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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

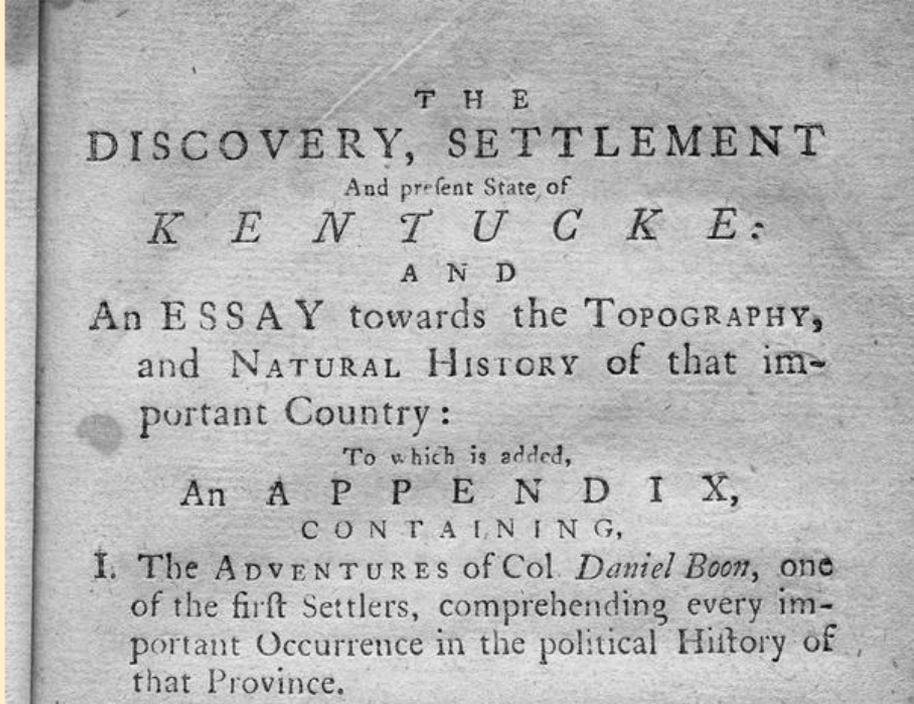
Daniel Boone as historical and mythical figure

First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820

The discovery, settlement, and present state of Kentucke : and an essay towards the topography and natural history of that important country ; to which is added, an appendix, containing, I. The adventures of Col. Daniel Boon, one of the first settlers, comprehending every important occurrence in the political history of that province. II. The minutes of the Piankashaw council, held at Post St. Vincents, April 15, 1784. III. An account of the Indian nations inhabiting within the limits of the thirteen United States ... IV. The stages and distances between Philadelphia and the Falls of the Ohio; from Pittsburg to Pensacola and several other places. The whole illustrated by a new and accurate map of Kentucke and the country adjoining, drawn from actual surveys

Image 1 of 117 [NEXT IMAGE](#)

[Bibliographic information](#) | [First American West Home](#) | [Higher Quality Image \(JPEG - 837K\)](#)



THE
DISCOVERY, SETTLEMENT
And present State of
KENTUCKE:
AND
An ESSAY towards the TOPOGRAPHY,
and NATURAL HISTORY of that im-
portant Country:
To which is added,
An APPENDIX,
CONTAINING,
I. The ADVENTURES of Col. *Daniel Boon*, one
of the first Settlers, comprehending every im-
portant Occurrence in the political History of
that Province.

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First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820

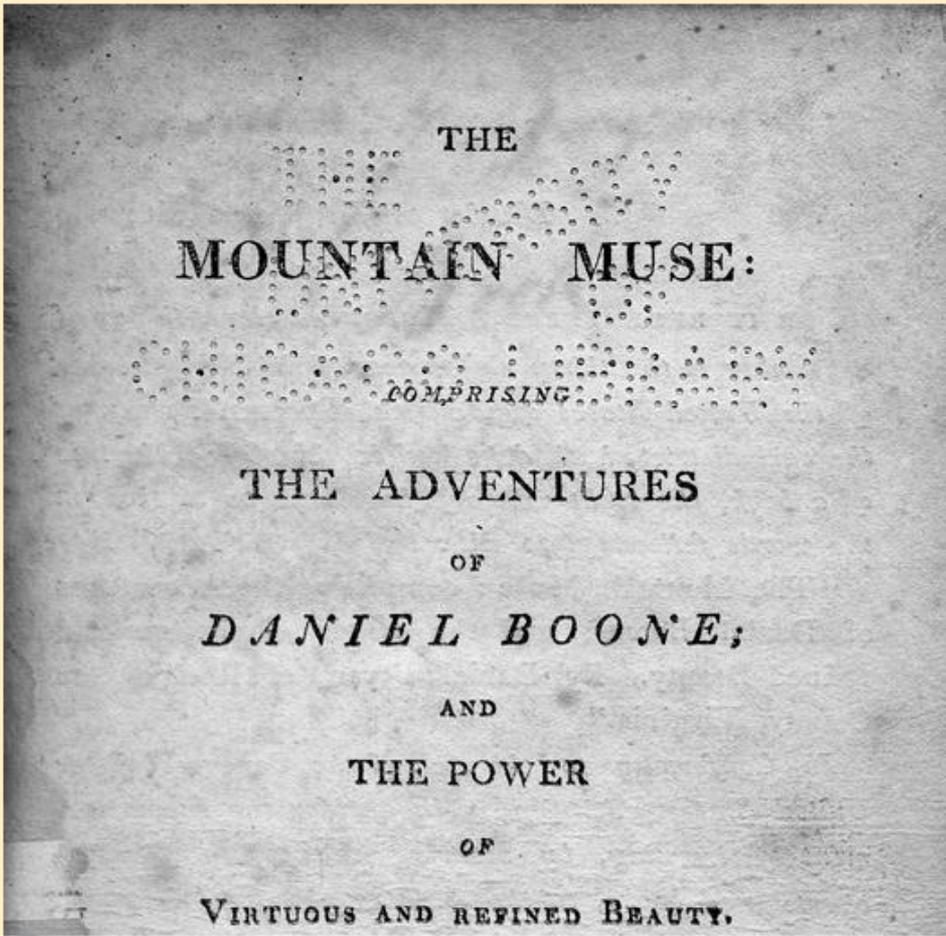
The mountain muse : comprising the adventures of Daniel Boone ; and the power of virtuous and refined beauty

Image 1 of 74

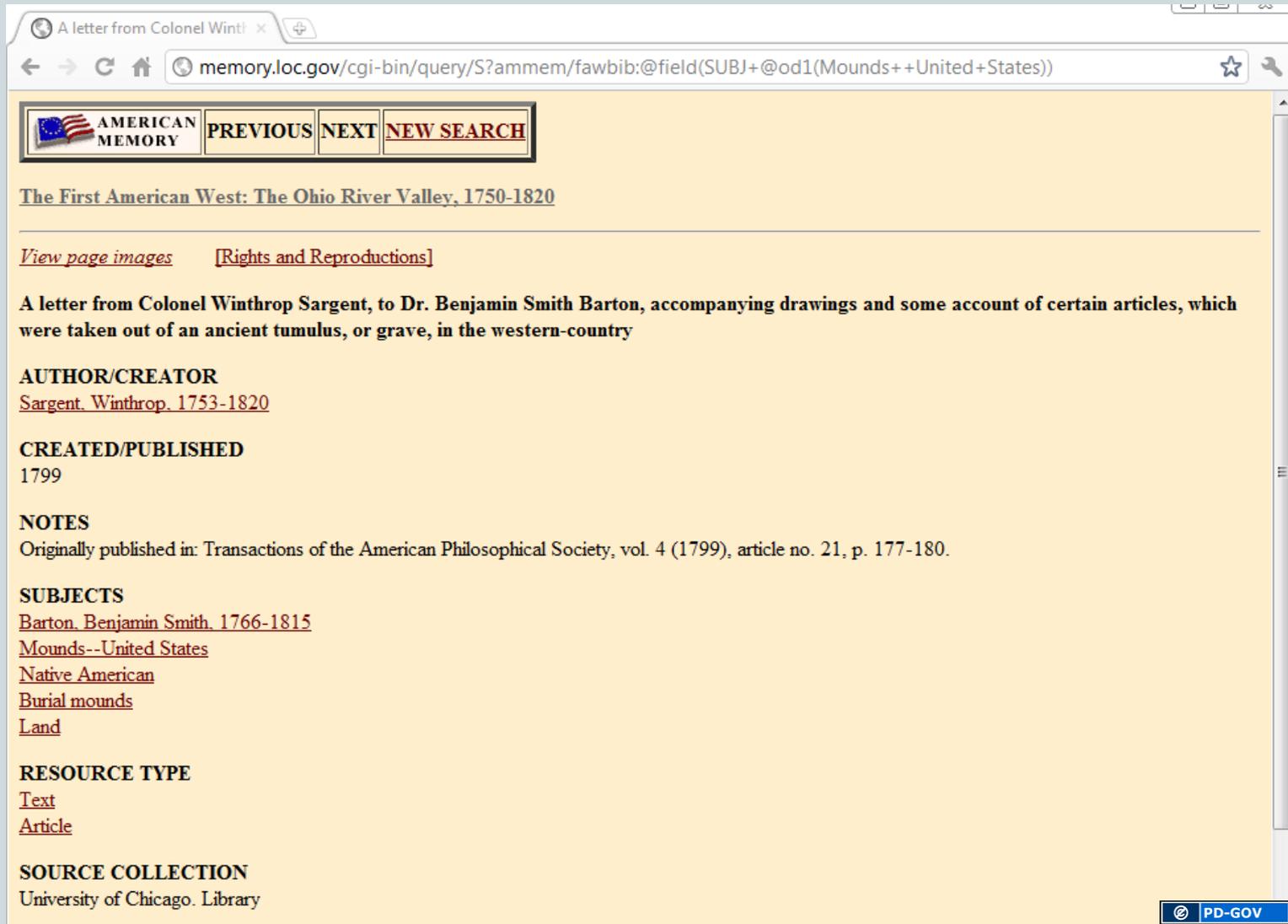
Turn to image

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Encountering the region's American Indian past



A screenshot of a web browser displaying a digital archive page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/S?ammem/fawbib:@field(SUBJ+@od1(Mounds++United+States))`. The page features a navigation bar with an American flag icon, the text "AMERICAN MEMORY", and buttons for "PREVIOUS", "NEXT", and "NEW SEARCH". The main content area is titled "The First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820" and includes a link to "View page images" and "[Rights and Reproductions]". The text of the letter is: "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". Below this, the page lists metadata: "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"; and "SOURCE COLLECTION: University of Chicago. Library". A "PD-GOV" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

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
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SUBJECTS
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[Burial mounds](#)
[Land](#)

RESOURCE TYPE
[Text](#)
[Article](#)

SOURCE COLLECTION
University of Chicago. Library

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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, N^o 41, SOUTH SECOND STREET.
1799.

GROWING IN PENNSYLVANIA. 177

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

(Signed) BEAUVOIS.

N^o. 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.

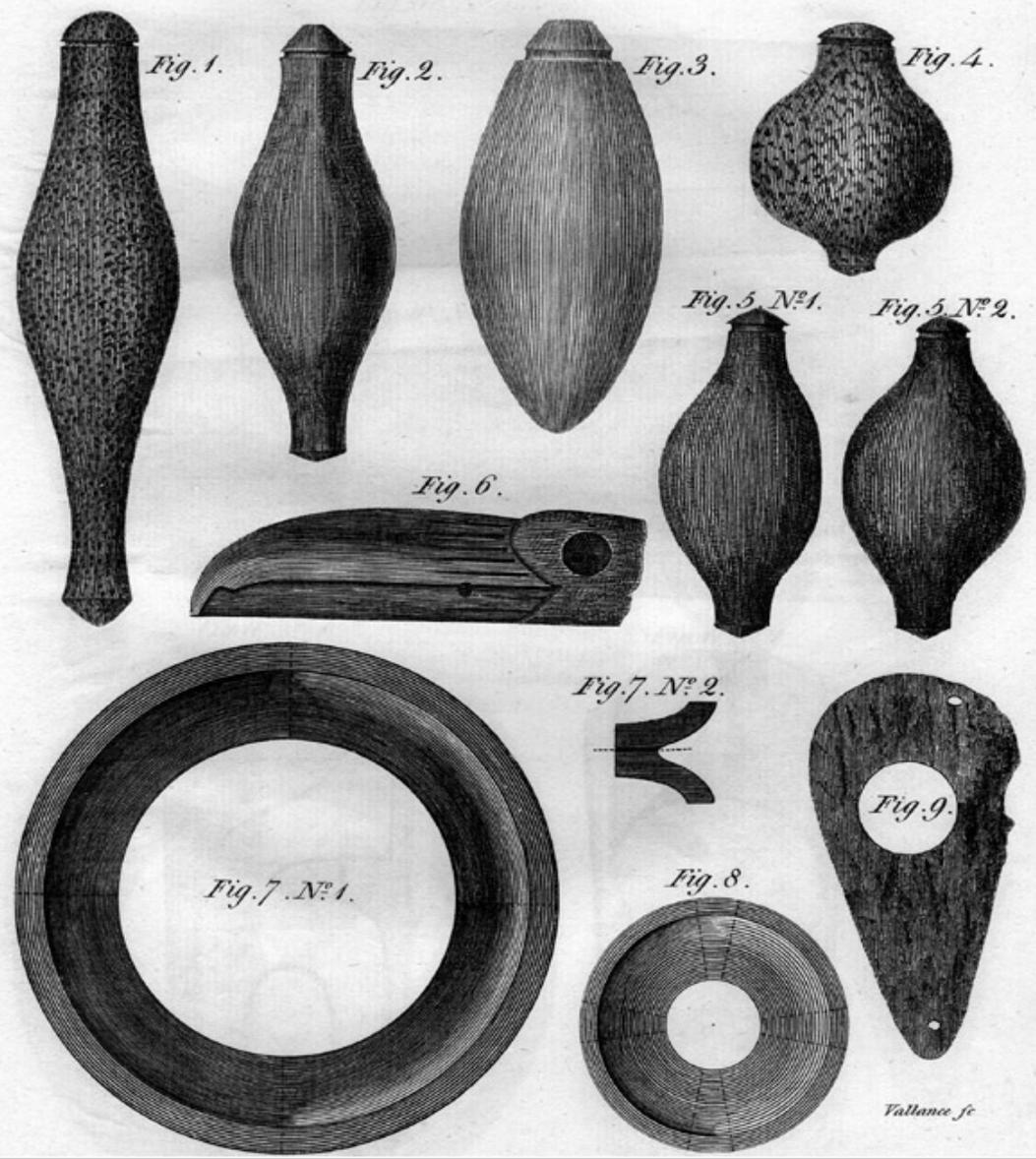
Cincinnati, N. W. Territory, Sep. 8th, 1794.

Read May 20, 1796. I HAVE the pleasure, my dear Sir, to transmit 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 in nearly a horizontal position, about five feet from the surface of the

* 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.

earth.



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.