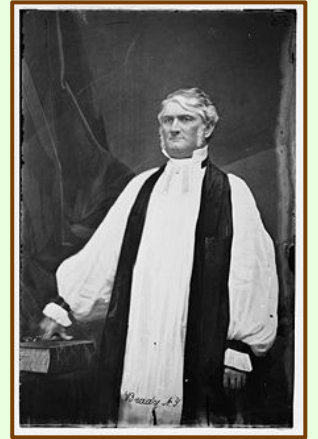


Relocation to the Cumberland Plateau (1810-1860)

By: Thomas Bogusky, Antonia Cuevas, Sarah Evans,
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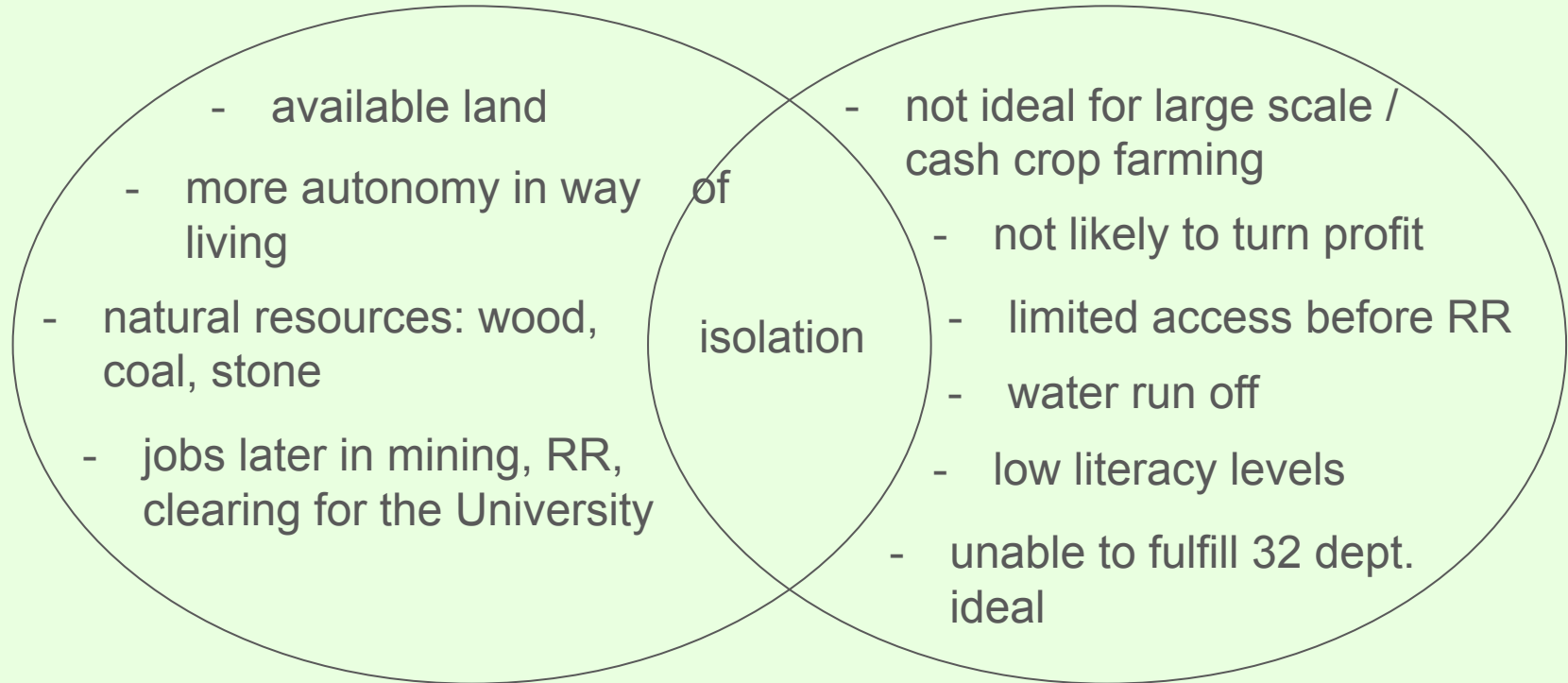


Question 1

What was gained and what was lost by individuals and families who relocated to Tennessee's southern Cumberland Plateau from the 1810s through 1860? In what important ways did life here differ from what one might encounter elsewhere in the South?

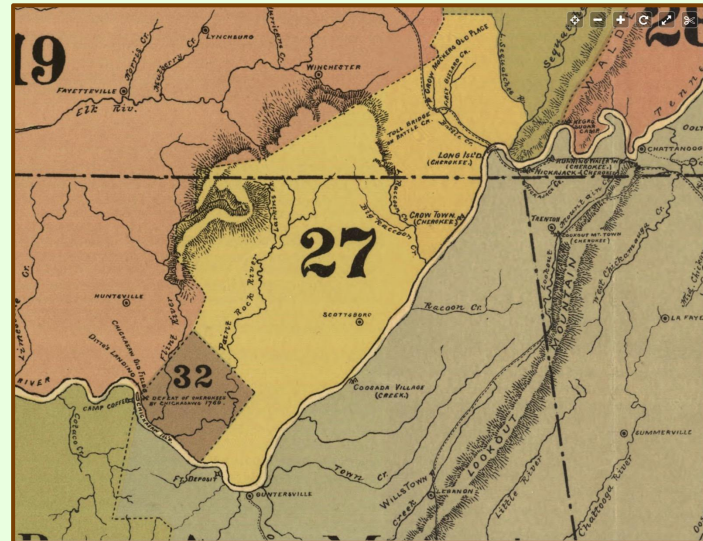


Gains & Losses



Native American Residents

- The Treaty of 1819 AKA Calhoun Treaty or Treaty of Washington.
- The last treaty to encourage/allow assimilation for citizenship.
- If abided, they were granted titles to land.
- Land grants often overlapped.
- Indian Removal Act of 1830.
- Cherokee removal in 1838.



1st Recorded Resident on the Domain (Kings Farm)

- Owned by Dennis Barnes.
- Granted to Dennis Barnes by Franklin County on 2/13/1826.
- The Farm was 100 acres.
- It was subsistence farming (did not turn a profit).
- Grew beans, tomatoes, squash, corn, pigs and chickens.
- Barnes was from East Tennessee prior to moving to his farm in Sewanee, his parents and brothers also moved to the region.
- Settlers from East Tennessee were used to living on the fringes of civilization.

The Cumberland Plateau & Mining

- Local miner, Leslie Kennedy, took Sewanee coal to Nashville.
- Word spread, people wanted to join in.
- Samuel F. Tracy, a New York City merchant, called Kennedy.



Sewanee Mining Company

- Chartered in 1852.
- Samuel F. Tracy was President.
- The Cowan Tunnel was built in 1852 and enabled the coal to be transported by railroad from Sewanee to Chattanooga and Nashville.
- The railroad reaches “Lower Banks” in 1855.
- 5,000 acres donated to the University of the South in 1858, under the condition it be in operation in 10 years.
- The University provided customers for railroads.
- Irish immigrants were desperate for work, so many worked for the mining company (open to cheap and risky labor).
- Went bankrupt in 1859.

Transition from North to South

- Between 1810 and 1860, a small handful of people moved from the North to the Southern Cumberland Plateau.
 - People like Burritt Judd, Samuel Tracy, and George Fairbanks. Tracy who donated his land for the site of the University and Fairbanks who was an original founder.
- Moving between the regions was a big change, with slavery as the main divisor between the two.
 - There were not too many slaves on the mountain, but pro-slavery sentiments were still present, especially on the heels of the Civil War.
- Most who came here, not only from the North but also parts of the South, found that farming on the plateau was quite difficult given the lack of water and poor soil, a major difference from their homelands.
 - While this was a problem, those who made the journey from up North found a sense of isolation here, as well as large tracts of land for relatively cheap prices and a new University nearby.

The Origins of the University

- The founders of the University were, Episcopal Bishops Leonidas Polk (LA), Stephen Elliott (GA), and James Otey (TN).
- Fairly central to the Southern states, a university to prevent Northern infection.
- Though the mining left, the railroad remained, providing access to land for the university's use.
- The Cornerstone celebration was held on 10 Oct. 1860.
- The first academic building on campus, Otey Hall, was built in 1866.
- The first class of students comprised of only nine men.

How Sewanee Compares

- The Lowcountry of South Carolina
 - Focus on plantation farming.
 - Wealthy families owned Lowcountry land.
 - Rice served as a primary crop for wealth.
- The Virginia Piedmont
 - Smaller farms like Sewanee, but more numerous (more crowded, less freedom).
 - Many smaller farms would be later taken over by large cash crops.
- Growing Cities (Richmond, Charleston, Nashville, Montgomery)
 - Urban occupations.
 - More densely populated.

