Welcome to Arkansas History
Chapter 06- The Civil War
• The Civil War Timeline
  • 1861-1865
  – Chapter Vocabulary
    • secede
    • arsenal
    • tenacious
    • martial law
    • militia
    • bushwacker
    • jayhawker
    • contraband
    • discrimination
    • skirmish

**People to Know:**
James G. Blunt
Patrick Cleburne
Susan Cook
Samuel R. Curtis
David O. Dodd
Ulysses S. Grant
Thomas Hindman
Theophilus Holmes
Robert E. Lee
Abraham Lincoln
Issac Murphy
Albert Pike
Sterling Price
Henry M. Rector
Frederick Steele
Loreta Velazquez
Earl Van Dorn
Stand Watie

**Places to Locate**
Charleston, SC
Helena
Little Rock
Manassas, VA
Missouri
Pea Ridge
Prairie Grove
Richmond, VA
Washington, AR
Creating a Climate for War

The North and South developed differently economically and socially.

The north was industrial.

wage earners/workers

The south was agricultural.

slavery

abolitionist – spoke out against slavery

Growing population and new territories were changing the balance of power between the north and the south.
• The Issue of slavery
  – Arkansas was different than other southern states.
  – 80% of Arkansas families never owned slaves.
  – Farming was limited in the Ozarks and Ouachita because of rocky soil and rough terrain.
  – Slave numbers had increased but was still less than other southern states.
  – Plantation owners lived in the Gulf Coastal Plain and the Delta regions.
• The Issue of slavery
  – Slaves were expensive to buy and maintain.
  – Planters lived a good life with nice homes, schools, etc…
  – Planters developed a great deal of political power in Arkansas.
Slavery was important to the southern economy and the southern way of life.
• **States Rights**
  – Most Arkansans were more interested in their daily lives than the issues around slaver and states rights.
  – Many people in Arkansas depended on Federal support and protection and were not interested in leaving the Union.
  – Planters were interested in seceding from the Union. **Secede** means to separate or leave.
  – These issues divided the state, as well as the nation.
• Political Divisions
  – The Family or Dynasty were democrats who still controlled Arkansas politics.
  – **Thomas Hindman**, known as fire-eater, because of his passionate support for session and states rights, opposed the Family and wanted to elect a governor who was not a part of the family.
The Election of 1860

– Arkansas was faced with electing a new governor in 1860, as well as the presidential election.
– Abraham Lincoln ran as a republican, the new party formed to oppose slavery in the nation.
– Lincoln received no votes in Arkansas because he was not on the ballot.
– John Bell was an Arkansas politician who opposed slavery.
Vice President John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky was the most popular presidential candidate among Arkansas voters in the 1860 election.
The Election of 1860

- Many southerners believed the political power of the north would win out, leaving them with little say in government.

- “Tyranny by the majority”

- Lincoln had promised not to interfere with the issue of slavery in the south but clearly wanted to limit the spread of slavery.

- Many in the south believed Lincoln would try to abolish slavery, destroying the economy and way of life for many southerners.
This cartoon, created in 1860, shows how divided the nation was over the presidential election, and the issue of slavery.
• End of an Era
  – The governors race in 1860 was nothing short of war.
  – Richard Johnson was nominated by the “Family” to run for governor.
  – Thomas Hindman and others worked to upset the “Family” by nominating and independent democrat named Henry M. Rector.
  – Rector narrowly won the election bringing the “Family’s” Dynasty to an end.
• Governor Henry M. Rector
  – The 44 year old Rector was not a strong leader.
  – He supported the southern position but was not sure about secession.
  – He believed a major conflict was coming and tried to prepare Arkansas.

Although Henry M. Rector was a cousin to the politically powerful Conway family, he ran against the “Family” in 1860.
• The Arsenal Incident
  – In February 1861 a group of secessionist marched on the arsenal at Little Rock which was being guarded by Union troops.
  – The arsenal was used to store weapons, ammunition, and other military items.
  – Governor Rector convinced the commander, James Totten to evacuate the post, leaving the weapons and ammunition behind.
  
  (some historians believed that had Totten not surrendered, the Civil War might have started in Arkansas)
• The Arsenal Incident
  – Governor Rector and the state legislature called for a political convention to discuss the issue of secession.
  – Despite support from both sides, Arkansas was not yet ready to break away from the Union.
• The Confederate States of America
  – Although most people in Arkansas did not support secession, several other states did secede from the Union and formed the **Confederate States of America**.
  – **Jefferson Davis**, an important Mississippi politician became the president of the Confederacy.
Jefferson Davis was elected the president of the Confederacy in November 1861.
• Fort Sumter
  – In the spring of 1861, Confederate forces demanded the surrender of Fort Sumter in South Carolina.
  – Lincoln refused to surrender the fort and tried to resupply it.
  – Confederate forces fired on the fort on April 12, 1861, starting the Civil War.
After 36 hours of Confederate fire, Union forces inside Fort Sumter finally surrendered the fort to the Confederacy.
Soldiers of the Blue and the Gray

Ulysses S. Grant

Frederick Steel

Samuel R. Curtis

James G. Blunt
Soldiers of the Blue and the Gray

Robert E. Lee

Sterling Price

Thomas C. Hindman

Patrick R. Cleburne
Arkansas Joins the Confederacy
- May 6, 1861 delegates from across the state gather at the State House in Little Rock to decide if Arkansas should join the Confederacy and secede from the Union.
- Isaac Murphy, “I have cast my vote after mature reflection, and have considered the consequences, and I cannot conscientiously change it.” He was the only one to vote “No.”
- Union supporters in the northern part of the state were arrested and told they could enlist or be tried for treason.
Mrs. Frederick Trapnall threw a bouquet of roses at Isaac Murphy’s feet.
• Preparing for War
  – Many quickly joined the Confederate army, expecting a quick victory for the south.
  – Soldiers from Arkansas joined soldiers from other states to fight in other states.
  – Many joined local groups of about 100 men, serving in units with colorful names like, “the Camden Knights.”
  – Major battles could cost a community an entire generation of men.
• Brother Against Brother
  – Many men from Arkansas fought for the Union, especially those from the north and western parts of the state.
  – More than 8,000 Arkansas fought for the Union, often fighting against family and friends.
• Life in the Camps
  – The excitement of going to war was soon replaced with daily drilling and boredom.
  – Soldiers died without ever seeing the fight, from diseases. Pneumonia, measles, or dysentery killed many soldiers before they reached the battle field.
Women who did laundry for soldiers earned about $19.50 a month.
Arkansas, like many other southern states, printed their own money. Soldiers were paid about $13.00 a month. Sometimes, soldiers would not be paid for months.

Also, Confederate money was worthless after the war.

One of the weaknesses of the Confederacy was the fact that each state printed their own money.
• The Fighting Begins
  – The first battle of the war took place in Virginia at Manassas or Bull Run.
  – Union forces wanted to capture Manassas, then move on to Richmond, the Capital of the Confederacy.
  – The battle was bloody and lasted all day, finally turning in favor of the Confederates after new soldiers arrived.
  – Some Confederate soldiers returned home to plant their fields believing the victory and brought a quick end to the war.
It was a hot July day in 1861, not far from Washington D.C., when citizens packed a lunch and went out to watch the battle at Manassas. The picnic ended quickly and 4,500 men were killed or wounded in the battle.

Many battles have different names depending on which side you were on. Today, many of the sites are national battlefield parks.
• The Civil War in Arkansas
  – The largest battles of the war were fought in the east.
  – The Trans-Mississippi region west of the Mississippi River was also important.
  – Control of the Mississippi River and Missouri were important to both sides.
  – To help protect the western part of the state, the Confederacy tried to enlist the help of Native Americans, who were upset with the United States Government.
• The Civil War in Arkansas
  – Albert Pike was sent to meet with the Indians to gain their support. He made many promises, including the ability for the Indians to function as an independent nation.
  – Pike served as a Confederate General, until he left the army over a dispute over Indian troops.
  – More than 12,000 Indians fought for the south, while around 6,000 fought for the north.
• Battling the Enemy at Home
  – The first large land battle in the Trans-Mississippi region occurred in southern Missouri at Wilson’s Creek.
  – Both sides lost more than 1,000 and the Union forces were forced to retreat.
  – Confederate soldiers were disorganized and failed to follow up on the Union retreat.
  – Union troops pushed Confederate forces out of Missouri a few months later.
• Battling the Enemy at Home
  – General Earl Van Dorn attacked Union forces at Pea Ridge, in Benton County.
  – Van Dorn had hoped a victory might help secure Missouri for the south.
  – After two days of fighting, the south was forced to retreat, having lost several generals, leaving the Confederate troops disorganized.
Arkansas Portrait
Stand Watie (1806-1871)
- Cherokee leader from Georgia
- agreed to sell Cherokee lands
- convinced some of his people to fight for the Confederacy
  - Only Indian to become a brigadier general.
The Conscription Act

- Required all men between 18-35 to serve in the Confederate army. Later expanded to the age of 50.
- Wealthy men could pay their way out of service. “A rich man’s war… a poor man’s fight…”
Both Union and Confederate soldiers took whatever they needed from local citizens.
• Union Troops in Arkansas
  – Following his loss at Pea Ridge, Van Dorn and his men were ordered east of the Mississippi River, leaving Arkansas virtually undefended.
  – Union troops, unable to secure their own supplies began to take food and livestock from local citizens.
• Responding to the Threat
  – Major General Thomas Hindman was sent to replace Van Dorn in the Trans-Mississippi region.
  – Acting more like a dictator, Hindman placed the region under martial law, military rule rather than civilian rule.
  – Shot deserters without a trial and supported guerrilla warfare leading to lawlessness in Arkansas.
• Responding to the Threat
  – Lawless bands who supported the Confederates were known as bushwhackers.
  – Those who supported the Union were known as jayhawkers.
  – The people of Arkansas were caught between the two.
Guerrilla Warfare

- After two years of support for the guerrilla bands, Confederates discontinued using the guerrilla’s who also attacked local citizens.
- Crops had been burned and livestock used up, leaving the area without food and supplies.
- Union soldiers had tried to stop the guerrillas by destroying grist mills, factories, and other industries making the situation worse.
- Many people were forced to leave Arkansas looking for food and safety.
• Guerrilla Warfare
  – Chaos covered much of Arkansas.
  – By the end of the war, women and children were dying of starvation.
• A Change of Command
  – After many complaints about Hindman, Jefferson Davis sent Major General Theophilus Holmes to replace him.
  – Holmes was nicknamed “granny” because of his poor health.
  – Holmes sent some of his troops to help Hindman protect the northwest part of the state.
• Prairie Grove
  – Hindman was determined to take back northwest Arkansas from Union forces.
  – Commander James G. Blunt, who Holmes had sent to help Hindman, soon faced two separate Union armies at Prairie Grove, near Fayetteville.
  – After a cold day of fierce fighting, Hindman finally withdrew his troops.
• Prairie Grove
  – Although neither side was clearly winning, thousands of troops on both sides had been killed or had deserted.
  – Hindman and his men slowly headed toward Little Rock.
  – Hindman’s hopes of taking northwest Arkansas were gone and would remain under Union control.
  – Union forces also controlled the eastern town of Helena.
• Prairie Grove

The battle of Prairie Grove was fought on December 7, 1862 near this farmhouse. The farmhouse was burned down after the battle but was rebuilt after the war. The battle was named after a local church and the town of Prairie Grove was established more than 20 years later.
Arkansas Post

- One month after Prairie Grove, Union forces were sent to attack Arkansas Post and Fort Hindman in southeast Arkansas.
- Fort Hindman had been built to help protect the Mississippi River but had less than 5,000 troops to defend it from the 30,000 Union troops sent to attack it.
- Thousands of Confederate forces were captured and the fort destroyed.
Arkansas Post

- After taking Arkansas Post, the Confederacy feared it was only a matter of time before the Union started moving up the Arkansas River.

Union ironclad and timber gunboats led the assault on Arkansas Post in January 1863.
• The Emancipation Proclamation
  – Lincoln’s proclamation called for the release of all slaves in the those states who were in a state of rebellion.
  – Although Lincoln had no power to free slaves in the Confederate states, it did encourage the slave population to flee to Union controlled territory.
  – In reality, the proclamation freed no one. It did not apply to Union states and Confederate states just ignored it.
• The Emancipation Proclamation

– As many slaves fled Confederate territory, their absence complicated the Confederate war effort.

– Contraband – Union name for runaway slaves.

– Many of the runaway slaves would serve in the Union army.
• African American Soldiers
  – Neither side allowed blacks to serve in the Army at the start of the war.
  – Many in the north felt the African Americans were inferior and would not make good soldiers.
  – In the south, they needed the slave labor to keep the plantations running.
  – With thousands killed or captured and few volunteers, the Union became desperate for soldiers.
African American Soldiers

- In need of soldiers, congress authorized the recruitment of African American soldiers.
• African American Troops in Arkansas
  – Many escaped slaves from Missouri and Arkansas had joined the Union army, even before congress had authorized it.
  – The Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment was formed by an abolitionist from Kansas.
  – Later the first Arkansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment of African Descent was formed.
  – By the end of the war, 5,500 black men from Arkansas had joined the Union army.
African American Troops in Arkansas
- Despite their brave efforts, African American troops faced daily discrimination.
  - Never promoted
  - Never allowed to serve in leadership positions.
  - Paid less.
  - Constant harassment in camp.
  - Given the worst duties.

If captured, they were usually shot or hung.
• The Battle of Poison Spring
  – One of the cruelest massacres of the Civil War took place near Camden Arkansas.
  – Confederate troops and Choctaw Indians savagely scalped, killed, or did terrible things to black Union soldiers.
  – Arkansas Confederate Newspaper wrote: *We cannot treat negroes taken in arms as prisoners of war…* They choose instead to kill the “rebellious slaves.”
• David O. Dodd
  – Captured by Union soldiers carrying coded message about Union troops.
  – Refused to give information about others he worked with and was charged with spying.
  – Despite protest, he was found guilty and sentenced to death.
  – January 8, 1864, he was hanged on the school grounds he once attended.
  – “Boy Martyr of the Confederacy”
• Attack at Daylight
  – 1862 – Union forces capture Helena because of its strategic value on the Mississippi River.
  – Because of the Union Troops, thousand of slave escaped to the area.
  – Union troops did not have provisions for the slaves and many would die from disease or starvation. Those who survived would help the Union soldiers by cooking, sewing, or cutting firewood.
• **Attack at Daylight**
  – July 4, 1863 – Confederate forces tried to retake the city of Helena. They hoped to keep Union forces from taking the city of Vicksburg, just down the river in Mississippi.
  – General Fagen was ready to attack at first light but General Price did not attack until sunrise. Their failure to coordinated their attacks gave the Union troops the advantage.
  – Vicksburg also fell to Union forces the same day giving the Union control of the Mississippi River.
• Capturing Little Rock
  – Union leaders sent Major General Frederick Steel to Helena to prepare for an attack on Little Rock.
  – Steel and his troops had a few minor battles or **skirmishes** with Confederate troops.
  – Steel and his troops surprised Confederate forces at Little Rock by attacking from the south making it possible to take Little Rock with little resistance.
• Under Union Control
  – Before Union troops arrived in Little Rock, Confederate leaders moved the capital to Washington, in southwest Arkansas.
  – “Ten Percent Plan” – Lincoln’s plan to re-admit Confederate states. Would allow them to create a new Union government and do away with slavery.
  – By January 1864, loyal Union supporters approved a new constitution and appointed Isaac Murphy as the governor.
  – Arkansas now had two governments.
• The Red River Campaign
  – With the Union army in control of the north and central parts of the state, Union forces pushed to gain control of more of the state.
  – Union forces launched a new effort to capture the Trans-Mississippi Confederate headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana.
  – General Steel did not like the plan.
  – General Price had orders to keep the Union forces from reaching Louisiana.
• The Red River Campaign
  – General Price was successful, only allowing Union troops to get as far as Camden.

Although Union troops were moving toward Louisiana, they were stopped at Camden.

There were several battles during this campaign but the most notable was “Poison Spring” battle.

Although the Red River Campaign did not succeed, it was too late for the Confederates in Arkansas and the Trans-Mississippi region.
• Women during the War
  – Women on both sides played an important role in the war.
  – Arkansas women took care of the homes, the farms, the business, and plantations while the men were away fighting.
  – Some ran hospitals out of their homes.
  – Some disguised themselves as soldiers and fought in the war.
  – Loreta Velazquez is said to have fought as Harry T. Bufford but historians are not sure of her stories
• Women during the War
Records of the War

– While woman did not fight in the war, their lives were impacted by the war.

– Much of what we know comes from the diaries and journals kept by women.

– Susan Cook was a 19 year old woman who recorded her war time experiences in her journal.
• The Civil War Comes to an End
  – By 1865, the Confederacy was struggling to survive in the Trans-Mississippi region.
  – Union blockades had cut off supplies to the region.
  – There were many small skirmishes around the state. The final skirmish took place near Monticello.
  – April 9, 1865 – Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union forces at Appomattox Court House, in Virginia.
• The Civil War Comes to an End
  – After Lee surrendered, Confederate Generals across the south began to surrender.
  – The Trans-Mississippi Department was one of the last to surrender.
  – Just days after the end of the war, President Lincoln as assassinated by John Wilkes Boothe.
Lee surrenders to Grant at the Appomattox Court House, in Virginia.
• Arkansas in Ruins
  – With more than 500 battles and skirmishes across Arkansas, the state was left in ruins.
  – Homes, barns, and crops were destroyed.
  – Post-war Reconstruction would be another violent chapter in Arkansas history.
• End of Slide Show