have students explore, through the LOs, a selection of important topics or themes.
- During lecture meetings, have students divide in groups and study sources related to:
  - historical events (treaties / battles / government decisions)
  - historical persons
  - larger historical issues related to the week’s topic
Example Week 3: “A New Nation Moves West”

- Using the collection “The First American West” in the Library of Congress’s “American Memory” collection
- For example, prepare in-class case studies of:
  **Events**
  - The Treaty of Greenville (1795)
  **Persons**
  - Henry Knox and settler/Indian hostilities
  - Daniel Boone as historical and mythical figure
  **Themes**
  - Land surveys in the Ohio River Valley
  - Encountering the region’s American Indian past
Daniel Boone as historical and mythical figure
Encountering the region’s American Indian past

A letter from Colonel Winthrop Sargent, to Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, accompanying drawings and some account of certain articles, which were taken out of an ancient tumulus, or grave, in the western-country.

**AUTHOR/CREATOR**
Sargent, Winthrop, 1753-1820

**CREATED/PUBLISHED**
1799

**NOTES**
Originally published in Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, vol. 4 (1799), article no. 21, p. 177-180.

**SUBJECTS**
Barton, Benjamin Smith, 1766-1815
Mounds--United States
Native American
Burial mounds
Land

**RESOURCE TYPE**
Text
Article

**SOURCE COLLECTION**
University of Chicago Library
Transactions
of the
American
Philosophical Society,
Held at
Philadelphia,
For Promoting
Useful Knowledge.
Volume IV.

Philadelphia;
Printed and Sold by Thomas Dobson, at the
Stone-house, No 41, South Second Street.
1799.
GROWING IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The annexed figure represents the other particularities and specific characters of the plant, which I shall call Heterandra reniformis.

(Signed) BEAUVOIS.

N°. XXI.

A Letter from Colonel WINTHROP SARGENT, to Dr. BENJAMIN SMITH BARTON, accompanying Drawings and some Account of certain Articles, which were taken out of an ancient Tumulus, or Grave, in the Western-Country.

Cincinnati, N. W. Territory, Sep. 8th, 1794.

I HAVE the pleasure, my dear Sir, to transmit to you a drawing of some matters more extraordinary than have heretofore come under my observation, in all the researches into the antiquities of this country. The multiplicity of my avocations leaves not leisure for more than rough delineations; and you must be contented to receive them in this style. I possess all the originals, and intend by some safe conveyance presenting them to the Philosophical Society, should they believe them of importance enough for a deposit of my disposition to promote the purposes of their institution. The drawing, perhaps, is too imperfect to stand the test of criticism, and it might not be prudent to hazard it to their view. Your judgment, however, should govern.

It may be proper to add, that the body with which this collection was interred, was found lying nearly on a horizontal position, about five feet from the surface of the earth.

* Since the date of this letter, the Philosophical Society have received the articles. From comparing them with the drawings, it appears that the latter are, in general, sufficiently correct. B. S. B.
How to wrap these learning objects?

- How to combine students’ analysis of primary sources with more “traditional” purpose of lectures?
- Wrappers focused on guiding students through descriptive, contextual, and analytical questions:
  1. Who, what, where, when?
  2. Historical significance?
  3. Discussing problems & confusing aspects of the source
- Follow-up at the end of class section to collectively tackle facts, findings, discussion questions, etc.
How to make the LOs available to students?

- We will continue to refine how to organize and present these resources to students;
- Possibly through an online syllabus linked to the various resources or wrapped learning objects.