Mapping Occupation Website Revamp

PR&FAQ

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Press Release

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MAPPING OCCUPATION: A HISTORICAL MAPPING TOOL
A passage through the reconstruction era from the Army's perspective.

ATHENS, GEORGIA, February — The mapping occupation site presents interactive information about the United States Army's occupational presence and movements from the Civil War into the Reconstruction Era that is central to understanding the shaping of the postwar South. That data in turn reorients our understanding of the Reconstruction that followed Confederate surrender. Viewers can use these maps as a guide through this complex period, utilizing a newly updated data source, to understand the newfound reach the federal government had into the countryside during this post-war period.

The current state of this website utilizes a hosting service that is outdated and a bit confusing to navigate. The overall UX & UI design lacks visual appeal and user-friendliness. We plan to move current data to pantheon to serve as the new hosting service. We will remodel the overall layout and design through bootstrap to match the client's current needs and be able to sustain the website in the future.

"The concern first and foremost for this project was to figure out a new hosting service for the site, followed by getting all the research and data collections up to date. After those components had been taken care of, our front-end developers came in with the requests of our clients to reconfigure the look and feel of the site which appeared to be much needed! Both our team and the clients are really pleased with the results of the work we put into the site!" - Hayley Croke

This new website will implement bootstrap templates that are easily customizable with an emphasis on a more user-centric design and capabilities.

"I'm really excited about how the interactive aspects of the site turned out. The new, one-page format of the site was something that really excited me and I'm really pleased with how it turned out. The updated version compiles the data and makes for a user-friendly experience overall." - Scott Nesbit

We want users to utilize the website to its fullest capacity and follow along the exploratory map to learn about the spatial history of the Army during the reconstruction era.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How has this data been updated to be more historically accurate?

A: Dr. Nesbit and a team of his students have been working to update the data collection that resides on the original Mapping Occupation website. Once the data has been updated, it will be inputted into the new story mapping software, allowing the new exploratory map to reflect the updated, accurate information.

Q: What is different about this new site from the original?

A: This new site comes with a sleek new design, new mapping software, and updated data collections for educators and students alike to explore. The host server for the site has switched over to Pantheon, allowing for the web developers behind the site to bring it up to a modern-day feel.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why did the site need to be revamped?

A: The site was originally created in 2015 and therefore some of the software used to build the site has become outdated. While the team of web developers was updating the site to ensure the interactive features of the map among other aspects of the site were able to function in a modern way, they went ahead and made the look of the website match the new feel of its usability.

Q: Is the information on the site completely different now?

A: The contents of the site remain the same! There are very minor tweaks to the narrative, data, credits, methods, and about sections to the site. The major changes to the site were on the way the site operates on the back-end and looks on the front-end. The information is still relatively the same outside of the tweaks Dr. Nesbit and his team of students have been making to get rid of any old information the site may hold.