

Chapter 9

Trouble on the Plains

Chapter Preview

TERMS

Reconstruction, Pacific Railroad Act, Homestead Act of 1862, freedmen, reservation, dugout, garrison, buffalo soldiers, raptort, renegade

PEOPLE

John Chupco, John Brown, Allen Wright, Oktarharsars Harjo, Black Kettle, Kit (Christopher) Carson, Philip Sheridan, Roman Nose, George Custer, Lawrie Tatum, Kicking Bird, John Seger

PLACES

Leased Lands, Fort Nichols, Medicine Lodge, Camp Supply, Fort Sill



In 1864, before the Civil War ended, Abraham Lincoln was reelected president on the National Union Party ticket. (The Republicans called themselves the National Union Party in the 1864 election to appeal to Democratic voters.) Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, was elected vice president. Long before the outcome of the war was known, Lincoln began thinking about **Reconstruction**, or rebuilding the country. In 1864, he created the Freedmen's Bureau to protect the legal rights of former slaves, as well as provide them an education, medical care, and the opportunity to lease land. Lincoln also worked on the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to abolish slavery throughout the nation. The amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865.

After guiding the Union through the most difficult period of its ninety years, President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, in Washington, D.C., by John Wilkes Booth, a pro-Confederate actor. Lincoln died the following day, sending shock waves across the nation. The sudden change in the national leadership from one political party to another created a new wave of bickering in political circles across the country.



Attack at Dawn by Charles Schreyvogel depicts the Battle of the Washita where Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer led a surprise attack on a camp of sleeping Cheyenne. More than one hundred men, women, and children were killed.

Signs of the Times

EDUCATION

Howard University was founded in Washington, D.C. Bellevue Hospital in New York City opened the first school of nursing. Booker T. Washington organized and became president of what later became Tuskegee Institute.

BUSINESS

New businesses of the period included Woolworth's, Bethlehem Steel, Montgomery Ward, and American Telephone & Telegraph Company.

GAMES

The F.A.O. Schwarz Toy Store in New York was opened in 1862. American toys were made from the natural resources of wood, tin, and iron. Toy production increased with industrialization after the Civil War.

INVENTIONS

Inventions included the Mason jar (1858), linoleum (1860), the player piano (1863), and the web printing press (1865).

SPORTS

The new sport of "velocipeding" (cycling) became popular. The first professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, was founded. Princeton and Rutgers played the first intercollegiate football game.

LITERATURE

British mathematician and author Lewis Carroll published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865.

MUSIC

Austrian composer Johann Strauss II elevated the waltz from a dance for peasants to one enjoyed by royalty. He composed "The Blue Danube" waltz in 1867.

Figure 10 Timeline: 1860–1890



1866
New treaties negotiated with Five Tribes

1865
Camp (Fort) Nichols established

1868
Battles of the Washita, Soldier Spring

1869
Fort Sill built, Federal “peace policy” adopted

1874
Red River War

1878
Battle of Turkey Springs

1886
Seger Colony established

1860

1865

1870

1875

1880

1885

1890

1862
Pacific Railroad Act passed, Homestead Act passed

1867
Medicine Lodge meeting

1874
Gold discovered in the Black Hills of South Dakota

1876
The Battle of the Little Bighorn

1883
United States began “standard time” plan

1869
Transcontinental railroad completed

Section 1

From Destruction to Reconstruction

As you read, look for

- important federal legislation and its impact on the settlement of the West,
- treaties made with the tribes after the Civil War, and
- vocabulary terms **Pacific Railroad Act**, **Homestead Act of 1862**, and **freedmen**.



Senator Samuel Pomeroy, who proposed a controversial Reconstruction plan for Indian Territory, was one of Kansas's first two senators.

The end of the war did not bring instant peace

to everyone, even though the guns had become silent for the moment. The country, shattered and mangled, had to begin the process of turning chaos into order. The process of restoring lives was different in the Indian Territory from that in other parts of the country, and many things contributed to this.

Opening the West

Two congressional acts passed during the height of the Civil War in 1862 made a huge impact on the country for years to come. The **Pacific Railway Act** began the process of building a railroad and telegraph line across the country. Sometimes called one of the most important pieces of legislation in the history of the United States, the **Homestead Act of 1862** turned over vast amounts of public land to homesteaders. Ten percent of the land in the United States, or 270 million acres, was settled under the act. Anyone at least twenty-one years of age and head of a household could claim 160 acres of public land. Before the land was theirs, homesteaders had to pay an \$18 filing fee, live on the land, build a home, make improvements, and farm for five years. Both the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act contributed greatly to westward expansion.

As organized territories and new states were opened to white settlers, more Indian tribes were forced to relocate to the Indian Territory, which had now shrunk to the size of most of the area in present-day Oklahoma. State officials, railroad men, land speculators, and timber industry people joined the settlers in efforts to relocate thousands of Indians. Two U.S. senators from Kansas—James Lane and Samuel Pomeroy—introduced a Reconstruction plan for the Indian Territory in 1862 that involved taking over some of the land of the Five Tribes and using it to relocate Kansas tribes. When the Civil War ended, terms of the new treaties with the Indian tribes were largely dictated by politicians from those areas that were now being opened to white settlement.

Tribal Treaties

After the Civil War, tribal leaders were called to a meeting at Fort Smith in September 1865. Commissioner of Indian Affairs D. N. Cooley told the leaders that, by joining the Confederacy, the tribes had invalidated earlier treaties with the United States. Cooley further stated that each tribe must proclaim permanent peace, abolish slavery, add the **freedmen** (former slaves) to the tribe, and surrender part of their lands for other tribes. These new rules largely ignored the fact that some of the tribes had split, and many tribal members had remained loyal to the Union. After thirteen days of negotiations and delays in

Something Extra!

The Homestead Act remained in effect until 1976, when it was repealed.

This log cabin home of freedmen was located on a Choctaw plantation.





the proceedings, Cooley gave up on making new treaties at the Fort Smith meeting and called for a meeting in Washington.

In 1866, leaders of the Five Tribes met in Washington, D.C., to negotiate new treaties. This time, treaties were worked out. The treaties abolished slavery and granted the freedmen tribal citizenship with the same rights as the Indians, including land and benefits. Each individual tribal treaty dealt differently with the loss of land. The treaties also provided for peace between the United States and other tribes, for railroad rights-of-way, and for a single, unified government for the Indian Territory. The tribal delegates agreed to begin the process of establishing a unified government by holding an annual intertribal council.

Chief John Chupco, Chocote Harjo, Fos Harjo, and John Brown of the Seminole tribe were the first to sign a treaty in March 1866. They lost all their land—over 2 million acres—to the United States, for which they were paid 15 cents an acre. They then had to buy 200,000 acres on the western edge of the Creek land for 50 cents an acre.

The Choctaw and the Chickasaw signed a joint treaty that ceded the Leased Lands (southwestern Oklahoma) to the government for \$300,000, which was to be held until the freedmen were granted citizenship and 40 acres of land. Chief Peter Pitchlynn and Allen Wright were among those representing the Choctaw. The Chickasaw tribe delegation included Winchester Colbert, Robert Love, and others. Wright suggested the term *Oklahoma*, which means “red people” in the Choctaw language, for the name of the single territorial government of the Indians. The single government plan didn’t materialize, but the name *Oklahoma* began to be used for the Territory.

Lower Creek D. N. McIntosh and J. M. C. Smith and Upper Creek Oktarharsars Harjo, Coweta Micco, and Cotchoche met in Washington to work out their tribe’s treaty. The Creek tribe ceded 3,250,000 acres, which amounted to the western half of their lands. For that they received \$975,168, or about 30 cents an acre. Some of the money was to be used to restore farms, and some was for Union soldiers and Creek refugees.

The two Cherokee groups sent to Washington included Union supporter John Ross and the Confederate group of Stand Watie, E. C. Boudinot, William Penn Adair, and John Rollin Ridge. The Cherokee had to give up their lands in Kansas, which were to be sold for at least \$1.25 an acre. The government also had the right to relocate other tribes to the Cherokee Outlet. The relocating tribes and the Cherokee would negotiate the cost of the land.

Something Extra!

The 13th, 14th, and 15th (Reconstruction) Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were adopted between 1865 and 1870. The 13th abolished slavery.

The 14th included equal protection, due process, and citizenship clauses. The 15th granted voting rights regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Spotlight

Initial Point

The Land Ordinance of 1785 provided for a systematic survey of public lands. Several early surveys helped establish boundaries for the various Indian tribes in the Indian Territory. After the Reconstruction treaties of 1866, more definite boundaries were needed.

In 1870, Surveyor Ehud Darling was told to establish an initial (beginning) point for a survey of the Indian Territory (which at the time didn't include the Oklahoma Panhandle). His instructions "directed that such initial point be located near the center of the Chickasaw lands or in the vicinity of Fort Arbuckle." Darling placed a sandstone marker designating the Initial Point about six miles west of present-day Davis. The north-south line at Initial Point is called the Indian Meridian; the east-west line is known as the Baseline. From this Initial Point, the Territory was surveyed and divided into parcels of 36 square miles (6 miles by 6 miles), called townships. Each township was further divided into 36 one-square-mile (640-acre) sections.

The area that became the Oklahoma Panhandle was surveyed in 1881. The Initial Point for the Panhandle is located in the southwest corner. The north-south line for that area is called the Cimarron Meridian.

The war had taken away almost a quarter of the population of the Five Tribes, and the U.S. government, as before, took away much of their land. Once again, the Indians began the slow process of rebuilding their lives.

It's Your Turn

1. When were the Homestead Act and the Pacific Railroad Act enacted?
2. Why were the treaties that the Five Tribes had with the U.S. government no longer in effect?
3. What did the treaties negotiated with the Five Tribes in 1866 require them to do?



Above: Winchester Colbert, a member of the Chickasaw delegation to Washington, was the governor of the Chickasaw Nation. **Opposite page:** Peter Pitchlynn, a member of the Choctaw delegation, worked as a representative for his tribe in Washington, D.C., after the Civil War.

Section 2

War on the Plains

As you read, look for

- the federal government's efforts to get and maintain control over the Plains tribes,
- the tribes resettled to Indian Territory after the Civil War, and
- vocabulary terms **reservation, dugout, garrison, buffalo soldiers, rapport, and renegade.**



Southern Plains delegation in the White House Conservatory, 1863. Indians in the front row are, left to right: War Bonnet, Standing in the Water, and Lean Bear of the Cheyenne, and Yellow Wolf of the Kiowa. War Bonnet and Standing in the Water died in the Sand Creek Massacre. The woman standing at far right is believed to be Mary Todd Lincoln.

While the Civil War and Reconstruction were happening in the eastern half of the Indian Territory, trouble was brewing in the western half. Hostile Indians threatened the postwar Euro-American development of the West. Military personnel with Civil War experience moved from the battlefields east of the Mississippi to those in Indian country.

Plains Tribes during the War

Many of the Plains Indian tribes stayed in the Indian Territory during the Civil War. Because military regiments were often called to fight elsewhere, protection for settlers and other Indians was often nonexistent. Some bands of the Plains Indians took advantage of the lack of military protection and periodically raided settlers in an effort to drive them from their hunting grounds. Raids on the hated white settlers sometimes resulted in loss of life and captives; raids on other tribes were usually to steal horses and cattle, which were then sold to traders.

With Union forts already abandoned in Indian Territory, a party of Comanche raided outlying Chickasaw settlements for horses and cattle in 1864. The Confederate military organized the Caddo Frontier Guard to prevent raids on the Chickasaw and other tribes. In spite of

the Caddo Guard, the Comanche again raided Chickasaw settlements in 1865. A Chickasaw party soon went after the Comanche raiders, who had made camp near present-day Indianhomia. The ensuing battle lasted several hours. After the Comanche surrendered, the Chickasaw rounded up their stolen horses and cattle and returned to their homes.

The Cheyenne and some Arapaho joined the Comanche raiders in their war against white settlers and Colorado troops. The Southern Cheyenne were eventually driven out of Colorado in 1864 after what came to be called the Sand Creek Massacre. Several bands of Cheyenne and a few Arapaho, over 550 people, were camped on Sand Creek when they were attacked by Colorado regiments. Over 150 Indians, mostly women and children, were killed in the surprise attack. Some Cheyenne, including a band led by Chief Black Kettle, were later given a **reservation** (an area set aside for use by a particular people) in the Indian Territory.

Fort Nichols

Embittered by their dealings with the military and white settlers, many Plains Indian warriors targeted wagon trains and freighters. To help provide safe passage on the Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail, noted trapper, soldier, and Indian fighter Colonel Kit (Christopher) Carson established Camp Nichols in what is now the Oklahoma Panhandle. Carson, the commander of the First Regiment of New Mexico Cavalry Volunteers, had intended to locate the camp in New Mexico but mistakenly placed it several miles east of the New Mexico border. The camp was later called Fort Nichols.

Some three hundred soldiers were housed in tents and **dugouts** (houses built half in the ground, half above) at Camp Nichols. Officers' quarters were army tents until the dugout homes were built. The sides of the homes above ground were covered with stone. Timber for roof supports had to be hauled eleven miles. The floors were dirt, and the roofs were made of sod. Each house had two rooms, blankets for doors, and white cloth in place of glass over the window openings.

One of the few women at the camp was Marian Russell, wife of Lieutenant R. D. Russell. Accommodations were rough. The Russells'

Something Extra!

A cannon at Camp Nichols was only fired to celebrate the Fourth of July.



Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson oversaw the construction of Fort Nichols even though he was in declining health.



Above: Satanta was one of the spokesmen for the Kiowa at Medicine Lodge. **Opposite page:** A November 1867 page from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* showing scenes and incidents from the Great Indian Council at Medicine Lodge Creek, Kansas.

furniture included a folding army table and a bed made from a six-foot log that had been split in two, laid on the floor, and covered with boughs and blankets. Cooking was done in a Dutch oven (a large heavy pot, usually of cast iron, with a tight lid used for slow cooking) in an open fireplace. The food was limited to hardtack (a hard biscuit), bacon, beans, beef, venison, flour, sugar, and coffee.

Wagon trains arriving from the west gathered at Camp Nichols. Every two weeks, soldiers would escort them to Fort Dodge or Fort Larned, Kansas, and then return with westbound wagons. The camp was never attacked, perhaps, as the Indians said, because they believed Carson had “strong medicine.” Fort Nichols was abandoned in September 1865.

Medicine Lodge Treaty

In an effort to stop the attacks by the Plains tribes and to encourage them to adopt a farming lifestyle, the U.S. Department of Interior sent a peace commission to negotiate with the Plains tribes in 1867. Over five thousand people from five Plains tribes—Kiowa, Comanche, Kiowa-Apache, Cheyenne, and Arapaho—agreed to meet at Medicine Lodge in Kansas, where the water of the Medicine River was

believed to have healing powers.

For three weeks, the Indians and government commissioners negotiated. In spite of many speeches, the terms of the treaties had generally already been determined by the government. The Plains tribes would have to live on reservations, learn to farm rather than roam the prairies, and learn the white man’s way of life. The Indians would be protected from white hunters and would receive food and clothing every year. Each tribe would have its own reservation.

The Kiowa and Comanche signed a joint treaty on October 21, 1867, in which they agreed to live on a reservation located in what is now southwestern Oklahoma. In a separate treaty, the Kiowa-Apache agreed to also live on the Kiowa and Comanche reservation. The reservation specified for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes was eventually located along the North Canadian River in what is now western Canadian County and Blaine County.

Sheridan’s Winter Campaign

In spite of the treaties, the hostilities between the Plains Indians and the settlers continued. Brutal attacks in Kansas, Colorado, Texas, and other areas resulted in many Indian and white men, women, and children killed or captured.

Scenes and Incidents of the Great Indian Council, at Medicine Lodge Creek, Kansas.—From Sketches by Our Special Artist, Jas. E. Taylor.



THE ENCAMPMENT

PEACE COMMISSIONERS OF TIMBER MOUNTAIN FORT.

Our Special Artist Among the Indians. The first illustration is a capital picture of the encampment of the Peace Commissioners lately in treaty with our red neighbors in the Far West. His a

many preceding all Indian negotiations with their great father at Washington. The chiefs were drawn up in a rude amphitheatre, and the commissioners shook hands with each one, all along the line.

The tents of various goods, to which reference was made last week, took place on the 27th of October, at the grounds of the Peace Commissioners' encampment.

smoke and deer, guns, powder and lead. The head men of the tribes performed the task of dividing the stores among the warriors, who sat in the front rows, and the squaws, who stood behind the braves and walked



CHIEFS SHAKING HANDS WITH THE COMMISSIONERS.



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE COUNCIL TENT.



SALANTA DELIVERING A SPEECH BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS IN THE COUNCIL TENT.

very lively place, and many have felt as though the prospect of a long life in this place would not be insupportable.

THE CEREMONY OF SHAKING HANDS. Interesting sight, and it is an important ceremony.

THE GREAT CHIEF SALANTA. In delivering his address, which has already appeared in the daily newspapers, spoke with a dignity and force that could not but be appreciated. He is a great orator and of unbounded influence in the council.



DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTHING TO THE COMANCHE INDIANS AT TIMBER MOUNTAIN FORT, KANSAS.

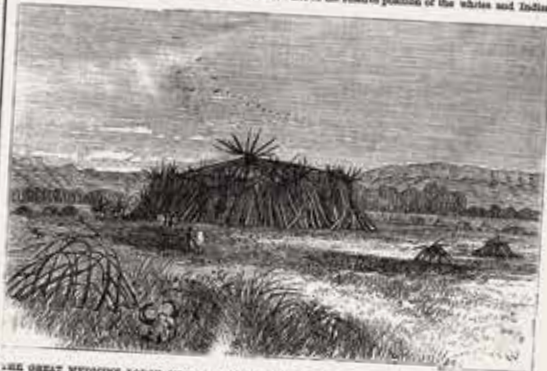
COLONEL LEAVENWORTH ISSUES GOODS TO THE CHIEFS. FOR A SPACE OF TWO HOURS. Tools, bottles and pans, balls, brushes, and every conceivable article of use to the Indians, were here given to them; as well as coffee,

quietly for their horses to come. The Cheyennes have been delayed a week, making no-doubt, at a point thirty miles below, on Medicine Lodge Creek.

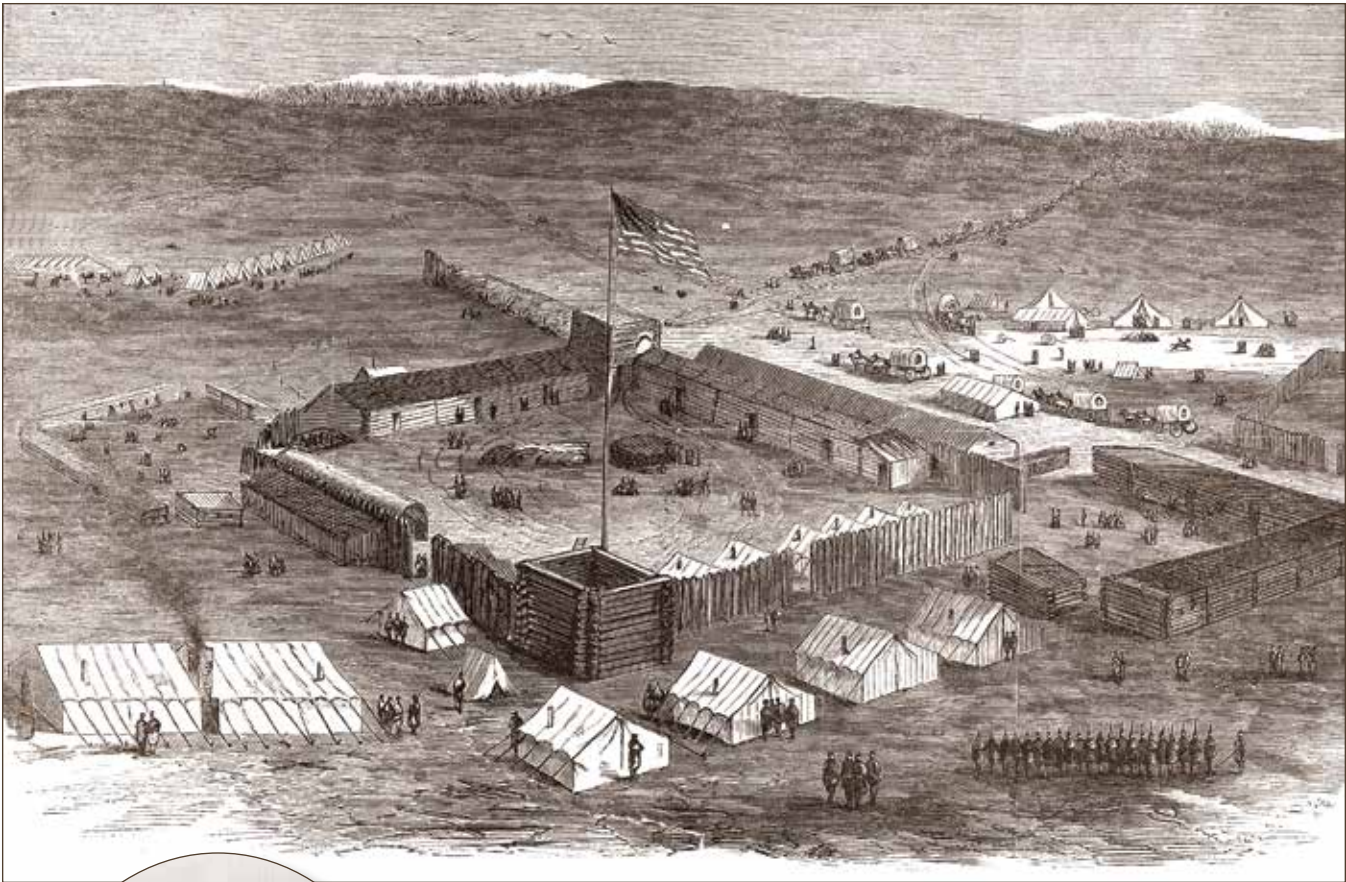
THE INTERIOR VIEW OF THE COUNCIL TENT. Shows the relative position of the whites and Indians.



COL. LEAVENWORTH SHAKING HANDS TO THE COMANCHE AND KiOWA INDIANS.



THE GREAT MEDICINE LODGE ON MEDICINE LODGE CREEK, NEAR THE COUNCIL GROUNDS, KANSAS.



Top: Camp Supply was established as a supply base for Major General Philip Sheridan's winter campaign against the Plains tribes. **Above:** Major General Sheridan believed that winter would be the best time for the campaign to force the Plains tribes onto the reservations.

Major General Philip Sheridan organized a campaign to end the attacks by the Plains tribes and force them to live on the reservations. Sheridan chose winter for the campaign knowing that winter was usually a quiet time for the tribes.

Supply depots were needed for both the military during the campaign and for the Indians living on the reservations. Sheridan directed General Alfred Sully to establish Camp Supply in the northwestern part of the Indian Territory. A blizzard slowed the work, but the camp was established on November 18, 1868, in what is now Woodward County.

The Battle of the Washita

The Cheyenne led by Chief Black Kettle had set up a winter camp along the Washita River (Roger Mills County), a location that was not on their reservation. That camp was a few miles from larger camps of other Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Apache. Black Kettle and Arapaho Chief Big Mouth traveled from the winter camp to Fort Cobb in November 1868 to ask General William Hazen for peace and protection. When Hazen told them he didn't have authority to provide protection for tribes off their reservations, the chiefs returned to their camps.

Some young Cheyenne warriors had ignored the Medicine Lodge Treaty and continued to roam on their ancestral lands. Led by Cheyenne War Chief Roman Nose, the band furiously attacked Kansas settlers, and wagon trains stopped crossing western Kansas.

Sheridan directed Lieutenant Colonel George Custer to find and punish the Indians who were responsible for the Kansas raids. Custer and eight hundred troops of the 7th Cavalry rode south out of Camp Supply on November 23, following the trail of a small raiding party. One of the officers with Custer was Captain Albert Barnitz, who had mixed feelings about the government's handling of the Indians. "It is certainly foolish to fight Indians with one hand, and to make presents and give them arms with the other," he wrote.

Custer's troops, marching through new snow, reached the Washita Valley and Black Kettle's Cheyenne camp just after midnight on November 27. They quietly took positions and attacked the fifty-one lodges just before dawn. "Custer and his legion came thundering down the long divide. . . . The Indian village rang with unearthly war-whoops, the quick discharge of fire-arms, the clamorous barking of dogs, the cries of infants, and the wailing of women." Custer reported about one hundred men, women, and children were killed, although the Cheyenne claimed thirty had lost their lives. Chief Black Kettle and his wife, Medicine Woman Later, were among those killed. More than fifty Cheyenne were captured. Twenty-one of Custer's men were killed. Troops slaughtered hundreds of the Indians' horses and mules the troops didn't want, and they burned the Indians' food, clothes, blankets, and lodges.

The deafening noise of the battle quickly awoke other Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Kiowa warriors camped downriver. As they hurried to

Something Extra!

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Agency was located at Camp Supply in 1868 and 1870. The camp became Fort Supply in 1878 when it was recognized as a permanent military post.

Custer's troops captured about fifty Cheyenne, mostly women and children, and took them back to Camp Supply as hostages.





Colonel George Armstrong Custer, acting under orders from General Sheridan, attacked the Cheyenne at their village along the Washita River.

Something Extra!

Custer was later killed during the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana in 1876.

help Black Kettle, they encountered Major Joel Elliott's detachment. Elliott was killed in the fighting. Custer quickly retreated to Camp Supply with the hostages.

The Battle of Soldier Spring

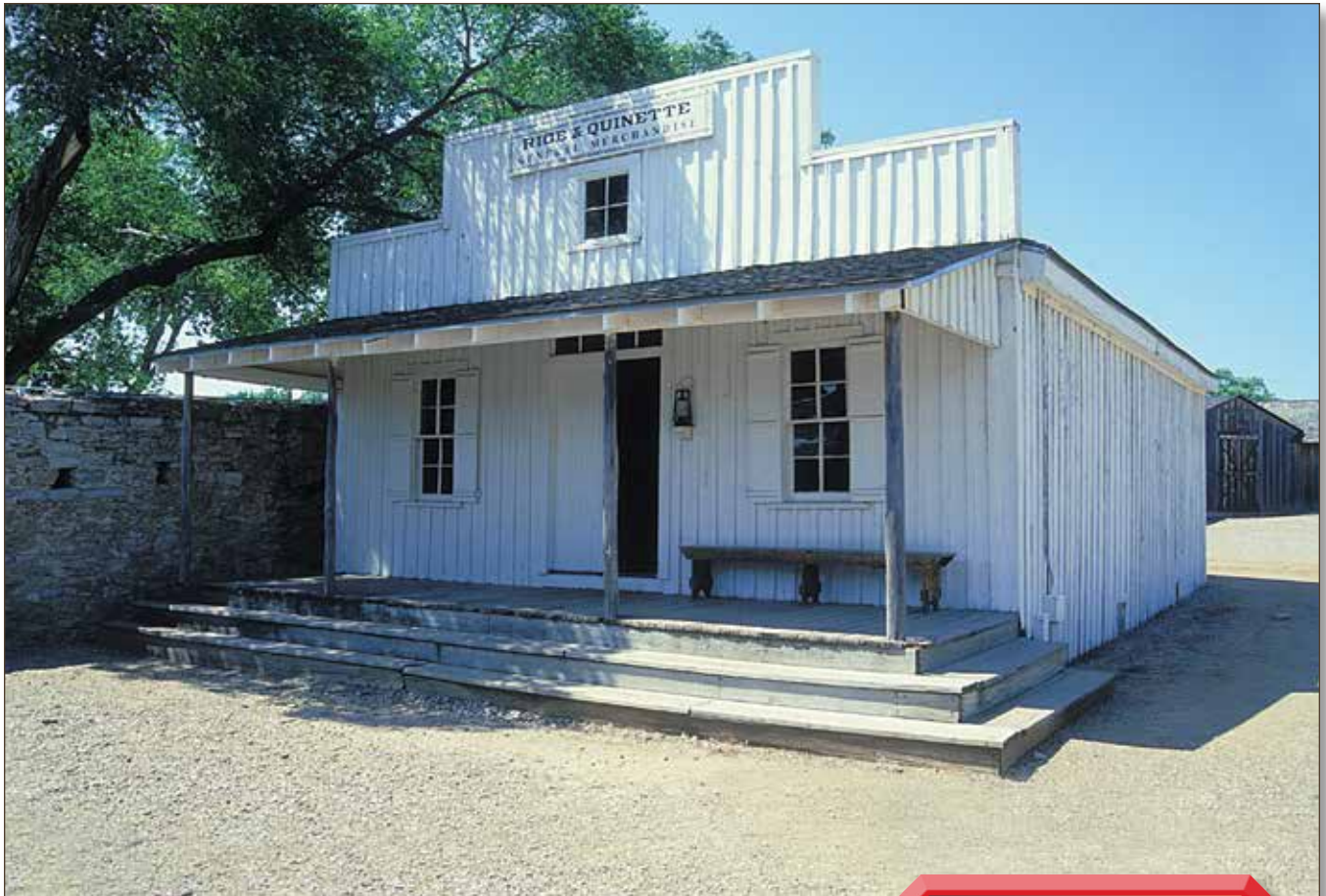
As part of Sheridan's winter campaign, Lieutenant Colonel A. W. Evans led troops from New Mexico on November 17, 1868, across snow-covered prairies to the western base of the Wichita Mountains in the southwestern part of the Indian Territory. A band of Noconee Comanche was camped in the valley near where Soldier Spring Creek emptied into the North Fork of the Red River. The ancient mountains had provided protection for Indian camps for centuries. The military believed that some of the warriors in the camp had been involved in raids in Texas a few months earlier. On Christmas Day 1868, Evans's troops attacked the Comanche camp of sixty lodges. The Indians were outnumbered and outmanned. The first artillery shell fired from a small howitzer cannon was a dud, but the second shell burst in the camp, scattering horses and people, who quickly fled.

Evans's men entered the Comanche camp and destroyed teepees, food, supplies, and even buckskin dolls. Several tons of dried buffalo meat, the tribe's entire winter food supply, were destroyed by throwing it into a nearby pond, which came to be called Dried Beef Pond. There were not as many deaths at the Battle of Soldier Spring as at the Battle of the Washita, but it was a significant part of the plan to confine all the Plains Indians to reservations. That plan included destroying food, shelter, and horses that the Indians needed to survive so that they would be forced to live on reservations, where the government would provide for all their basic needs.

Fort Sill

Sheridan believed a **garrison** (military post) was needed in the heart of Comanche country in the southwestern part of Indian Territory. Colonel Benjamin Grierson, commander of the 10th U.S. Cavalry, selected a site for a camp in the foothills of the Wichita Mountains in 1868. Sheridan arrived January 7, 1869, and drove the first stake in the ground for the site of the new Camp Wichita. Troops were immediately ordered to move from Fort Cobb to the new camp.

For the first year, soldiers lived in tents, and officers were housed in crude log and mud picket houses. The black troops of the 10th Cavalry, or **buffalo soldiers** as the Indians called them, did much of the actual



construction of the fort. White troops from the 6th Infantry helped quarry stone for the buildings. Stones and rough logs cut along the nearby Medicine Bluff Creek were used to construct the first building. In June 1869, twenty-five wagons of tools, hardware, stonemasons, and carpenters arrived. A *springhouse* (a storehouse built over a spring of water) was built with a slab stone trough inside to provide a cool place for storing food. Other buildings included a hospital, stone guardhouse, and chapel. A road was cut to the Texas border, and a racetrack was built near the camp.

On July 2, 1869, Sheridan renamed the camp Fort Sill in honor of his friend, Brigadier General Joshua Sill, who had died in the Civil War. First planned as a six-company post, Fort Sill soon grew to house over five hundred troops. Although isolated, the post was a military showplace. Lieutenant R. G. Carter wrote, "A more beautiful locality could hardly be imagined, wild, romantic and full of nature. . . ."

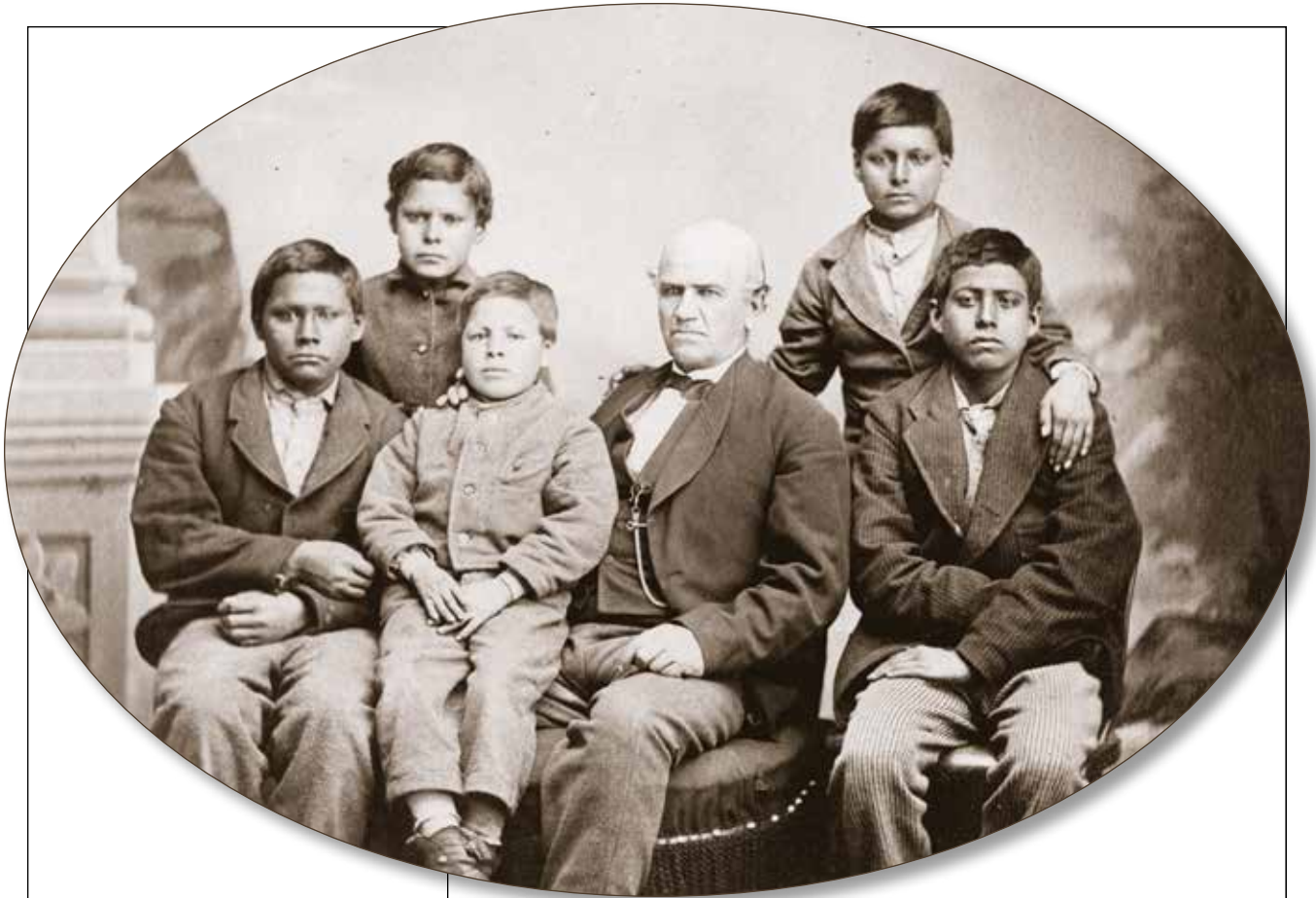
A New Indian Policy

In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant approved a "peace policy" toward the Native Americans and asked Quakers (members of the Society of Friends denomination) to help with tribal affairs. Lawrie Tatum was chosen to serve as the Indian agent at Fort Sill for the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes, a position he held until 1873.

Something Extra!

Fort Sill is the only fort built on the Southern Plains during the Indian wars that is still active. Today, it serves as a national historical landmark and is home to the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center.

Top: A replica of the trading store at Fort Sill. Lumber for the building had to be hauled three hundred miles from Kansas.



Indian Agent Lawrie Tatum.
Many Indian agents were Quakers, who believed that kind, fair treatment of the Indians would bring about peace.

As Indian agent, Tatum had many duties, including distributing rations and annuity goods. Rations included beef, bacon, flour, coffee, sugar, soap, tobacco, and soda. Annuity goods “consisted of blankets, brown muslin, satin, calico, hosiery, needles, thread, a few suits of men’s clothes, beads, tin cups, butcher knives, iron kettles, frying pans, hoes and small axes.” Sugar and coffee were the most prized of the rations, and Tatum thought that ample supplies of those items would keep the Indians peacefully on the reservation.

Fewer annuity goods were received each year, however. Tatum wrote, “They (Indians) repeatedly told me that when they behaved well they got but a small amount of goods and the only way to get a large amount was to go on the war path a while, kill a few white people, steal a good many horses and mules, and then make a treaty and they would get a large amount of presents and a liberal supply of goods for that fall.”

Soldiers were restricted by the peace policy in how they dealt with the Indians, which some warriors took as a sign of weakness. Some Plains warriors, bitter toward the U.S. government and white settlers, continued to raid in nearby states. Kiowa Chief Kicking Bird, accused of being a coward for getting along with the white people, felt he had to form a war party to keep his honor with the tribe. In 1870, Kicking Bird’s party left its camp in the Indian Territory and headed into Texas. Some of the young warriors broke away from the group and attacked

a mail stage near the Little Wichita River. Alerted to the attack, a Texas cavalry regiment pursued the warriors. A skirmish followed at Kicking Bird's camp, but the cavalry retreated when they saw they were outnumbered. After returning to the Indian Territory, however, Kicking Bird dedicated himself to establishing peaceful relations with the whites.

A number of agencies were set up in Indian Territory to deal with the various tribes. The Darlington Indian Agency was established in 1869 for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Brinton Darlington, the first superintendent, selected the site (northwest of El Reno) where the Fort Sill Military Road crossed the North Canadian River. In 1871, he began the Cheyenne Indian school, Concho, two miles north of Darlington. The Arapaho Indian Boarding School opened in 1872.

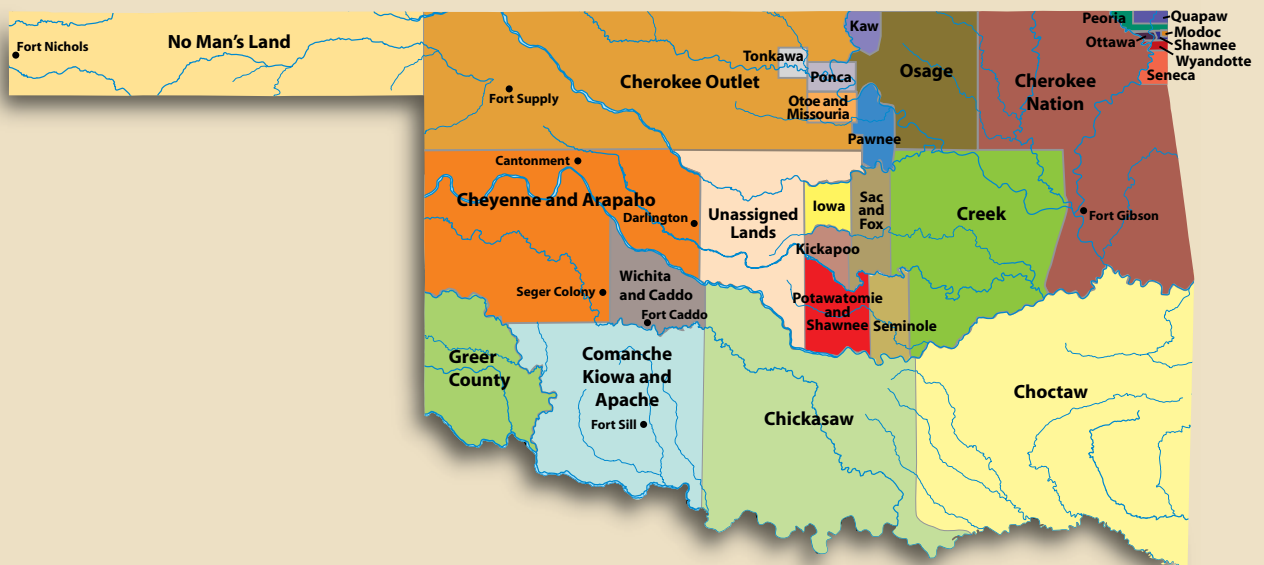
When Darlington died in 1872, John Miles became the agent. Miles soon hired John Seger, a Quaker, as a mason at the Darlington Agency. Seger arrived at Darlington on Christmas Eve 1872. He learned the tribes' languages and developed a good **rapport** (relationship) with them.

In 1874, Miles's wife suggested Seger be appointed superintendent of the Arapaho Indian Boarding School. Seger quickly turned the school into a great success. The school opened in 1872 with 12 students; by 1876, it had grown to 115. In 1879, Seger left and began ranching fifty miles to the southwest along Pond Creek (Washita County).

In 1886, Seger was approached about establishing a colony for Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians on the Washita River. A grove of walnut trees on Seger's ranch became headquarters for the Seger Colony and the Seger Indian Training School. Hundreds of students attended the school before it closed in 1932.

Map 31 Indian Territory after the Civil War

Map Skill: What tribe or tribes were assigned to the area where you live?





Branding cattle at the Seger Colony on John Seger's Ranch.

Something Extra!

From 1874 to 1878, thousands of buffalo were slaughtered by white hunters, to the point that the animal was almost exterminated. Buffalo Bill Cody alone killed 4,280 buffalo in seventeen months.



The Wichita Agency was first established in 1859 when over 1,000 Caddo, Wichita, and Tonkawa were moved to Indian Territory. In 1869, the agency located at Anadarko was called the Wichita-Caddo Agency. In 1879, the Kiowa-Comanche Agency was consolidated with the Anadarko Agency.

Other agencies, many headed by Quakers, included the Union Agency at Muskogee for the Five Tribes; the Quapaw Agency at Wyandotte for the Seneca, Seneca-Shawnee, Quapaw, Peoria, Ottawa, Miami, and Wyandotte; the Sac and Fox Agency near Stroud for Sac and Fox, Iowa, Kickapoo, and Shawnee-Pottawatomie Indians; the Osage and Kaw Agency at Pawhuska; and an agency at Ponca City for the Ponca, Otoe-Missouri, Pawnee, and Tonkawa tribes.

The Red River War

Conditions for the Plains Indians had not improved by 1874. Food promised by the U.S. government was inadequate and often of poor quality. White hunters were slaughtering buffalo by the thousands, selling the hides in the East and leaving the carcasses to rot on the Plains.

In 1874, the U.S. government declared that all Indians must live on the reservations by late summer. Any Indians caught off the reservations would be considered **renegades** (outlaws). This reservation restriction was the most difficult requirement for the Plains Indians, who for centuries had roamed the prairies at will.

Most of the Plains Indians believed their situation was desperate and that they must either fight or starve. Comanche, Kiowa, Southern Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors began to talk of war. Led by Isa-tai of the Quahadi Band of Comanche and Comanche chief Quanah Parker, the warriors decided to attack a settlement of buffalo hunters at Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle in June 1874. The attack was unsuccessful as the twenty-eight hunters with their long-range rifles were able to defend themselves.

Oklahoma Profiles

Cynthia Ann Parker

Cynthia Ann Parker was about ten years old when her family moved to Central Texas and built Fort Parker. In May 1836, a Comanche and Kiowa raiding party attacked the fort, killing several people and taking five captives, including young Cynthia. Cynthia was given to a Tenowish Comanche couple who raised her as if she were their own daughter. She married Comanche Chief Puhtocnocony (Peta Nocona), and they had three children: Quanah Parker, Pecos, and Topsannah.

In 1860, when Texas Rangers attacked a Comanche hunting camp, they discovered one of the Indians they had captured had blue eyes. Colonel Isaac Parker identified the blue-eyed Comanche as his niece, Cynthia. Believing her husband was dead, Cynthia, with her young daughter, Topsannah, reluctantly agreed to go with her uncle. Cynthia never adapted to life in the white society, especially without her sons, and died in Texas in 1870.

Cynthia's son, Quanah, became a very influential Comanche leader. Quanah searched for his mother for years and was heartbroken to learn that she had died. Quanah had his mother's body moved to a cemetery near where he lived in Comanche County. Quanah died in 1911, and in 1957 the graves were relocated to Chief's Knoll in the Fort Sill Post Cemetery.



Quanah Parker posed beside a portrait of his mother, Cynthia Ann Parker, who is holding his baby sister Topsannah.



Kicking Bird, as chief of the Kiowa, was ordered to identify twenty-six Kiowa who would become prisoners of war in Florida. While making the difficult decision, he may have been poisoned by a tribal member.

Something Extra!

The campaign was named the Red River War because fighting took place around several tributaries that empty into the Red River.

Over the next year, a number of bloody battles occurred in the Red River War in the Texas Panhandle. Troops from Fort Sill and Fort Supply joined their Texas counterparts in the effort to get the Indians back onto their reservations in the Indian Territory. The majority of Kiowa followed Kicking Bird in staying on the reservation, but Principal Chief Lone Wolf and Chief Maman-ti took a party of fifty into the war.

The military finally broke the resistance by capturing and killing most of the Indians' horses. Without their horses, the Indians were ineffective. Over the next several weeks, bands of Indians surrendered. Quanah Parker surrendered at Fort Sill in June 1875. Seventy-two captured chiefs from several tribes were sent to prison in Florida where they were held until 1878.

Last Battle in the Territory

In 1877, the Northern Cheyenne were forced to relocate to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation in the Indian Territory. Most of the people in the Northern tribe were content to join the Southern Cheyenne on the reservation even though they had

inadequate rations and hardships. But about a third of the Northern Cheyenne refused to join the Southern tribe. Dissatisfied with their new life and homesick, they decided to break away and return to the Northern Plains. Dull Knife, Little Wolf, and Morning Star led almost 90 warriors and 250 women and children away from the reservation on September 9, 1878. The escape was discovered about twelve hours later, and Companies G and H of the 4th U.S. Cavalry at Fort Reno quickly pursued the Indians.

The fleeing Cheyenne encountered two cowboys hauling salt from the Great Salt Plains and killed them for their guns and horses. The Cheyenne had not planned to kill people, but they did plan to get back to their home at any cost.

The cavalry, led by Captain Joseph Rendlebrock, caught up with the Indians on September 13 in the rolling hills and canyons north of the Cimarron River (in Woods County), near Turkey Springs. An Arapaho scout was sent to talk the Cheyenne into surrendering and returning to the reservation, but they refused.

Fighting soon started between the cavalry and the Cheyenne. The Indians set fire to the prairie grass. With no water for the troops or for their horses, the cavalry had to retreat at dawn on the 14th. The Battle of Turkey Springs ended when the warriors pursued the retreating cavalry for several miles. The engagement was the last armed conflict in the Indian Territory between the U.S. Cavalry and the American Indians.



Relocating Other Tribes

Although the territory for the American Indians was shrinking, the number of tribes relocated to it continued to grow. More Indians meant more military posts, although most of them were temporary camps or substations to protect tribes, stagecoaches, and cattle trails. Some of the additional posts in the 1870s included Camp Near Cheyenne Agency (later Fort Reno), Sewell's Stockade near Jefferson, Sheridan's Roost near Orion, Camp Robinson and Camp Otter by Tipton, Camp Auger at Grandfield, and Camp Davidson near Humphreys. Cantonment Near Canton was built in 1879 to stop Indian raids.

In 1868, the Citizen Potawatomi were pressured to sell their Kansas lands. The Citizen Band then purchased a new 30-square-mile reservation between the Canadian and North Canadian Rivers and the Seminole Nation and the Indian Meridian. They soon discovered that the government had assigned that same land to the Absentee Shawnee. The two tribes finally settled the dispute, but not until twenty-five years later. Some of the land was allotted to the tribes, and the surplus land was opened to settlement.

The early treaties referred to the Indian Territory as "the Indian country south of Kansas." The Potawatomi land, according to the treaty, would "never be included within the jurisdiction of any state or territory, unless an Indian Territory be organized." The first treaty in which the government recognized the area of Oklahoma as "Indian

Distributing rations at an Indian agency.



The Pawnee lived in large, dome-shaped earth lodges (top), supported inside by a wooden construction (above). This is a recreation of a typical Pawnee lodge.

Territory” was the 1872 treaty with the Osage tribe. The Osage sold their land in Kansas and purchased a reservation in Indian Territory in the eastern end of the Cherokee Outlet that includes the present-day Osage County.

The Kaw or Kansa tribe, like the Osage, bought land in 1873 from the Cherokee in the area of the Outlet that is today in northeastern Kay County. It took the Kaw only seventeen days to move to their new land, arriving on June 21, 1873.

The Pawnee tribe had ceded most of their land in Nebraska through three treaties. The rest of their Nebraska land was sold in 1872. The Pawnee were apprehensive about their move to Indian Territory. They had reason for that apprehension since they ran into their old enemies—the Kiowa and Osage. The Pawnee stayed at the Wichita Agency the winter of 1873-1874 as bands of the tribe gathered. Eventually, the Pawnee purchased a reservation between the Arkansas and Cimarron Rivers (parts of Pawnee and Payne counties).

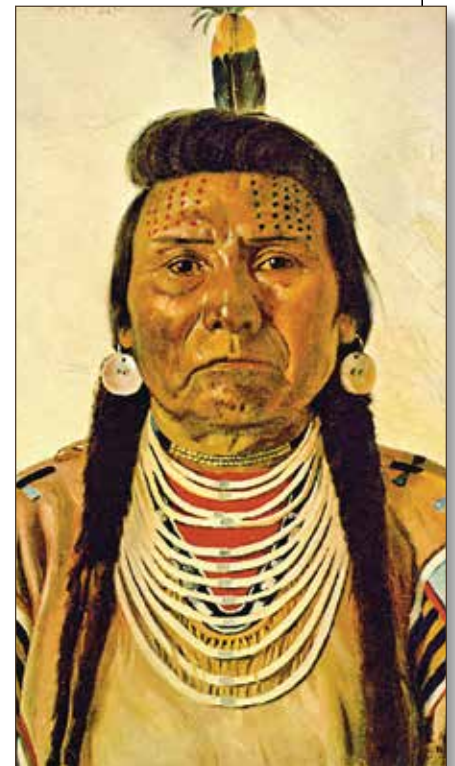
In 1865, the Ponca tribe had ceded a third of their reservation in the Northern Plains. However, the government had given the Sioux the same land that the Ponca had reserved for themselves. The Sioux overran the Ponca, killing families and livestock. For eight years, Ponca Chief Standing Bear asked the government for help. In 1876, unknown to the Ponca, Congress decided to move them to Indian Territory. When an agent suddenly appeared to force the Ponca to move, most of the tribe refused, until troops appeared to back up the agent. In the summer of 1877, Chief Standing Bear led his people to their new land in the northeastern part of the Territory. They first went to the Quapaw reservation; later, in 1881, they found an area they liked better on the Salt Fork River.



The Ponca suffered many deaths during their first years after removal, including Standing Bear's son. The grieving chief decided to bury his son on their old homeland. During a blizzard and without permission of the agent, Standing Bear and a party of thirty Ponca made the long journey to the Omaha Agency, where they were arrested. When the public learned of the situation and the case was reviewed, the Ponca were released. Publicity of the unfair treatment of the Ponca reached the East, and in 1880, President Rutherford Hayes appointed a special committee to investigate. Congress compensated the tribe and secured better conditions for them.

In 1879, the Nez Perce and Chief Joseph were brought to Indian Territory as prisoners of war from their reservation in the northwest. They settled on a reservation in present-day Kay County. Their high death rate, unhappiness, and constant plea to return to their homeland were finally heard in 1885, when they were allowed to go to a reservation in Washington.

Thirty-nine Indian tribes, of which thirty-eight are federally recognized, maintain headquarters in Oklahoma today. The American Indian population (including Alaska Native) in Oklahoma in the 2010 U.S. Census was 482,760, second only to California.



Top: The Nez Perce surrendered after being pursued by the Army for 1,800 miles. **Above:** Chief Joseph is known for the words he said upon surrendering: "Hear me my chiefs. I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

It's Your Turn

1. Why were the Medicine Lodge treaties of 1867 important?
2. Name two battles that took place during Sheridan's winter campaign.
3. Give two reasons for the Red River War.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

- The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 changed the course of Reconstruction for the country.
- The process of restoring lives was different in Indian Territory from that of the rest of the country.
- The Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act of 1862 opened up the West even more to land-hungry settlers and took more land away from the Indians.
- The 1866 Reconstruction treaties punished the Five Tribes for their support of the Confederacy. The tribes lost much of their land in Indian Territory.
- The attacks and retaliation between the Plains tribes and white settlers heightened the dangers west of the Mississippi. New forts and camps were established to control the Plains Indians and force them onto reservations. The Medicine Lodge Treaty laid out the plans for reassigning the Plains tribes to this reservation land.
- In the Battle of the Washita, in November 1868, Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer led the 7th Cavalry against defenseless Indians.
- Fort Sill, located in the foothills of the Wichita Mountains, was built in 1869 by white troops of the 6th Infantry and by black troops of the 10th Cavalry, who were known as buffalo soldiers.
- Indian agents distributed rations and annuity goods to the tribes, although fewer and fewer supplies were received each year. Schools were established at several Indian agencies to educate Indian children.
- Due to the deteriorating conditions on the reservations, Indians became more hostile and

fought a number of bloody battles in the Red River War.

- The Battle of Turkey Springs was the last armed conflict in Indian Territory between the U.S. Cavalry and American Indians.
- Although the area allocated to the Indians was shrinking, more and more tribes were relocated to Indian Territory during this period. Less and less land was available for each tribe.

Vocabulary

Write a definition for each of the following words:

1. consolidated
2. counterpart
3. delegate
4. Freedmen's Bureau
5. Homestead Act of 1862
6. hostilities
7. intertribal
8. land speculator
9. mason
10. Pacific Railway Act
11. Reconstruction
12. regiments
13. scout
14. "strong medicine"

Understanding the Facts

1. What two pieces of legislation led to the opening of the West?
2. On a two-column chart, label one column "Annuity Goods" and the other column "Rations." List at least four items under each heading.
3. Who led the U.S. troops at the Battle of the Washita? Who was the Indian leader and to what tribe did he belong?

4. What army fort established in 1869 is still in use today?
5. Who were the buffalo soldiers?
6. What were the duties of an Indian agent?
7. Name two tribes that were relocated to Indian Territory in the 1870s.

Developing Critical Thinking

1. Describe how the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act of 1862 contributed to the opening of western lands for settlement and explain how this affected the Indians in Indian Territory.
2. Why was the Battle of the Washita one of the most controversial incidents of the Indian wars?
3. About 1870, a Comanche chief arrived at one of the forts on the Plains to meet General Philip Sheridan. The chief had come on his own to introduce himself and to explain that the raids occurring were not made by members of his tribe. When he explained that he was a “good” Indian, Sheridan replied, “The only good Indian is a dead Indian.”
 - a. If a leader today were to make this remark, what do you suppose would be the reaction?
 - b. Have attitudes changed in the last century, or have they stayed the same?
4. Why do you think Ponca Chief Standing Bear would risk arrest just to bury his son on the tribe’s old homeland in Nebraska?

Applying Your Skills

1. Pretend you are an Indian who has returned to Indian Territory after the Civil War. Write a letter to a friend in another state describing what has happened to your tribe because of the Reconstruction treaties.
2. On a map of Indian Territory, locate
 - a. the following forts constructed by the military after the Civil War: Fort Nichols, Camp Supply, and Fort Sill.
 - b. the site of the Battle of the Washita.

Exploring Technology

1. The Plains Indians took many women and children captive in raids on settlements. Cynthia Ann Parker, the mother of Quanah Parker, spent many years with the Indians after being captured. On the Internet, research the details of her story and prepare a report. Discuss her attitudes toward both the white and the Indian cultures. Why was it difficult for her to return to white society? How did she feel about her Indian captors? What happened to her after she returned to white society? How do you think she would be treated today?
2. Using the official Fort Sill website, sill-www.army.mil/, research the history of the fort from the point when it was established in 1869 to the present. Discuss its significance in military history.

Building Skills

Reading Maps

If you study an Oklahoma road map, it tells you about the state today. Historical maps tell facts about places at a particular time in the past. Using maps that show the distribution of land to the different Indian tribes pre- and post-Civil War (Maps 24 and 31), answer the following questions:

1. What significant change do you see in the land assigned to the Five Tribes after the Civil War?
2. Which tribes appear to have received the largest amount of land?
3. Why was the Cherokee Outlet no longer a good area for the Cherokee to use to graze their cattle after the Civil War?