A New Digital Map of the American Telegraph System, 1844-1862

Discussion published by Alexander Magoun on Thursday, June 29, 2023

Please join interested colleagues in a Zoom meeting, courtesy of the IEEE History Center and Professor Edmund Russell of Carnegie-Mellon University, on

"A New Digital Map of the American Telegraph System, 1844-1862"
Time: May 31, 2023 02:45 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada) [The meeting will be recorded and posted on the IEEE History Center's @engineeringhistory YouTube channel for those who cannot attend the live presentation or do not want to share their data with Zoom.]

Prof. Russell will demonstrate a new, interactive, and free map that shows the development of the American telegraph system from inception to completion of a transcontinental system. The map, which has just become available online, summarizes telegraph history, shows the growth of the telegraph system over time, and displays a variety of other data (political boundaries, Native lands, elevation, river, precipitation, and so on.) Users can manipulate the map, and the data it displays, for themselves. Russell will answer questions. For those working on or considering similar projects in other geographies, or ways to engage students in thinking and writing about the past that GPT systems can't match, this promises to be a stimulating presentation. For more on the background of this project, visit www.cmu.edu/dietrich/news/news-stories/2023/may/ed-russell-telegraph-map.html.

Russell is the David M. Roderick Professor of Technology and Social Change, and Professor of History, at Carnegie Mellon University. He works primarily in the history of technology and environmental history and has won the Society for the History of Technology's Edelstein Prize, along with prizes in environmental history and the history of science. Past president of the American Society for Environmental History and a past vice president of the American Historical Association, Russell is studying the history of telegraphs in the U.S. with a focus on the Pacific telegraph, the line built across the American West in 1861 that completed a transcontinental telegraph system.

Please join the meeting at https://ieee.zoom.us/j/93991629308?pwd=WDlPWk0xTDB0SUZrRzAyUGFHYVNpQT09
Meeting ID: 939 9162 9308
Passcode: 571350

One tap mobile/Find your local number: https://ieee.zoom.us/u/aWYS0fh8I

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May 31, 2023