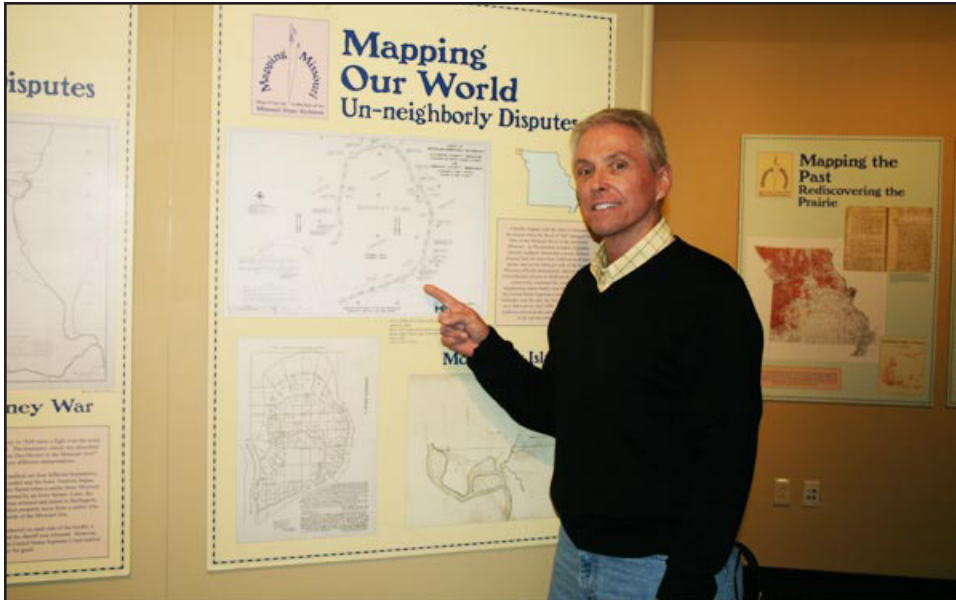




## McKissick's Island Survey Featured in National Archive Museum

March 30, 2010



**Pictured:** John Teale, P.L.S., Surveyor of Record for McKissick's Island 1999 Survey

The National Archives Museum in Kansas City, MO is currently featuring a gallery of maps from collections of the Missouri State Archives and the National Archives at Kansas City. The "Mapping Missouri" exhibit has been open to the public since February 9th and will remain open through May 29th. Of special interest in the display is an 1837 Missouri River Survey map attributed to Robert E. Lee, as well as Civil War-era district maps of Missouri and an 1835 hand-drawn map relating to Auguste Chouteau's land claim near St. Louis.

Also included in the exhibit is the historical survey of McKissick's Island in Atchison County, Missouri. A border dispute with the state of Nebraska developed when the flood of 1867 changed the flow of the Missouri River far northwest Missouri. As floodwaters receded, Nebraska farmers suddenly found that a newly formed channel had left more than 5,000 acres of their prime land on the Missouri side of the river. Missouri officials immediately claimed the land, which became known as McKissick's Island. The controversy continued for years until the neighboring states finally took their argument to the United States Supreme Court in 1905. While Nebraska won the suit, the two states did not agree on a final survey until 1999. The Missouri State Archives served as the court-appointed repository of all surveys related to the case.

In 1999, Midland Surveying, Inc. was selected to retrace the long-time disputed boundary between Missouri and Nebraska in Atchison County. The survey completed by John Teale, PLS of Midland Surveying, Inc. & Midland GIS Solutions was ratified by the state legislatures in both Missouri and Nebraska and resulted in the Missouri-Nebraska Compact, when the House Joint Committee Resolution 54 was signed into law by then President, Bill Clinton on November 12, 1999.