

*Chapter 10*  
**Rebuilding Indian Territory**



*In this chapter:*

- ❖ *Indian Territory's economy will rebound in the 1870s with the introduction of cattle drives, the construction of railroads, and the beginning of the coal mining industry.*
- ❖ *The federal government will undertake efforts to curb lawlessness in Indian Territory, including putting an end to illegal liquor and the arrest and prosecution of notorious outlaws by a diverse group of dedicated marshals and deputies.*

# *Section 1: A New Economy*



# Following the Civil War, the Freedmen's Bureau was set up to assist the transition from slavery.

*It provided legal help, educational opportunities, and medical care.*



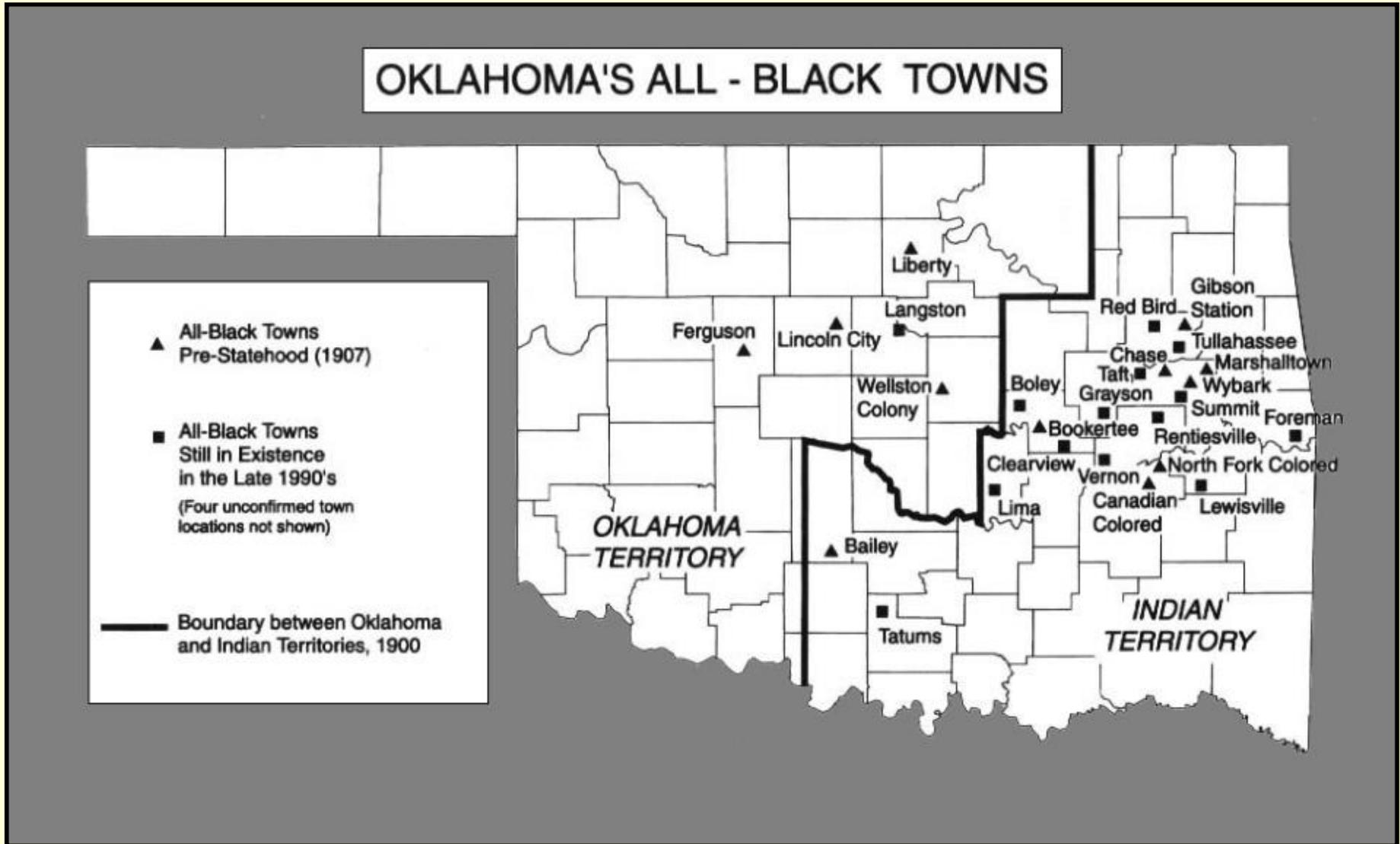
**But segregation, or separating groups by race, was still common in the South after the war.**

*It created an unusual situation in Indian Territory.*

*Former slaves were considered equals by some tribes, but not by others.*



Freedmen began to establish all-black towns.

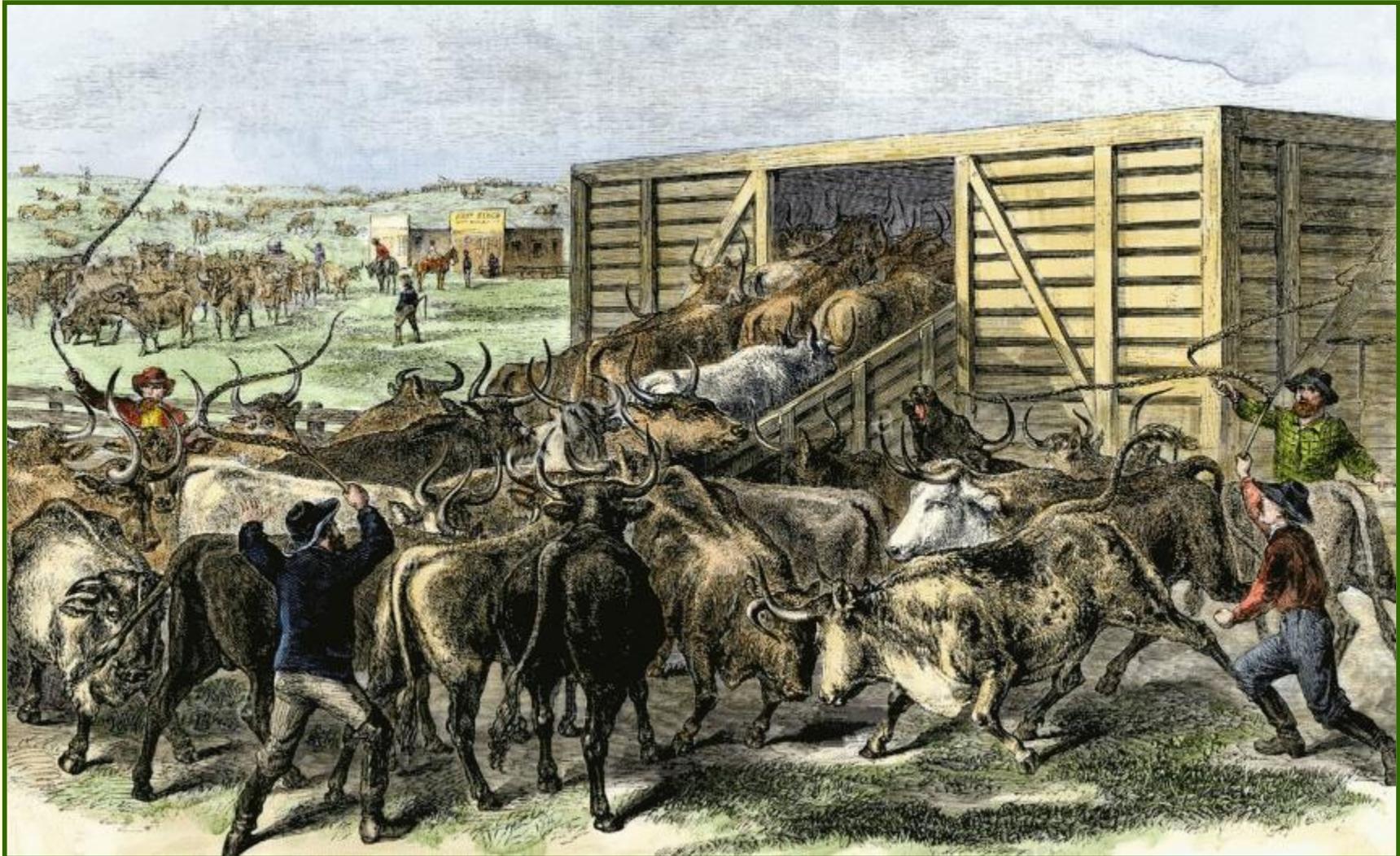




*One answer came from an unlikely source.*



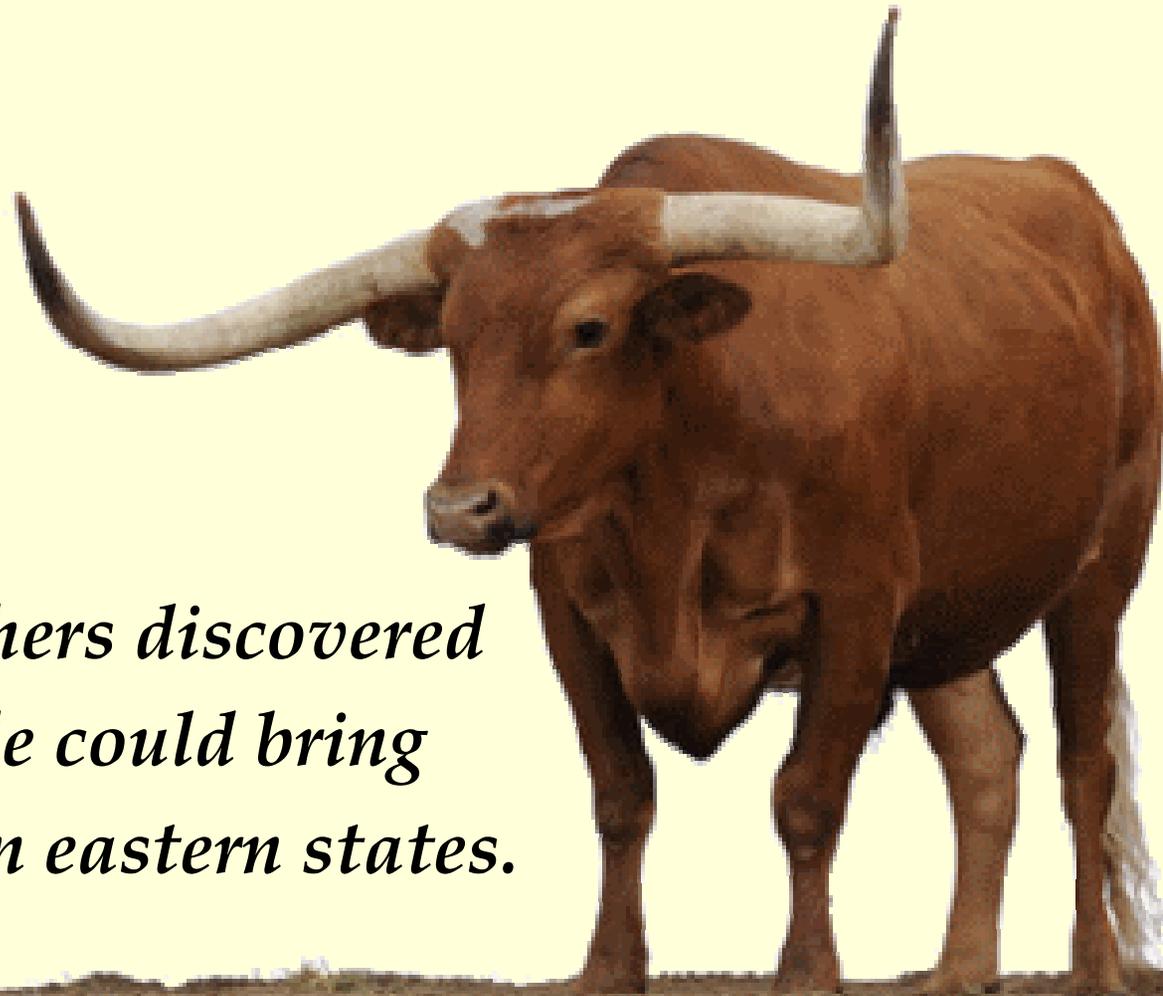
**The Civil War had taken a toll on livestock in the East, and cattle were in short supply there.**



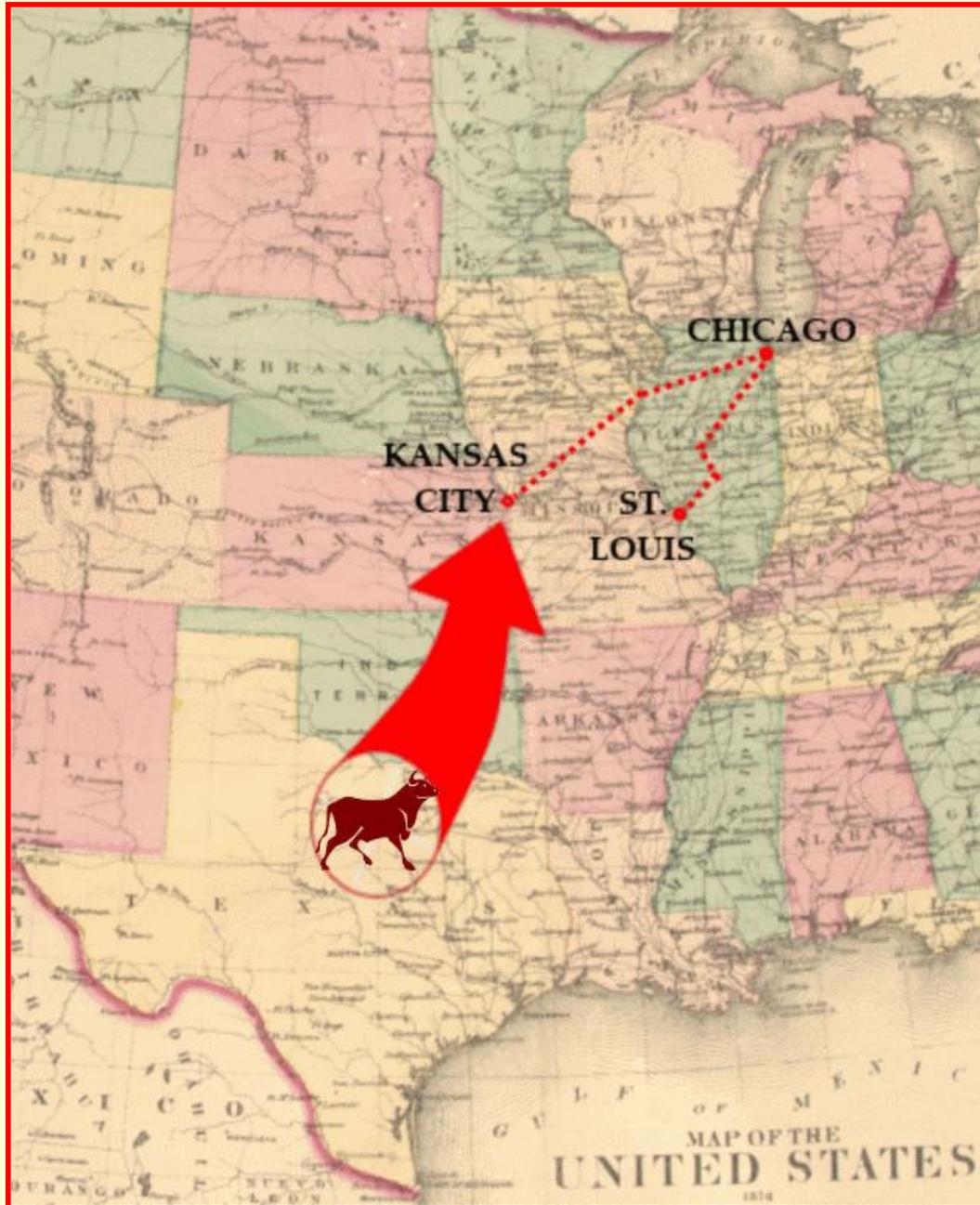
*Wild cattle had covered the Southern plains for centuries.*

**But the supply of longhorns in Texas had outgrown local demand, forcing prices down to only \$2 a head.**

*Ranchers wanted to move their cattle to better markets.*

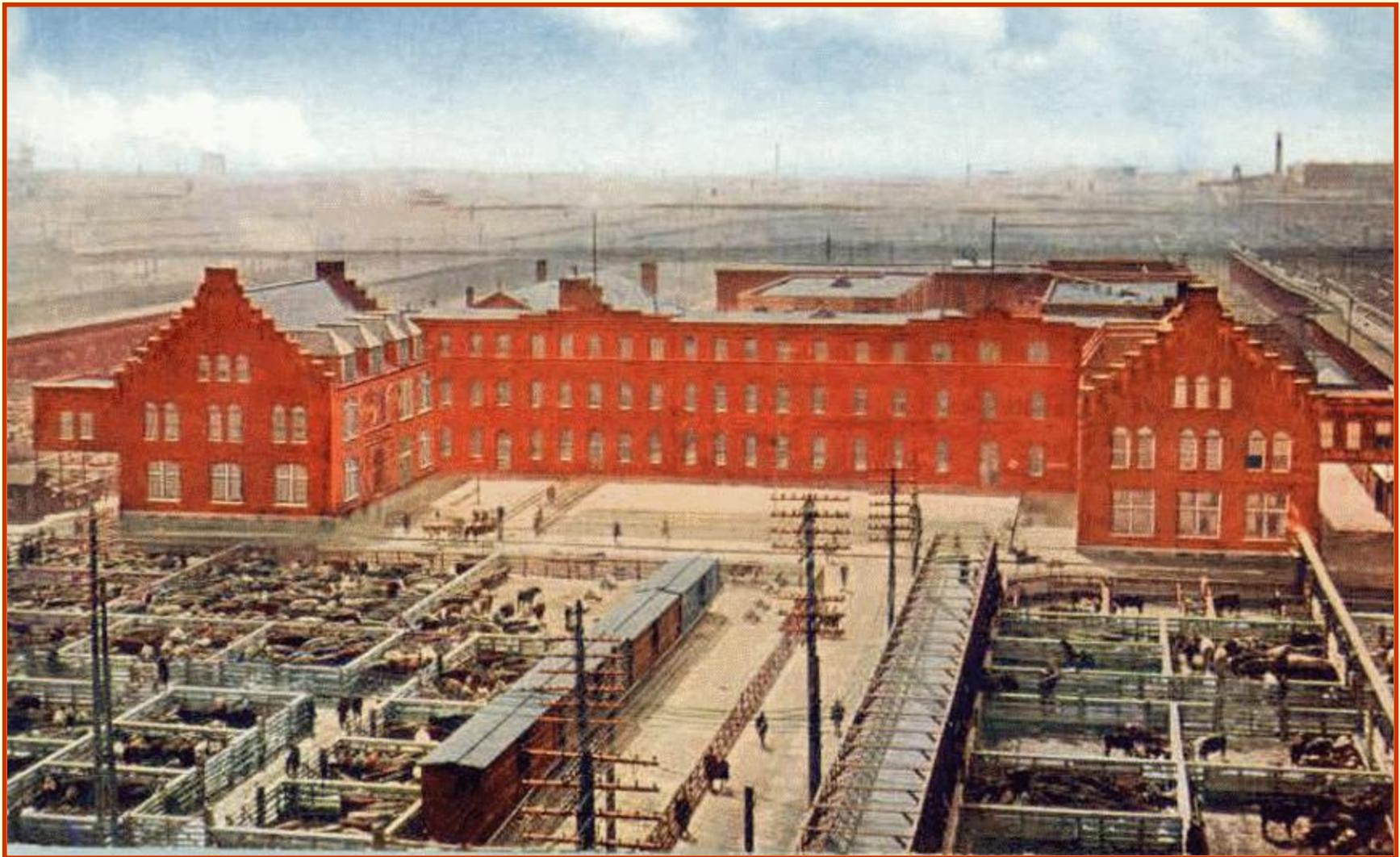


*Texas ranchers discovered  
that cattle could bring  
\$40 a head in eastern states.*



**To reach the Eastern markets, ranchers had to move the herds to the railheads - the ends of the railroad lines - in Kansas City and St. Louis.**

*The cattle were processed at the slaughterhouses in Chicago before being shipped to the East Coast.*



**A cattle drive consisted of 2,500 to 3,000 animals and covered only about 10 to 15 miles a day.**

*Trail crews were made up of whites, blacks, Hispanics, and Indians, and many of the cowboys were between 12 to 18 years of age.*

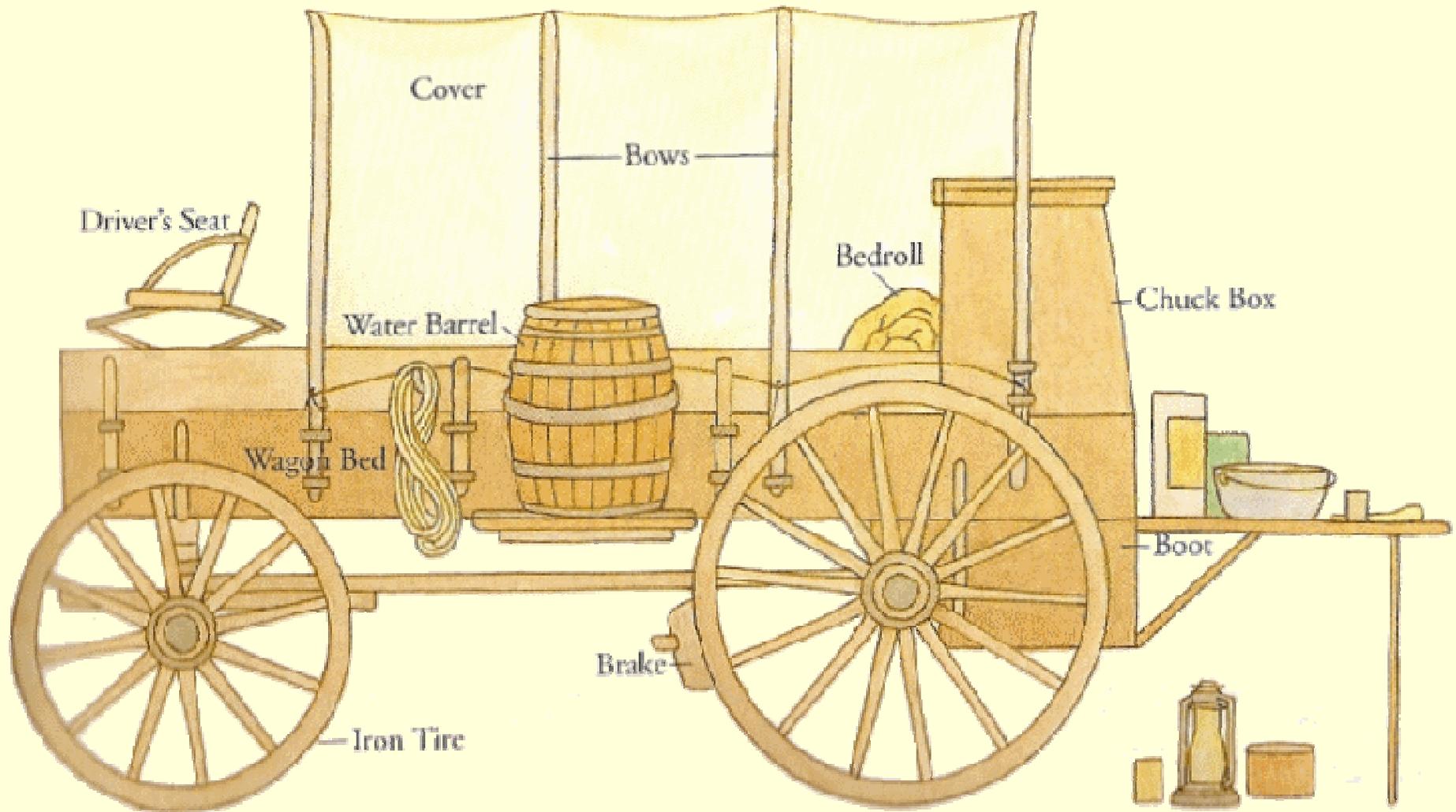


*One of the most famous cowboys was Bill Pickett. He invented bulldogging, where the cowboy jumps from his horse, grabs the bull by the horns, and wrestles it to the ground.*



# The chuck wagon served as the drive's headquarters.

*The supply list included water barrels; kettles and skillets; 600 lbs. of flour; 60 lbs. of coffee and tea; cornmeal; beans and rice; dried fruit and beef jerky; eggs; vinegar, sugar, molasses, salt, pepper, and other flavorings; lard; and dry fuel.*



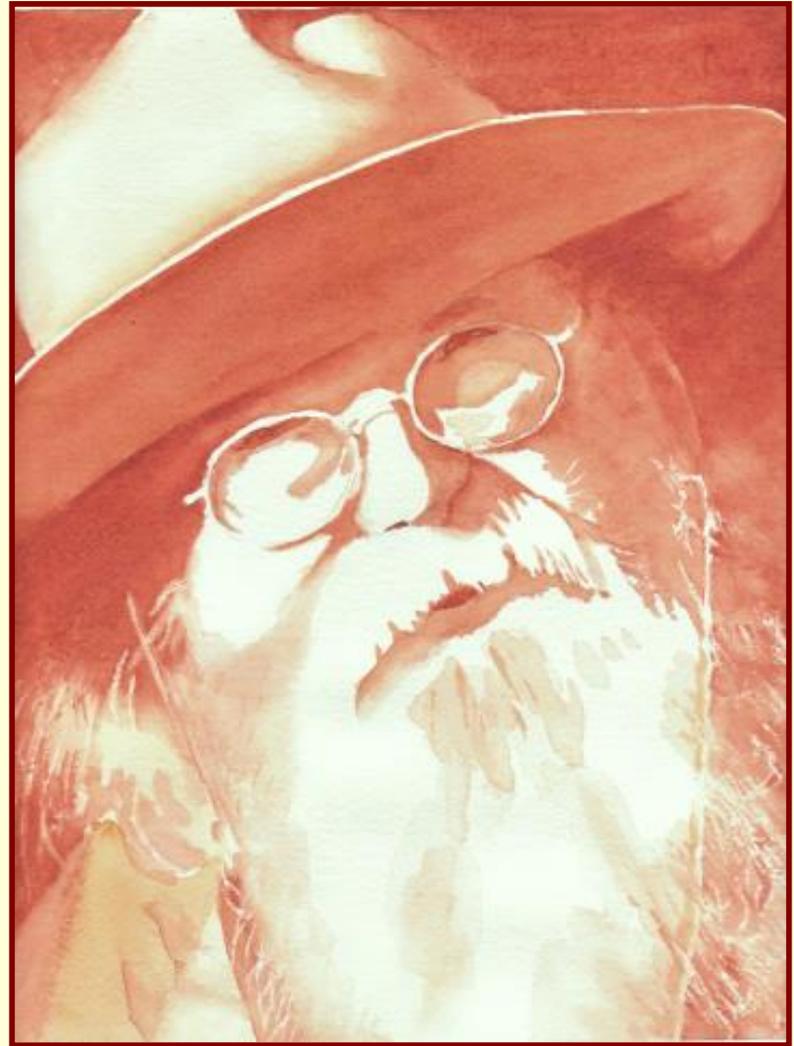
*Next to the trail boss, the most important man on the months-long cattle drive was the cook.*

*Usually just called "Cookie," he was also a barber, dentist, banker, and settler of arguments.*

*The cook started work about 3 a.m. preparing breakfast and black coffee.*

*When camp was broken, he would clean up, repack the wagon, and ride ahead to find the next camp.*

*Suppers included beans and stews, with biscuits and the occasional pie.*



**The first major route, the East Shawnee Trail, crossed through the swamps around Boggy Depot, where ticks and mosquitoes spread diseases.**

*Later trails crossed far western Oklahoma and the Panhandle.*



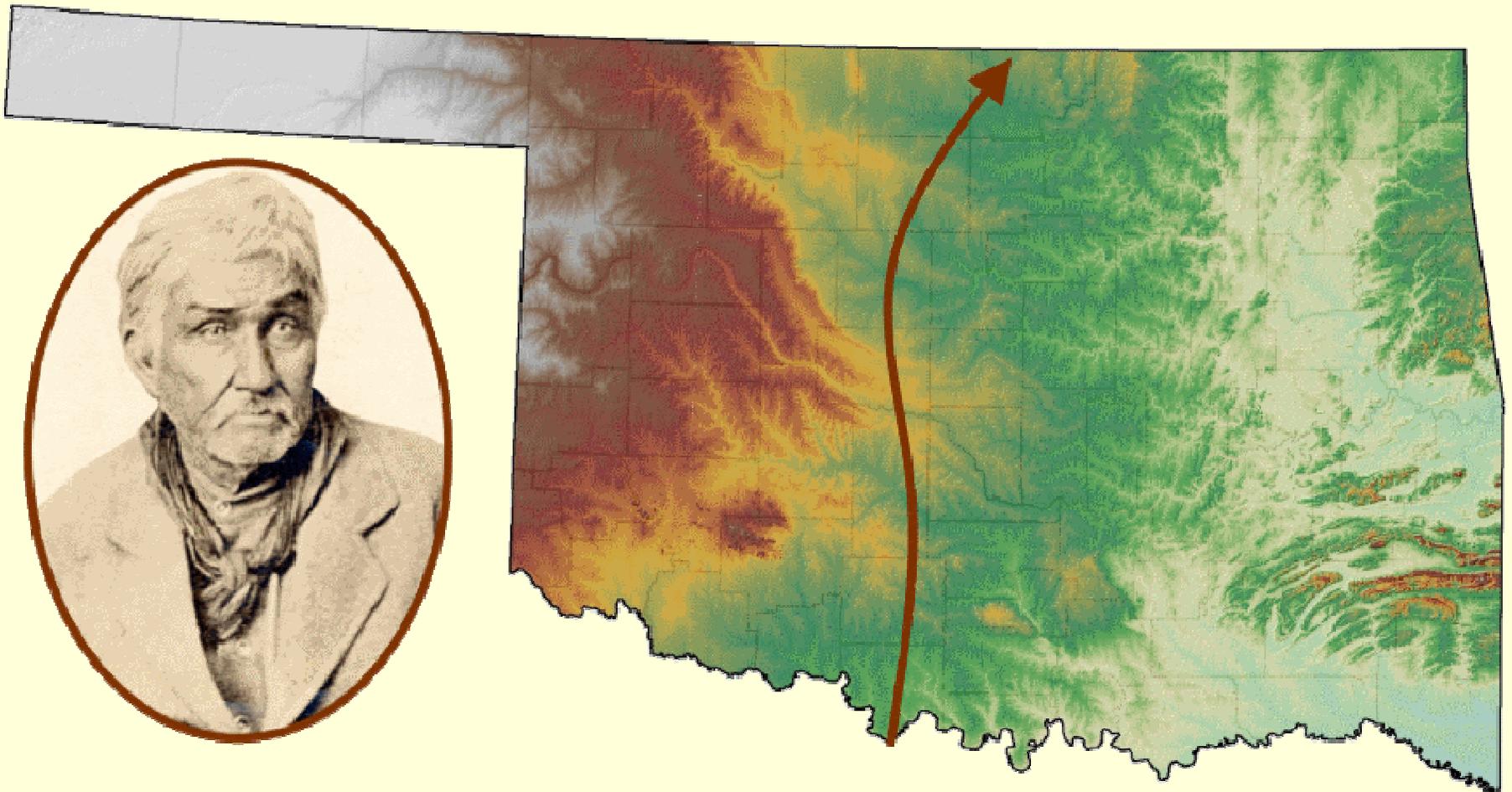
**When Texas Fever, a deadly disease, broke out on the eastern trails, cattlemen began looking for trails that avoided the affected areas.**



# The best new route was The Chisholm Trail.

*Founded in 1867 by a mixed-blood Cherokee named Jesse Chisholm, within five years more than 600,000 cattle had been herded north on it.*

*It featured water and prairie grass - and few geographical obstructions.*



**The Trail crossed central Indian Territory  
and ended at the new railhead in Abilene, Kansas,  
where the cattle were held until being shipped east.**

*The new town billed itself as "The Cow Capital of the World."*



*Cattlemen quarantined the livestock for a week to certify them free of Texas Fever.*



**On the drives, the cattle had always grazed  
on the prairie grasses of Indian Territory.**

**The tribes realized this could generate income.**

*The Cherokee created a livestock association to bargain with the cattlemen.*



*Selling the grazing rights in the Cherokee Outlet at 2¢ an acre, the tribe made \$500,000 over five years.*



**Illegal grazing later became a problem.**

**In order to protect their lands in the Outlet,  
the Cherokee fenced them off with barbed wire.**

*The fences had sharp points at intervals along the strands.*



**After the Civil War, the Wells Fargo Company  
restored the stagecoach runs of the old  
Butterfield Overland Mail route.**

*The effort didn't last, because railroads were coming into Indian Territory.*



**The Plains Indians didn't like the "Iron Horse"  
and often attacked the trains.**



**The Five Civilized Tribes, however,  
welcomed the railroads to Indian Territory.**

**Atchison**  
**TOPEKA**  
 AND  
**Santa Fe RR**

**7 1/2 Hours Quickest**  
 AND  
 142 MILES THE SHORTEST ROUTE  
**To PUEBLO**  
 AND THE CELEBRATED  
**San JUAN MINES**

**The New Southern Route to**  
**DENVER**

**THE FINEST LINE OF**  
**NEW PULLMAN PALACE SLEEPING CARS**

ON THE CONTINENT, RUN THROUGH FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

**OUR AGENTS.**  
 The following gentlemen will take pleasure in answering all questions in detail, and will furnish Maps, Time Tables and "San Juan Guide," upon application. Address the nearest Agent.

<b>RAMT. B. HYNES</b> , Gen'l Agent, 152 North Fourth Street, St. Louis.	<b>H. B. WARWICK</b> , Gen'l Southern Agent, 154 Vine St., Cincinnati.
<b>E. R. HUTTON</b> , Gen'l Eastern Agent, 216 Broadway, New York.	<b>W. D. MANCHESTER</b> , Gen'l Agent, 57 Dearborn Street, Chicago.
<b>J. A. GARDNER</b> , Agent, Room 8, 14 Public Square, Cleveland, O.	<b>W. R. FLEAHOY</b> , Gen'l New England Agent, 151 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
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OR ANY OF THE GENERAL OFFICERS.

<b>C. F. MORSE</b> , Gen'l Agent, Topeka, Kas.	<b>W. F. WHITE</b> , Gen'l Third Agent, Topeka, Kas.	<b>ELI LEWIS, JR.</b> , Gen'l Traveling Agent, 207 N. First St., St. Louis.	<b>T. J. ANDERSON</b> , Gen'l Passenger Agent, Topeka, Kas.
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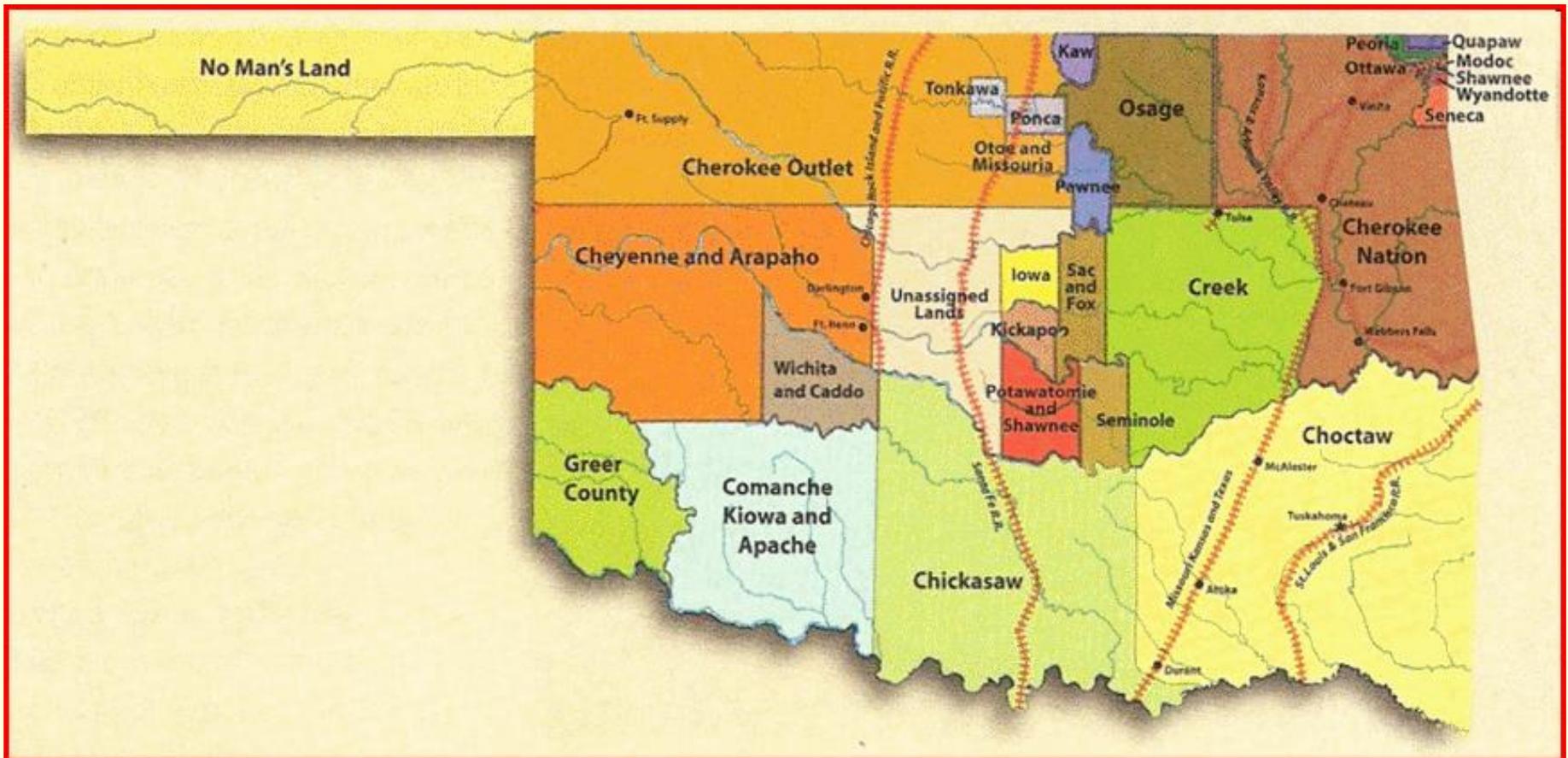
The most important rail line was the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.

*It was built just east of the Chisholm Trail.*

*During the Land Run of 1889, it brought thousands of settlers to Guthrie, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Moore, and Norman.*

*Another rail line through the Territory was the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (called the MKT or The Katy). It followed the old Texas Road.*

*Shorter routes included the Frisco (southeast) and the Rock Island (west central).*



**Coal was the primary fuel for the steam locomotives.**

*There were extensive coal deposits in the Choctaw lands.*



**Confederate veteran  
James J. McAlester  
discovered  
a geologist's notes  
about coal deposits  
on Choctaw land  
near a town called  
The Crossroads.**

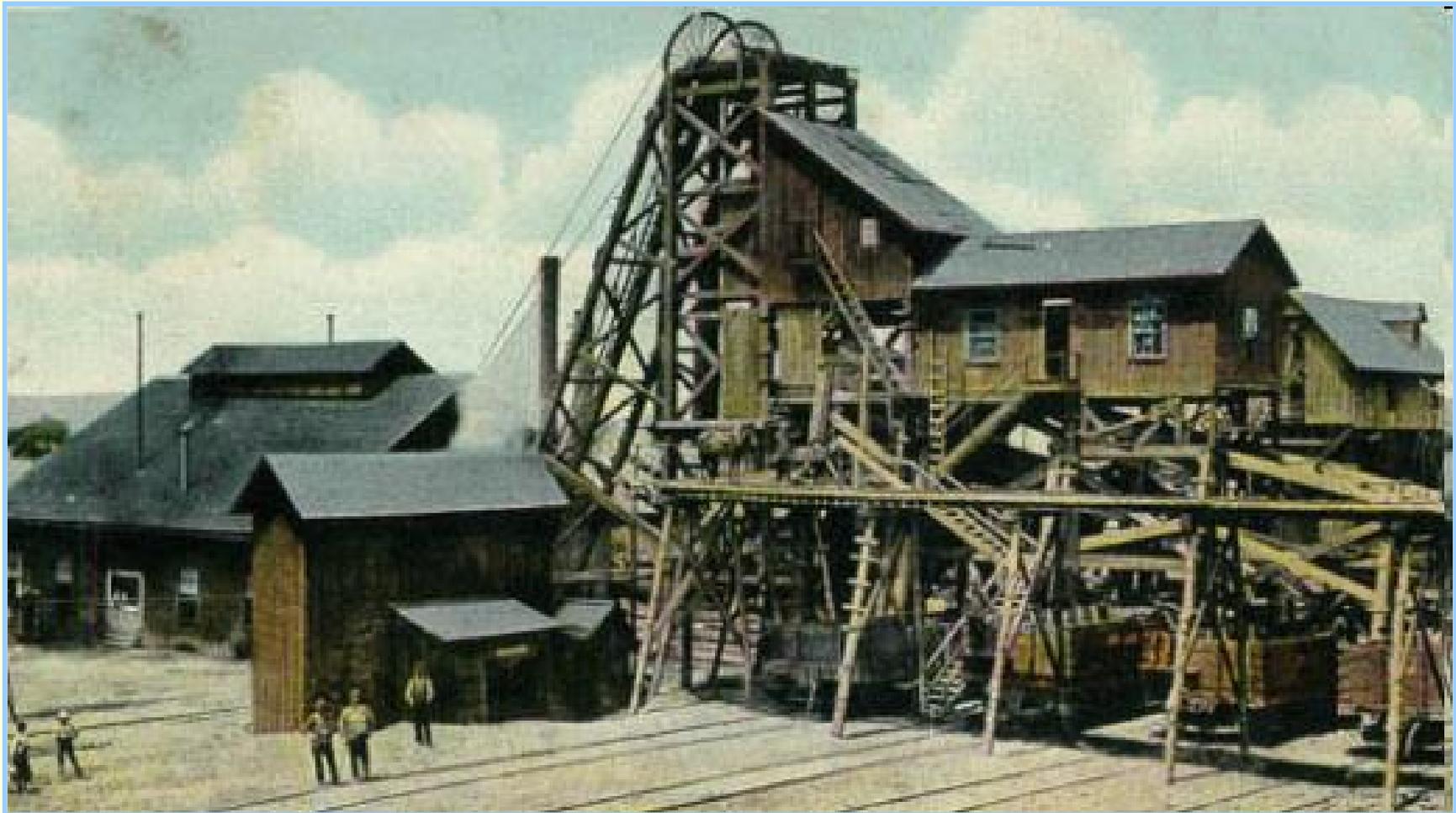


**He moved to Indian Territory and opened  
a general store there in 1870.**



# He built the Oklahoma Mining Company and then shared the profits with the Choctaw Nation.

*It provided steady income for the tribe for decades.*



**The Choctaw renamed The Crossroads in his honor.**



*Tribes had also known about the territory's oil springs for centuries, but couldn't find a use for them.*

*Crude oil was believed to be medicinal, treating arthritis and rheumatism.*

*The invention of the automobile in the 1890s made oil very profitable.*



## *Section 2: Law and Disorder*



# The Lighthorse Police enforced tribal laws.

*Minor offenses were usually punished by public whippings.*



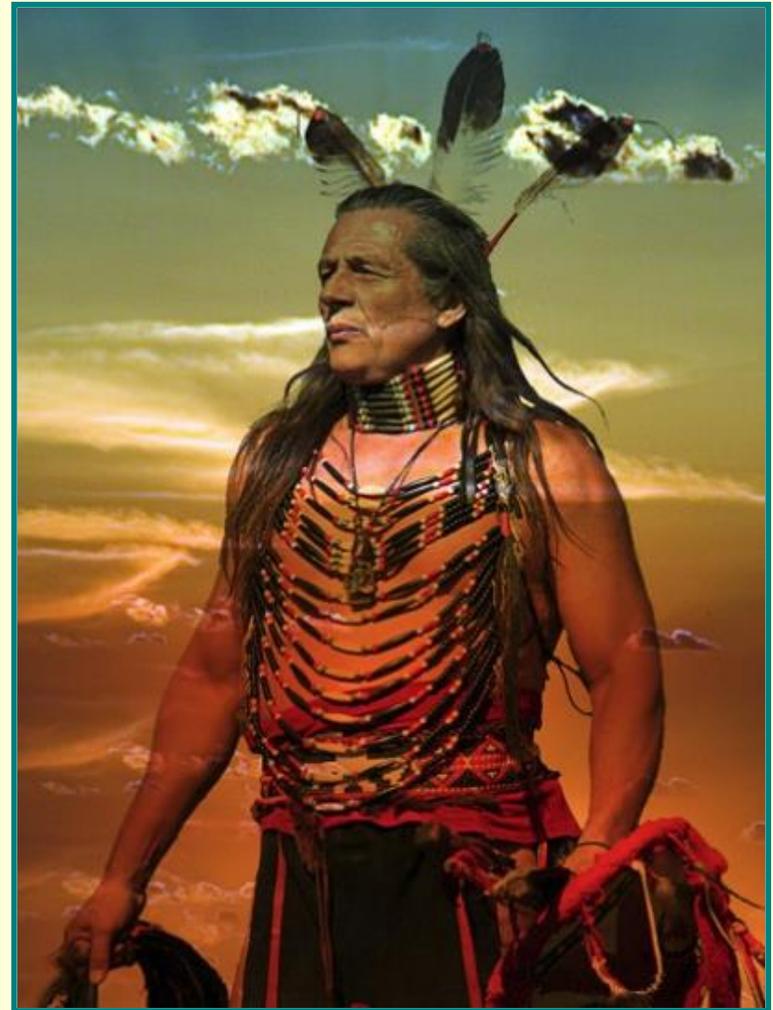
**The most serious crimes ended with execution by firing squad.**



**A condemned man would be released to his family, returning on the day of his execution.**

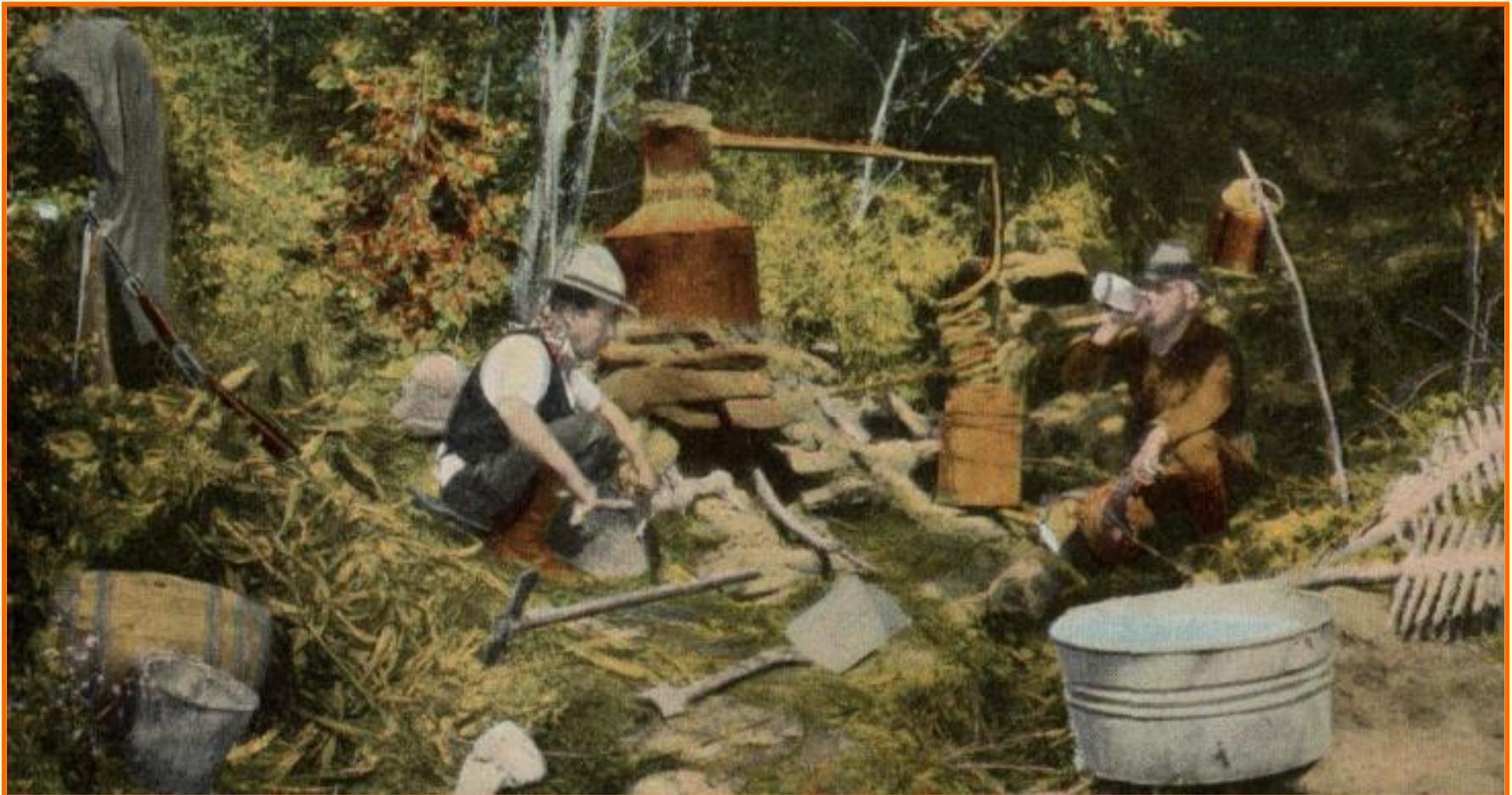
*Natives honored the practice, because failure to return would brand a man as a coward.*

**According to Plains Indian beliefs, a coward would be denied a home in the Eternal Hunting Grounds.**



**“Firewater,” the Natives’ term for whiskey, caused many problems and was banned from the Territory.**

*Later, white settlers distilled “moonshine,” a clear liquor that was so strong it was often diluted with water and flavored with ginger, red pepper, or molasses.*



**People sometimes carried illegal liquor bottles into the Territory in their high-top boots. These criminals were called “bootleggers.”**

*The flasks, or flat bottles, were hard to detect, since they sat snugly against the leg.*





**From the end of  
the Civil War  
to statehood,  
Indian Territory  
was plagued  
with outlaws.**

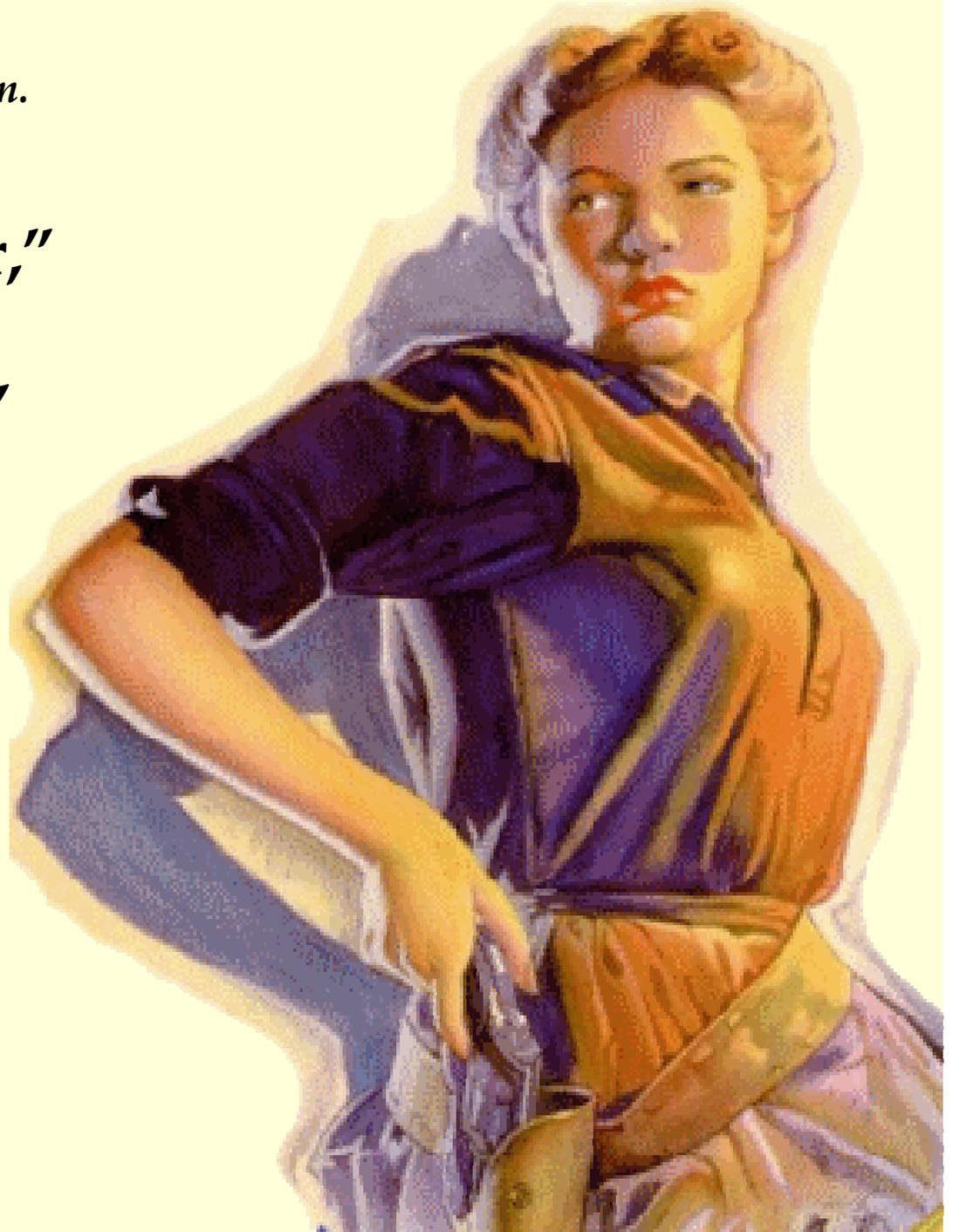
*Bank robbers, horse thieves,  
cattle rustlers, and others  
fled from the law  
and hid out in  
the Cross Timbers,  
caves, and hills.*

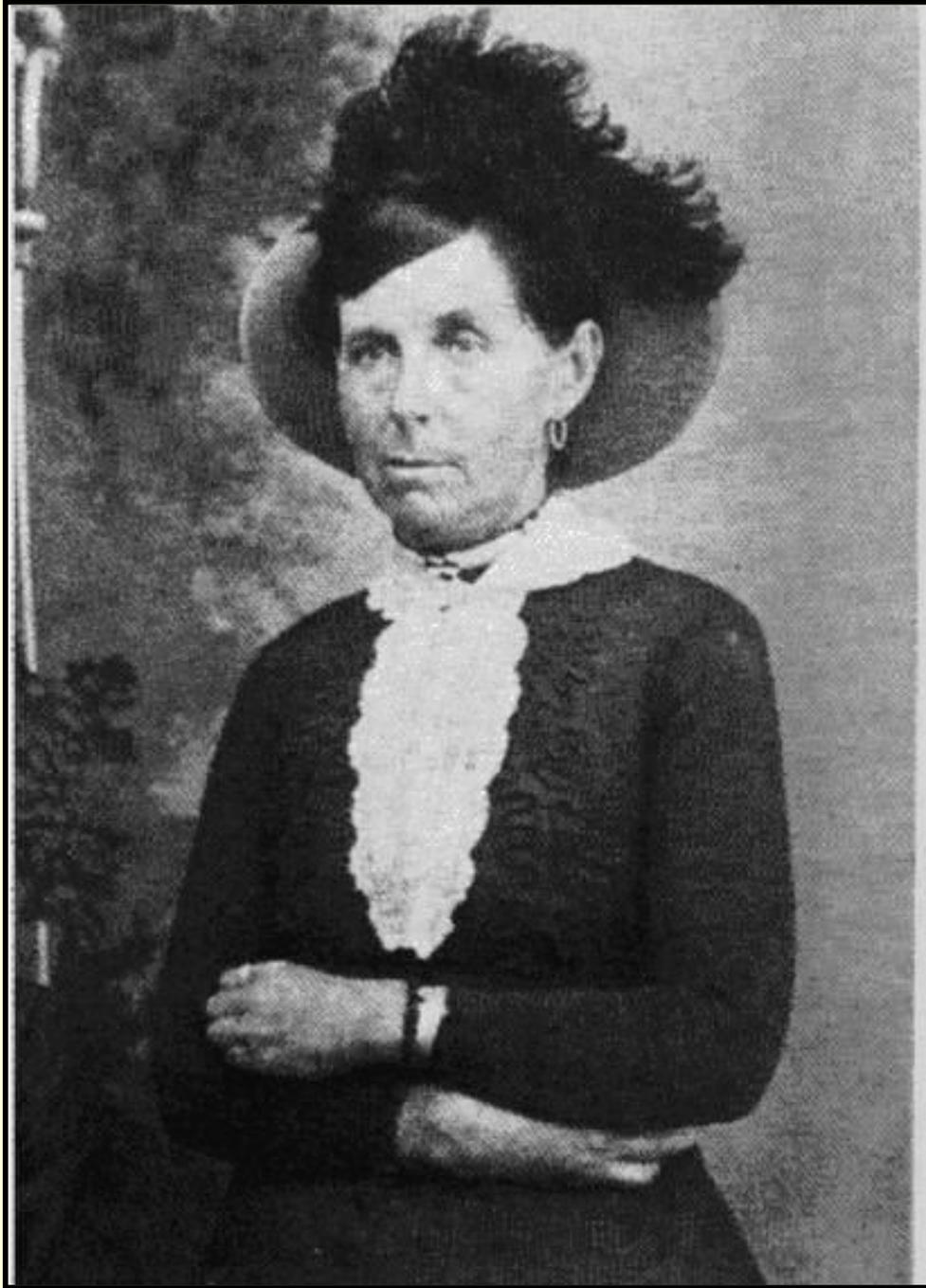
*Not all of these outlaws were men.*

**Myra Shirley,  
known as “Belle Starr,”  
was tagged as  
“The Bandit Queen”  
in the newspapers.**

*She and her Cherokee husband  
Sam Starr had a homestead  
in Briartown (near Tahlequah)  
that became a safe haven  
for criminal gangs.*

*Like other outlaws  
of this era, Hollywood  
was fascinated by her life,  
and made a movie  
about her in 1941.*





*This is  
the real  
Belle Starr.*

**A former bushwhacker  
named Jesse James  
became a bank robber  
and often hid out  
in Indian Territory,  
even though he did  
most of his “work” in  
Kansas and Missouri.**



**Outlaws were often hunted by a mounted group of local lawmen called a posse.**

**But they were reluctant to enter Indian Territory.**



**In 1851, a federal court had been established  
for western Arkansas and Indian Territory.  
It had jurisdiction, or control, over all legal matters.**

*Due to a variety of problems, it was largely ineffective until the 1870s.*



**In 1875, former lawyer, judge, and congressman Isaac Parker was appointed to the Western District.**



**On his first day,  
he found eight men  
guilty of murder  
and gave them all  
the death sentence.**

*In the process, he picked up  
his nickname:  
"The Hanging Judge."*

**For the next 21 years,  
Judge Parker  
organized an army of  
U.S. deputy marshals  
to bring law and order  
to his district.**

*These lawmen, like the outlaws  
they chased, were also an  
integrated group and included  
whites, Indians, and  
African Americans.*



*Armed with warrants, handcuffs, and leg irons, the deputies would often be out for weeks while they hunted down criminals.*



**Captured prisoners were taken back to Fort Smith in a mobile jail called a “Tumbleweed Wagon.”**



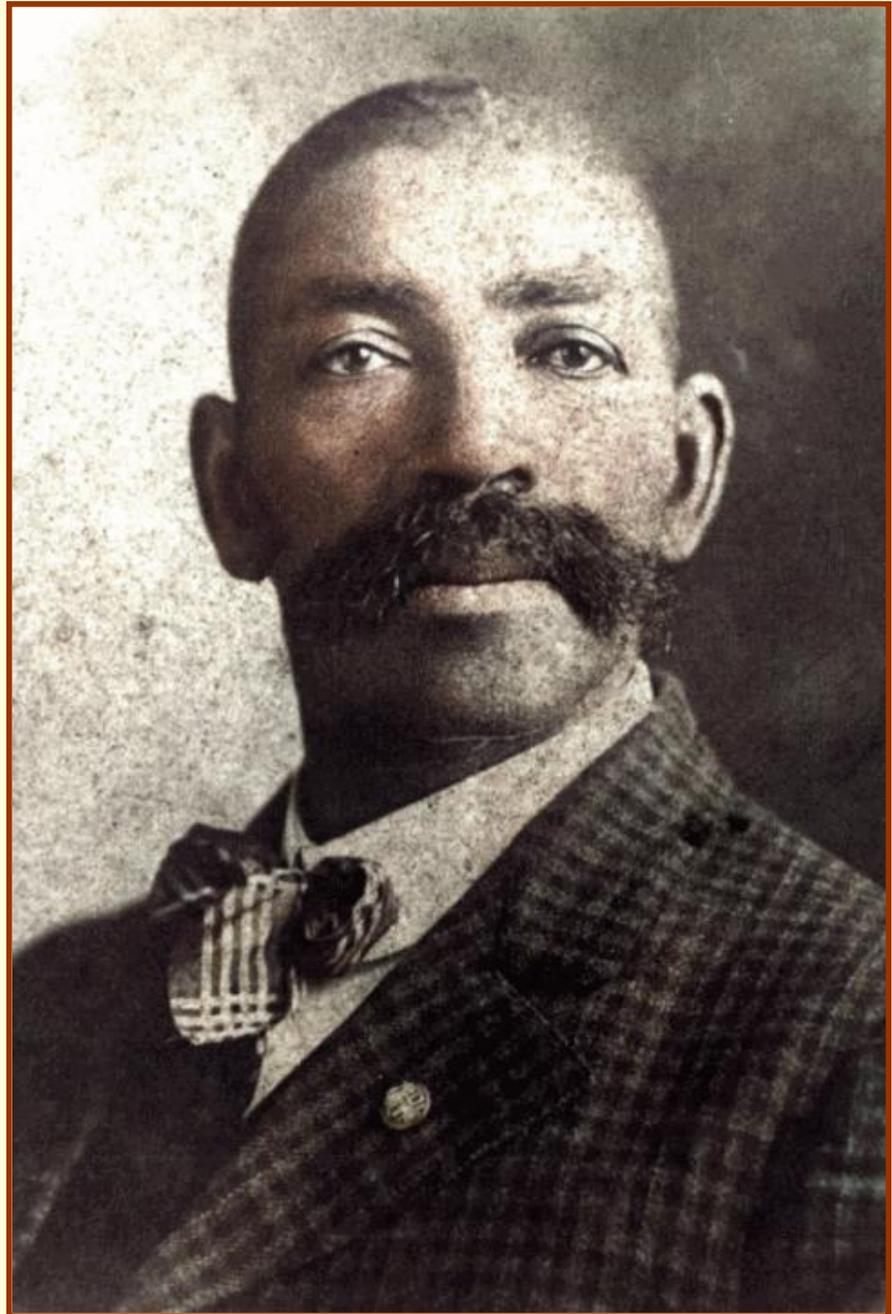


**Bass Reeves,  
an outstanding deputy,  
was an ex-slave  
who spoke several  
Indian languages.**

**Reeves was  
one of the first  
African-American  
marshals west of  
the Mississippi River.**

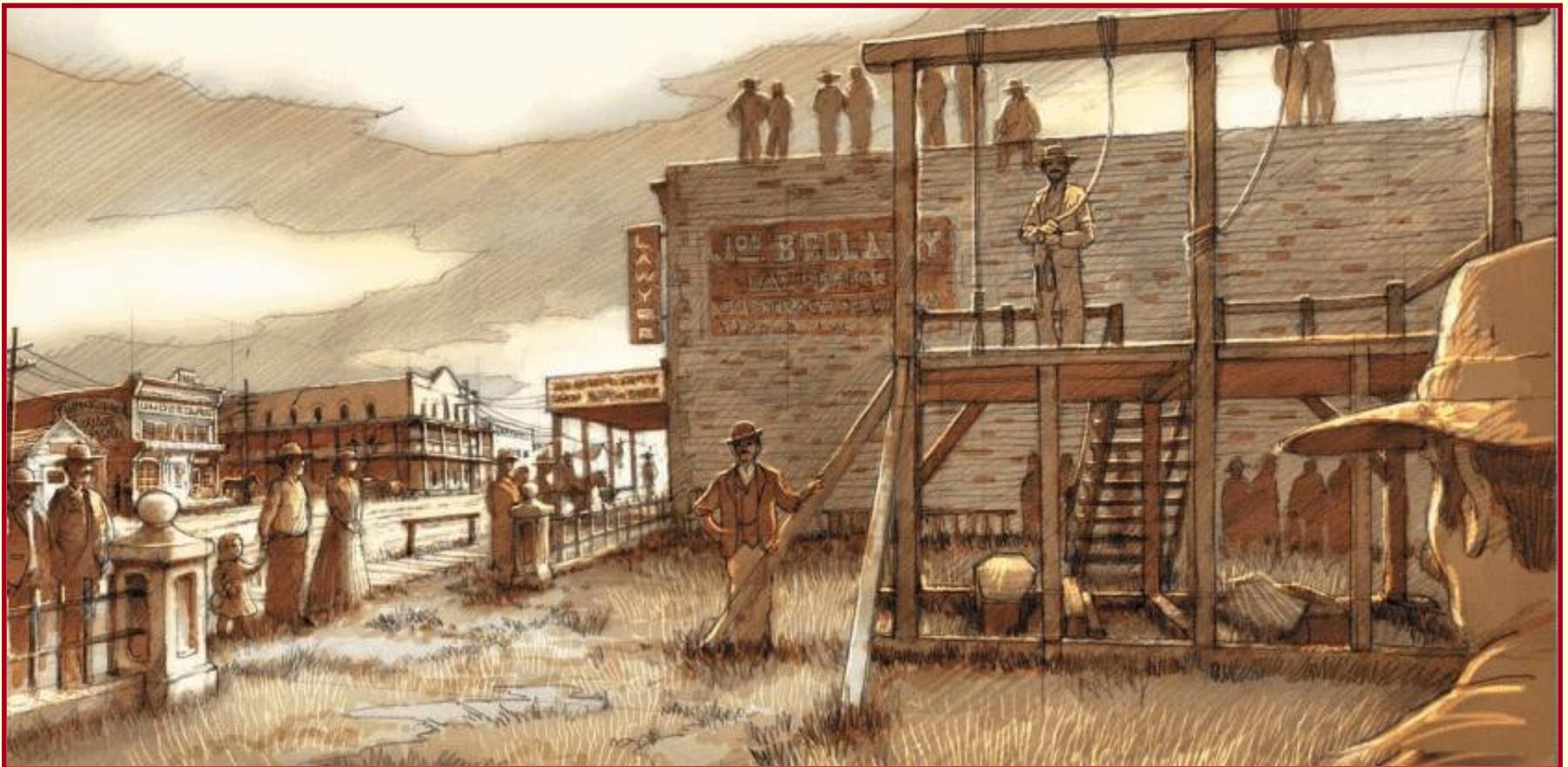
*He was a master of disguise,  
often posing as a drifter.*

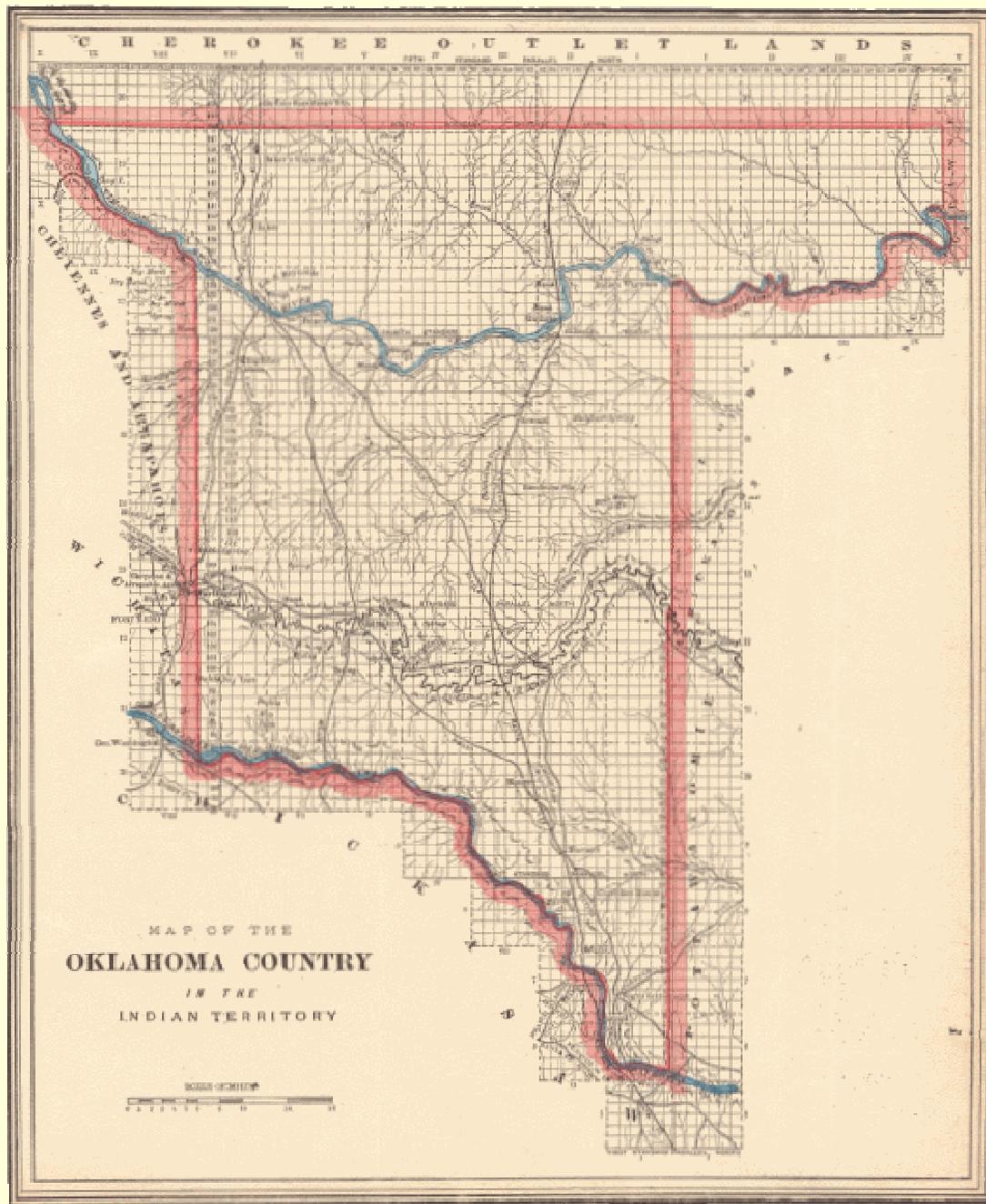
*This is  
the real  
Bass Reeves.*



*Judge Parker ordered a public gallows to be built.  
In 21 years, he sentenced 160 men to hang,  
although only 79 actually met that fate.*

*The other 81 inmates won their appeals, were pardoned, or died in prison.*





*The time after  
the Civil War  
brought many  
changes to  
the Territory.  
But few people  
were prepared  
for what would  
happen next.*