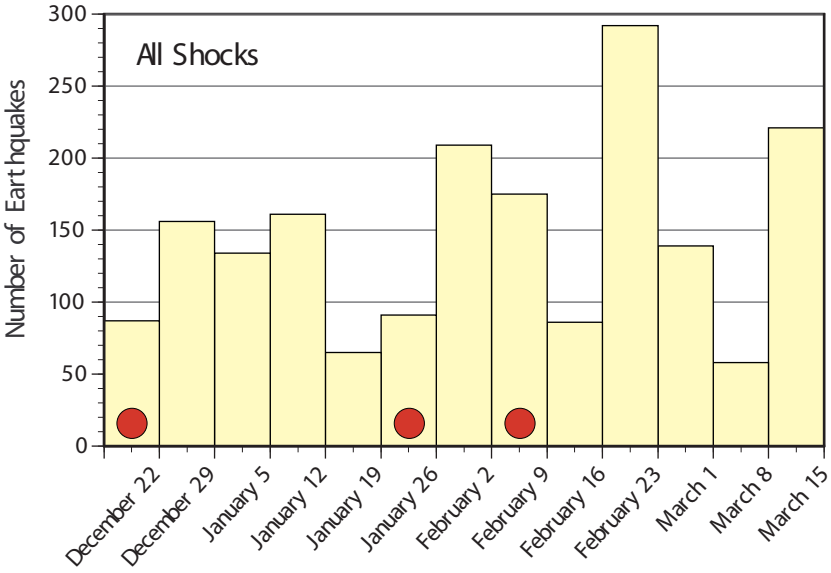
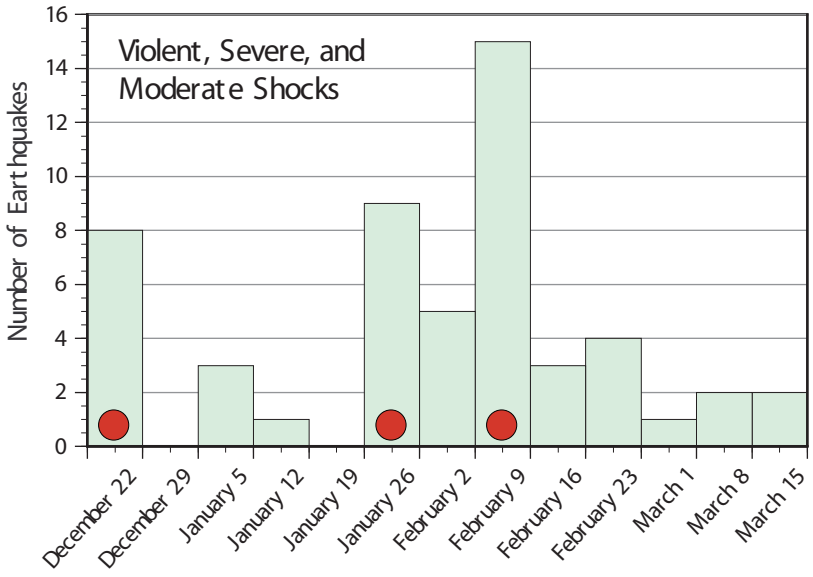
Jared Brooks' New Madrid Earthquake Catalog

December 16, 1811 – March 15, 1812





Jared Brooks was a resident of Louisville, Kentucky during the winter of 1811-12 who faithfully recorded the intensity of shaking experienced in that city throughout the main part of the earthquake sequence. To detect the smaller quakes, he constructed simple pendulums and set up springs to measure the smaller shaking often not felt by the residents in the region.

He was one of the first people to classify earthquakes by their shaking intensity and divided the New Madrid earthquakes into six strength categories:

First Rate - Violent shaking
Second Rate - Severe shaking
Third Rate - Moderate, but alarming
Fourth Rate - Perceptible, but not threatening
Fifth Rate - (not defined)
Sixth Rate - Observable with instruments

The chart at the top shows the number of events in each week including all six categories (1,872 events), the chart below shows the 53 largest earthquakes from the three most intense categories (8 violent, 10 severe, and 35 moderate). The dots identify the weeks during which the three largest earthquakes in the sequence occurred: December 16, 1811; January 23, 1812; February 7, 1812.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
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Jared Brooks' Earthquake Records

We owe much to Louisville resident Jared Brooks who provided the best record of the New Madrid earthquake sequence. Brooks carefully recorded the intensity of shaking in Louisville for months after the earthquake sequence began.

For more information, visit
http://www.eas.slu.edu/Earthquake_Center

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Saint Louis University
3507 Laclede Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63103

Source: The New Madrid Earthquake (A scientific factula field account) by Myron L. Fuller (1912)