1783 – 1865
Forming a Government and Growth of a New Nation

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With the (Revolutionary) War won, the leaders faced the monumental task of creating a new system of governance. The Articles of Confederation were the first attempt, but they proved inadequate, leading to the drafting of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

By 1865 (80 years later) the country had expanded significantly, from the original 13 colonies to 80 states and territories. This period saw significant events like the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), which resulted in the U.S. acquiring large territories in the west, and the Civil War (1861-1865), which ultimately led to the abolition of slavery.

This Timeline document shares what our Tree Branches endured during the growth of the New America, later known as the United States of America.

Forming a Government

1783: The **Treaty of Paris in** ended the Revolution. With the end of the Revolution, **The Continental Congress** continued to the government with George Washington as the President. Change was made in 1789 with the decision the people would elect the leaders of the county.

Several different flags were designed and displayed over the years, starting with the Continental Colors; this was followed with the flag sewn by Betsy Ross, considered to be the first 13-star flag.

It is interesting find a different 13-star flag was still around in 1960. This flag was carried by John McClelland during the Revolution and handed down this ancestors until donated to the Historical Society after 1960 disappearing during the 1974 Xenia Tornado.

For more information on the various American flags see
https://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html

1789 Presidency of George Washington: a time to make decisions, such as the name of this new country, the governing process. Virginia and Maryland donated land to begin construction of Washington City and a new presidential residence began in 1792. Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) declared statehood

1794: a whiskey tax in Pennsylvania was imposed. This was a tax on the landowners (in Pennsylvania only) growing grain, then making it into whiskey, shipping back east which was more cost-effective than hauling grain. Discontent of this imposed law resulted in a **Whiskey Rebellion** in Pennsylvania. Some (Pennsylvania) landowners relocated to Kentucky to avoid the taxation.

#2: 1797 Presidency of John Adams
Maryland and Virginia donated land to start development for the new Capitol of the United States. This (unwanted swampy land) was called Washington City and would hold the presidential house and government buildings. Tennessee (1796) declared statehood

#3: 1801 Presidency of Thomas Jefferson
With the completion of the White House in 1800, the **Capitol moved** to the newly developed Washington City.

Acquiring the Northwest Territory (in 1803) impacted many of out Tree Branches. James Galloway was the first of our Tree Branches to relocated to this area in 1797, with Robert McClelland in 1802, before Ohio declared statehood. Other Branches from Pennsylvania and Kentucky followed over the next twenty years, settling in and developing the state of Ohio.

1803: A treaty with the Indians in 1797 declared the Northwest Territory a part of the newly formed United states. many of out Tree Branches relocated to Greene County Ohio between 1800 and 1840. This was made possible due to land warrants in lieu of payment for those who served in Revolutionary War.

With the 1797 treaty the states of Ohio 1803), Louisiana (1812) Indiana (1816), Mississippi (1817) and Illinois (1818) declared statehood

With more pioneers relocating to Ohio, settling in the northwestern part of the state, the original counties of Montgomery, Greene and Franklin were divided, adding additional counties to Ohio. The Indiana Territory was formed in 1800 when there were enough settlers to hold an election; Gibson County was organized in 1813 out of Knox County. As the children of our Branches reached adulthood, with this additional land becoming available, some of the siblings chose to join the exodus from Greene County, Ohio and be part of forming (future) these unpopulated areas.

On a more personal nature, the Succeeder and Covenanter Presbyterian church's merged and became the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church. **William Ferguson**, of our Ferguson History, was involved in the merging of this newly formed Presbyterian doctrine while still living in North Carolina.

The Associate Presbyterian doctrine expressed their strong abolitionist feelings from the pulpit. The state being formed from the Northwest Territory were declared non-slavery states; appealing to those whose sentiments agreed. *See* 1805: Rev. Armstrong and his Congregation document sharing the story of the church relocating from Kentucky to Ohio. Our History shows, with the Abolition movement growing southern Branches also relocated to these non-slavery states while family members remained in the south. The next generation of cousins fighting against each other in the Union and Confederate armies.

As stated on the previous page, the counties of Montgomery, Greene and Franklin were divided as settlers relocated to northwestern Ohio.

The Miami and Erie Canal, one of Ohio's most important canals linking Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Originally it (the canal) was authorized to go to Dayton, which was completed in 1833; it took another twelve years to extend it to Cincinnati. This endeavor provided jobs, later changing mode of travel to the north and south. Some of our Tree Branch Histories mention family members amongst those who relocated to this area.

Another popular area mentioned was Gibson County, Indiana. Fort Branch began as one of a series of forts established along the edge of the western frontier in 1811 to protect the pioneers against raids by roving Indian tribes. By 1852 this fort, which consisted of two 2-story block houses surrounded by a stockade, was built on the west side of the Red Bank Trail--midway between Vincennes (capital of the Northwest Territory) on the north and

the Ohio River on the south. Its location was selected because of a flowing stream or 'branch' of spring water that assured an adequate supply of water during siege. ttps://www.fortbranch.org/

In October 1803, the Senate approved for ratification a treaty with France by which the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory. This was followed with the Lewis and Clark expedition which took several years to get to the Pacific and back with a report. As a result of this treaty and the Lewis Clark Expedition, the nation doubled in size, adding territory that would become the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado.

4: 1809 Presidency of James Madison

It is interesting to note the **Democratic-Republican Party** was formed by Jefferson, Madison and James Monroe who were only Democratic-Republicans to be president. This party was founded in 1792 and divided into competing factions in the 1820s.

England/Great Britan attempted to reclaim the United States with the **War of 1812** setting to fire the government buildings and White House in the newly formed Washington City.

5: James Monroe 1817

Implemented the Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine. The White House, damaged by the War of 1812, needed to be refurbished.

#6: 1825 Presidency of John Quincy Adams:

Proposal of the Federal Government bringing sections together with a network of highways and canals, and to conserve the public domain, use funds from the sale of public lands.

In 1828, ground for the 185-mile Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. **Construction of Erie Canal** completed 1825. Is this the Erie to Ohio River Canal? In 1825 construction began on the Miami and Erie Canal, connecting the Ohio River to Lake Erie, which was completed in 1845.

#7: 1829 Presidency of Jackson:

Andrew Jackson was the first US born president; previous presidents were born while the country was under British rule. He was also the first president that did not reside in the original 13 states.

Prior to running for President, Jackson's experience was mainly as an Army general, leading campaigns, on behalf of the government as Indian fighter. The previous presidents had been involved 'in politics", involved in making decisions on how the country would rule and drawing up the original documents as the government was forming.

While Jackson was a controversial president, he was more popular when he left office then when he was first elected. During his presidency problems faced were bank issues and the **Trail of Tears**......Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Florida–land their ancestors had occupied and cultivated for generations.

https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears

During the 1830's the second wave of our Tree Branches settling in Ohio; were mainly from the southern states relocating due to their feelings on abolition. The histories of these settlers often mention their role in the underground railroad.

These families traveled via the Wilderness Road, originally an Indian trail over the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1775 Daniel Boone was commissioned to quickly open a path or trace. In 1794 by it was replaced as a new wagon road to the Gap.

#8: 1837 Presidency of Van Buren:

Financial Panic –culminated with Financial funds were moved from state to an 'independent treasury' and the movement westward later to be knows as the **Oregon Trail**

#9 1841 Presidency of W. H. Harrison served a month only, from March 4 1841,with death April 4, 1841, due to catching a cold during his inaugural address that ended in pneumonia causing death, Harrison's term is the shortest in history.

#10 1841 Presidency of John Tyler: replaced President Harrison; The Whig Party expels Tyler.

#11 1845 Presidency of James K. Polk 1849 Texas joined the union as the 28th state. The Mexican-American War (fought 1846 – 1848) ends, resolved Oregon dispute with Great Britian.

#12 1849 Presidency of Zachery Taylor served less than two years, with death in July 1850 due cholera.

Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill California in 1848 which precipitated the Gold Rush of 1849. Some of our Tree Branch history stories mentions family names who ventured to California in search of gold. **Rev Thomas Kendall** of our Kendall Tree Branches shares his story of 'going west' in 1845, settling in Oregon, then going to the gold mines for period. See the 1845 Oregon Trail document showing Kendall and Junkin surnames.

Between 1840 and 1860, from 300,000 to 400,000 travelers used the 2,000-mile overland route to the west coast. By 1846, however, travelers had another option..... pioneered a route around the south flank of Mount Hood to Oregon City in the lower Willamette Valley, This map shows the various routes that were taken.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_trail/

#13 1850 Millard Filmore Congress enacts a second Fugitive Slave Act and appoints Matthew Perry to head an expedition to Japan.

#14 1853 Franklin Pierce The United states attempts to buy Cuba from Span; the Gadsden Purchase gains land from Mexico

#15 1857 James Buchanan Panic of 1857 results in many bank closure and a money market panic in Europe. John Brown and his armed band of abolitionists raid federal armory at Harpers Ferry Virginia (now West Virginia)

#16 1861 Abraham Lincoln