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# 1852 Journey to Mammoth Cave StoryMap

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# 1852 Journey to Mammoth Cave StoryMap

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## Abstract

In 1852, George Sargent took time off from the fall of his senior year at Harvard University to stay with his sister's family in Louisville, Kentucky. His diary from this period, recently acquired by WKU Special Collections, is a remarkable account of his journey by rail, stage, and steamboat from his home in New York City and his three-month sojourn in Kentucky, capped by a much-anticipated trip to Mammoth Cave. Sargent not only recorded his impressions of the cave, but also documented interactions with two of the cave's best-known guides, Stephen Bishop and Matterson Bransford, and with William Bell, proprietor of Bell's Tavern. This presentation demonstrates the use of a multi-media StoryMap, created via ESRI's ArcGIS online, to make portions of Sargent's diary more widely accessible through a web-based GeoApp. The StoryMap contextualizes Sargent's narrative with maps, period photographs, and commentary. The result is an engaging virtual journey that helps the viewer understand travel conditions and the situation of enslaved African Americans at a period of time over a century and a half ago, as well as, the enduring fascination of Mammoth Cave for travelers of all times.