

# Mapping Reformed Christian Day Schools in North America

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## Introduction

When Dutch Immigrants began arriving in the US during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many carried with them a commitment to Reformed Christian Day Schools. It was especially the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) that cradled these schools. Records for these schools are found in early CRC yearbooks and in the yearly directories of their umbrella organization, Christian Schools International (CSI). This project was to produce maps from these records of the changing geography of these schools and their attributes. This is part of an ongoing project to prepare an Atlas of Dutch American history and culture.

## Data Collection

The work started with scanning to OCR the yearly summary tables of data for these schools (late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present) and then adding coordinates to selected databases (at five year intervals) so that GIS mapping software could be used.

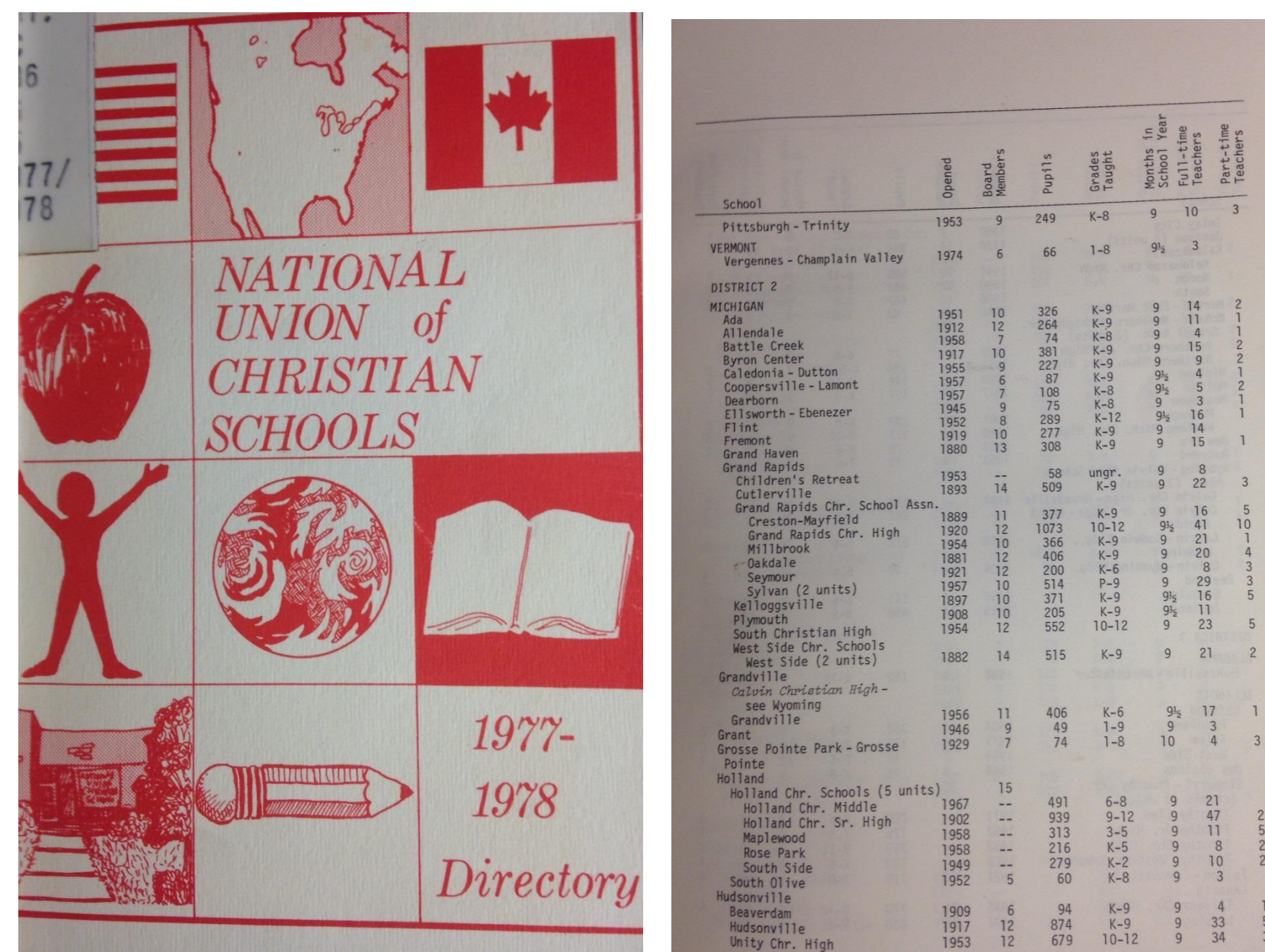


Figure 1: The cover page of a CSI Schools Directory and one of the data tables from the directory.

## Data Collection (cont.)

District	State	City	SCHOOL	Opened	Joined CSI	Grades Taught	Pupils	Full-Time Teachers	Part-Time Teachers	Board Members
District 1	MAINE	Bangor	Presbrot	1880	1883	P-8	82	3	9	12
District 1	MARYLAND	Annapolis	Amopolis	1971	1974	K-12	790	57	3	11
District 1	MARYLAND	Baltimore	Path	1953	1953	K	5	1	0	10
District 1	MARYLAND	Bethesda	Silver Spring Chr. Acad.	1966	1987	P-12	130	1	1	6
District 1	MARYLAND	Silver Spring	Washington	1960	1960	P-8	276	13	8	10
District 1	MASSACHUSETTS	Lafayette	Imago	1981	1981	L-8	83	7	5	7
District 1	MASSACHUSETTS	Whittemore	Whittemore	1928	1927	K-12	489	30	8	12
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Hoboken	Mustard Seed	1979	1979	K-8	148	11	11	19
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Newton	Northwest	1966	1983	K-7	151	9	3	7
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Easton Christian	Easton Chr. Elem.	1913	1923	P-4	820	49	12	11
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Easton Christian	Easton Chr. Middle	1954	1954	S-8	850	40	17	11
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Easton Christian	Easton Chr. High	1919	1923	P-12	850	49	17	11
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Cone	Unity	1983	1989	K-6	185	13	3	7
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Paterson	Dennis Treador	1977	1977	K-8	128	10	2	7
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Pompton Plains	Netherlands Ref.	1975	1975	P-12	200	11	8	11
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Passaic	Squares	1958	1958	P-8	149	8	3	7
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Corona	Mt. Olivet	1983	1990	P-K	30	3	4	4
District 1	NEW JERSEY		East Paterson	1947	1947	K-8	65	6	3	8
District 1	NEW JERSEY		Passaic	1950	1993	K-8	139	8	3	7
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Gooleen	Gooleen	1948	1948	K-8	135	8	2	9
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Leventon	South Shore	1973	1975	P-12	432	32	9	8
District 1	NEW JERSEY	New York Park	Cypress	1984	1983	K-8	119	7	3	6
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Richfield Springs	Trinity	1988	1986	K-5	23	2	1	6
District 1	NEW JERSEY	Rochester	Rochester	1917	1922	P-8	218	8	13	9
District 1	NEW JERSEY	West Sparta	West Sparta	1948	1946	P-8	146	8	3	9
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Carlisle	Grace Baptist	1968	1968	K-8	113	7	3	8
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Lebanon	Dresher - see Philadelphia							
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Hudson	Lebanon	1979	1983	K-8	92	8	0	10
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	McKees Rocks	Robinson Township	1978	1978	K-8	92	5	2	7
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Madison	Madison	1944	1955	P-8	59	5	2	3
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	New Brighton	Beverly County	1969	1969	K-12	320	15	11	11
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Dresher	1943	1955	P-8	236	50	5	12
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Hilbert	1943	1955	P-12	318	50	5	12
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Rochersburg	1943	1955	P-8	169	50	5	12
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Spruce Hill	1978	1978	K-8	130	11	2	9
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Trinity	1953	1974	K-12	354	25	9	9
District 1	PENNSYLVANIA	Swanton	Swanton	1980	1981	P-10	195	15	5	7
District 1	VIRGINIA	Arlington	French Creek Valley	1990	1990	K-8	110	6	5	15
District 1	VIRGINIA	Fairfax	Trinity	1987	1990	L-8	178	12	4	9
District 2	MICHIGAN	Ada	Ada	1951	1951	K-8	328	18	10	12
District 2	MICHIGAN	Albion	Albion	1916	1923	P-8	220	9	5	10

Figure 2: Part of a database scanned by students at Hope College, then enhanced for use with GIS. The databases contain entries for every Reformed Christian Day School belonging to Christian Schools International.

## Mapping

In the late nineteenth century there were only a few schools located in the west Michigan area and within the city of Chicago. From there schools opened and closed all across the map. Today there are hundreds of schools spread across the continent.

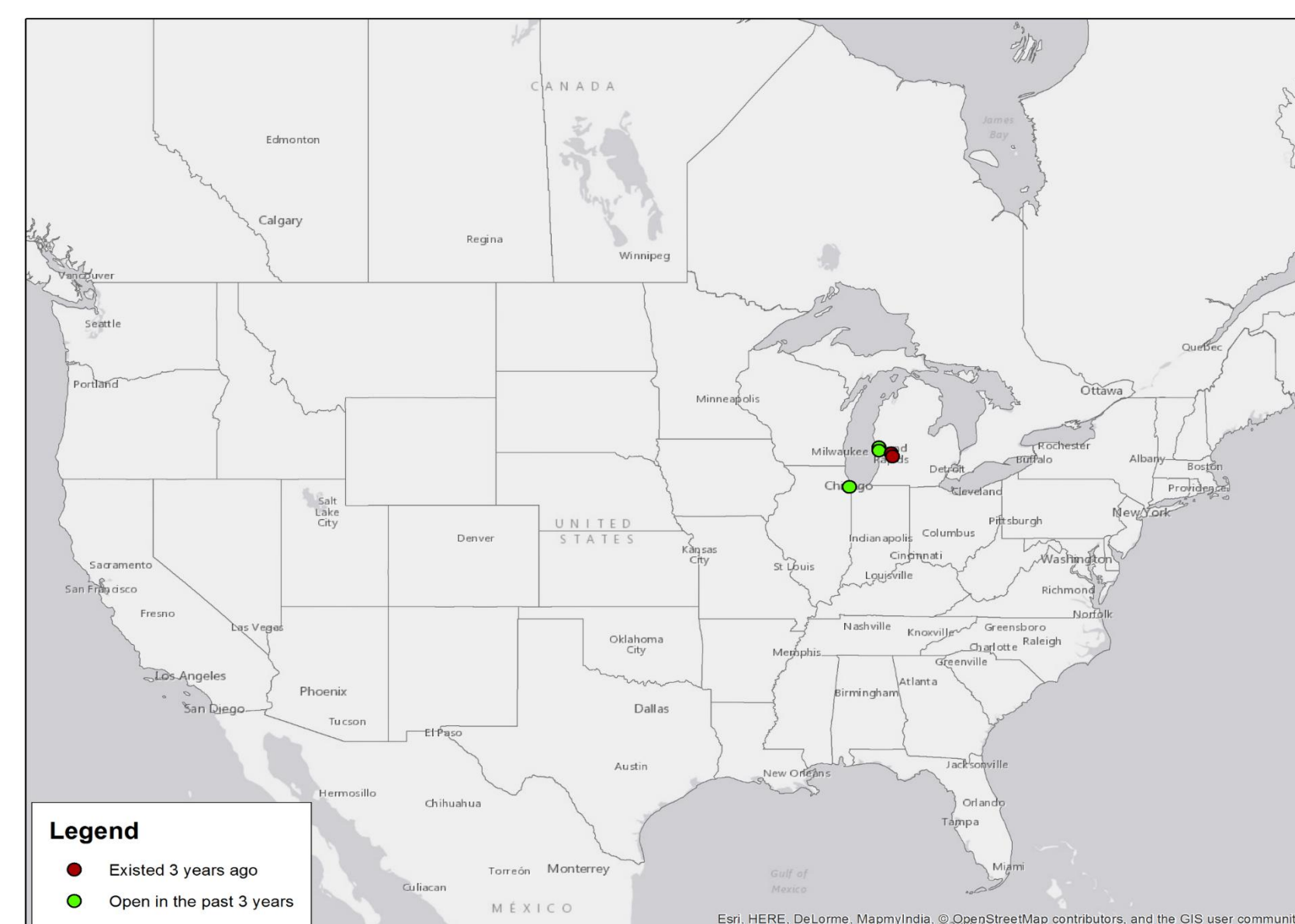


Figure 3: New, Existing and Closed Reformed Christian Day Schools, 1885. This map shows the first recorded schools.

## Mapping (cont.)

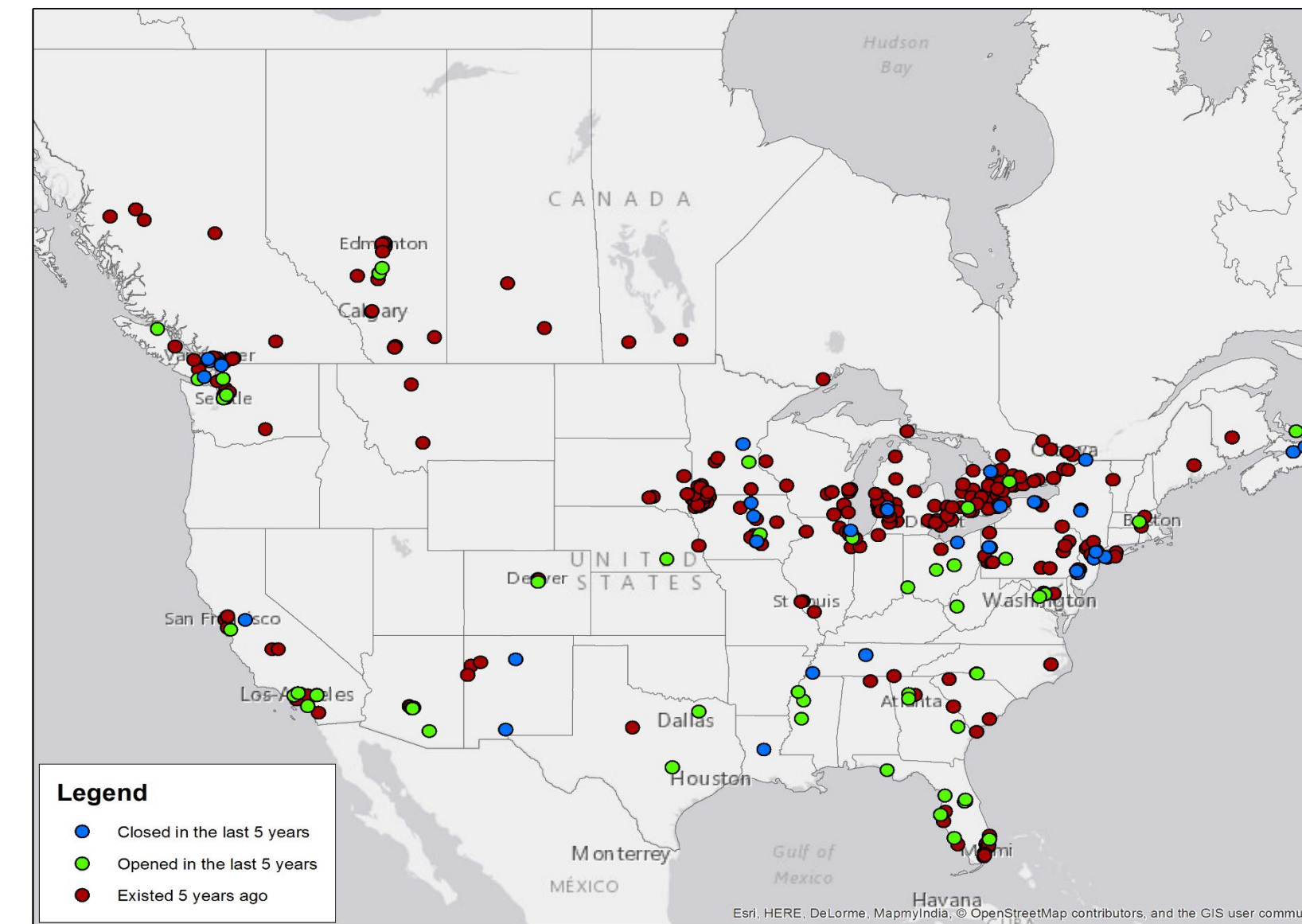


Figure 4: New, Existing and Closed Reformed Christian Day Schools, 1985-1990.

Along with the schools' location and years of operation, enrollment data was also graphed and mapped by individual school, county, region, and country.

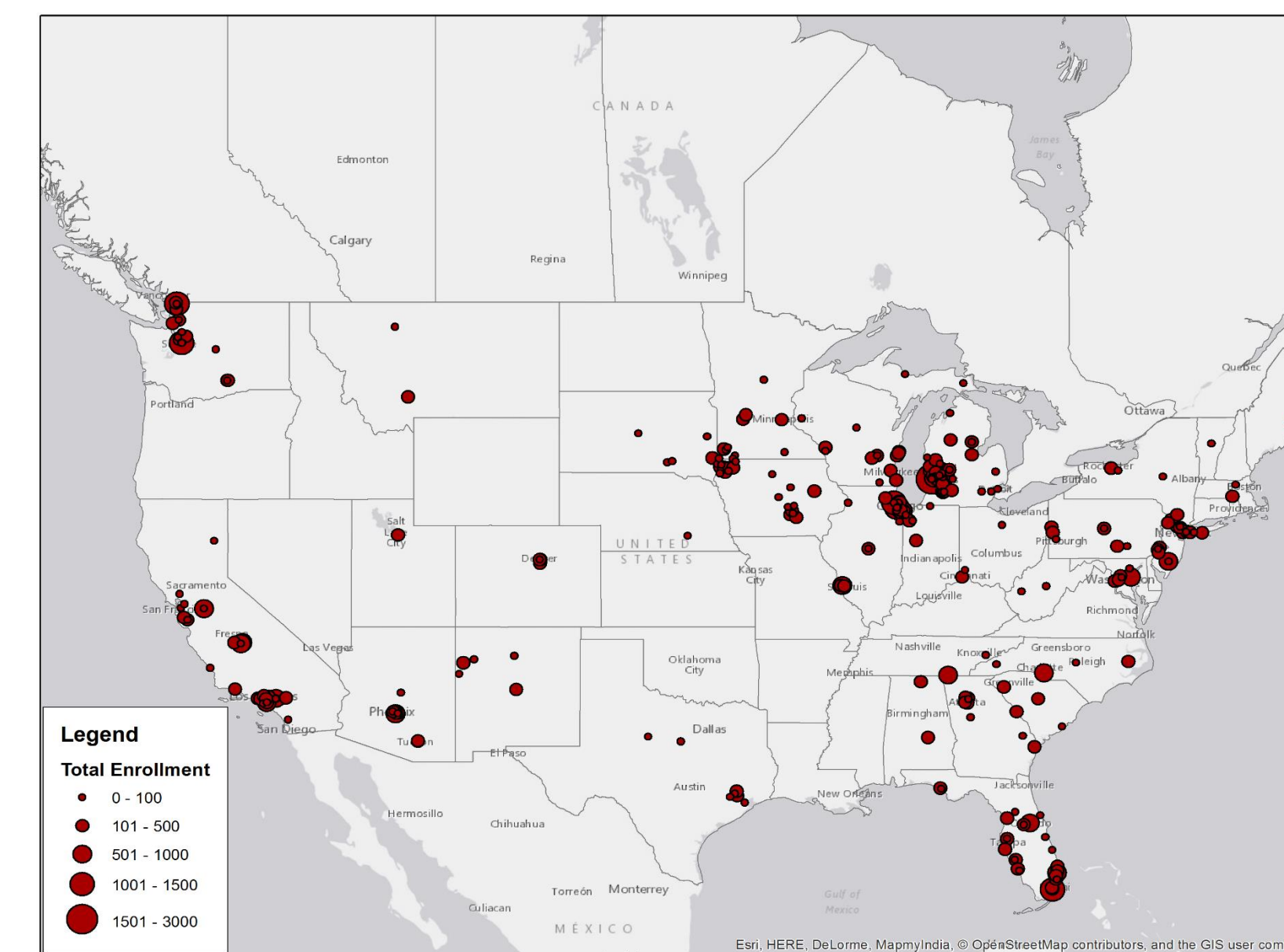


Figure 5: Enrollment in Reformed Christian Day Schools in 1995.

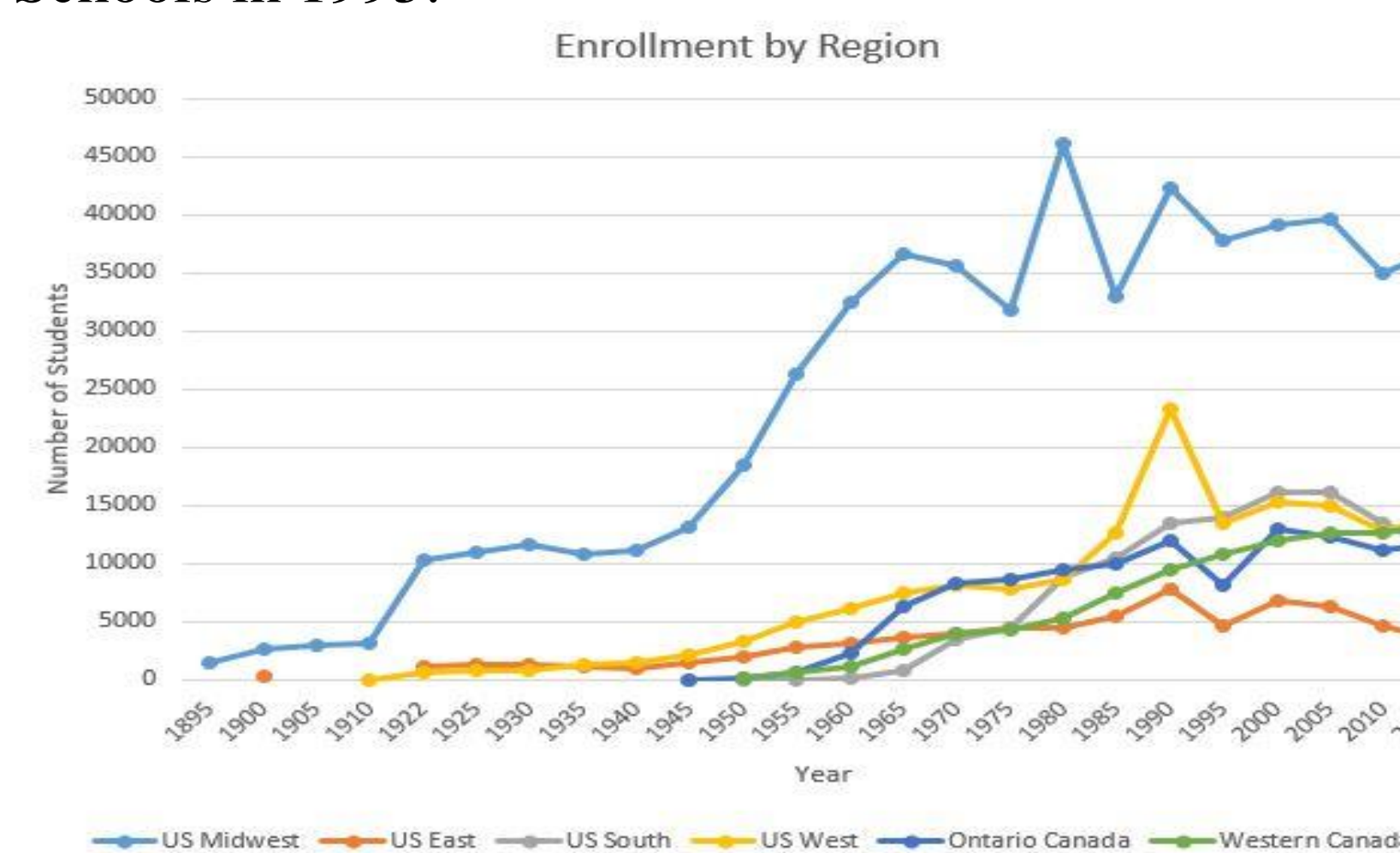


Figure 6: Enrollment in Reformed Christian Day Schools by Region in North America.

## Mapping (cont.)

Enrollment in Reformed Christian Day Schools in North America steadily expanded during the twentieth century, especially in concentrations of Dutch American population (see figure 6). After the 1990s growth began to flatten and drop off. In the 1960s, non Dutch American enrollment began to increase and more schools were founded outside of Dutch American population centers.

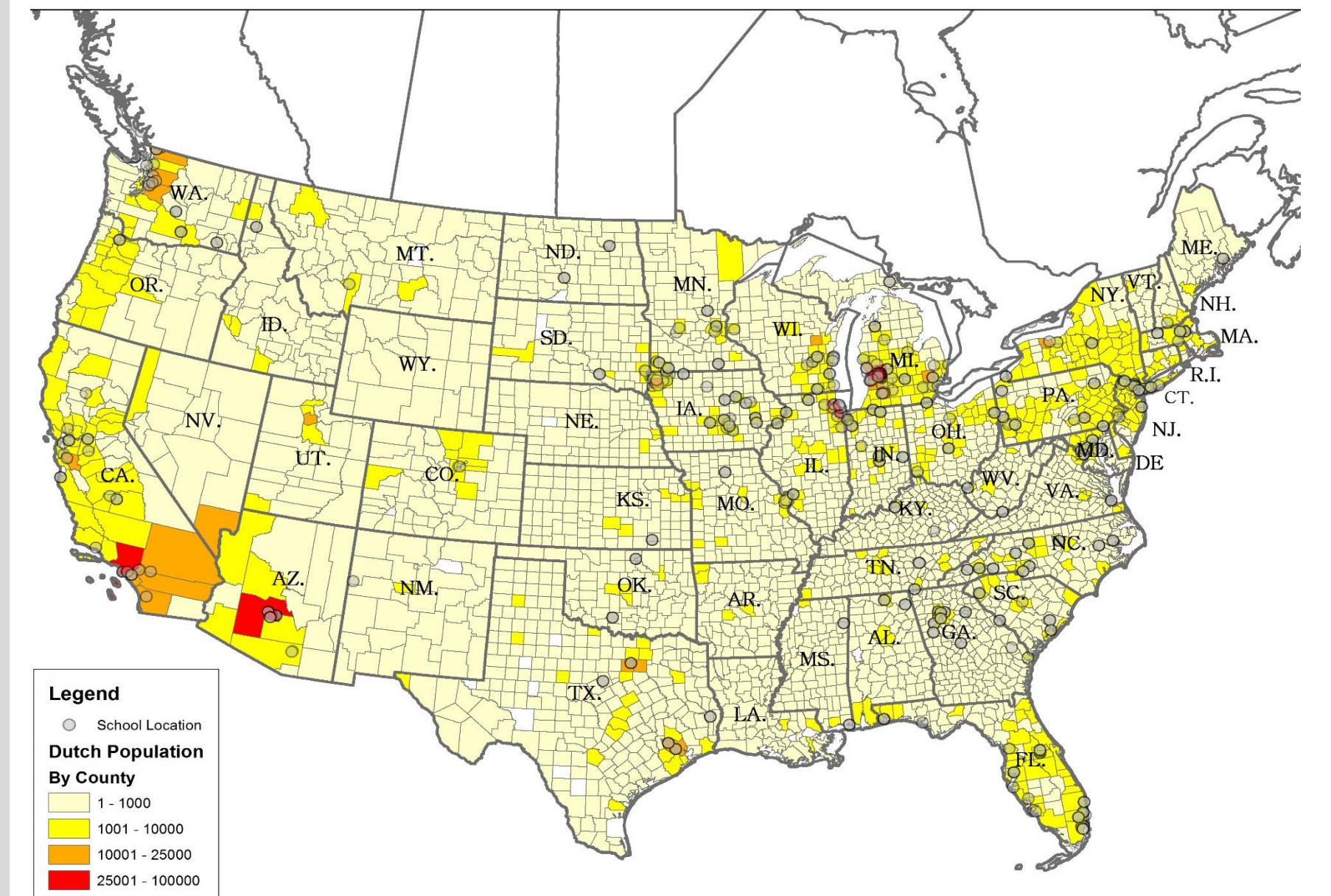


Figure 7: Location of Reformed Christian Day Schools and Dutch American Populations by County.

## Acknowledgement and References

Special thanks goes out to Calvin emeritus geography professor, Henk Aay, for leading this multi-stage research project and also to the students at Hope College who prepared the databases used to make these maps and graphs.

Harro W. Van Brummelen. (1986). *Telling the next generation: Educational development of North American Calvinist Christian schools*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.