Arkansas
Early Arkansas History and Exploration

Arkansas is located in the Southern region of the United States. It was carved out of the eastern portion of the Territory of Arkansas and admitted to the Union as the 25th state on June 15, 1836. Nicknamed “The Natural State,” Arkansas is a state with diverse regions — from mountainous regions of the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains, to the lowlands along the Mississippi River, to the Arkansas Timberlands in the south.

Arkansas is the largest producer of rice, broilers (chickens raised especially for meat production,) and turkeys in the U.S. It also is a major producer of cotton, pullets (young chickens,) softwood lumber, and aquaculture (catfish.) Tourism adds to the state’s economy, as 52 state parks and seven National Park Service properties are maintained within Arkansas.

1996 • Scott 3078
Woolly Mammoth
Prehistoric Animals issues

2006 • Scott 4041
American Bison, largest land mammal
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives

Before people inhabited the land known as Arkansas, the woolly mammoth roamed the area. When the Euro-American peoples moved in, they hunted the mammoths by running them off cliffs or using a spear-like tool called a Clovis point. When the woolly mammoth became extinct, there early peoples hunted the bison for food and their hides.

1898 • Scott 285
Trans-Mississippi Exposition issues
Jacques Marquette on the Mississippi

In 1673, Father Jacques Marquette (1637–1675) and Louis Joliet, explored the Mississippi River beginning in the area of the Great Lakes. Their goal was to map and further document this new region, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico for French and Canadian officials. Marquette and Joliet spent several days with the Quapaw Indians, about twenty miles from the mouth of the Arkansas River. The Indians warned them about the Spanish inhabitants further to the south. Marquette and Joliet recognized that the Indians could become allies to the French before heading back north.

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EARLY ARKANSAS HISTORY AND EXPLORATION

1898 • Scott 285
Jacques Marquette on the Mississippi

1968 • Scott 1356
Father Jacques Marquette

1996 • Scott 3078
Woolly Mammoth

2006 • Scott 4041
American Bison, largest land mammal
Arkansas: More Early History

1982 • UX95
LaSalle Claims Louisiana
In 1682, French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1643–1687) left the Great Lakes area, traveled down the Mississippi River, and claimed the entire river basin (including Arkansas) for France. Although he failed to accomplish his goal of establishing fur trading posts from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, he did start a friendship with the Arkansas Indians that would last for the next 100-plus years.

1953 • Scott 1020
2003 • Scott 3782
Louisiana Purchase
The Louisiana Purchase was the acquisition in 1803 by the United States of 828,000 square miles of France’s claim to the territory of Louisiana for $15 million dollars — in 2013 dollars, a cost of less than 42¢ per acre. As a result of this purchase, Arkansas became part of the District of Louisiana and the Territory of Orleans. This brought an end of Spanish and French rule, as the U.S. Army established itself in western Arkansas (Fort Smith), explorers were into the state, and new settlements were built.

1936 • Scott 782
1986 • Scott 2167
Arkansas Statehood
When the Arkansas Territory was created from the Missouri Territory, it included what is now Arkansas and Oklahoma. When Michigan announced they were applying for statehood as a slave-free state, Arkansas countered by applying as a slave state. In 1836, the State of Arkansas became the 25th state to be admitted to the Union; however, by then the territory had been reduced to the current size of the state. Arkansas is bordered on the north by Missouri, the east by Tennessee and Mississippi, the south by Louisiana, and on the west by Texas and Oklahoma.
ARKANSAS: MORE EARLY HISTORY

1982 • UX95
LaSalle Claims Louisiana

1953 • Scott 1020
Louisiana Purchase

2003 • Scott 3782
Louisiana Purchase

1936 • Scott 782
Arkansas Statehood

1986 • Scott 2167
Arkansas Statehood
Symbols of the State

1976 • Scott 1657
American Bicentennial: State Flags, Arkansas

Flags of Our Nation I: Arkansas

The flag of Arkansas, adopted in 1913, is very symbolic. The large blue diamond on a field of red represents the only diamond producing state in the United States. The 25 white stars around the blue diamond represent Arkansas as the 25th state to join the Union. “Arkansas” is written across a center white diamond. Below that are three white stars, representing Spain, France, and the United States — the three nations which ruled Arkansas before it became a state. They also signify that Arkansas was the third state created from United States’ Louisiana Purchase. The top star represents that Arkansas was a member of the Confederacy during the Civil War. The colors of the flag — red, white, and blue signifying that the state is part of the United States.

2002 • Scott 3564
Greetings from America: Arkansas

The “Greetings from America” stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and ‘40s. This stamp shows the Buffalo River and Gunner Pool, both in Ozark National Forest, in the foreground. Overlooking the scene at the rear, flanked by trees, is the Ozark Baths building on Bath House Row in Hot Springs National Park.

1987 • Scott 2253
Milk Wagon 1900s

Dairy production is an important part of Arkansas farming. Milk was recognized as the official state beverage by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1985. They noted that due to milk's healthfulness — a source of protein, calcium, and several other nutrients — it was important to encourage milk consumption for the dairy sector in Arkansas. Milk produced in Arkansas is consumed as a beverage, or made into butter or cheese.

1980 Scott 1813
Weaver Violins
Americana series

Because of its size, the violin, or fiddle, was easily carried westward during the expansion of the United States. In 1985 the Arkansas legislature designated the fiddle as the official state musical instrument, noting its importance in the lives of the early pioneers at community gatherings and square dances. The art of fiddling continues to be promoted in Arkansas by local folk music societies. An Old-Time Fiddling Championship, a competition and reunion of violinists held each autumn within the state.

1978 • Scott 1751
Folk Dance
American Dance issues

Folk dancing, specifically square dancing, provided early settlers the opportunity to socialize, and often became a primary type of community entertainment. The dancing was usually accompanied by at least one fiddler, possibly some percussion, and almost always lots of singing. In 1991, the Arkansas General Assembly designated the square dance the official American folk dance of Arkansas.
Symbols of the State

1976 • Scott 1657
American Bicentennial:
State Flags, Arkansas

2008 • Scott 4278
Flags of Our Nation I: Arkansas

2002 • Scott 3564
Greetings from America: Arkansas

1987 • Scott 2253
Milk Wagon 1900s

1980 • Scott 1813
Weaver Violins

1978 • Scott 1751
Folk Dance
Arkansas: More Symbols

1978 • Scott 1765
Wildlife Conservation: American Trees
White Pine

1993 • Scott 2491
Pine Cone

In 1939, the Arkansas General Assembly designated the pine tree as the official state tree. Although the resolution did not identify any particular type of pine, the loblolly pine is often considered the state tree. The loblolly is a fast growing tree, reaching a height of 100–150 feet and a diameter of 1–5 feet. The wood is used for posts, poles, plywood, crates, boxes, and mulch, as well as for shade trees and to stop erosion.

1987 • Scott 2330
North American Wildlife issues
Mockingbird

Following a campaign by the Arkansas State Federation of Women's Clubs, in 1929 the mockingbird was named the official state bird. The mockingbird lives in open country across most of the continental United States, living on a diet of ants, beetles, grasshoppers, seeds, and berries. It was named because it can mimic the songs of other birds, and the sounds of some insects and amphibians — it has even been known to mimic the sounds of dogs, sirens, and other mechanical noises.

1987 • Scott 2317
White tailed deer
North American Wildlife issues

The white-tailed deer can be found in wooded areas, pastures, or fields browsing on leaves, shrubs, or other plant foods. The deer were hunted to near extinction by the mid-1930s; however, due to restocking they are now found throughout the state. In 1993 the General Assembly approved a bill which designated the white-tail as the official state mammal of Arkansas.

1982 • Scott 1956
Mockingbird and Apple Blossom
State Birds & Flowers issues

In 1901 the apple blossom was designated by the Arkansas General Assembly as the state's official floral emblem. At that time more than 400 varieties of apples were grown within the state. Although production has declined, there are still more than 900 acres of apple orchards located in Arkansas, with most of the fruit used for fresh-market sales.

1988 • Scott 2281
Honeybee

Crop pollination is necessary for plant, and human, survival. In 1973 the Arkansas General Assembly designated the honeybee as the state's official insect, noting that this "diligent and willing worker typifies the outstanding citizens of the state of Arkansas." Honeybees live in hives of up to 80,000 individual bees, consisting of one queen bee and a few male drones — the remaining bees are female workers. Only the older worker bees leave the hive to gather nectar, pollen, water, and materials needed for hive construction and maintenance. The younger worker bees maintain the hive, care for the eggs and larvae, take care of the queen's needs, regulate the temperature, and defend the hive.
Arkansas: More Symbols

1978 • Scott 1765
White Pine

1993 • Scott 2491
Pine Cone

1982 • Scott 1956
Mockingbird and Apple Blossom

1987 • Scott 2330
Mockingbird

1987 • Scott 2317
White tailed deer

1988 • Scott 2281
Honeybee
Arkansas: Waterways and Travel

1968 • 1358
Arkansas River Navigation
In 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the Rivers and Harbors Act, authorizing the building of the Arkansas River Navigation System. In 1969 the system was opened as far as Little Rock, Arkansas. The full system — 443 miles long from the Mississippi River to Catoosa, (near Tulsa) Oklahoma — was not completed until December 30, 1970.

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System provides flood control, hydropower, navigation, water supply, wildlife conservation, and recreation.

1983 • 2061
Streetcars
“Bobtail” Horsecar
Economic development in urban United States is partially attributed to the street car systems. In Little Rock, Arkansas, horse-drawn street cars began operation in 1876 which allowed for expanded development outside the downtown area. This stamp depicts the nation’s last horse-drawn car, nicknamed “Bobtail.” It was operational from 1889 until 1926.

2006 • Scott 4065
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Mississippi-Missouri, longest river system
The “Mighty Mississippi” flows along most of the eastern border of Arkansas, creating what is known as the “Delta” of eastern Arkansas. This area supports a variety of flora, fauna, and aquatic species, including a wide array of birds and is known for the production of cotton, soybeans, and rice. The Mississippi River not only provides a source for recreational activities within the state, but also allows for commercial transportation from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

1966 • Scott 1319
Great River Road
The Great River Road was developed to conserve the resources located along the mighty Mississippi River. Many of the 362 miles of the road located along the eastern border of Arkansas pass through agricultural and wetlands. The River Road goes through a portion of the St. Francis National Forest on Crowley’s Ridge — an expansive ridge that extends for 160 miles and rises up to 200 feet above the surrounding lowlands.

1958 • 1120
Overland Mail
Prior to the California Gold Rush, mail from the east coast was taken by boat either around South America or by moving it overland across Panama, taking several months to be delivered. In 1858 the Butterfield Overland Express began carrying mail from the Mississippi River to California. Fort Smith, Arkansas, was a junction for the routes from Missouri and Tennessee. Some other stops in Arkansas included Fayetteville, Madison, Hurricane (now Norristown,) Fitzgerald's Station (now Springdale,) Woolsey's Stations, and Van Buren. Following the completion of the transcontinental railroad, the Butterfield Overland Express came to an end.
Arkansas: Waterways and Travel

1966 • Scott 1319
Great River Road

1958 • 1120
Overland Mail

1968 • 1358
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1983 • 2061
“Bobtail” Horsecar

2006 • Scott 4065
Mississippi-Missouri, longest river system
1971 • Scott 1424
Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Douglas MacArthur (1880–1964) was born into a military family at the Arsenal Barracks in Little Rock, Arkansas. He continued the family tradition when he entered West Point at the age of nineteen. Douglas went on to become General of the Army, a field marshal of the Philippine Army, and Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He earned more than 100 military decorations from the U.S. and other countries in his lifetime, including being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross two times and the Silver Star seven times. He, and his father, Arthur MacArthur, Jr., became the first father and son duo to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

1983 • 1846
Great Americans Issues
Henry Clay

In 1819 when the Territory of Arkansas was organized, Congress had the constitutional power to prohibit slavery in a territory. A vote in the House of Representatives to allow slavery in the Arkansas Territory was tied. Henry Clay (1777–1852), Speaker of the House, cast the deciding vote in favor of slavery.

1996 • Scott 3065
Fulbright Scholarships

A true Southern Democrat, James William Fulbright (1905–1995) represented Arkansas as a U.S. Senator from 1945 to 1975. During his tenure, he endorsed legislation to establish the Fulbright Program, a program of educational grants — known as Fulbright Fellowships and Fulbright Scholarships — sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. William Fulbright, the longest serving chairman in the history of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was raised in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

2001 • Scott 3431
Distinguished Americans Series
Hattie Caraway

Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway (1878–1950) represented Arkansas as a U.S. Senator from 1932 to 1945. She was the first woman elected to the Senate, the first to chair a Senate committee (the Committee on Enrolled Bills,) the first to preside over a Senate hearing, and, in the absence of the vice president and the president pro tem, the first woman to preside over the Senate.

2005 • Scott 3937d
To Form a More Perfect Union
Little Rock Nine

On September 4, 1957, nine African-American students attempted to enter the all-white Little Rock Central High School, but were turned away by the Arkansas National Guard. Two weeks later the federal courts ordered that the Nine be permitted to attend the school. However, they were once again turned away by angry mobs. On September 25 the Nine were escorted to their classes by federal troops. Although all of the Nine endured much harassment — such as kicking, shoving, being spat upon, and name calling — eight of them finished that school year at Central. On May 27, 1958, Ernest Green became Little Rock Central High School's first black graduate.

2009 • Scott 4384c
Civil Rights Pioneers
Daisy Gatson Bates

Daisy Lee Gatson Bates (1914–1999) was a prominent person in the African-American community in Little Rock, Arkansas. As a civil rights activist, she advised the “Little Rock Nine,” a group of nine black students who attempted to enroll in the all-white Little Rock Central High School. She and her husband also published a local black newspaper, the Arkansas State Press. Arkansas has established the third Monday in February as “George Washington's Birthday and Daisy Gatson Bates Day,” an official state holiday.

2012 • Scott 4624
Black Heritage series
John H. Johnson

Perhaps the greatest minority entrepreneur in American history, this stamp honors John Harold Johnson (1918–2005.) Johnson's business empire included Johnson Publishing Company — the largest African-American owned and operated publishing company in the world. His magazines, Ebony and Jet gave a voice to millions of black Americans. He was the first African-American be named to the Forbes 400 richest Americans. Johnson was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas.

1998 • Scott 3184c
Celebrate the Century 1920s
Prohibition enforced

Although Carrie (or Carry) Amelia Moore Nation (1846–1911) did not live to see prohibition become a law, she was a strong opponent of alcohol. She was known to enter any place that sold alcohol to destroy the kegs of beer and whiskey with her hatchet. Nation would often sell her “souvenir” hatchets. Carry Nation lived in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, for the last several years of her life — her home still stands and was made into a museum called Hatchet Hall.

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Great Arkansans

1971 • Scott 1424
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Henry Clay

1998 • Scott 3184c
Prohibition enforced

2009 • Scott 4384c
Daisey Gatson Bates

2005 • Scott 3937d
Little Rock Nine
Great Arkansans

1983 • Scott 2044
Black Heritage series
Scott Joplin

Scott Joplin (1867 or 68–1917) composed more than forty ragtime piano numbers, including the million-copy seller "Maple Leaf Rag." Known as the King of Ragtime, Joplin also published an opera, Treemonisha, that was performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for contributions to American music, was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and has a collection of his own performances — recorded on piano rolls — in the Library of Congress National Recording Registry. Scott Joplin was raised in Texarkana, Arkansas.

1998 • Scott 3219
Legends of American Music: Gospel Singers
Sister Rosetta Tharpe

Sister Rosetta Tharpe was born Rosetta Nubin (1915–1973) in Cotton Plant, Arkansas. Considered the "original soul sister," Rosetta was a gospel singer who mixed spiritual lyrics with rhythmic, or early rock, accompaniment. In addition to gospel performers, she influenced jazz, rock, and rhythm and blues artists. She was one of two gospel artists who recorded V-discs (Victory discs) for overseas troops during World War II — records produced for United States military personnel overseas. Sister Rosetta Tharpe's is a member of the Blues Hall of Fame and her hit “Down By The Riverside” is on the American Library of Congress' National Recording Registry.

1998 • Scott 3217
Legends of American Music: Gospel Singers
Roberta Martin

Roberta Evelyn Winston Martin (1907–1969) was born in Helena, Arkansas. As a youngster, she moved with her family to Chicago, where she was able to study piano, wanting to become a concert pianist. However, in 1933 she formed the Roberta Martin Singers and went on to become an accomplished Gospel singer. Martin composed about seventy songs, arranged and published 280 gospel songs, and earned six gold records — million sellers of her recordings.

2013 • Scott 4789
Music Icon Series
Johnny Cash

When Johnny Cash was born (1932–2003) his family could not think of a name for him, so he was named J.R. Cash. When he enlisted in the Air Force, he chose the name “John." Johnny went on to become a songwriter, actor, and author, but is probably best known as a singer — singing blues, folk, country, gospel, and even rock and roll. Among his awards are 19 Grammys and 9 from the Country Music Association. He was inducted in the Country Music, the Rock and Roll, the Gospel Music, the Nashville Songwriters, the Rockabilly, and the Songwriters Halls of Fame. Known as “The Man in Black,” Johnny Cash was born in Kingsland, Arkansas.

1997 • Scott 3148
Legendary Football Coaches
Bear Bryant

Paul William “Bear” Bryant (1913–1983) was head coach of the University of Alabama football team for 25 years. When he retired in 1982, his teams had won 323 games — the most wins as a head coach in collegiate football history. Three times he was named National Coach of the Year, was 12 times recognized as the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year, was named Head Coach of Sports Illustrated's NCAA Football all-Century Team, and in 1983 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Bear Bryant was born in Foryce, Arkansas.

2000 • Scott 3408s
Classic Collections: Legends of Baseball
Dizzy Dean

“Dizzy” Dean was born Jay Hanna Dean (1910–1974) in Logan County, Arkansas, but was also known as Jerome Herman Dean. As a professional baseball player, he was a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Cubs, and St. Louis Browns. After retiring from playing on the field, Dean went on to become a popular TV sports commentator. Among Dizzy Dean's awards are the National League Most Valuable Player and four-time All-Star selection. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953.
Great Arkansans

1983 • Scott 2044
Scott Joplin

1998 • Scott 3219
Sister Rosetta Tharpe

1998 • Scott 3217
Roberta Martin

2013 • Scott 4789
Johnny Cash

2000 • Scott 3408s
Dizzy Dean

1997 • Scott 3148
Bear Bryant
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