**![C:\Documents and Settings\amym\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FQHAOXGY\MCNA01705_0000[1].wmf]()History Map Locator: Part 2 ---Post Civil War**

Find and Label with a Highlighter:

* Trace the rivers involved in the flood of 1927
* An airplane on each locations of Army Air Force Training during World War II - Blytheville, Walnut Ridge, Newport, Stuttgart
* Draw a house on each of the two cities where camps were located for Japanese-Americans during WWII – Rohwer-Desha County, Jerome­­­­­
* Draw a school on each of the first three cities to integrate schools in Arkansas – Fayetteville, Charleston, Hoxie
* Draw a tree on the regions where logging was king
* Draw a $ on the regions that have experienced economic development growth
* Write President on the town where Bill Clinton was born - Hope
* Draw happy faces on the regions with large concentration of Hispanics – Washington and Benton counties
* Draw a circle on the place where Vietnamese were originally housed after war – Fort Chaffee
* Draw an island on the city with large numbers of Marshall Islanders – Springdale
* Draw a factory on the two cities that were mentioned as attracting manufacturing – Fort Smith and Jonesboro
* Draw a tent on the fort that served as a training camp and prisoner of war camp during WWII – Fort Chaffee

**History Summary: Part 2 – After Civil War**

**Reconstruction after the Civil War**

The era of Reconstruction after the Civil War was one of the most tumultuous and controversial periods in Arkansas’ history. With the assassination of President Lincoln, the process of Arkansas’ reinstatement into the Union became more difficult. Arkansans who participated in the rebellion were not eligible to vote, so power in government was dominated by loyal Southerners (known as scalawags), Northerners who came South after the war (known as carpet baggers), and former slaves. After a period of occupation by the US military a new state constitution was adopted. With the ratification of the 14th amendment to the federal constitution, which provided equal protection to all persons including slaves, Arkansas was officially readmitted to the union in 1868.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=388>

Unrest in the state made recovery difficult. Political controversy between two Republicans, Brooks and Baxter, who both claimed to be governor, resulted in open warfare between supporters in which more than 100 were killed. The ‘war’ was only settled by intervention of the Federal Government. The Ku Klux Klan created disorder and with some difficulty was finally brought under control. The state was once again plunged into debt with worthy efforts to build transportation and education systems. With the return of voting rights to former confederates in 1872, the Democrats returned to power. A new state constitution was adopted in 1874 that is still the basic document, much amended, that is in use today.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2246>

The old planter elites were engaged in an attempt to restore their pre-war economic status. Most had retained control of their land, but with slavery gone, they now had to bargain for the labor of their former slaves. A variety of labor arrangements ensued, but over time, a system called sharecropping emerged as the most popular form. Under this system, a landowner rented a plot of land to an individual to farm independently and furnished everything necessary to grow a crop. The owner would then receive a share of the crop (generally about one half or more) as rent. The system left many Arkansans in dire poverty. Sharecropping sometimes resulted in abusive business practices as many tenants never got out of debt and often could not read or calculate to determine if they were cheated.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2103>

The war, emancipation, and reconstruction had been truly revolutionary experiences for the state and the region. But the return to power of the pre-war leaders ensured that state government would remain in their hands. Economic prosperity remained an elusive goal for most of the state’s citizens, and the black population of Arkansas and throughout the South had to wait for a “second Reconstruction” in the 1950s and 1960s to attain the full civil, political, and educational rights that the first Reconstruction failed to achieve.

**Entering the 20th Century**

Arkansas faced a number of opportunities and challenges in the first four decades of the twentieth century. Not only did the state introduce some significant initiatives in response to the multi-faceted reform movement known as *progressivism*, it also endured race riots, natural disasters, and severe economic problems. One of the worst natural disasters in Arkansas history was the flood of 1927. Heavy snow melting in Canada raised the level of the Mississippi River in northern areas. Excessive rain combined with the melted snow to flood the Mississippi, then the Arkansas, White, and St. Francis Rivers. Other states flooded including Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Over two million acres in Arkansas were flooded, nearly 1/3 of the state. Over 50,000 homes were damaged by the flood. Refugee camps were built by the Red Cross and other organizations to aid the displaced persons. Many people were upset by the government’s lack of response to the disaster.

Even as it attempted to modernize its road and school systems, expand its manufacturing sector, and deal with increasing urbanization, most Arkansans continued to live in rural areas. They remained largely conservative, both in their attitudes toward traditional social relations and their religious orthodoxy. Race relations remained strained. The tension between the need to modernize and the provincialism of rural Arkansas persisted throughout the era and inhibited meaningful change. Although the Great Depression and the New Deal undermined the old system by introducing a new player in the field—the federal government—and provided a forum by which certain groups in Arkansas could dare to challenge elites, political power remained with those who traditionally ruled, and even divisions within that group did not work to the advantage of these newly assertive voices. Given the limitations of reform and the challenges of the Great Depression, the state was hardly poised to take advantage of the opportunities of the wartime economy that was on the horizon in 1940.

**World War II**

Arkansas like the rest of the nation was heavily involved in the war effort. Thousands of young people enlisted or were drafted into the armed forces. Military bases and war time industries were established in Arkansas and the population was heavily engaged in their operation. The U.S. Army Air Force placed airfields in Arkansas to train pilots. There were centers in Blytheville, Walnut Ridge, Newport and Stuttgart. They have now been converted to municipal airports. Fort Chaffee, just out of Fort Smith, served as a training camp and prisoner-of-war camp. During the war years two camps were established in Southwest Arkansas to house Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from the West Coast. These were located in Rohwer, Delta County and Jerome in Chicot and Drew counties (<http://www.children-of-the-camps.org/> ). The living conditions were less than desirable and there was no evidence that the Japanese Americans were disloyal. The end of the war brought many changes to Arkansas. Movement from the farm to cities to work in the newly established industries was accelerated. African Americans returning from the war were less willing to accept segregation and agitation for change was brewing. Agriculture began to mechanize so that large numbers of workers on the farm were no longer needed and migration to Northern cities was widespread. Enrollment in higher education was booming due to the GI bill for education. Generally Arkansans became more like people in the rest of the nation.

Since the end of Reconstruction, Arkansas had retained segregated schools. However, the Brown v. Board of Education ruling of the Supreme Court in 1954 made segregation no longer legal. The state was slow to integrate as required, but schools in Fayetteville, Charleston and Hoxie began the process. When Little Rock’s Central High School sought to admit nine African American students in 1957, Governor Orval Faubus called out the National Guard to prevent them from entering. President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by federalizing the National Guard and sending in units of the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division to escort the Nine into the school on September 25, 1957. The military presence remained for the duration of the school year. In the years that followed all schools in the state have integrated using mandated busing to insure neighborhood de facto segregation does not continue.

**Modern Arkansas**

In the second half of the 20th century, Arkansas has undergone great change. Agriculture has continued to mechanize and eastern and southern Arkansas has continued to lose population even though agricultural production has expanded. Central and northwest Arkansas have experienced considerable economic development through the growth and development of major national corporations including Walmart, Tyson and JB Hunt in the northwest and Axiom, and Alltel in central Arkansas. Fort Smith and Jonesboro have had success in attracting manufacturing. Transportation with the development of the interstate highway system and the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System opened up the state to the rest of the nation.

Arkansas has changed politically. Two Republican governors, first Winthrop Rockefeller and then Frank White, broke the succession of Democratic governors that had been elected since Reconstruction. Notable Arkansas politicians that have given the state a national reputation for effective government include J. William Fulbright, Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, Mike Huckabee and William Jefferson Clinton. Bill Clinton, born in Hope, served two terms as President and made Arkansas recognized internationally.

Arkansans have become much more diverse. Large numbers of Hispanics have moved to all parts of Arkansas for job opportunity especially in the poultry industry of northwest Arkansas. Vietnamese refugees escaping the aftermath of the war were initially housed at Fort Chaffee and many remain in the area. Approximately 16,000 Marshall Islanders have settled in Springdale. Many Asians have found new homes in all parts of the state. New residents with diverse backgrounds have contributed to the cultural richness, as well as the economy of Arkansas.

In the modern era, Arkansas has become far less provincial. Modern technology and communication have caused major national events to be of concern to Arkansans. Wars, economic ups and downs, fashion changes, music fads, and the national life have similar appeal to Arkansans. Arkansas is home to five Fortune 500 companies – evidence that entrepreneurship is alive and thriving. Walmart is the world’s largest company with Home Offices in Bentonville, Arkansas. These include Walmart (No.1), Tyson Foods (88), Murphy Oil Corp. (134), Alltell (300) and Dillard’s (338) – as of October 2008. J.B. Hunt Transport (501), Windstream Corp. (532), Arkansas Best Corp (934) and Baldor Electric Co. (935) are included in the top 1000 companies.

Sources:

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/>

Hopper, S. (2008). *An Arkansas history for young people.* Fayetteville, AR: The

 University of Arkansas Press.

