THE Myth of the sunk lands of Missouri

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The sunk lands in the Delta Region of southeastern Missouri are of special interest because they are supposed to have been formed by an earthquake in December, 1811. The occurrence of this event is well established and recorded in the history of Missouri and of this region. It is reported that the quake caused the surface of the land to roll, like waves of water; that deep fissures formed from which sand and water were ejected; that rivers were diverted from their channels; that forests were knocked down, and houses destroyed. The elevation of the land was lowered (sunk) in some places and uplifted in others. Obviously, it was a "disaster area" by present day standards.