

# Chapter 10

## Rebuilding Indian Territory

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

tenant farmer,  
lighthorseman,  
seminary, segregation,  
railhead, drover,  
quarantine, royalty,  
strike, jurisdiction

#### PEOPLE

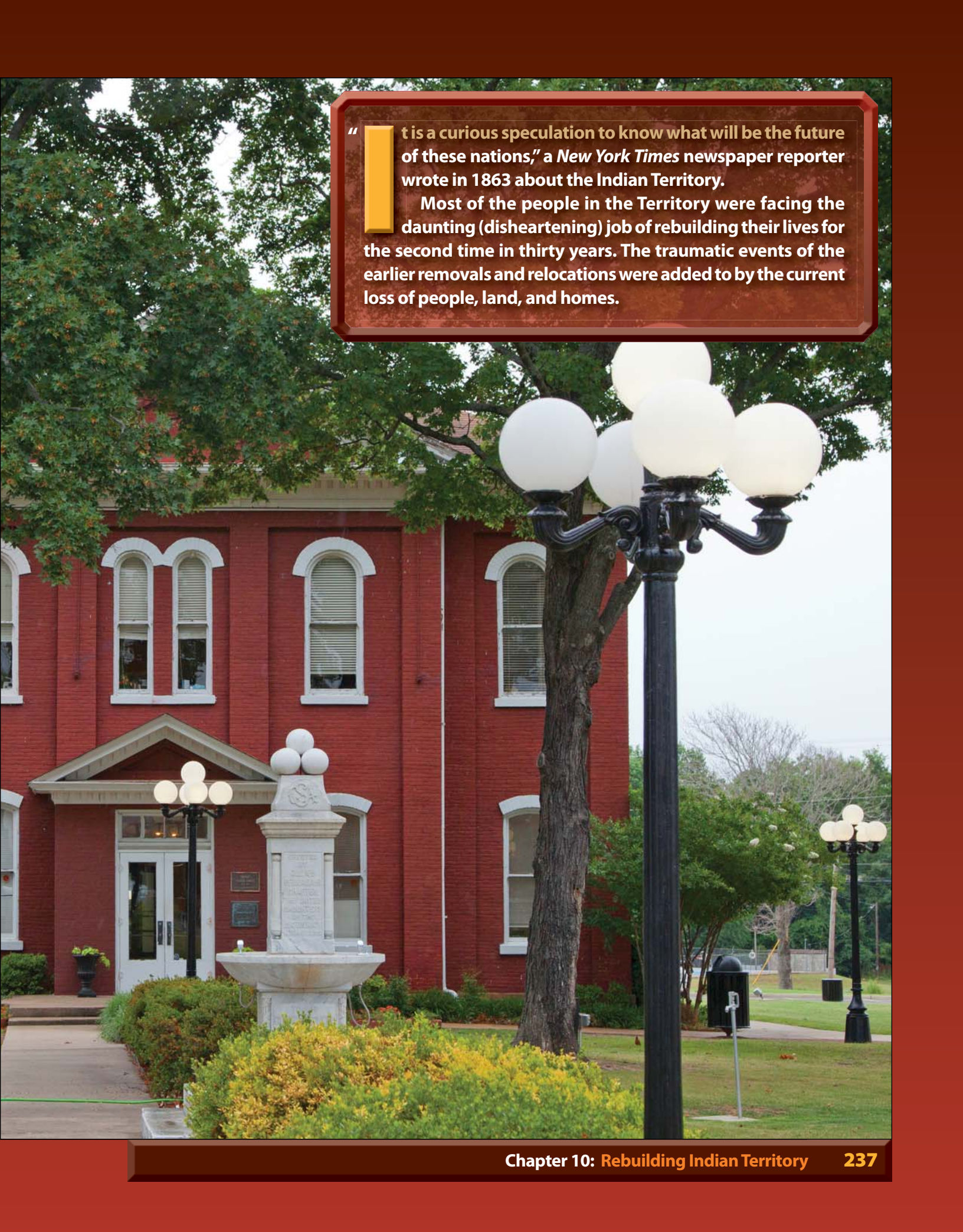
John F. Brown, Cyrus  
Harris, Samuel Checote,  
William Ross, Jesse  
Chisholm, James J.  
McAlester, Isaac Parker

#### PLACES

East Shawnee Trail,  
Chisholm Trail, No Man's  
Land, McAlester



The Cherokee National Capitol Building was built in Tahlequah after the Civil War. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A photograph of a red brick building with a fountain and a lamp post in the foreground. The building has several arched windows and a central entrance. In the foreground, there is a large tree, a black lamp post with several white globe lights, and a white fountain with a decorative top. The scene is set outdoors with greenery and a clear sky.

**“ It is a curious speculation to know what will be the future of these nations,” a *New York Times* newspaper reporter wrote in 1863 about the Indian Territory.**

**Most of the people in the Territory were facing the daunting (disheartening) job of rebuilding their lives for the second time in thirty years. The traumatic events of the earlier removals and relocations were added to by the current loss of people, land, and homes.**

# Signs of the Times

## NEWS

Prussian troops began to bombard Paris during the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. Wild Bill Hickok became the marshal of Abilene, Kansas. The Great Chicago Fire of October 8-10, 1871, killed hundreds of people and destroyed several square miles of the city. The Brooklyn Bridge, a symbol of America's progress and ingenuity, was opened in 1883.

## INVENTIONS

The 1870s saw the invention of blue jeans, barbed wire, the incandescent lamp, the telephone, and the phonograph. Christopher Latham Sholes developed the first practical typewriter in 1873; to keep the keys from jamming, the letters often used together were separated to slow down typing. The result was the "QWERTY" keyboard.

## SLANG

New slang of the period included *spiffing* (excellent), *dukes* (hands), *southpaw* (a lefthander), and *gatlin* (gun). The U.S. Republican Party was referred to as the GOP or the "Grand Old Party."

## SPORTS

The first Kentucky Derby was run at Churchill Downs, with Aristides being the winner. Ruther won the first Belmont Stakes horse race.

## LITERATURE

Louisa May Alcott wrote a number of books, but she is best known for *Little Women* (1868) and *Little Men* (1871). Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 1875.

## LEISURE TIME

The Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, the nation's first zoo, opened. The first Labor Day parade was held in New York City.

## Figure 11 Timeline: 1850–1900



**1875**  
Isaac Parker became federal district judge

**1879**  
101 Ranch started

**1872**  
Chickasaw Oil Company organized

**1883**  
Cheyenne-Arapaho Stock Growers Association and Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association formed

**1870**  
First railroad track laid in Territory

**1859**  
Oil discovered near Grand Saline

**1867**  
Chisholm Trail blazed

**1892**  
Mining accident at Osage Coal and Mining Company Mine No. 11

**1850**

**1860**

**1870**

**1880**

**1890**

**1900**

**1870**  
Fifteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution ratified

**1887**  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle published the first Sherlock Holmes story

**1872**  
Yellowstone Park, world's first national park, created

**1877**  
Federal troops withdrawn from the South, ending Reconstruction  
Henry O. Flipper became first African American to graduate from West Point

**1883**  
The first wild west show staged by Buffalo Bill Cody

## Section 1

# The Five Nations Start Over

### Something Extra!

The word *Wewoka* means “barking waters.” The town was so named because of the noise made by small falls on a nearby creek.

### As you read, look for

- the steps taken by the Five Nations after the Civil War,
- vocabulary terms **tenant farmer**, **lighthorseman**, **seminary**, and **segregation**.

**As difficult as the job of rebuilding was, each Indian nation set** about restoring their burned houses, neglected fields, abandoned schools, destroyed towns, and crushed lives. Slow, but steady, progress was made. Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months and years, as the healing continued. The spirit of the people proved stronger than the circumstances with which they had to deal.



### Seminole

The divided loyalties of the Seminole continued in the Reconstruction years. The pro-Union John Chupco and Town Chief Billy Bowlegs had joined Opothleyahola in Kansas. John Jumper led those who supported the Southern cause. The federal government commissioned Elijah Brown to return the Seminole who had fled during the Civil War to their land in Indian Territory.

The government recognized John Chupco as chief, but the tribe soon elected John Jumper to lead them. Jumper resigned in 1877 to devote time to the Spring Baptist Church; his son-in-law John F. Brown was elected chief. In spite of the differences, the Seminole organized a national council with delegates from the fourteen bands or towns, including two bands for blacks. A trading post was established at Wewoka in 1866, and a post office was added in 1867. Wewoka was chosen as the capital of the Seminole Nation, and a council house and capitol building were soon built.

In 1869, the population of the Seminole in the Indian Territory, including freedmen, was 2,105. Under Brown's leadership, the Seminole began to enjoy peace and prosperity. It was reported that there were over 10,000 fence rails, 120,000 bushels of corn, 2,000 horses, 4,000 cattle, and 8,000 swine.

A new Seminole tribal school, Ramsey Mission, was soon opened near Wewoka, and a school for girls was established in 1880 near Sasakwa. Another boys' school, Mekusukey Mission, was built in 1892 near Seminole. A year later, the Sasakwa School was merged with a new girls' boarding school called Emahaka Mission.

## Chickasaw

Cyrus Harris led the Chickasaw tribe as its first governor in 1856, an office he also held from 1860 to 1862 and from 1872 to 1874. Dougherty Colbert, Horace Pratt, and Jackson Kemp served terms as tribal governor during the early years of Reconstruction.

The Chickasaw very quickly turned their attention to reestablishing their schools and to caring for the large number of orphans. The first superintendent of public instruction, an office created in 1867, was G. D. James. Twelve neighborhood schools opened in 1869. The earlier Chickasaw academies were repaired and re-

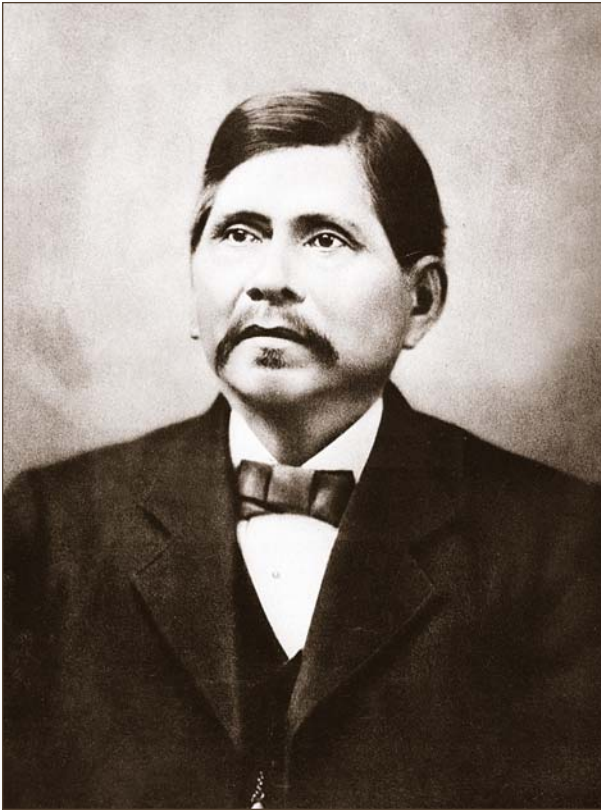
opened as national boarding schools in 1876. Orphans were housed and cared for at the old Burney Institute, which became known as the Chickasaw Orphan School, near Lebanon (Marshall County).

Teachers were paid \$3 a month for each student in attendance, but they had to buy supplies and books with part of their salary. Families received \$7.50 a child to pay for boarding near the school if they lived further than 2.5 miles away.

Classes were taught in English, which forced the students to first learn English before other subjects—such as spelling, reading, and arithmetic—could be studied. Additional subjects taught depended on the ability of the teacher, but they usually included grammar, geography, history, and physiology. Advanced students were sent to schools in other states. The Chickasaw philosophy towards education was summed up later by a citizen who said, "We must educate, or we must perish."



**Above:** This group portrait of former Chickasaw chiefs was taken in the 1890s. **Opposite page:** Seminole Town Chief Billy Bowlegs.



**Allen Wright** was elected principal chief of the Choctaw in 1866, a position he held until 1870.

## Choctaw

In November 1866, Choctaw Chief Allen Wright said,

*Our people have suffered enough for the last few years past. Now let each one study to restore peace, harmony and good order, which were lost amidst confusion and war. No lawful means shall be spared me to study to effect the greatest good—especially or reestablishing and maintaining the schools for the education of our rising generation. To sustain and promote education cannot much longer be neglected without inflicting a lasting injury to ourselves and our posterity.*

Tribal schools and churches were soon reopened.

Because of the inevitable westward expansion, the Choctaw saw that they needed to change their tribal laws, which had been written for a pastoral society. They wanted laws that could better deal with the advances they believed were coming. They recognized that the railroads would bring more trade and mineral development. Many Choctaw citizens became active in tribal politics and elections.

The tribe owned all of the Choctaw lands in common, although individuals owned their own homes and improvements (fences, wells, barns) on the land. The Choctaw could fence the surrounding fields and pastures as long as they didn't trespass on another's claimed area. Individuals could sell houses, barns, fences, and other improvements, but they could not sell the land.

Many Choctaw, especially the full-bloods, lived in the country as farmers and cattlemen. Some white people coming into the area were employed as tenant farmers. A **tenant farmer** was a farmer who cleared the land and planted a crop, but who did not own the land. Tenant farmers usually received a share of the crop in payment. The mixed-blood Choctaw tended to live in towns, where they owned trading stores or were in the coal, timber, or stone quarry businesses.

## Creek

The Civil War had further divided the Upper and Lower Creek. A new constitution written in 1867 aimed to unite the two factions, but differences continued to arise for several years afterward. Samuel Checote, a full-blood Lower Creek, was elected chief in 1867.

Differences over the disbursement of government payments and the defeat of Upper Creek Oktarharsars Harjo (also called Sands) caused the Sands Rebellion of 1871. Harjo and three hundred followers occupied the capital at Okmulgee, but Creek **lighthorsemen** (tribal policemen) and federal agents soon diffused the situation. Troops were called in again in 1881 when Upper Creek Isparhecher and his men



skirmished with Checote's party in what was called the Green Peach War. Isparhecher wanted to establish an independent government, but Checote was successful in keeping the tribe together.

Schools and churches were reopened in the Creek Nation. By 1896, there were seventy neighborhood schools, six boarding schools, a Creek orphans' home, as well as a boarding school and orphans' home for African American Creek.

Creek joined the other Indian people in rebuilding their homes and farms and rounding up their livestock. The people of the rebuilt tribal towns continued their tradition of getting together for celebrations, but the ancient ceremonies lost some of their status after the Civil War.

## Cherokee

Differences among the Cherokee tribal members were not completely erased by the treaty of 1866, but they were stabilized. When Chief John Ross died a few weeks after the treaty was signed, his nephew William Ross was selected to fill the unexpired term. When Lewis Downing was elected principal chief in 1867, the united tribe turned its attention to the common concern of dealing with the increasing pressure to open the Territory to white settlement.

All land in the Cherokee Nation was held in common, although individuals owned improvements. There were basically three classes of people in the tribe. The full-bloods generally had small farms and were poorer than were the mixed-bloods. The third class of people included the white laborers, who had to have permits to work in the Nation.

**The lighthorsemen of the Five Tribes and other tribes served as tribal police. These lighthorsemen are Choctaw.**

## Something Extra!

The Cherokee actually initiated the use of lighthorsemen. The Cherokee got the name *lighthorse* from Revolutionary War hero General Henry Lee, who was called "Lighthorse Harry" because of his swift cavalry movements during the conflict.





**The Cherokee Nation** operated an extensive educational system. These students attended the Cherokee Female Seminary in Park Hill.

The Cherokee Nation had an excellent public school system that included **seminaries** (residential schools), an orphan asylum, a high school for blacks, and about one hundred primary schools. The Male Seminary was located southwest of Tahlequah, and the Female Seminary was near Park Hill. On average, about four thousand students attended the schools.

The Cherokee began to prosper again by the 1880s. New towns sprang up. Markets grew in nearby states for Cherokee livestock, farm goods, timber, and stone. The leasing of rich grasslands brought revenue from cattlemen. Tahlequah became known as the center of culture and education in the Cherokee Nation.

### **Freedmen**

Although the 1866 treaties had specified that tribal rights and benefits be granted to freedmen, it was not always an easy process. A field office for the Freedmen's Bureau was set up in Fort Smith. The bureau's mission was to assist with the transition from slave to freedman. A January 1866 report by John Sanborn, the commissioner of the bureau, noted that freedmen were considered equals by the Creek and the Seminole. The Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations were divided in their feelings towards the African Americans.

**Segregation** (separating groups by race) was common in the southern states after the Civil War. Indian Territory was no different. In addition to having separate schools, many all-black towns were established. All-black settlements provided safety, ready markets for crops,

and economic assistance. Marshall Town, North Fork Town, Canadian Colored, and Arkansas Colored were some of the first all-black towns established in Indian Territory. Other all-black settlements were established later.

## Government Schools

The U.S. government established Indian schools in the 1800s to help the Plains Indians and others assimilate (blend) into the American melting pot. These schools were in addition to the many neighborhood schools and academies the Five Tribes had established.

Riverside Indian School, north of Anadarko at the Wichita Agency, was established in 1871 with eight students. The next year, the school became the Wichita-Caddo School, and it enrolled forty students. Students from other tribes were added over the years. Still in operation, Riverside is the oldest federal government school for Indians.

The U.S. government established Chilocco Indian School (Kay County) in 1884 to educate children of the Plains Indian tribes. A wagon train lumbered across the plains in January 1884 carrying tired and frightened Indian children to the boarding school. Jasper Hadley, the first superintendent, welcomed the students to their new school. Students studied academic subjects for half the day and vocational topics for the other half. Boys usually studied agriculture, while girls learned domestic jobs. The school eventually accepted any Indian child in the Territory. By 1907, Chilocco had grown to thirty-five buildings, and from 1930 to 1959, the enrollment ranged from 800 to 1,200. Chilocco closed in 1980. Intended to transform American Indians, the school actually served to reinforce tribal identities.

Missionaries continued to work with schools as well as to organize churches in the Indian Territory. Quakers, Methodists, Baptists, Mennonites, Dutch Reformed, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Catholics all worked tirelessly trying to convert the Indians.



**This is a kindergarten class at the Riverside Indian School near Anadarko.**

## Something Extra!

Indian schoolteachers often boarded with a student's family.

Teacher Minnie Rector Fitts lived with the Henry Carter family in Okmulgee County. "I learned to eat sofke (a corn dish), sour bread, blue dumplings, and all the other Indian dishes," she said.

## It's Your Turn

1. Why were classes in the Chickasaw schools taught in English?
2. What was a tenant farmer?
3. What was a seminary?

## Section 2

# Rebuilding the Economy

### As you read, look for

- how the cattle industry became important in the Territory,
- the growth of railroads in the Territory, and
- vocabulary terms **railhead**, **drover**, **quarantine**, **royalty**, and **strike**.



**The Texas longhorns** were well suited for the rugged trek from ranch to railhead or market. They could thrive on almost any kind of plant and were known to walk sixty miles without water.

move their cattle to better markets in the East. To reach those markets, ranchers had to drive (walk) the herds on cattle trails to the **railheads** (the end of the railroad lines). The nearest railheads for the Texas drovers in the mid-1800s were at Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. From the railheads, the cattle were shipped to slaughterhouses in Chicago, where they were processed for shipping to Eastern markets. After the Civil War, the number of cattle in Texas rose to three to six million head. The war had taken a toll on livestock in the North and East, where cattle were in short supply. Cattle that might only sell for \$2 each in Texas could easily bring \$40 and more elsewhere.

Even before the Civil War, some of the first Texas cattle were driven north through the Indian Territory. Indian Territory's rich, untouched

**As the Native Americans began to** rebuild the economy of the Territory, changes occurred. Herds of cattle became more numerous than herds of buffalo. Wagon tracks were soon joined by railroad tracks. Coal mining became more important in the Territory, and the first hints of the vast wealth beneath the ground began to appear.

### Cattle Drives

Longhorn cattle thrived on the huge, open grasslands of Texas. The supply soon outgrew the demand in Texas, and ranchers wanted to



grasslands lay between the Texas cattle and the Kansas and Missouri railheads. Right-of-way and grazing leases were usually worked out with the various Indian tribes that owned the land.

### Crossing the Territory

The cattle herds did not follow the exact path of earlier herds, except at water crossings. Cattle grazed as they were slowly herded north. Usually they were only able to cover ten to fifteen miles in a day.

A cattle drive was often organized by one or more ranchers who hired a head **drover**, or trail driver. The head drover was responsible for getting the herd to a certain market. Most herds consisted of 2,500-3,000 cattle. For the long drive, six to ten cowboys and six to eight horses for each cowboy were needed. The trail boss earned about \$90 a month, and the cowboys made \$25-\$30 a month. Trail crews were made up of white, black, Hispanic, and Indian men, although a few adventurous young women, disguised as men, sometimes joined a drive. Workdays were long and lasted from sunrise to sunset. The cattle drive itself usually lasted one to three months.

A chuck (slang word for “food”) wagon and cook were essential to the cattle drive. The chuck wagon had to be stocked with coffee, dried

**This painting by Barbara Vaupel depicts cattle crossing the Canadian River near Camargo in Dewey County on the Great Western cattle trail. It is estimated that as many as five million cattle moved over the trail between 1874 and 1893.**

### Something Extra!

**Many of the cowboys were only twelve to eighteen years old.**

# Spotlight

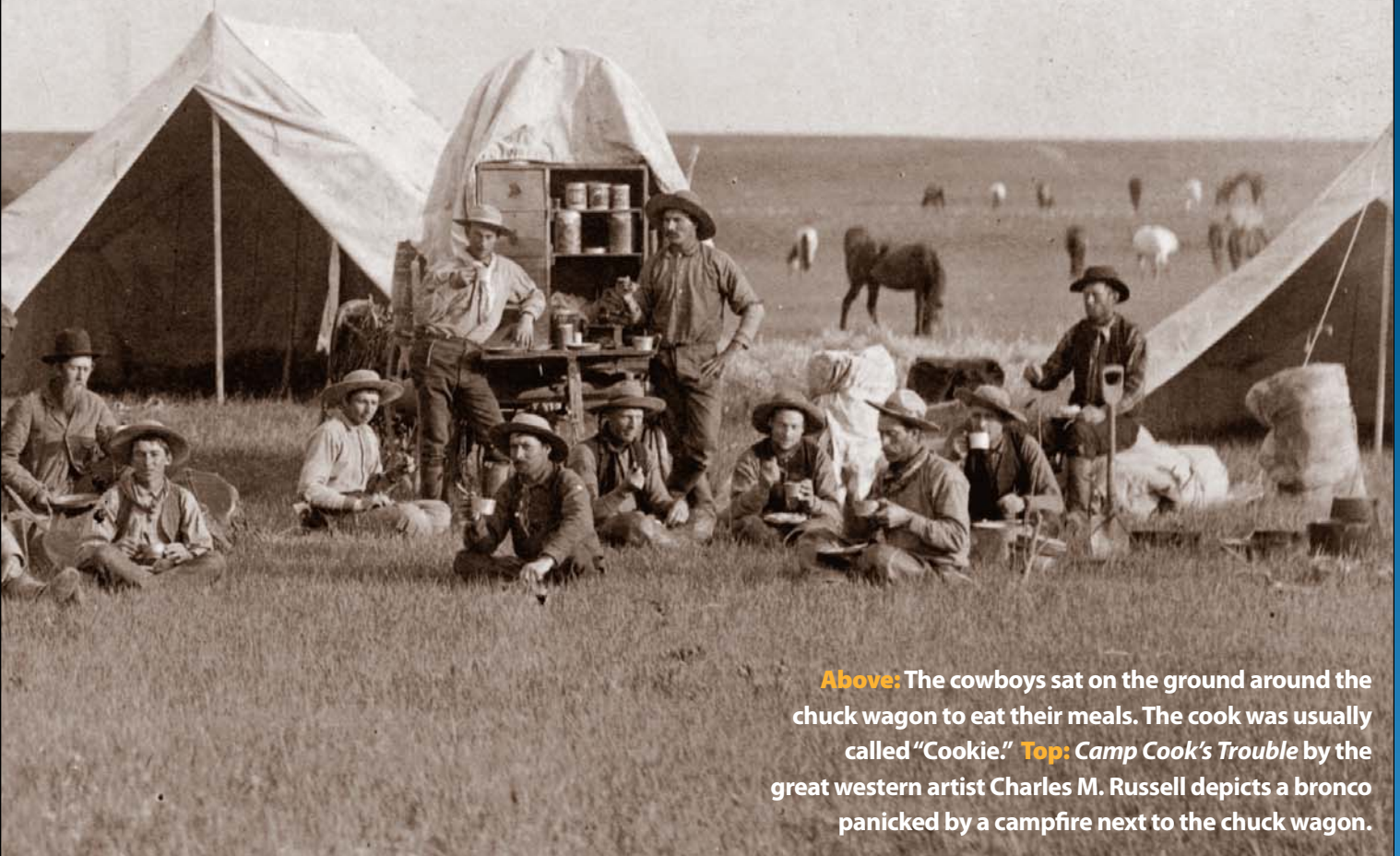
## Chuck Wagons

**Texas cattleman Charles Goodnight is credited** with inventing the chuck wagon in 1866. Before then, everyone on a cattle drive brought his own food and cooking utensils. The large, sturdy chuck wagon was made of bois d'arc wood. Canvas or waterproof material was stretched over an arched bow frame. A sloped-top box with a hinged lid that lowered for a worktable was added on the back of the wagon. Shelves and drawers in the "chuck" box held food and utensils. In addition to food and extra water, the wagon carried wood or cow chips to burn and tools that ranged from needles to items needed to repair the wagon.

The chuck wagon served as the headquarters on the cattle drive. It was the place for gathering, eating, listening to music, talking, and sleeping. The cook not only made the meals, he also acted as barber, doctor, banker, and arbitrator.

The cook had to start working about 3 a.m. to give the biscuit dough time to rise before baking the biscuits in the Dutch oven. Meals could include beans, stew, occasionally beef, a pie for dessert, and, always, black coffee. As soon as camp was broken for the day, the cook had to repack the wagon and ride out ahead of the cattle herd to find the next camp.





**Above:** The cowboys sat on the ground around the chuck wagon to eat their meals. The cook was usually called "Cookie." **Top:** *Camp Cook's Trouble* by the great western artist Charles M. Russell depicts a bronco panicked by a campfire next to the chuck wagon.

## Something Extra!

During its brief existence, the Chisholm Trail was used by more than five million cattle and one million horses—the greatest livestock migration in world history.

### Map 32 Oklahoma Cattle Trails

**Map Skill:** Which trail followed the Arkansas River for a time?



beans, salted meats, flour, cornmeal, salt, and other food staples, as well as water and a few tools for repairs.

### Cattle Trails

Cattle trails wound around mountains and heavy woods when possible. Swift-flowing and deep rivers and streams, often coupled with quicksand, claimed the lives of many of the trail hands, horses, and cattle. Drinkable water was necessary, and natural shelter was desirable.

The first cattle trail in the Indian Territory was the East Shawnee Trail, which somewhat followed the Texas Road. The trail crossed the Red River near Colbert's Ferry (Bryan County) and Preston, Texas, then headed northeast across the Territory to Baxter Springs, Kansas. Although heavily used, the East Shawnee Trail posed challenges – rough timbered areas where cattle could get lost and marshy areas that slowed down both cattle and drovers. As the railroad inched westward, new cattle trails were blazed further west.

In the Boggy Depot area, the West Shawnee Trail branched out from the East Shawnee Trail in a more northerly direction toward Abilene, Kansas ("The Cow Capital of the World"). The west branch of the trail went by present-day Shawnee and meandered north through what is now Kay County. However, when outbreaks of Texas fever (a tick-borne disease) were discovered in the longhorns, Missouri, Kansas, and other states stopped the cattle drives from entering their states.

Cattle buyer Joseph McCoy of Illinois convinced Kansas and Illinois officials to again allow Texas cattle to enter their states. He then built livestock pens at the Abilene railhead, where the cattle would be held



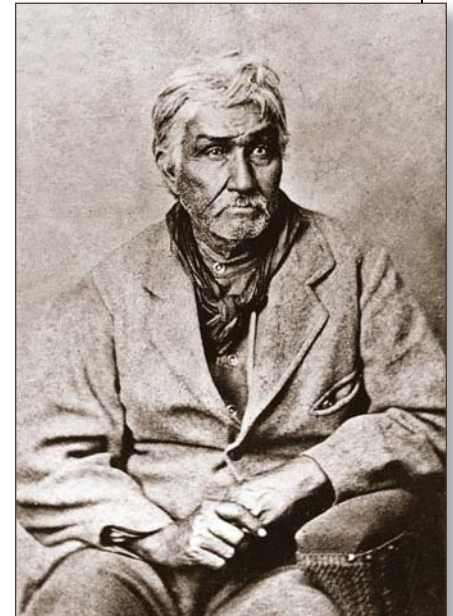
before they were shipped to the Chicago stockyards. McCoy sent word to Texas cattlemen that the stockyards at Abilene were open, and soon cattle were once again streaming northward through Indian Territory.

The most direct route from Texas to Abilene was a trail that Scottish-Cherokee Jesse Chisholm used as he hauled trade goods. The trail followed much of present-day Highway 81. In 1867, the first year the Chisholm Trail was used, about 35,000 head of cattle were moved over the trail. By 1871, some 600,000 cattle were herded north on the trail. The trail was abandoned in the late 1800s.

Another Kansas **quarantine** (a restriction of people's or animals' movement to stop the spread of disease) and settlers moving further west led to a new trail through Indian Territory that was called the Great Western Cattle Trail. Texas drover John Lytle was the first to move a herd along the Great Western Cattle Trail from Doan's Crossing by the North Fork of the Red River north to Dodge City, Kansas. Three to five million cattle had been driven on the Great Western Cattle Trail by 1893, when the last reported drive was made by John Blocker.

Some ranchers in the Texas Panhandle used the Tascosa and the Jones and Plummer trails to cross No Man's Land (today's Panhandle) as they moved their cattle to Dodge City.

A destructive blizzard in 1886 decimated herds all across the Plains region of the country, which contributed to a lower supply of livestock. Barbed wire fences, settlers, more railroads, and the refrigerated railroad car all contributed to the end of the long cattle drives.



**Top:** Cowboys “rode herd” on the cattle to guard against stampedes or attacks by Indians or rustlers. **Above:** Jesse Chisholm had been hired to blaze a trail for the Texas cattlemen.



# Spotlight

## The 101 Ranch



**Civil War veteran Colonel George Washington Miller** grew up on a Kentucky plantation. After the war, he decided to move to California to ranch, but the vast grazing lands of the Indian Territory caught his attention. Miller's first ranch in the Territory was the LK Ranch near present-day Miami.

Miller befriended Ponca Chief White Eagle. His friendship with the Ponca led Miller to a ranch on the Salt Fork River. In 1879, he leased the Deer Creek and Salt Fork ranches in the Cherokee Outlet. He started using the brand "101" in 1881. Miller used a dugout for ranch headquarters and planned to build a grand "White House." In 1903, before the house was built, Miller died, but his wife Mollie and family carried out his wishes to continue with the ranch.

Miller's three sons, Joe, Zack, and George, worked together to develop a large farm and ranch showplace. The self-sufficient ranch included a school, show grounds, general store, café,

hotel, newspaper, meatpacking plant, oil refinery, houses, a "dude ranch," and even its own scrip money. The population of the ranch complex was about three thousand.

In 1905, the 101 Ranch Wild West Show was begun. The show was an expansion of the annual ranch rodeo that featured roping, riding, bulldogging, Indian dancers, trick roping, and shooting. Black cowboy Bill Picket is credited with introducing bulldogging (steer

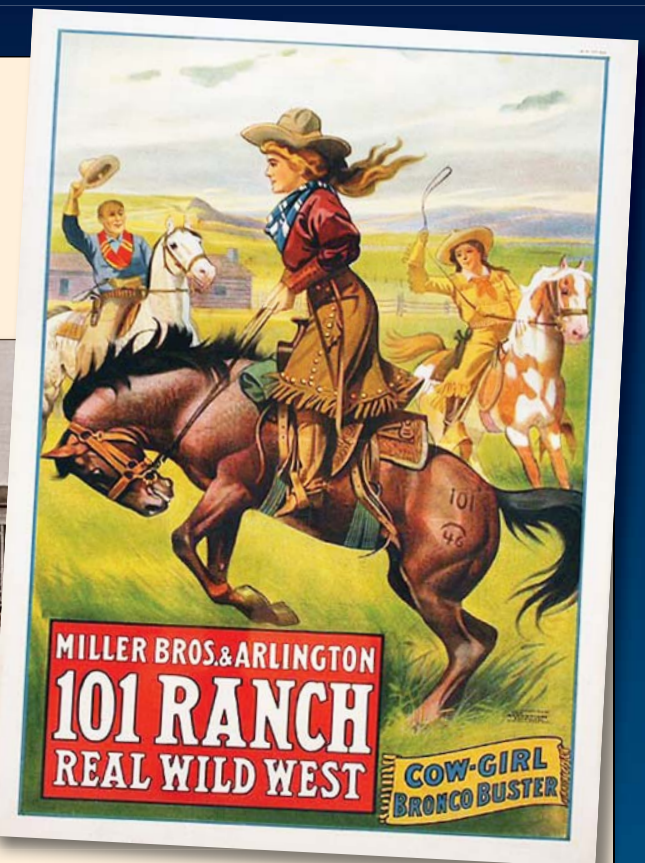
wrestling) as a rodeo event. The show, featuring incredible characters such as Geronimo, Buffalo Bill, Will Rogers, and others, traveled all over the world.

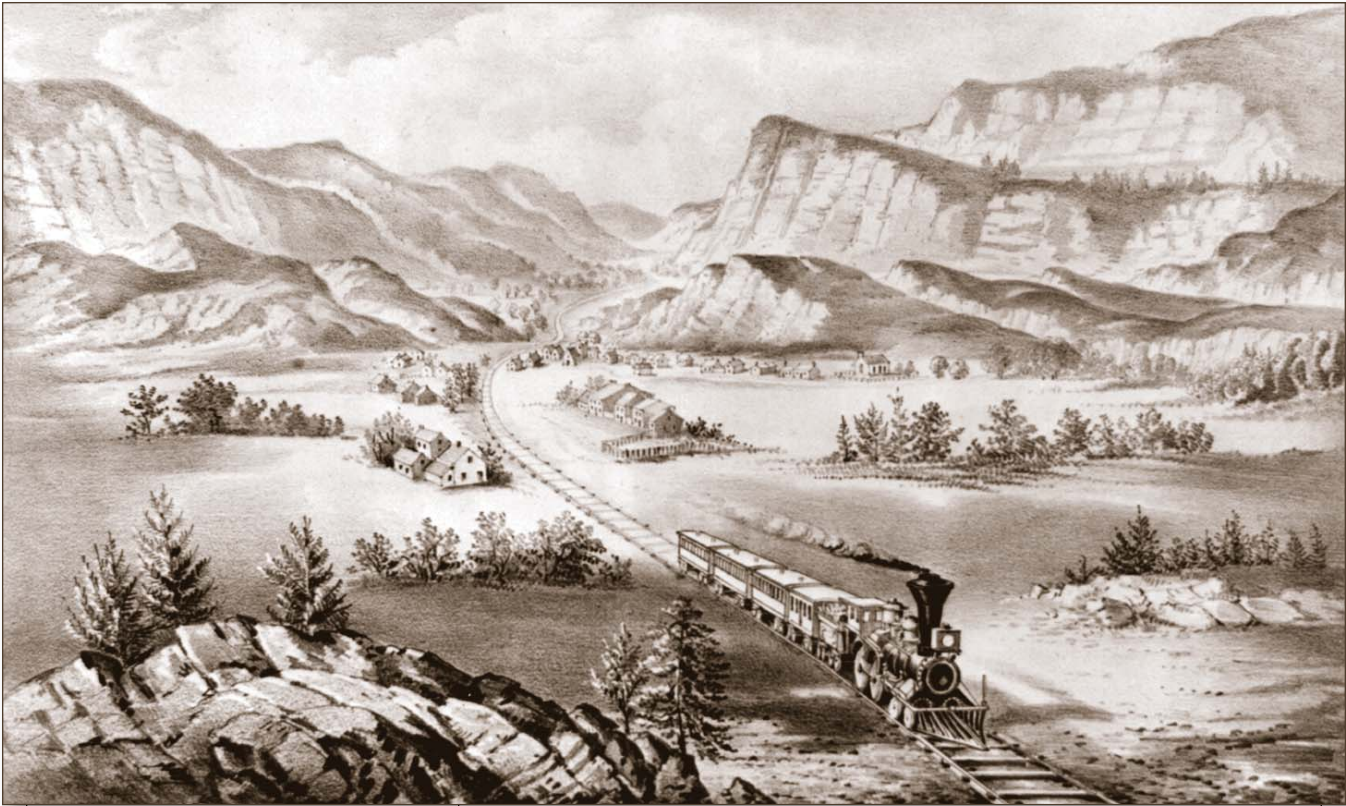
World War I and the economic depression, along with the deaths of Joe in 1927 and George in 1929, led to problems for the 101 Ranch. Zack and the ranch were in financial and legal trouble, and Zack left the ranch in 1937. The ranch was sold in 1943.



**Colonel Joe Miller** started the wild west show in 1905.

**Right:** This is just one of the colorful posters advertising the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. **Below:** This panoramic photograph shows the numerous performers in the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. **Bottom:** African American cowboy star Bill Pickett is credited with having invented 'steer bulldoggin'.





**Top:** An early western railroad rolls through a dramatic landscape. **Above:** This painting by Thomas Hill depicts the driving of the golden spike to complete the transcontinental railroad, at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

## Railroads

After the Civil War, the Wells Fargo Company restored stages on the old Butterfield Overland Mail route. The restored stage route was short-lived, however, because railroads were inching their way toward Indian Territory.

## The Transcontinental Railroad

In 1863, the Central Pacific Railroad Company struck out from Sacramento, California, using Chinese immigrant labor to build a train track to the east. A few months later, the Union Pacific's Irish and Mormon workers spiked the first rails at Omaha, Nebraska, then continued track construction to the west. On May 10, 1869, the two railroads were joined with a golden spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, as East and West symbolically joined as an undivided nation. The long and grueling trip from San Francisco to New York, which had once taken six months, could now be completed in a few days.

The new transcontinental railroad brought about other changes as well. Native Americans often attacked those building the "Iron Horse" tracks. Railroad companies responded by hiring marksmen to kill buffalo, the Indians' main food source. Many railroad laborers died from Indian attacks, disease, and extremely dangerous conditions while working on the project.

## Tracks across the Territory

Just as a train's locomotive gains speed, the building of tracks across the country also gained momentum. The Southern Branch of the Union Pacific Railway was organized in 1865. Later, it was known as the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (MKT or the Katy). The 1866 treaties had opened the way in each Indian Nation for two railroad tracks—one running north-south and one running east-west.

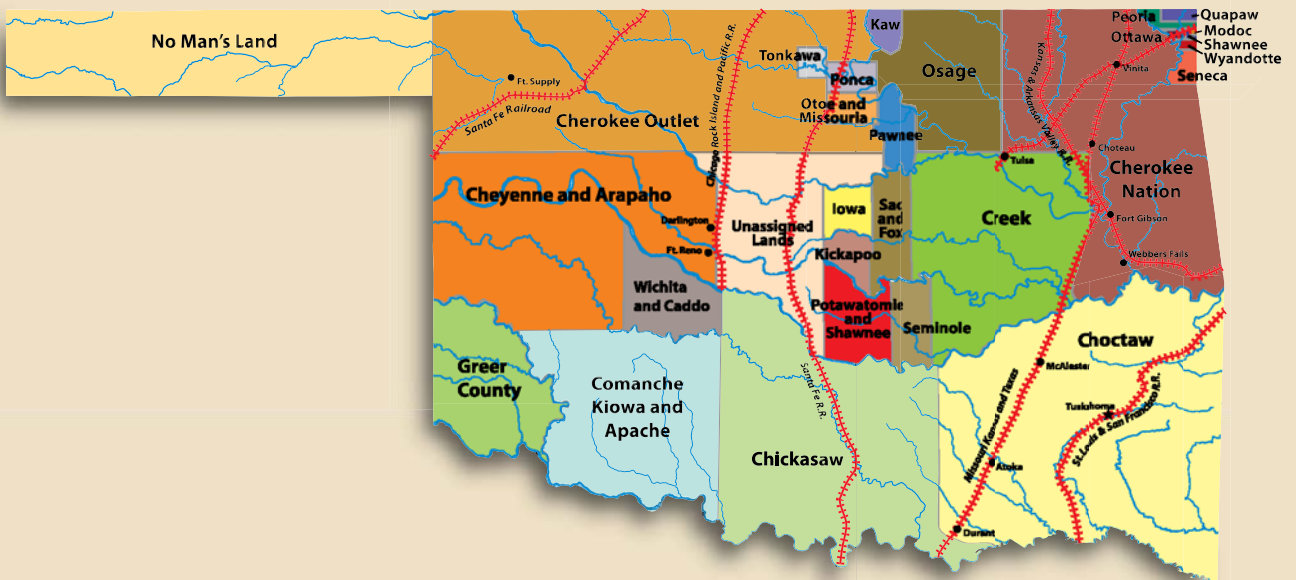
In 1870, a railroad bed was surveyed along the well-used Texas Road. The first railroad track in Indian Territory was laid in 1870. By October 2, 1871, the Katy line had reached the Verdigris River north of Muskogee. Gibson Station, with a roundtable for turning the trains around, was built north of the river in 1872 for passengers and freight. Bridges were eventually built over the Verdigris and Arkansas rivers, and the line continued southwest to Colbert's Ferry on the Red River.

In May 1871, the Atlantic and Pacific Railway Company began building an east-west line through the Territory. The A&P line entered the Territory in the northeast from Seneca, Missouri, and continued to Vinita. In 1882, the A&P reorganized as the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company (or Frisco) and extended the east-west line to Sapulpa. The same year, the Frisco started a line in the Choctaw Nation, which ran from Fort Smith, Arkansas, southwest to Hugo, and across the Red River to Paris, Texas.

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (known as the Santa Fe) built a north-south line from Kansas to the Gulf Coast. By 1887, the line had reached the Cherokee Outlet and continued south through present-day Ponca City, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Pauls Valley.

## Map 33 Early Railroads in the Territory

**Map Skill:** Which line(s) ran through the Chickasaw Nation?



The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad (commonly called the Rock Island) constructed a line south from Caldwell, Kansas, into Indian Territory, passing by present-day Medford, Enid, El Reno, and Duncan. The Rock Island track followed much of the same path as the Chisholm Trail. Railroad tracks continued to be built in the Territory, and by 1905 there were over 5,000 miles of track crisscrossing the land.



**MKT railway cars being loaded with coal at “Old No. 9 Mine,” started in the 1870s.**

## Something Extra!

**Pete Hanraty, an immigrant from Scotland, was the first labor organizer in the Indian Territory. Hanraty was a coal miner in the Krebs area.**

## Coal Mining

The Native Americans knew that coal was the “rock that burned.” Blacksmiths used coal in forges to heat and reshape metal to make tools and horseshoes. Coal was also used for heating homes and businesses and for powering the burgeoning number of trains.

After the Civil War, veteran James J. McAlester attended school in Fort Smith, where he discovered

a geologist’s notes about extensive coal deposits in the Choctaw Nation in an area called the Crossroads. McAlester and a partner, J. T. Hannaford, obtained a trader’s license and opened a general store at the Crossroads in 1870. McAlester married a Chickasaw woman and gained citizen’s rights in both the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations.

McAlester soon started the Oklahoma Mining Company and leased coal mines to an operating company. McAlester eventually split the royalties with the Choctaw Nation. (A **royalty** is a payment for the right to exploit a natural resource.) Royalties provided a steady income to the Choctaw tribe, as did asphalt and timber production for railroad ties. Railroad workers and miners provided a market for produce and meat, but they also created an increased demand for the opening of the Indian lands to white settlers.

In 1888, the Choctaw Coal and Railway Company built a railroad from Wister Junction to the Crossroads, which later became the town of McAlester. Branches of the railroad went to the coal mines. Many communities such as Krebs, Coalgate, Lehigh, and Alderson sprouted up around the coal mines. Other coal fields were mined in the area of the present-day northeastern counties of Tulsa, Rogers, Wagoner, Craig, Okmulgee, and McIntosh.

By 1889, there were over two thousand men working the mines in the Choctaw Nation. The area became a melting pot of Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Belgians, Germans, Italians, Swedes, Frenchmen, Englishmen, and others. In five years, the number of miners doubled and included African Americans.

Railroads, wanting a steady supply of top-grade coal, leased or bought almost half of the coal fields. The Katy railroad owned the largest coal company, the Osage Coal and Mining Company.

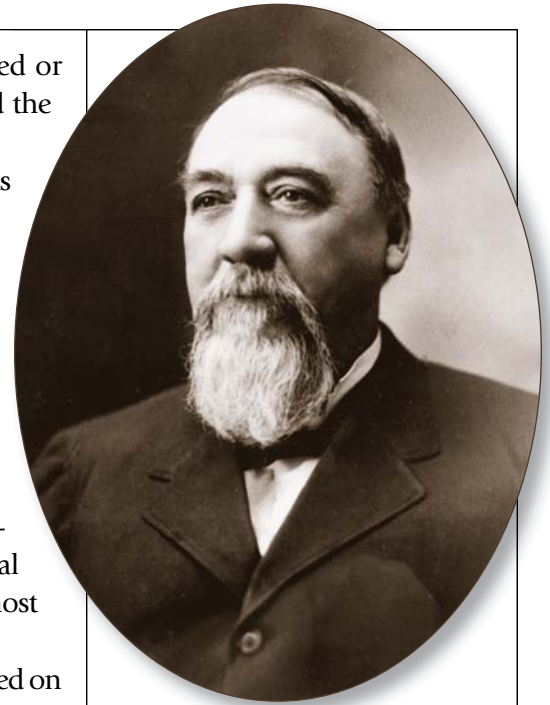
Mining was dangerous work, and the number of fatal accidents in the mines was high. Disputes about hours worked and hourly pay occurred often. In 1884, operators and miners agreed to a nine and a half-hour workday and a salary increase that was above the national average. In 1894, the coal companies cut the miners' wages by 25 percent. On May 10, about a thousand miners went on strike with a noisy demonstration. (A **strike** occurs when workers refuse to work until their demands are met.) Eventually five thousand men and women joined the strike. Deputies were called to the strike area, as were three infantry companies and two cavalry units from Fort Reno. Several "intruders" were removed from the Choctaw Nation. After almost four months, the strike was over.

The worst coal mining accident in the Indian Territory happened on January 7, 1892, when an explosion ripped through Osage Coal and Mining Company's Mine No. 11. Approximately one hundred men were killed, and about that many more were injured.

## Oil Springs

Oil springs, or *seeps*, have been present throughout Indian Territory for centuries. Many people believed that the oil could be used to treat arthritis, rheumatism, and dropsy. Spas (health resorts) that were developed at Boyd Springs in the Chickasaw Nation and at New Spring Place in the Cherokee Nation attracted people from Arkansas and Texas who came to bathe in the oil-coated waters.

A few early oil wells were drilled in the Territory, but the production wasn't significant. Lewis Ross, a brother of Chief John Ross, struck oil while drilling a deep water well near Grand Saline in 1859. Oklahoma's first oil company, the Chickasaw Oil Company, was organized in 1872. The market for oil in the United States was small in the late 1800s, compared to the demand for coal. The invention of the automobile a few years later brought new importance to oil.



**James J. McAlester organized the Oklahoma Mining Company to take advantage of the coal deposits in the Choctaw Nation. The town of McAlester is named for him.**

### It's Your Turn

1. What was a railhead?
2. What minority groups were involved in building the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroads?
3. Which natural resources proved profitable for the Indian tribes?

## Section 3

# Law and Disorder

### As you read, look for

- stock associations formed to lease grazing lands,
- the efforts taken to curb lawlessness in the Territory, and
- vocabulary term **jurisdiction**.



**Indian Agent John D. Miles** (second from the left) helped the Cheyenne-Arapaho negotiate a lease for grazing rights on their land.

**Many Texas cattlemen on trail drives to** Kansas let their livestock graze on the grasses of the Indian Territory. Kansas ranchers, meanwhile, drove their herds across the border into Indian Territory to graze. The tribes soon realized that they could make money from the grazing. In 1883, seven cattlemen formed the Cheyenne-Arapaho Stock Growers Association. The association leased three million acres of land in the western part of the Territory for 200,000 cattle to graze. But confusion over the lease and ranchers who were not part of the association led to cut fences, cattle raids, burned hay, and other trouble. Cattle were ordered removed from the Cheyenne-Arapaho lands in 1885.

The Cherokee tried to collect lease money from ranchers who grazed their cattle in the Cherokee Outlet, but they weren't often successful. The number of cattle grazing on the Cherokee land was growing, and owners who were lawfully paying for the grazing rights wanted to form a group for protection against fires, thieves, and wolves. The Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association was formed in 1883 at Caldwell, Kansas. One of its first acts was to fence in the grazing lands being leased in the Cherokee Outlet. The association paid the Cherokee tribe \$100,000 a year for five years for grazing rights; cattlemen paid rent of 2 cents an acre to the association. For the next several years, the livestock association maintained order in the Cherokee Outlet.



## Maintaining Order

After the Civil War, lighthorse police for each of the Five Tribes continued to enforce tribal laws. Apprehended criminals were taken to the tribes' courts for trial and punishment. Punishment varied among the tribes, but usually included 25-50 lashes on the back for the first offense. A second offense called for a more severe lashing, and a third offense could result in death by firing squad. In 1874, the Cherokee Nation established a national prison at Tahlequah with a gallows for executions. A person condemned to death could be released to his family but had to return on the execution day. Most Indians honored the practice, because failure to return would brand the convicted person a coward. A coward would be denied a home in the eternal hunting grounds with his ancestors.

Some of the other tribes that were removed to the Territory also established police forces. The Osage tribe formed an Indian police unit, as did the Kiowa and Comanche at the Anadarko Agency and the Cheyenne and Arapaho at the Darlington Agency.

Liquor caused the most trouble in the Indian lands. Whiskey had been the "indispensable companion" of the early fur traders. Before a trade, the liquor (or "firewater") was often diluted several times with water to make it last longer. Tobacco, red pepper, or black molasses might be added to give it more of a "punch." Liquor had long been outlawed in the Territory, but dealers managed to smuggle it past authorities. People sometimes carried illegal liquor bottles into the Territory in their high-top boots, a practice that gave them the name *bootlegger*. Dealers in nearby states set up business near the border. One daring man built a tavern on stilts in the middle of the Red River!

**These three men are tribal police for the Kiowa.**

**The photograph was taken in Anadarko in 1895.**





**The outlaw Jesse James often visited Belle Starr in Indian Territory, although most of his bank robbing was done in Kansas and Missouri.**

## Something Extra!

**“I have ever had the single aim of justice in view . . . ‘Do equal and exact justice’ is my motto, and I have often said to the grand jury, ‘Permit no innocent man to be punished, but let no guilty man escape.’”**  
—Judge Isaac C. Parker, 1896

## Outlaws

From the end of the Civil War until statehood, Indian Territory was plagued with a lawless element. White people were not bound by Indian laws, and the Territory was not under U.S. law. Criminals knew they could escape the arms of justice by fleeing into the Indian Territory.

Bank, train, and stage robbers, murderers, whiskey peddlers, cattle rustlers, and horse thieves were among the outlaws who made a quick getaway to the Indian Territory, usually with a posse in hot pursuit. The Territory’s thick forests and brush, caves, hills and mountains, and ravines were ideal for the outlaws.

The Doolins, the Daltons, the Jennings brothers, the Cook gang, the Turner gang, Wesley Barnett’s bunch, Mose Miller’s gang, the Buck gang, and many others fleeing from the law hid in the Territory. Outlaws were white, black, Indian, and Mexican. Most of the outlaws were young men, but some were women. Myra Belle Shirley, better known as Belle Starr, was tagged the “Bandit Queen” by the tabloids of the day. Belle and her husband, the three-quarter Cherokee Sam Starr, homesteaded near Briartown. The Starrs named their home Younger’s Bend, and it became a haven for outlaws such as Cole Younger and Jesse James.

Belle and Sam Starr were often on the wrong side of the law. Sam, wanted for holding up a mail stage, was wounded by a posse of Indian police. Belle, knowing that a federal court would be easier on him than a tribal council, talked Sam into giving himself up to the U.S. marshal. Before Sam could face trial, however, he was fatally wounded by an old enemy, Frank West. Belle faced trial for robbery and horse theft, but she never had to spend much time in jail. Belle was killed in 1889, and her slayer’s identity was never learned.

## The “Hanging Judge”

In 1851, a federal district court with **jurisdiction** over half of Arkansas and the Indian Territory was established in Van Buren, Arkansas. It moved to Fort Smith in 1871. In 1875, Isaac Parker, a former lawyer, judge, and congressman from Missouri, was appointed judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Parker arrived in Fort Smith on May 4. On his first day of court, May 10, eight men were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. A day in Judge Parker’s court often lasted ten hours, and he held court six days a week. Parker hired Noah Frank as Indian interpreter and organized an army of U.S. deputy marshals, some of whom had seen both sides of the law. Armed with arrest warrants, handcuffs, and ankle and leg chains, the posse would sometimes be gone two to three months while they searched for outlaws. A wagon called a “tumbleweed wagon” was used to transport the prisoners to Fort Smith.

With no funds for a prison, inmates of every age, race, and crime were housed together in the basement of the abandoned soldiers’ barracks at Fort Smith. The first floor of the barracks was used as

# Spotlight

## U.S. Deputy Marshals



**Judge Isaac Parker gave much of the credit for his court's success in bringing justice to the Indian Territory to his deputies.** Lawmen in the Territory were perhaps the most integrated group on the frontier and included whites, Indians, and African Americans. Parker's decision to have a diverse group of deputies, who brought an understanding of the various cultures and languages, helped federal law gain respect in the Territory.

Deputy Grant Johnson was the son of a Chickasaw freedman and a Creek freedwoman. Black deputy Zeke Miller was a former mine inspector from Ohio. Deputy John Garrett was one of the first victims of the Rufus Buck Gang in 1895. Working with lawman Heck Thomas, Deputy Rufus Cannon, son of a former slave and a mixed-blood Cherokee, helped arrest outlaws Bill Doolin, William Christian, Bill Carr, and others.

**Above:** These eleven U.S. deputy marshals are transporting a boxcar full of prisoners.

Ex-slave Bass Reeves of Texas had learned several Indian dialects when he sought refuge in the Territory. Reeves may have been the first black American west of the Mississippi who became a deputy U.S. marshal. Reeves used whatever means were needed to make an arrest. Disguised as a tramp, Reeves won the trust of the mother of outlaws. When her outlaw sons returned home to sleep, Reeves handcuffed them while they slept and then successfully returned them to Fort Smith. Reeves's incredible memory helped him overcome his inability to read and write. Reeves learned to associate a written name with the sounds of the name, which allowed him to serve a suspect with the correct document.



the U.S. district courtroom. Not designed as a prison, grates had been added to the basement windows when the room was used to hold Confederate prisoners. The basement was divided into two common areas, each about twenty-nine feet by fifty-five feet, with seven-foot-high ceilings. Each room had windows, but the windows were under porches and allowed in very little light or ventilation. Urinal buckets were placed in unused fireplaces so



**Top:** In Judge Parker's courtroom, wrongdoers found quick and harsh judgment. **Above:** At the age of thirty-six, Judge Isaac Parker was the youngest federal judge in the West. **Right:** Judge Parker had gallows built to carry out death sentences in his court. They have been reconstructed at Fort Smith National Historic Site.



odors would vent through the chimney flues, a plan that rarely worked. Each room had a single sink, but jailers rarely allowed baths or clean clothes. Prisoners slept on a wooden cot or on the flagstone floor with a blanket or moldy, straw-filled mattress. Boredom filled the days, and the inmates exercised by marching up and down the room. The poor sanitary conditions and overcrowding finally caught the attention of the public in 1885.



In an article that appeared in eastern newspapers in the summer of 1885, writer Anna Dawes called the jail a “piece of mediaeval barbarity.” Congress finally appropriated funds for a new jail, but it did not end all of the problems.

Judge Parker ordered that a public gallows for hangings be built, and he soon earned the nickname of the “hanging judge.” In his twenty-one years as judge, Parker tried 12,490 cases, with 9,454 convictions. He sentenced 160 men to death by hanging, although only 79 met that fate. The other 81 inmates either won appeals, were pardoned, or died in jail.

The jurisdiction of the Fort Smith federal court over the Indian Territory ended in September 1896. But prior to that time, a federal court was established in Muskogee in 1889 for less serious criminal cases and civil disputes.

### “The Calm before the Storm”

Post-Civil War rebuilding and changes were leading to an even more drastic shift in the Indian Territory. The railroads, mines, and cattle were bringing more Euro-Americans into the Territory. As neighboring areas became more crowded with new settlers, many began to look longingly at the rich Indian lands. Many lives were soon to go through even more drastic changes. If Reconstruction could be called “the calm,” then opening the lands to settlement might be called (before) “the storm.”

**Judge Parker was criticized for housing prisoners in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in the basement of the Fort Smith courthouse.**

## Something Extra!

Anna Dawes was the daughter of Senator Henry Dawes, chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee and, later, architect of the allotment program.

## It's Your Turn

1. What was a bootlegger?
2. What famous judge was known as the “hanging judge”?

# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

- The Indian nations made economic progress after the Civil War despite political problems and divisions among tribal members over the war.
- After the Civil War, the Five Tribes rebuilt their communities with churches, new markets, and thriving businesses.
- Education became a top priority among the Five Tribes, as schools were re-established and new ones were founded.
- Granting rights and benefits to freedmen was not an easy process and was handled by the Freedmen's Bureau.
- Many all-black towns were established, which provided the freedmen with safety in Indian Territory.
- Government schools were established at Riverside and Chilocco to help assimilate the Plains Indians and others into American society.
- As the railroads made their way west, cattlemen began to drive their herds across Indian Territory to reach the railheads in Kansas. The trail drives only lasted about twenty years, ending when the Territory opened and railroads expanded; but they left a legacy of rich cowboy folklore.
- The first railroad tracks in Indian Territory were laid by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT or Katy) Railroad beginning in 1870. The Frisco, Santa Fe, and Rock Island lines followed with additional tracks.
- Coal mining began in Indian Territory, with European miners imported to work the mines.
- Law enforcement became a problem in Indian Territory, and lighthorse police tried to establish order.

- From the end of the Civil War until statehood, outlaws found refuge by escaping into Indian Territory.
- A federal court was set up in Fort Smith, and posses and U.S. marshals roamed the area to arrest outlaws.

## Vocabulary

Use the following terms in complete sentences that show how each term relates to this period of Oklahoma history.

1. barbed wire
2. bootlegger
3. cattle drive
4. chuck wagon
5. decimated
6. domestic
7. full-bloods
8. "Iron Horse"
9. jurisdiction
10. mixed-bloods
11. pastoral
12. posse
13. quarantine
14. royalties
15. segregation
16. seminary
17. tenant farmers

## Understanding the Facts

1. In spite of differences among tribal members, under which Indian chief did the Seminoles begin to enjoy peace and prosperity?
2. Which tribe recognized the need to change tribal laws to better deal with advances they believed were coming in the future?

3. How many students attended schools in the Cherokee Nation?
4. Name the two government schools established for Plains Indians following the Civil War.
5. Where were the railheads located?
6. What Kansas city was known as the “Cow Capital of the World”?
7. What was the name of the first railroad to be built in Indian Territory?

### Developing Critical Thinking

1. Give evidence that education was important to each of the Five Tribes following the Civil War.
2. Why and how did the building of railroads through Indian Territory change life for the Indians?
3. Among the Indians, a person condemned to death could be released to his family and would then return on the execution day. Would this work today? Why or why not?

### Applying Your Skills

1. On a map of Indian Territory,
  - a. draw the major cattle trails using five different colors,

- b. include a legend, which shows the color for each trail and the name of the trail,
  - c. draw and label the major rivers.
2. Assume that you are going to be a cook on a cattle drive in the 1870s. Make a list of the items you will need to stock in your chuck wagon and how each will be used.

### Exploring Technology

1. Using a search engine, research the life of the American cowboy of the nineteenth century and tell how each of the following words played a role in his life: *chaps, bandana, boots, spurs, lasso, saddle, stampede, remuda wrangler,* and *maverick*.
2. Choose one the following outlaws or gangs: Belle Starr, the Doolins, the Daltons, Cole Younger, or Jesse James. Write a biography for the one you choose using information you located on the Internet and other sources. Try to find a photo and old newspaper accounts, if possible.

## Building Skills

## Traveling through Time

**You have the following task: For your vacation** you want to visit as many of the state historic sites as you possibly can. You have two important limits on your plans: time and money. As a result, you can travel no more than 600 miles round-trip on your vacation; you cannot go over your mileage limit. You may wish to choose a traveling companion to keep you company and to help in planning.

Use a list of state historic sites and a state highway map to help you design your route. Begin your trip from your starting point at the town in which you live or the town in which you attend school. Visit as many sites as possible until you have used your allotted mileage. Remember, the mileage to return home must be included in your plans.

Present your vacation trip to the class by marking your route on a map. After completing your plan, consider the following questions.

1. What parts of Oklahoma history will you visit on your trip?
2. Will you see all the sites you want to see?
3. How did your starting point limit the number of sites you could include?
4. Why do you think the state chose to make the sites you visited historic sites?
5. Is there a local site that you would like to nominate as a historic site? Why do you think it would make a good site?