

Arkansas Traveler ***Discovery Box and Guidebook Index***

Introduction

Index/Contents

Discovery Box and Guidebook Index

Information

Arkansas Traveler Artifact guide and description of contents

The traveler and the squatter in dialogue

"The Arkansas Traveler" tune lyrics

Arkansas Traveler PowerPoint slide notes

Activities

Arkansas Traveler crossword puzzle

Arkansas Traveler crossword puzzle key

Re-create *The Arkansas Traveller* scene

Arkansas Traveler scavenger hunt

Arkansas Traveler scavenger hunt key

Arkansas Bingo!

Arkansas Traveler

Description of Discovery Box Contents

Artifacts

Much of the descriptive information was taken from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/>, and the official Arkansas Traveler website www.arkansas-traveler.org.

© 2017 Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. All rights reserved.



1. Fiddle/violin bow and case: an instrument that was used as a source of music, entertainment, and culture among Arkansas pioneers.¹ The same instrument may be called either a fiddle or violin based on the type of music that's played.² For example, a fiddle is used to play folk music, whereas the violin is used to play classical music. It's been the official musical instrument of Arkansas since 1985.³ The fiddle became immortalized in "The Arkansas Traveler" tune and tale in the mid-1800s (see artifacts **2** and **3**).⁴



2. "The Arkansas Traveler" summary sheet: information that describes the origin and tale of "The Arkansas Traveler," which dates back to 1840. The sheet tells the tale of a traveler named Colonel Sanford Faulkner from Little Rock who was traveling through rural Arkansas and got lost. He stopped at the humble log cabin of some squatters. They only chose to help Faulkner find his way if he played the ending of the tune one of the squatters was playing on his fiddle (otherwise known as "the turn of the tune"). That song became known as "The Arkansas Traveler." "The Arkansas Traveler" is also the name of the famous dialogue, painting, and lithograph created throughout the 1800s to immortalize Faulkner's tale.⁵ "The Arkansas Traveler" became a catch-all phrase for almost anything or anyone from Arkansas, including the tune, which became the Arkansas State song in the mid to late 1900s and later became the Arkansas State historic song.⁶ No one is officially credited with composing the "The Arkansas Traveler" tune, but it's said Faulkner heavily influenced the song's composition. Over the years, "The Arkansas Traveler" has become one of the most recorded tunes in Arkansas history, and *The Arkansas Traveller* painting has become one of the most influential Arkansas frontier illustrations.⁷

Note: "Traveler" is usually spelled with one "l" when referencing the term, person, dialogue, or tune. It's commonly spelled with two "l's" when referencing the title of the painting or print.

¹ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=3142>

² <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=3142>

³ <https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/arkansas/state-dance-music-symbol/fiddle>

⁴ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=3142>

⁵ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=505>,
<http://www.historickansas.org/Exhibits/Arkansas-Traveler/arkansas-traveler>

⁶ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=505>

⁷ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=505?>



3. The Arkansas Traveller print: a print based on *The Arkansas Traveller* painting, originally illustrated by Edward Payson Washbourne in 1856. The print was rendered by lithographer Leopold Grozelier in 1859.⁸ The tale depicted in this piece involves Colonel Sanford Faulkner, an Arkansas gentleman who got lost in rural Arkansas and asked for directions at the modest log cabin of some squatters (see artifact 2). The print portrays the meeting between the traveler and the squatters. This illustration is one of the most influential frontier paintings. It depicts a scene that helped mold the negative stereotype of the Arkansas "hillbillies."⁹ The painting was dedicated by Washbourne to Colonel Faulkner in order to illustrate Faulkner's story of "The Arkansas Traveler."¹⁰



4. Axe: a tool often used for chopping wood. It usually has a metal head attached at a right angle to a wooden handle.¹¹ This tool was widely used by Arkansas settlers and pioneers when chopping wood and building log cabins.



5. Coonskin cap: a hat made from the fur of a raccoon.¹² Traditionally worn by Native Americans, coonskin caps were made popular by frontiersmen throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.¹³ Many American frontiersmen, including Davy Crockett, were associated with coonskin caps.¹⁴ The caps eventually became part of the iconic frontier image.¹⁵

⁸ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=505>

⁹ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=505>, <http://www.historicarkansas.org/Exhibits/Arkansas-Traveler/arkansas-traveler>

¹⁰ <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=505>




¹¹ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=axe+definition&src=IE-TopResult&FORM=IETR02&conversationid=>, <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/axe>

¹² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coonskin>

¹³ <https://priceonomics.com/when-coonskin-caps-were-cool/>

¹⁴ <https://priceonomics.com/when-coonskin-caps-were-cool/>

¹⁵ <https://priceonomics.com/when-coonskin-caps-were-cool/>

	<p>6. Comb: a toothed item used for grooming and managing hair.¹⁶ Combs are most commonly made of wood, metal, or plastic, and can vary in shape and size depending on their function.¹⁷ The young girl in <i>The Arkansas Traveller</i> print can be seen using a comb and staring into a handheld mirror, perhaps implying that younger generations prioritize appearance more so than former generations.</p>
	<p>7. Corncob pipe: a pipe for smoking tobacco that was whittled out of a corncob.¹⁸ Such pipes were popular in Arkansas throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The corncob pipe, along with the coonskin cap, are iconic frontier items made popular by backwoodsmen and <i>The Arkansas Traveller</i> image.</p>
	<p>8. Cast-iron skillet: a flat cast-iron pan used for cooking. These skillets were popular among the frontiersmen of Arkansas because they were easy to use and long-lasting. Cast-iron skillets were admired for their durability and their retention of heat, which improved cooking quality.¹⁹ The process of "seasoning" (coating an item with a nonstick substance such as fat or oil) is used to protect the iron skillet and other iron cookware from rusting.²⁰ The seasoning process also creates a nonstick surface.²¹</p>

¹⁶ <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/comb>





¹⁷ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=combs+definition&form=DLRDF8&pc=MDDR&src=IE-SearchBox>

¹⁸ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/corncob-pipe>

¹⁹ <http://www.wisebread.com/the-5-best-cast-iron-skillets>

²⁰ <https://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/cooking-tips-techniques/preparation/cleaning-seasoning-cast-iron-skillet>

²¹ <https://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/cooking-tips-techniques/preparation/cleaning-seasoning-cast-iron-skillet>

	<p>9. Birdhouse gourd: a dried, hard-shelled plant that was hollowed out and made into a birdhouse.²² These gourds are most commonly used by birds, such as martins, for shelter due to threatening nesting competitors.²³ Martins were, and still are, very beneficial birds to have around a home. A single martin can eat thousands of mosquitos in one day.²⁴ Martins prefer shelters near streams, marshes, lakes, and wetlands.²⁵ This was great for frontiersmen and settlers who created housing near water sources commonly plagued by mosquitos.</p>
	<p>10. Dipper gourd: a hollowed-out, hard-shelled plant used for ladling water. Dippers vary in size, shape, and length of the handle. These gourds were commonly used by the Native Americans and pioneers throughout Arkansas.²⁶</p>
	<p>11. Powder horn: a container made from an animal horn and used for holding gunpowder.²⁷ Typically, there is a stopper at both ends to dispense the gunpowder. Animal horns are naturally hollow, waterproof, and durable.²⁸</p>
	<p>12. Hobbyhorse: a children's toy used to imitate riding a horse. Children would use their imaginations to imitate their parents' mode of transportation, which was commonly the horse before the 20th century. Hobbyhorses are still in use today, but mainly have been updated to look more modern.</p>

²² <https://blog.gardeningknowhow.com/tbt/dinosaur-gourd-plants/>

²³ <http://www.amishgourds.com/store/page/466873>





²⁴ <https://www.pinellascounty.org/PublicWorks/mosquito/pdf/The-Relationship-of-Purple-Martins-to-Mosquito-Control.pdf>

²⁵ http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Progne_subis/

²⁶ <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/home-landscape/docs/gourds.pdf>

²⁷ <http://firearmshistory.blogspot.com/2013/01/powder-horns.html>

²⁸ <http://firearmshistory.blogspot.com/2013/01/powder-horns.html>

	<p>13. Knife: a handheld weapon or tool with a cutting blade and handle.²⁹ Throughout history, knives have been crucial for survival by providing a way to create shelter, offer protection, and prepare food.³⁰ Historically the knife blade was commonly made out of iron, steel, or bronze.³¹ A popular frontier knife was the bowie knife. It was named after Jim Bowie and represented another staple frontier item.³²</p>
	<p>14. Lincoln Logs: a children's toy consisting of notched wooden "logs" that can easily be placed together to create a miniature pioneer log cabin (similar to the way life-size log cabins were built).³³ The toys were invented by John Lloyd Wright in 1916-1917.³⁴ Some believe the toy was named after Abraham Lincoln, who was born in a log cabin. Others believe they were named after Wright's father, whose middle name was originally Lincoln.³⁵ Log cabins were typically built without the use, or little use, of nails due to their expense.³⁶</p>
	<p>15. Lye soap: a type of soap used for washing and cleaning. Lye is produced by leaching (removing a substance from a solid object by dissolving it in a liquid) wooden ashes, which produces a corrosive solution.³⁷ It is then heated and mixed together with animal fat until the soap-making process known as "saponification" is complete.³⁸</p>
	<p>16. Handheld mirror: a small handheld item with a polished surface used to reflect images.³⁹ Mirrors have existed for thousands of years. They were originally made from polished metals and had many different uses.⁴⁰ In the <i>Arkansas Traveller</i> print, the young lady is most likely using the mirror for personal grooming.</p>

²⁹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/knife>

³⁰ <http://www.eatingutensils.net/history-of-cutlery/knife-history/>

³¹ <http://www.eatingutensils.net/history-of-cutlery/knife-history/>

³² <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/lnb01>

³³ <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/lincoln-logs>

³⁴ <http://www.whenwasitinvented.org/when-was-lincoln-logs-invented/>

³⁵ <https://ancestralfindings.com/birth-lincoln-logs/>




³⁶ <https://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/4logcabins/4facts1.htm>

³⁷ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lye>

³⁸ <http://www.soaphistory.net/>, http://www.realhandmadesoap.com/folders/FAQ/what_is_saponification.htm

³⁹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mirror>

⁴⁰ <https://www.loveantiques.com/antique-mirrors/knowledge>

	<p>17. Raccoon pelt: the fur, or pelt, of a raccoon, most commonly used for clothing, particularly coonskin caps and fur coats.⁴¹ Throughout the 19th century, raccoon fur was considered to be very valuable.⁴² Historically, raccoons were hunted by Native Americans for their fur and meat.⁴³ European settlers eventually embraced this same practice.⁴⁴</p>
	<p>18. Roof shingle: a narrow piece of wood used to create log cabin roofs.⁴⁵ Shingles were made by placing a froe (a splitting or cutting tool) against a log.⁴⁶ The froe was then hit with a mallet, which split the log along the grain. The pieces of wood were then tapered by a drawknife, creating a shingle.⁴⁷ These shingles were placed on top of log cabins in an overlapping manner in order to build rooftops.⁴⁸</p>
	<p>19. Woman's pioneer dress: an item of clothing worn by pioneer women. The task of clothing a pioneer family mostly fell on the women. Pioneer women made their own cloth from cotton, wool, or other fibers, and hand-stitched their own outfits.⁴⁹ Pioneers didn't have large wardrobes. It was common to have one everyday outfit, one "Sunday best" outfit, and possibly an outfit for seasonal change, depending on the family.⁵⁰</p>

⁴¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pelt>,

⁴² <https://www.nps.gov/blue/learn/nature/north-american-raccoon.htm>

⁴³ <https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Coon+hunting>

⁴⁴ <http://www.shilohmuseum.org/exhibits/pioneers.php>, <https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Coon+hunting>

⁴⁵ <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/shingle>

⁴⁶ Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, *Settling the Ozarks* Exhibit

⁴⁷ Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, *Settling the Ozarks* Exhibit

⁴⁸ <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/shingle>

⁴⁹ <http://www.shilohmuseum.org/exhibits/pioneers.php>

⁵⁰ <http://www.connerprairie.org/education-research/indiana-history/clothing-in-the-1800s-1>