

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF THE FOLDER

**Ron Street
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This folder contains the following four files; (1) Summary of Contents of the Folder, (2) Documentation for the New Madrid, Missouri, Earthquakes of 1811-1812 from sources other than travelers floating down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, (3) Descriptions of the earthquakes as given by Individuals traveling down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the winter of 1811-1812, and (4) Population, descriptions, and site conditions for selected settlements at the time of the 1811-1812 earthquakes. File 2, the "Documentation for the," contains newspaper and personal accounts of the earthquakes. Many of the accounts mention the effects of earthquakes other settlements in addition to the settlement under which the account is listed, and oftentimes these same newspaper accounts were published in other newspapers. Duplicate accounts are not included in this compilation.

File 3, "Descriptions of the Earthquakes. . . .," contains accounts of individuals who were traveling down the Ohio and /or the Mississippi rivers during or shortly after the time of the earthquakes. The accounts are arranged by the individual's location on the river at the time of the earthquakes, and by the date of the event which they describe.

The fourth file, "Population, Descriptions, and Site" is the most incomplete of the files. The site conditions listed are for locations within the boundaries of the settlement as it existed in 1811-1812.

Finally, throughout the files there are scattered comments. I have labeled these as comments and used italics to highlight them as being something distinct from the account. These comments are offered as a way of an explanation. For example, Mitchell (1815) mentions that the settlement of Red Banks, 150 miles below Louisville, experienced the earthquakes of December, 1811. The term "below," as used by folks in river communities in 1811-1812, meant 150 miles downriver, which in this case was Red Banks, Kentucky, which is 150 miles down the Ohio River. It did not mean 150 miles south of Louisville, as some authors have interpreted the phrase.