The Experiential World of D’Arcy McNickle

Abstract: This project has been made possible through an Undergraduate Research Consultant Team Grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research. Inspired by Professor Dan Cobb's research, we have adopted innovative research methods and ways of approaching biography to seek new ways of imagining and representing the experiential world of D’Arcy McNickle (1904-1977), a citizen of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation in Montana and one of the twentieth century’s most influential American Indian writers, intellectuals, and activists. At the heart of our project is D’Arcy McNickle’s diary, which is housed in The Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois. After transcribing, deconstructing, and contextualizing a large portion of the diary, we decided to represent the insights we gained through three modes: this garden, a co-authored essay for submission to a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, and The Experiential World of D’Arcy McNickle website. We had two methods of representation online. A timeline project on Cliovis and a spatial representation in Google Earth. This project's goals are to present the experiential world and remarkable life of an Indigenous person who, in the pages of his diary, literally and figuratively rewrote his “self,” and sense of belonging into a world radically transformed by settler colonialism.