• Welcome to Arkansas History
• Chapter 05- On the Road to Statehood
• Antebellum Arkansas
  – On the Road to Statehood

  – Timeline
  • 1819 - 1860

  – Chapter Vocabulary
  • Apprentice
  • Rivalry
  • Antebellum
  • squatter

People to Know:
Joseph Albert Booker
James Bowie
John Brown
Henry Conway
Robert Crittenden
Frederick Douglass
George Featherstonhaugh
Williams S. Fulton
Friedrich Gerstäecker
George Izard
James Miller
Charles Noland
James K. Polk
John Pope
John Seldon Roane
John Ross
Dred Scott
Ambrose Sevier
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Eli Whitney
William Woodruff
• The First Capital: The First Government
  – The logical location for the capital of the new territory was “Arkansas Post.”
    • crude log building
  – President James Monroe appointed James Miller as the first governor.
    • from New Hampshire
    • War Hero from the War of 1812
    • Didn’t set foot in Arkansas for 6 months
• The First Capital: The First Government
  – Robert Crittenden was the territorial secretary.
    • The 22 year old served as the acting governor in the absence of James Miller.
    • From Kentucky
    • One of the most powerful figures in early Arkansas history.
• Organizing the Territory
  – Robert Crittenden called for elections for the general assembly.
  – Appointed friends and family to key positions.

– The General Assembly
  • House of Representatives
    – one from Clark County, two for each of the other four counties
  • Legislative Council
    – one representative for each of the five counties.
• The First Newspaper
  – William Woodruff
  • Published the Arkansas Gazette
• Moving the Capital
  – Miller and Crittenden did not agree on much.
    • Major disagreement about the location of the capital.
      – Arkansas Post was not centrally located, was very swampy and mosquito infested.
      – Capital moved to Little Rock
      – Miller didn’t live in Little Rock and soon resigned and moved back east.

• Over the next few years, taverns, homes, churches, and stores were built.
• Moving the Capital
  – *The Eagle* was the first steamboat to travel up the Arkansas River to Little Rock.
• Rough and Tumble Politics
  – President Monroe replaced James Miller with George Izard as governor.
    • Izard was like Miller and didn’t not like being named governor. (his wife stayed in Philadelphia)
  – Crittenden was disappointed at not being named governor
    • Crittenden and his supporters wanted to remove the remaining Indians from Arkansas
    • Called the Indians “worthless savages.”
    • Wanted to keep lands for agriculture and not for Indians.
• Dueling
  – Robert Crittenden and Henry Conway
    • Once friends, Conway had called Crittenden a liar.
      – Conway was wounded in the duel and died less then two weeks later.
  – “The Family”
    • Political alliance formed to oppose Crittenden
      – Ambrose Sevier was appointed to replace Conway as a territorial delegate.
Policial Warfare

- A strong rivalry developed between “The Family” and Crittenden’s supporters.
  - Crittenden’s supports belonged to the Whig party.
  - The Whig party was formed to oppose Andrew Jackson.
  - Most of the Whigs lived in Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas.
  - The Family supported Andrew Jackson.
  - The Family was made of the members of the Conway family, the Sevier family, and the Johnson family.
• Dueling Newspapers
  – Newspapers were apart of the political rivalry.
  – Woodruff and the *Arkansas Gazette* supported “The Family.”
    • Critical of Crittenden and the Whigs.
  – The *Arkansas Advocate* was created to oppose the *Arkansas Gazette*.
    • Critical of the family and Andrew Jackson
• The Rivalry Heats Up
  – The 1831 Senate race was won by Ambrose Sevier – “The Family” candidate.
  – After this election, “The Family” controlled most of the important political positions.
  – Maintained control until the Civil War.
Building a State House

- John Pope – the new territorial governor began plans to build a capital building.

- The federal government had set aside some land to finance the building.

- Crittenden offered to trade the land for a house he owned.

- The legislature approved the trade but the governor vetoed the deal.

- Crittenden’s reputation was ruined along with his career. He died a short time later at the age of 37.
Progress and Problems in the Territory

- Early settlers had a difficult time traveling in the territory because of the rough terrain.
  - Trails became roads and houses along the road were used as stage coach stops
  - A night’s stay cost between 75 cents to $1.25.
  - Mail was delivered by stage coach to places like Batesville, Little Rock, and the Arkansas Post.
• Steamboat Travel
  – Steamboats were an important means of travel.
    • *The Comet* was the first to travel up the Mississippi River from New Orleans.
    • As many as 83 steamboats were used to travel the rivers.
    • *The Arkansas* was one of the most welcomed vessels.
    • The landing at Toad Suck is now the site of the Toad Suck Ferry Lock and Dam.
• Crime and Outlaws
  – Arkansas had become a hideout for many outlaws during the early days.
  – John Murrell was a well known criminal in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.
    • Murrell was reported to dress as a minister and gained the nick name “The Reverend Devil.”
    • Murrell and others stole livestock, slaves, and attacked boats to steal the cargo.
    • Today, many of the stories that have been told about Murrell are believed to be fiction.
• Becoming the 25\textsuperscript{th} State
  – More then a decade after becoming a territory, government officials began thinking about statehood.
  – Governor William Fulton did not believe the territory was ready for statehood.
    • The territory would lose federal funds for improvements.
    • Despite the governor’s concerns, a constitutional convention was held to write a constitution.
• Congress Debates Arkansas Statehood
  – Northern politicians wanted to delay statehood for Arkansas.
    • Arkansas would have given more Democratic support to Andrew Jackson in the 1836 election.
    • Arkansas would also enter as a slave state.
    • Arkansas was admitted along with Michigan.
    • On June 15, 1836 Andrew Jackson makes Arkansas officially the 25th State.
Arkansas and the Texas Revolution

- Texans did not like living under military rule by Mexico and General Santa Anna.
  - Several Arkansans gave their lives fighting for Texas independence at the Alamo.
  - The people of Arkansas and the United States wanted to make Texas apart of the United States.
• The Legend of the Bowie Knife
  – James Bowie was skilled hunter and fighter and became famous during the Texas Revolution.
  – James Black is said to have made two knives for Bowie and Bowie decided he liked the knife with a curved blade.
  – With Bowie’s fame came a demand for this knife.
  – A collection of Bowie knives can be seen at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock.
• The Antebellum Years
  – The Antebellum Years refers to the 40 years before the Civil War.
  – Antebellum is Latin and means “before the war.”
  – The state had financial difficulty as warned by Governor Fulton.
  – In response the state created two banks.
The Banking Crisis

- The first bank was “The Bank of Arkansas.”
  - Was created to meet the needs of the state and to encourage economic activity.
- The second bank was “The Real Estate Bank of Arkansas.”
  - Set up for planters across the state.
    - Planters were plantation owners.
- People didn’t trust the banks and accused them of corruption.
• The Banking Crisis
  – Both banks were eventually closed and created a financial crisis in the state.
  – Senator Ambrose Sevier was involved in the scandal and his reputation suffered.
  – The banking crisis also led to a tragic event, the Wilson-Anthony stabbing.
• Knife Fight in the Legislature
  – Wilson was the Speaker of the House and the president of The Real Estate Bank. He told Anthony to take a seat, Anthony refused. A fight broke out between the two and quickly turned into a knife fight.
  – Wilson was never convicted of murder and was removed to from the legislature. (he later returned to the assembly and attacked another bank critic)
• Indian Removal
  – Many people along with Andrew Jackson, felt the Indians limited progress.
  – Indians were forced to sign treaties that left them with little or nothing in return.
  – The Quapaw were forced to sell their land a few years after Arkansas became a territory.
  – Other tribes were forced out of their land to make room for white settlers.
  – *Indian Removal Act*
• The Trail of Tears
  – Despite the *Indian Removal Act*, many of the Cherokee Indians led by John Ross refused to leave Georgia.
  – Andrew Jackson is going order troops into Georgia to force the Cherokee out.
  – The Cherokee were rounded up and forced to march out of Georgia.
  – Many of the Indians are going to die as they are pushed west.
The Trail of Tears

- A lot of money sent to help the Cherokee was taken to line the pockets government agents.
- Nearly 4,000 Cherokee died along “The Trail of Tears.”
  - Nunna-da-ul-tsun-yi or “The Trail Where They Cried.”
  - More than 15,000 Cherokee signed a petition protesting their removal from their lands.
The Trail of Tears
John Ross, the Cherokee leader lost his wife along the Trail of Tears.
• A Wave of Arkansas Travelers
  – George Featherstonhaugh (Fanshaw) wrote about Arkansas as he traveled through the state working on a geological survey.
  – Featherstonhaugh’s journal was eventually published as a book called “Excursion Through a Slave State.”
• More Travelers
  – Friedrich Gerstäecker (Gerstacker) was a German immigrant who traveled through Arkansas.
  – Gerstäecker’s journals were sent to his mother in Germany and were later published. One book was called *Wild Sports in the Far West*.
  – Charles “Fent” Noland is going to write about life in the Ozarks in a book called *The Spirit of the Times*. 
• Legend of the Arkansas Traveler
  – Colonel Sanford Faulkner created the Arkansas Traveler.
  – Tell the story of a many traveling through Arkansas when he runs into a group of squatters.
  – Led to the creation of a song and a painting.
• Manifest Destiny
  – The idea that the United States should be a continental country stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
• The Mexican War
  – The dispute over Texas and the border with Mexico led to The Mexican-American War.
  • President Polk is going to send troops to defend Texas from incursion by Mexican troops.
  • Several notable Arkansans fought in the war
    – Albert Pike, Archibald Yell, etc…
• California Gold Rush
  – The discovery of gold in California is going to create a flood of migration to the west.
  – Van Buren and Fort Smith are going to boom as a supply center for travelers to the west.
The discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill in 1848 will start the California Gold Rush.
• Antebellum Economy
  – Agriculture continued to be the main economic activity in Arkansas.
  – **Yeoman farmers** owned smaller farms.
    • Raised corn and beans, along with livestock.
  – Farmers in the Delta grew a variety of crops. Wealthier families are going to buy large tracts of land and plant cotton.
• King Cotton
  – Cotton had been grown in the south for years but was not profitable because it was hard to handle.
  – Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. The cotton gin made it easy to remove the seeds.
  – The new boom in cotton will make cotton profitable leading to more slavery and eventually the Civil War.
Eli Whitney’s Cotton Gin
• Slavery
  – Arkansas did not produce as much cotton as other southern states.
  – The slave population grew quickly.
    • Went from 5,000 to 20,000 in less than 10 years.
    • Average slave owner had less than 5 slaves.
  – Union and Chicot County had the highest number of slaves.
• Life as a Slave
  – Life was miserable
  – Forced to work from sun up to sun down
  – Poor housing, food, and clothing.
  – Could be separated from family
• Learning to Survive
  – “puttin on ole massa.”
    • Breaking tools
    • Tracking in mud
    • Working slow
  – Running away
    • Not looking for freedom but to rest or visit friends
• Fear of Violence
  – Slave owners faced the constant fear of a slave uprising.
  – Dogs, knives, and guns were kept
• Arkansas Portrait
  – Joseph Albert Booker
    • Born a slave on the John Fisher plantation at Bayou Bartholmew
    • Mother died when he was three
    • Father whipped to death for teaching other slaves to read.
    • Became a teacher at 17
    • Became a Baptist minister
    • Strong leader who fought hard for civil rights
    • Encouraged good relations between blacks and whites.
• Slave Spirituals
  – Singing and focusing on spiritual things were important survival tools.
  – Songs from the Bible
  – Frederick Douglas – (page 110)
• Linking Past To Present
  – Does slavery exist in the world today?
• The Compromise of 1850
  – The petition of California for statehood is going to threaten the slave/free balance created by the Missouri Compromise.
  – 30 years after he proposed the Missouri Compromise, Henry Clay is going to make a new proposal:
    • California will be free/slave
    • Discontinue slave trade
    • Let western territories decide the issues
    • Strengthen the Fugitive Slave Act
• The Arkansas Conflict
  – Clay’s suggestions created conflict
  – Arkansas’s 4th Governor, John Roane did not believe the compromise was fair.
    • “I would dissolve the Union for there is no security in it.”
  – Most Arkansan support the Union
  – The compromise will pass and calm the debate… for now…
• Uncle Tom’s Cabin
  – Harriet Beecher Stowe
  – Wrote the story to expose the horrors of slavery.
  – Sold millions of copies
  – Not just a southern issue
  – Both north and south were guilty
• The Kansas-Nebraska Act
  – Despite the cry of Abolishtionist, Democrats are going to continue to push slavery into the west.
  – Senator Stephan A. Douglas of Illinois is going to suggest that Kansas and Nebraska Territories should decide the issue by “popular sovereignty.”
  – The Kansas-Nebraska Act will end the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850.
• The Dynasty Continues
  – The Democrats are going to move their political goals forward.
  – Founding members of “The Family” had died leaving control to a new generation of men like Robert W. Johnson and Governor Elias Conway.
  – Some of The Family were pushing for separation from the Union, most in Arkansas opposed the idea.
The Dynasty Continues

- Disagreement of slavery is going to tear the Whig party apart.
- Many Whigs are going to join the “Know-Nothing Party.”
- The Know-Nothing Party opposed immigration, especially for Catholics, and never gained much popularity
• Mountain Meadows Massacre
  – A group of settlers from Arkansas and Missouri were attacked in Utah by Mormons.
  – Most of the people were killed.
  – Only one man was held accountable for the attack and was later executed.
• Widening the Gap
  – Dred Scott – sued for his freedom but is going to have his claim rejected by the Supreme Court.
• John Brown
  – Abolitionist
  – Attacked a United States Arsenal in Harper’s Ferry Virginia.
  – Tried to start a slave rebellion
  – Colonel Robert E. Lee is going to end the violence.
  – Brown found guilty of treason.
John Brown
Prosperity Mixed with Turmoil

During this difficult time, Arkansas experienced some growth.

- First section of Memphis and Little Rock Railroad opened.
- Freight and passengers could travel the St. Francis River.
- Education is going to improve
- War was around the corner.
Choosing Sides, 1860

- Territories Under Federal Control

- MO (Missouri)
- KY (Kentucky)
• End of Slide Show