

Overview

In our map guide, we studied Savannah's historical maps from Library of Congress and City of Savannah Municipal Archives. Those are two digital archives that store various historical maps of Savannah ranging from 1700-1900, which could help us learn about the place at a particular point in time. Changes in topography, layout of the city and relevant historical events could also be learned from the maps.

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. The Library preserves and provides access to a rich, diverse and enduring source of knowledge to inform, inspire and engage you in your intellectual and creative endeavors.

City of Savannah Municipal Archives. The Savannah Municipal Archives division's mission is to collect, manage, preserve and make accessible records documenting the city of Savannah's history. It administers the records management program and the City Records Center to increase the efficiency of City agencies. Also it shares the City's history with City employees, citizens and visitors through outreach activities.

Accessing the Archive

Library of Congress

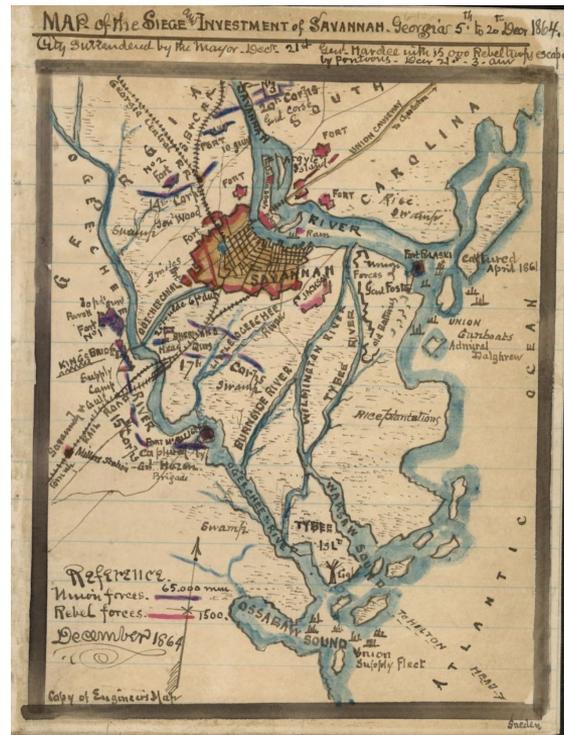
1. Go to <https://www.loc.gov/maps/?fa=location:savannah>
2. Explore maps using different categories to narrow down the research
3. Choose a map that interests you
4. Learn about the map from the metadata

City of Savannah Municipal Archives

1. Go to https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gsg_edgm
2. Explore maps using different categories to narrow down the research
3. Choose a map that interests you
4. Learn about the map from the metadata

Standards

The data sets are provided by the Library of Congress and City of Savannah Municipal Archive in still images format which was created by scanning and digitizing physical maps. They provide historical maps particular to the City of Savannah and show Savannah's geography and its city planning. Savannah River and unique town system of wards are depicted on the maps and can be used to orient the map. Each map has its own metadata, which provides in-depth information about the map. Metadata of maps from Library of Congress includes: title, created/published, subject headings, notes, medium, physical locations, repository, digital ID, control number, language, online format, description, whereas metadata of maps from City of Savannah Municipal Archive includes: title, created/published, subject headings, notes, medium, physical locations, repository, digital ID, control number, language, online format, description. By filtering the maps using some of the metadata, a user can retrieve different subsets within the same geographical area, Savannah. For example, if a user wants data from the year 1993, he/she can simply filter the data, by choosing that specific year.



About this Item

Title

Map of the siege and investment of Savannah, Georgia, 5th to 20th Decr. 1864.

Summary

Map shows the location of Union forces near the Ogeechee River outside of the Confederate held city of Savannah, Ga. The map also depicts the location of the Union fleet on the Savannah River and in the Atlantic Ocean. Details of the terrain show how a direct assault would have been difficult.

Contributor Names

Snedden, Robert Knox, 1832-1918.

Created / Published

[S.l., 1864-1865]

Reading a Map

Title

layout that describes the theme or subject

Compass(Orientation)

the directionality of a map

Legend

a visual explanation of the symbols used on the map. It typically includes a sample of each symbol (point, line, or area), and a short description of what the symbol means

Scale

scale will tell you what ratio is being used or, more commonly, depict a given distance as the equivalent of a measurement, such as 1 inch representing 100 miles

Description

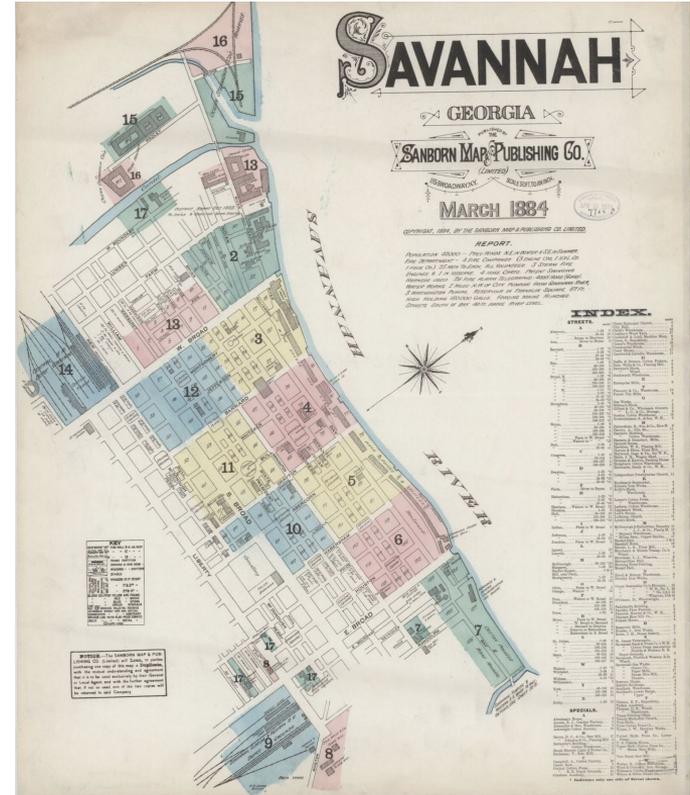
providing descriptive information about a creator, year, location and so forth

Other Elements

many different color schemes used by cartographers. The map user should look to the legend for an explanation of colors on a map. Major street, river, and district names are depicted on a map.

Metadata

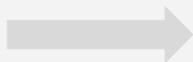
information about data. Similar to a library catalog record, metadata records document the who, what, when, where, how, and why of a data resource



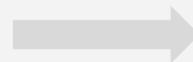
Life Cycle of the Historical Maps



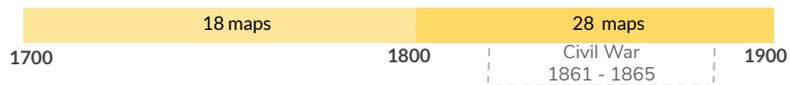
Collecting Maps



Creating MetaData



Usage



Library of Congress

The Geography and Map Division relies on all the gift, government deposit, exchange, purchase, and transfer sources available to the Library of Congress.

Main Categories:

American Memory(46), Geography and Map Division(38), Civil War Maps(20), Military Battles and Campaigns(34), American Revolution and its era(14), Sanborn Maps(3)



Describing

Metadata is created upon receiving materials for the collection.

Types of metadata include:

For City of Congress

- Title, Created/Published, Subject Headings, Notes, Medium, Physical Locations, Repository, Digital ID, Control Number, Language, Online Format, Description

For Savannah Government

- Collection, Title, Creator, Publisher, Date of Origin, Subject, Location, Medium, Type, Metadata URL, Digital Object URL, Language, Additional Rights Information, Citation, Holding Institutions



General Purpose - Exhibitions

Usually, people who are interested in maps will access historical maps. Also, a built-in audience is created by libraries by designing a program where visitors can explore maps.



Research

Researchers discover the maps they would like to use for researching and contact the librarian/archivist.



Categorization

Maps are categorized based on their metadata, for example, by date of origin and by location for easy access. Users then try to narrow down their search by accessing different categories.



Managing

Maintain an orderly and logical arrangement of collections. Foreign substances are removed for the longevity of the maps, like removing rubber bands. Also, creating duplicates and disposing of surplus duplicates processes are done for better management.



Digitalization

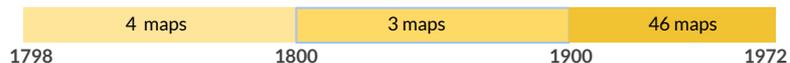
Some of the maps are digitized and uploaded online for people to access them.

- If the map is fragile, it cannot be digitized.



Death

There is not really a moment when the map becomes obsolete. However, sometimes, the maps are damaged and destroyed and that could be said to be the "death" of the historical maps.



City of Savannah Municipal Archives

General Maps Archive

Majority of maps are transferred from their former Engineering Department. Now, paper maps are not created but instead online maps are created with GIS layers.

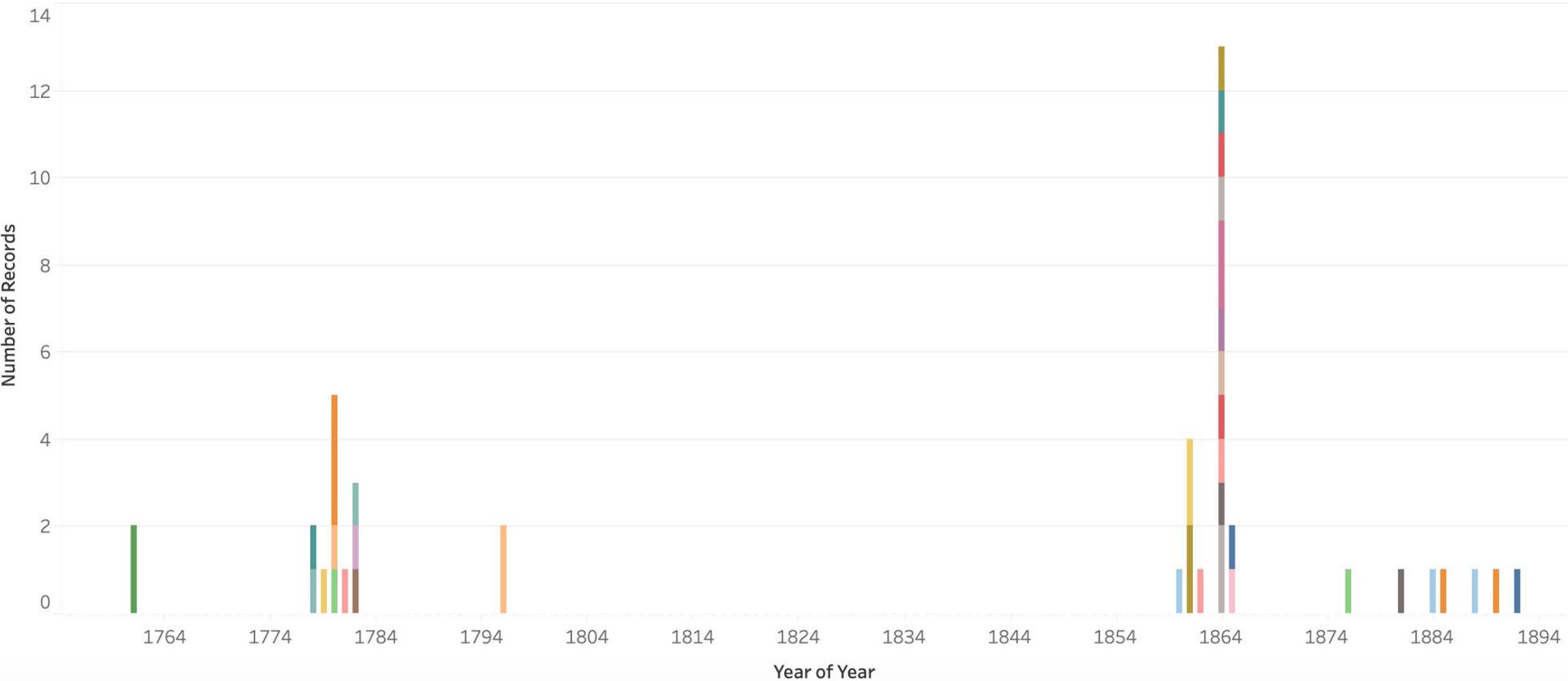
Library of Congress

Data Visualization

The bar chart represents from 1764 to 1894, the number of maps created in each year

For interactive data visualization:

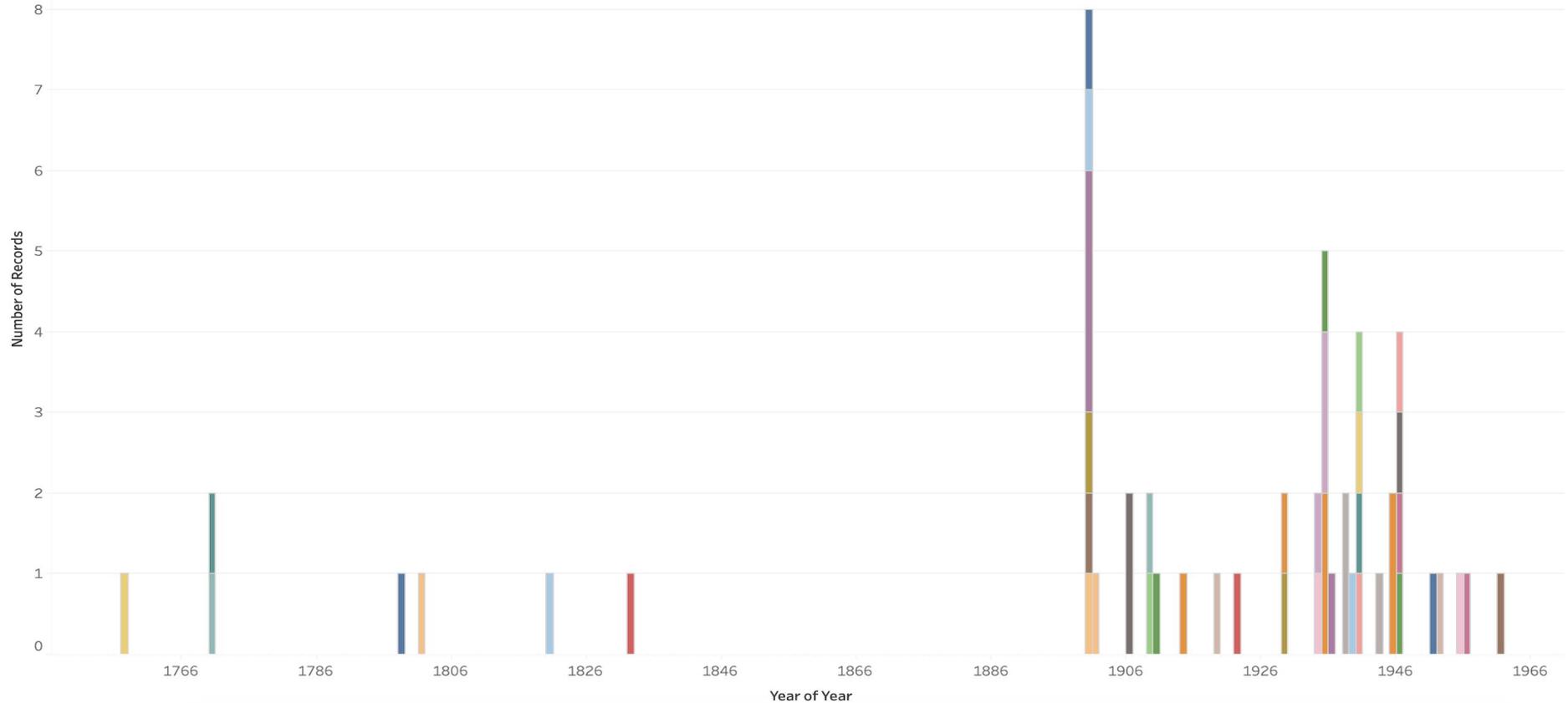
https://public.tableau.com/profile/yuchen.zhao2659#!/vizhome/MapSpot_congress/Sheet5?publish=yes



The bar chart represents from 1766 to 1966, the number of maps created in each year

For interactive data visualization:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/jisu.park#!/vizhome/SavannahCityGovernment/Sheet4?publish=yes>



Data Biography

To better understand the historical maps, we interviewed Luciana Spracher, a director of the City of Savannah Municipal Archives to learn specifically about historical maps of Savannah and interviewed Wendy Hagenmaier, a digital Collections Archivist at Georgia Tech Library to learn about historical maps in general.

Savannah has “unique town plan...and town plan was based on system of ward, each ward has a central square, surrounded by tising” (Spracher)

One of the ways to engage people is to “create empathy through historical archive” (Hagenmaier)

Unique Layout

Savannah was founded in 1733 by colonists led by James Edward Oglethorpe. The system of wards resulted with the center open space of square surrounded by tything blocks and trust blocks. Tything blocks are subdivided into different width, creating a diverse pattern of building sizes and types. Each ward has a name. Wards were originally organized as urban neighborhoods with direct correlation to garden and farm lots in Oglethorpe's expanded regional plan system. Savannah is considered America's first planned city, Savannah started with 4 wards and 4 squares and had 24 original squares with 22 still in existence today.

Map: *A plan of the town of Savannah in the state of Georgia.*

Civil War (1861 - 1865)

Savannah's role in the Civil War is legendary—it was one of the only towns left standing during Sherman's famous 'March to the Sea,' preserved and given as a Christmas present to Abraham Lincoln in 1864.

Map: *The Rebel defences [sic] of Savannah, Georgia, Nov. 1864, Attack on Ft. Pulaski Savannah, Georgia, April 1862.*

Possible Errors

- Sometimes a map shows plans that have not been realized
- Wrong field information

Limitation

- Gaps in the collection

Sources

Loc.gov. (2019). *Acquisitions* (Geography and Map Reading Room, Library of Congress). [online] Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/acquis.html> [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

Loc.gov. (2019). *Geography and Map Reading Room* (Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress). [online] Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/> [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

Wiki.gis.com. (2019). *Map legend - GIS Wiki | The GIS Encyclopedia*. [online] Available at: http://wiki.gis.com/wiki/index.php/Map_Legend [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

Geography Realm. (2019). *Map Orientation - Geography Realm*. [online] Available at: <https://www.geographyrealm.com/map-orientation/amp/> [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

Dlg.usg.edu. (2019). *Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, 1798-1961, no date Collection Items - Digital Library of Georgia*. [online] Available at: https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gsg_edgm [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

New Georgia Encyclopedia. (2019). *Savannah*. [online] Available at: <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/savannah> [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

The Library of Congress. (2019). *Search results from Map, Available Online, Savannah*. [online] Available at: <https://www.loc.gov/maps/?fa=location:savannah> [Accessed 16 Oct. 2019].

“Geospatial Metadata.” *Geospatial Metadata - Federal Geographic Data Committee*. Accessed October 17, 2019. <https://www.fgdc.gov/metadata>.

Authors

Yuchen Zhao is a current Ph.D. student in Digital Media at Georgia Institute of Technology. She has a background in journalism and has a minor in art theory. Her interest includes augmented reality and virtual reality.

yuchenzhao@gatech.edu

Jisu Park is a current Ph.D. student in Digital Media at Georgia Institute of Technology. She has a background in computer graphics, with 3D animation concentration. She is interested in researching in the field of augmented reality.

jisu.park@gatech.edu