

Visualizing Early American Captivity-Mapping and Graphing Narratives Published Between 1682-1800

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Visualizing Early American Captivity - Mapping and Graphing Narratives Published Between 1682-1800

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Abstract

This Interactive Qualifying Project used data visualization and mapping to interpret early American captivity narratives from the Evans TCP archive. Using Neatline we developed data point maps to help analyze the deeper context of captivity narratives and how their content was influenced by the time period. Excel was used to develop graphs that supports the data mapped and provided further analysis of the captivity narratives. This project aims to provide the scholarly community with a tool that will help them understand and contextualize the captivity narrative.

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Project Type

Interactive Qualifying Project

Additional files

<http://www.wpi.edu/Pubs/E-project/Available/E-project-051117-120222/unrestricted/captivity-iqp-archive.zip>

, http://www.wpi.edu/Pubs/E-project/Available/E-project-051117-120222/unrestricted/Visualizing_Early_American_Captivity.pdf

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Narratives of European captivity by natives resonated with the readers of colonial America, for they provided a means of entertainment. In the late 1800s, as the frontier vanished and Indians were either massacred or confined to reservations, Americans began to romanticize these narratives about events that once caused anxiety and fear. Religion acts through captivity narratives to show the distinction between the religious values of the European settlers and the Native Americans (Dunnigan 2009, 4). It also acts as inspiration for early Americans to continue to practice their faith, for if Rowlandson was able to maintain her religious beliefs during her captivity, the rest of the world should be able to during everyday life.