

TIMELINE FOR THE LONG DRIVE AND CATTLE RANCHING

- 1769** Modest herds of domestic cattle are brought into the lower Rio Grande missions by Spanish cowboys called *vaqueros* (from *vaca*, meaning cow).
- 1852:** Richard King starts the proto-type cattle ranch on the Santa Gertrudis Creek near Brownsville, Texas.
- 1853-54** The first drive of Texas cattle to Missouri by Thomas Candy Ponting (the son of an English farmer) with about 780 cows (eventually, he headed some all the way to New York City).
- 1854** Cattle are driven along a military road from Fort Gibson to Fort Scott to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Missouri begins to turn back Texas cattle, fearing “Texas Fever” carried by the longhorns.
- 1855** Congress creates Kansas Territory.
- 1860** Oliver Loving drives 1000 head of cattle through the center of Indian lands (Oklahoma) through Kansas Territory to the present site of Denver, Colorado to supply gold miners.
- 1860** Abraham Lincoln is elected president.
- 1860** The Winchester repeating rifle is introduced.
- 1861-65** The Civil War is fought.
- 1865** Texas finds itself with six million head of cattle and the problem of how to take cattle worth \$3 to a market offering \$30 a head without the use of a railroad into Texas.
- 1866** Thousands of Texas cattle travel through the Indian Nation on the Shawnee East and West Trails to Baxter Springs and north to other markets served by the Union Pacific railroad.
- 1866** The first “chuck wagon” was built by Charlie Goodnight to serve food to his cattle drovers.
- 1866** John W. Iliff buys the first cattle driven over the Goodnight-Loving Trail.
- 1867** The Chisholm Trail opens.
- 1867** Kansas passes a “Texas fever/Spanish fever” law prohibiting Texas and Indian herds in eastern Kansas.
- 1868** Joseph McCoy establishes Abilene, Kansas as a major cattle railhead. More than a million cows will go through Abilene in five years.

Timeline for the Long Drive and Cattle Ranching continued:

- 1868** Camp Supply is established.
- 1868** George Custer attacks Black Kettle's camp at the Washita River, near the present day Cheyenne.
- 1869** The Transcontinental Railroad is completed when the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads meet at Promontory Point, Utah.
- 1871** Joseph McCoy hires James Butler (Wild Bill) Hickok to be marshal of Abilene for \$150 a month. By December, "Wild Bill" is fired for accidentally killing his deputy (Bill's eyes were going bad).
- 1872** Abilene, Newton, Wichita and Caldwell are quarantined against Texas and Indian cattle. Despite the law, several of these towns have peak years in the cattle trade.
- 1873** Dodge City becomes the major center for cattle herds as five more quarantine laws go into effect in Kansas.
- 1870's** Texas and Kansas's cattlemen began to use the Cherokee Outlet as "free" grazing ground.
- 1874** Joseph F. Glidden is given a patent for barbed wire...cowboys dub it "Devil Wire".
- 1875** Judge Isaac Parker is appointed to the bench at Fort Smith for the Western District of Arkansas and the Indian Nations.
- 1876** The James Gang is shot up and most are killed or captured at Northfield, Minnesota (Jesse and Frank James escape capture).
- 1876** Crazy Horse and the Sioux Indians defeat George Custer and the 7th Cavalry at the Little Big Horn River (Custer is killed).
- 1876** "Wild Bill" Hickok is shot in the back in Saloon #10 in Deadwood, South Dakota.
- 1879** The Cherokee Nation collects \$1,100 from cattlemen using the Outlet. This represents 20,000 head of cattle, but only half of the cattlemen using the land pay.
- 1882** The Cherokee Nation and the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association sign a lease agreement giving the cattlemen Outlet land for five years at \$100,000 per year.
- 1882** Jesse James is killed by Bob Ford; Frank James surrenders to the authorities.

Timeline for the Long Drive and Cattle Ranching continued:

- 1883** First Wild West Show by William “Buffalo Bill” Cody.
- 1880-84** David Payne enters the Outlet and proposes that settlers be allowed to “boom” into the territory, replacing the cattle monopoly that was already there. The 9th United States Cavalry escort Payne and his followers out of the territory a number of times.
- 1884** David Payne dies and is replaced by William Couch as the leader of the “boomers”. The political battle between the Cherokee Nation, the federal government, the Cherokee Strip Association and the settlers continue.
- 1886** Geronimo is captured, ending the southwestern Indian War.
- 1886-87** One of the worst winters on record and thousands of cattle die as the beef market spirals downward.
- 1887** The Cherokee Nations suffers from political dissention over the cattle lands in the Outlet and are bordering on bloodshed.
- 1888** Benjamin Harrison is elected president.
- 1889** The Unassigned Lands are opened to homesteaders by land run, allowing them 160 acres or a town lot. The federal government orders the last 250,000 head of cattle out of the Cherokee Outlet by October 1, 1890. Those who chose to move or sell their cattle cause economic chaos throughout the United States.
- 1890** “No Man’s Land” is added to the Oklahoma Territory by the Organic Act.
- 1890** Peanut butter is invented.
- 1892** The Miller Brothers establish their 3rd and final headquarters on the site of what will be the famed 101 Ranch in the Cherokee Outlet.
- 1893** The Cherokee Outlet is opened by land run to homesteaders.

