



DISCOVERY OF BAUXITE

The discovery of bauxite near Little Rock in 1887 ranks in importance with the reduction process which Charles M. Hall devised the year before so that aluminum might be produced on a wider scale. Today Arkansas yields about 90 per cent of all the aluminum-bearing ore that is mined in the United States.



COMING OF JOLIET AND MARQUETTE

In 1673, the French fur trader, Louis Joliet, and his missionary companion, Father Jacques Marquette, traveled down the Mississippi in two pirogues (dug-out canoes) as far as the mouth of the Arkansas River.



JUMPING-OFF PLACE FOR CALIFORNIA

In 1849, Fort Smith, built thirty-two years before as protection against the Plains Indians, became an important outfitting post for those who joined the gold rush to California. It was also one of the principal stops on the Butterfield stage line, which was operated between 1858 and 1861 as the first overland mail route to the Pacific Coast.

**MEMORABLE
ARKANSAS EVENTS**

SEQUOYAH INVENTS CHOCTAW ALPHABET

About 1835, Sequoyah adapted the alphabet which he had invented for his own people, the Cherokees, to the language of the Choctaws. By setting down in writing the legends, which had hitherto been passed on by word of mouth, he convinced these Indians that by means of his "talking stones" their literature could be passed down from one generation to another.



"BADEN-BADEN OF AMERICA"

On their march through Arkansas in 1541, De Soto and his followers visited the Hot Springs, which had been declared neutral ground so that Indians of all tribes might "take the cure." In 1832, Congress set these springs aside as a Federal reservation, and in 1921 they became part of a national park.

ARKANSAS POST FOUNDED

Near the mouth of the Arkansas River, in 1686, Henri de Tonti established the first permanent white settlement at Arkansas Post. In 1804, when the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory, Lieutenant James B. Many and his soldiers occupied the post.



NORTH AMERICAN DIAMOND FIELD

In 1906, John M. Huddleston found on his farm near Murfreesboro the first diamonds discovered on the North American continent. Because of structural flaws, however, the diamonds are used chiefly for industrial purposes.

