Agenda

• Motivation
  • Other Inquiries
• Data and Methodology
• Context
• GIS Analysis
• Conclusion
Motivation

1. What do homestead records show about the development of the Canadian prairies?

2. Is the number of homestead entries a good indicator of the region’s economic development?

3. Can HGIS show WC’s transformation in time and space?
Other inquiries

• Census Records

• Dominion Lands Office (Aggregated data)

• Econometrics

• Revision of homestead entries/cancellations
Data and methodology

• Dominion Land Offices Records - Dep. of the Interior Reports
• Post offices records.
• Historical maps from U of M digital collection at Flickr
• Geographical Names, topographic maps and railroad network. Natural Resources Canada (GeoGratis)
• Atlas Canada and the Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI)
• GIS maps and spatial analyses produced with QGIS
Context

Canada 1849
- Quebec
- Ontario
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Vancouver's Island
- Red River Settlement
- HBC posts
~50,000 townships of 36 sq. miles
Dominion Lands Act 1872

Homestead Entries and percent of Cancellations in Western Canada, 1874-1914
Reconstructing the geography of the past

Using GIS to recreate history

Spatial analysis

Limitations
Thiessen Triangulation
Analysis

Homesteads

Dynamic exploration
Conclusion

• State in Motion

• Frontier of Settlement

• Transportation networks

• Space and beyond
Thank you!