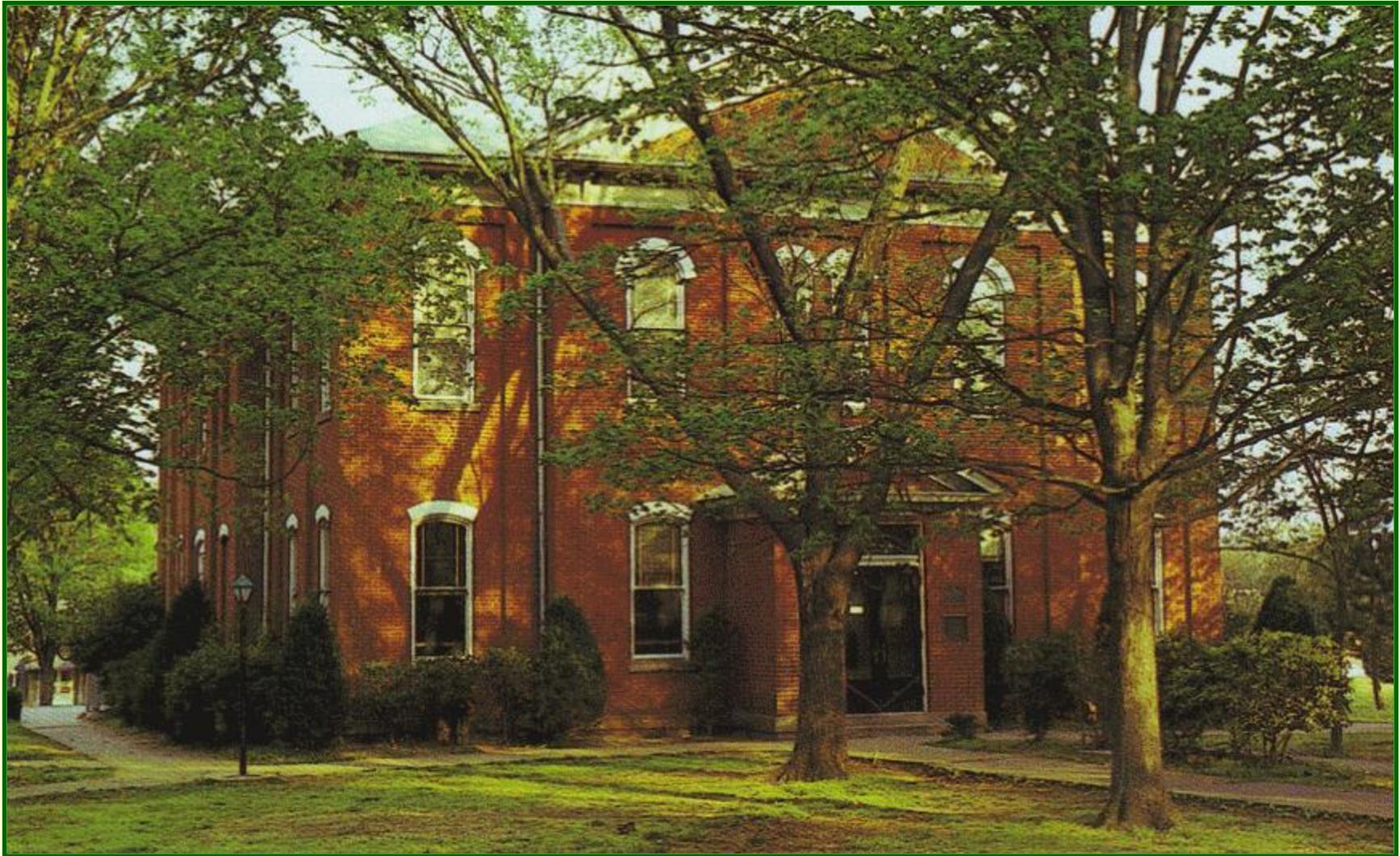


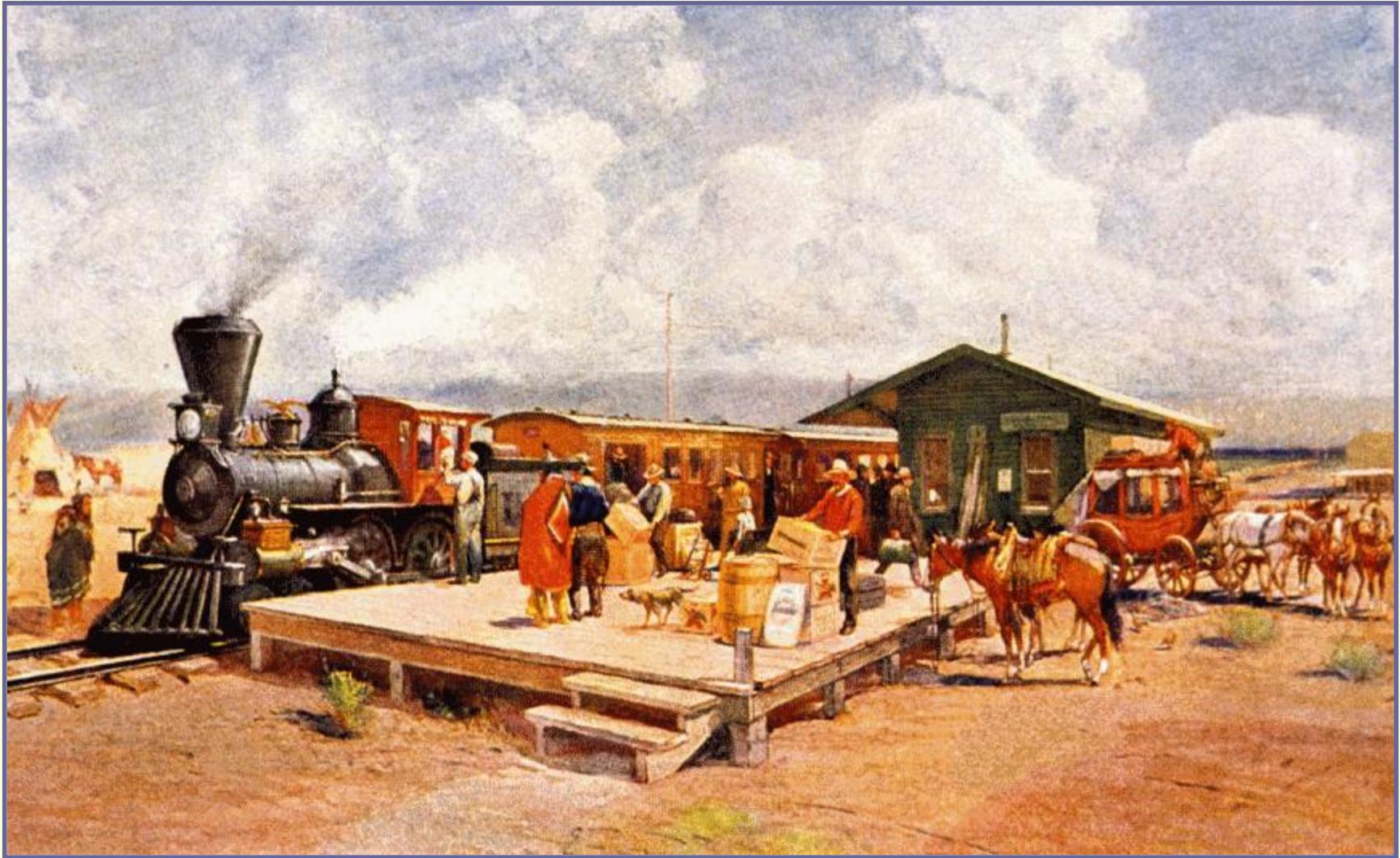
Chapter 10
Rebuilding Indian Territory



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.



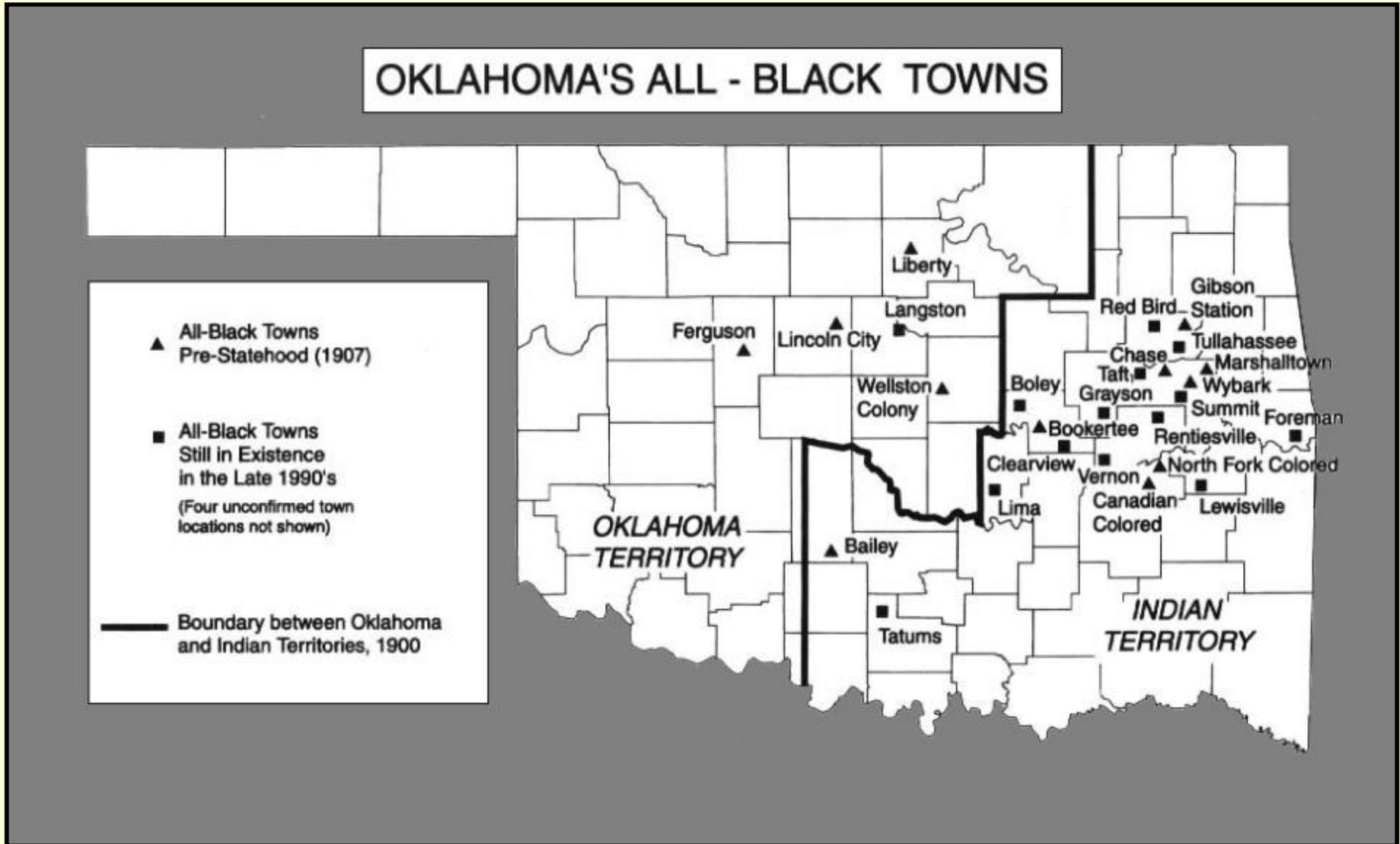
But segregation, or separating groups by race, was still common in the South after the war.

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.



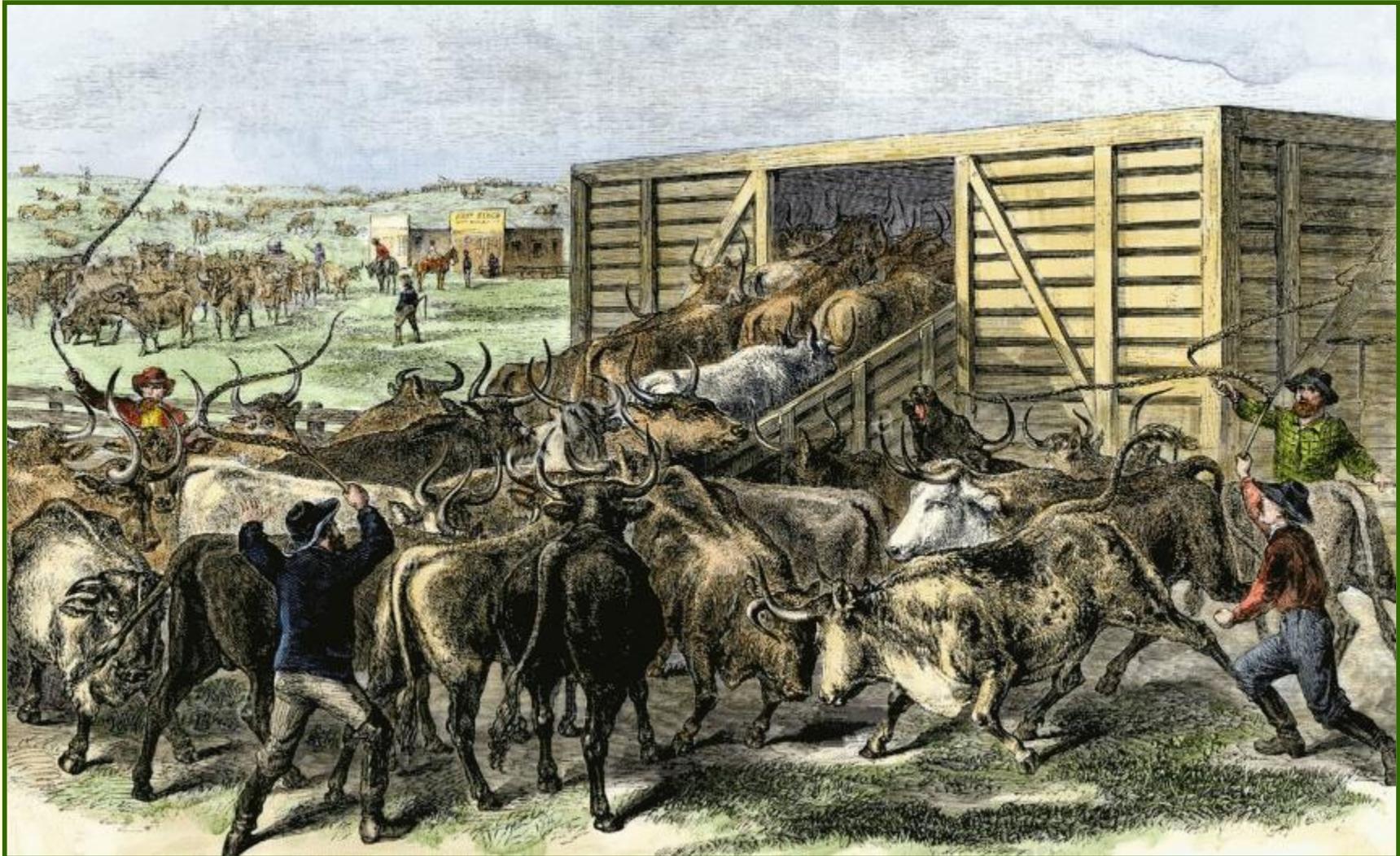
Native soldiers returning home faced the task of finding ways to restructure the Territory's economy.



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.



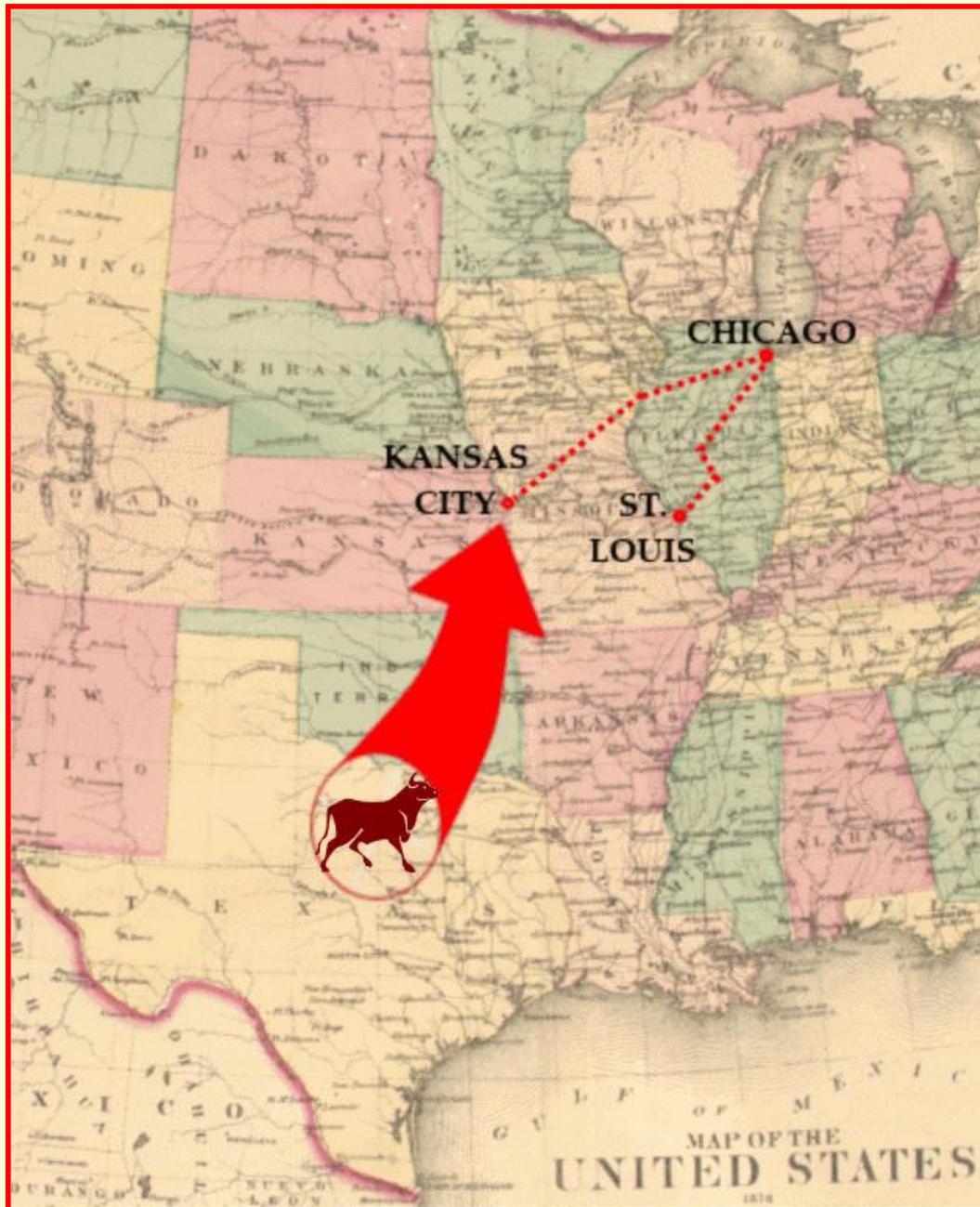
Wild cattle had covered the Southern plains for centuries.

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.

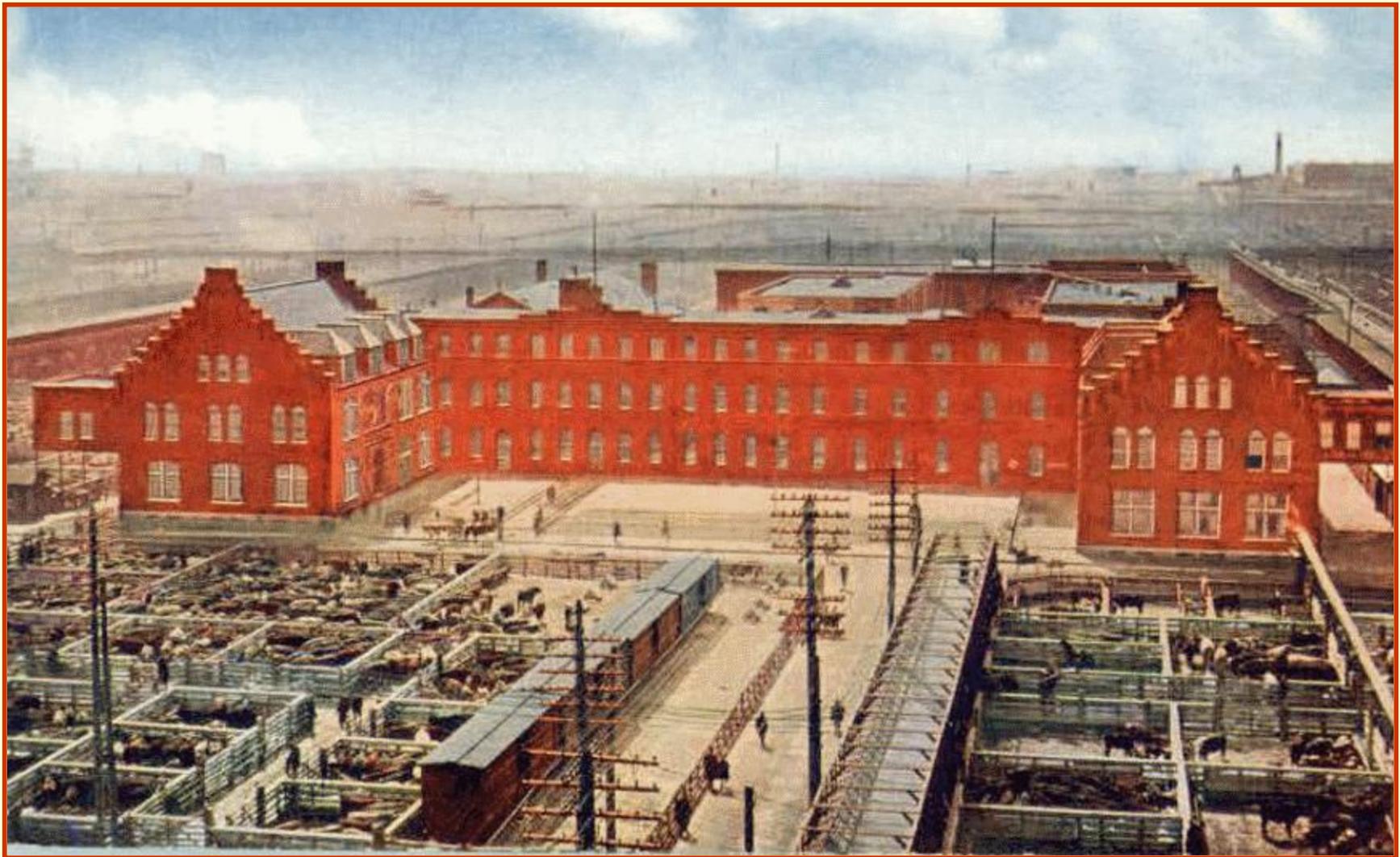


*Texas ranchers discovered
that cattle could bring
\$40 a head in eastern states.*



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.

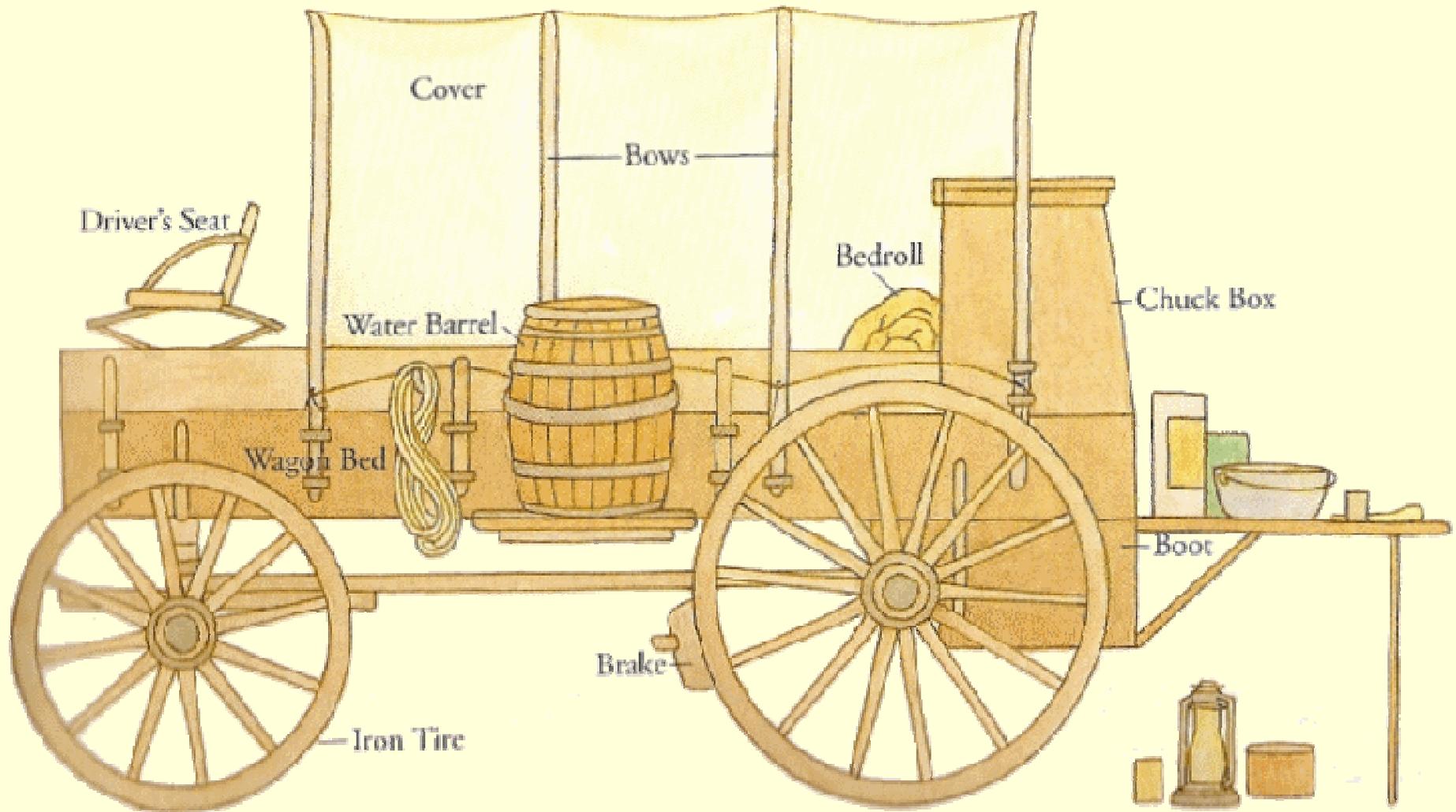


One of the most famous cowboys was Bill Pickett. He invented bulldogging, where the cowboy jumps from his horse, grabs the bull by the horns, and wrestles it to the ground.



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.



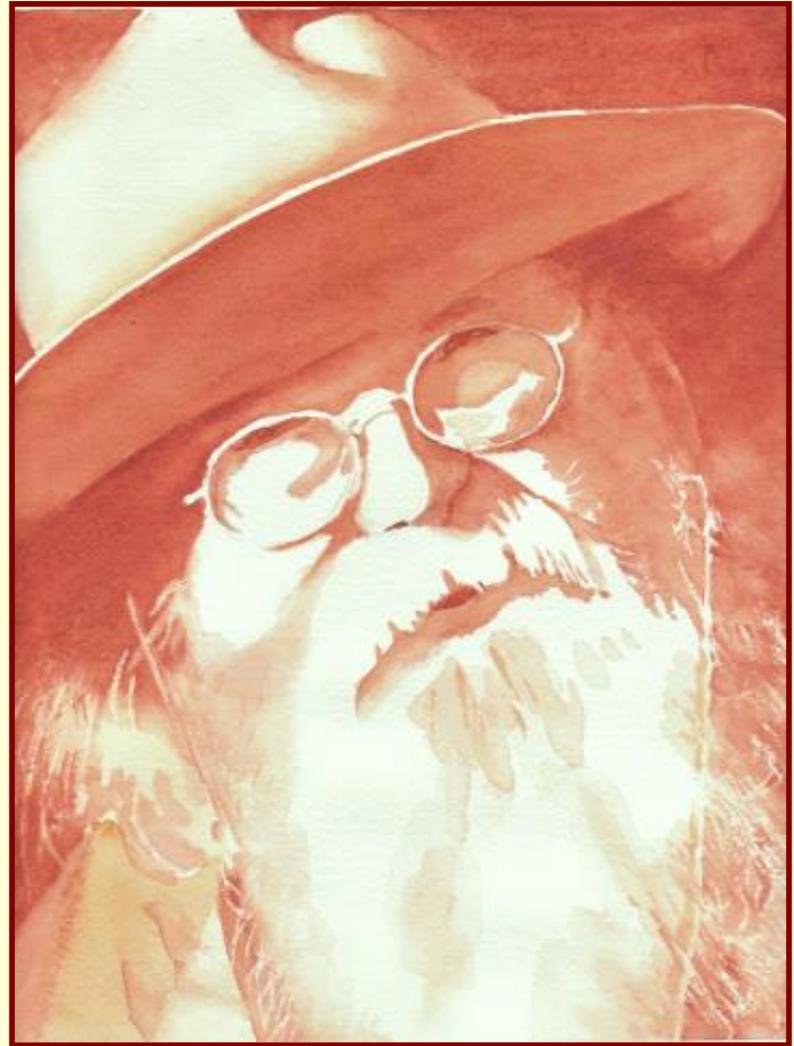
Next to the trail boss, the most important man on the months-long cattle drive was the cook.

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.

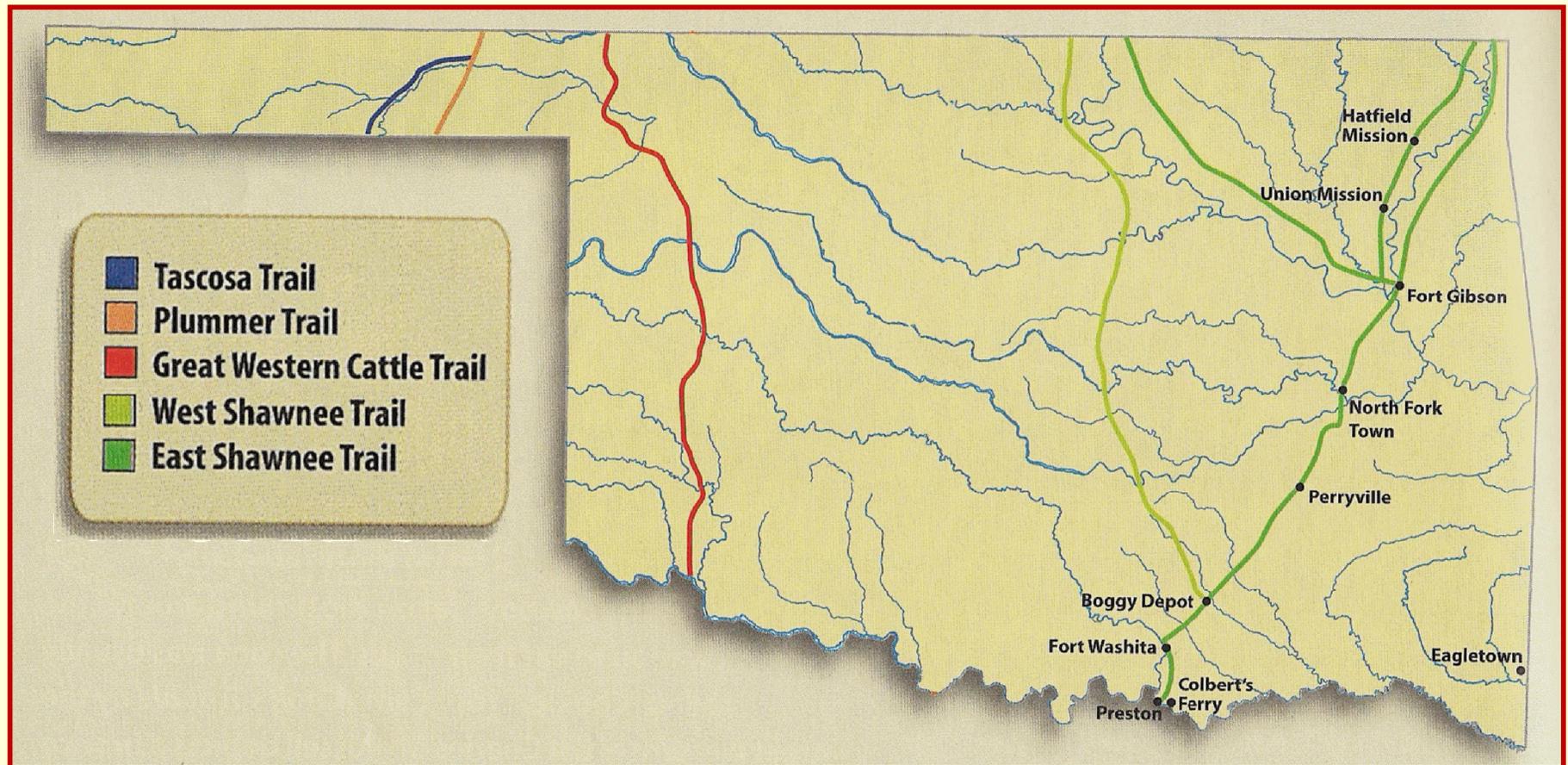
When camp was broken, he would clean up, repack the wagon, and ride ahead to find the next camp.

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.



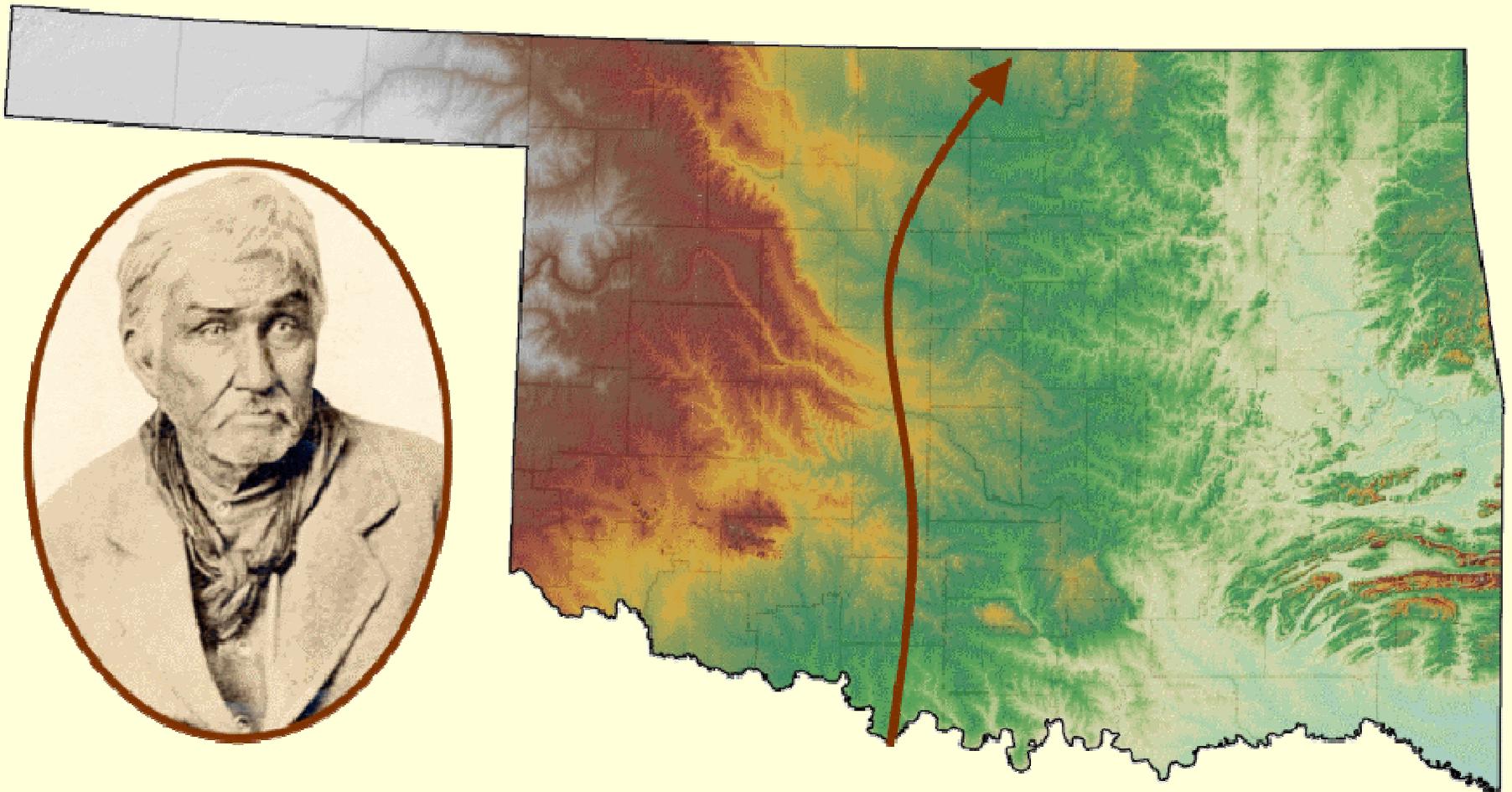
When Texas Fever, a deadly disease, broke out on the eastern trails, cattlemen began looking for trails that avoided the affected areas.



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.

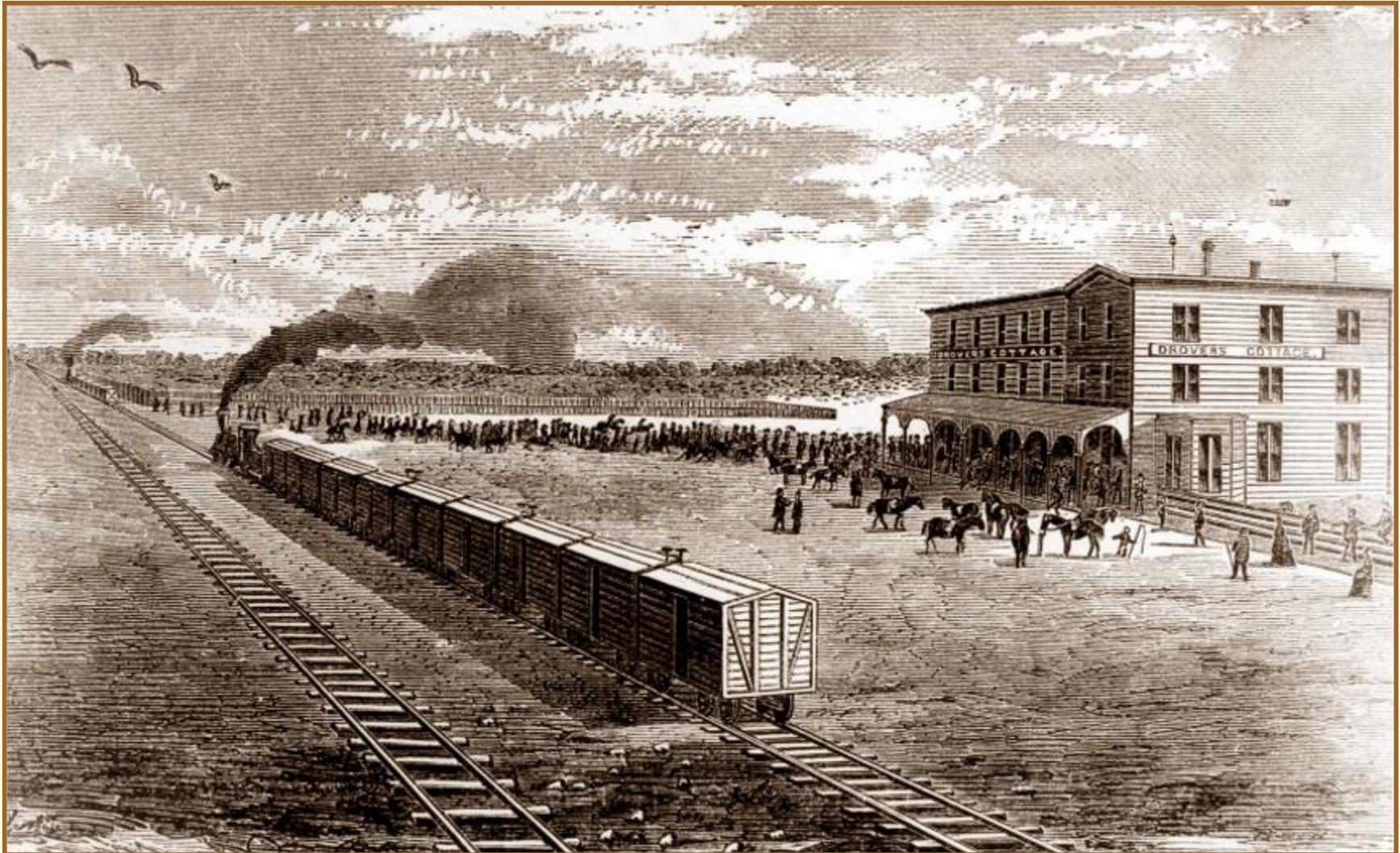


The Trail crossed central Indian Territory and ended at the new railhead in Abilene, Kansas, where the cattle were held until being shipped east.

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.

RAMT. B. HYNES , Gen'l Agent, 152 North Fourth Street, St. Louis.	H. B. WARWICK , Gen'l Southern Agent, 154 Vine St., Cincinnati.
E. R. HUTTON , Gen'l Eastern Agent, 216 Broadway, New York.	W. D. MANCHESTER , Gen'l Agent, 57 Dearborn Street, Chicago.
J. A. GARDNER , Agent, Room 8, 14 Public Square, Cleveland, O.	W. B. FLEAHOY , Gen'l New England Agent, 151 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
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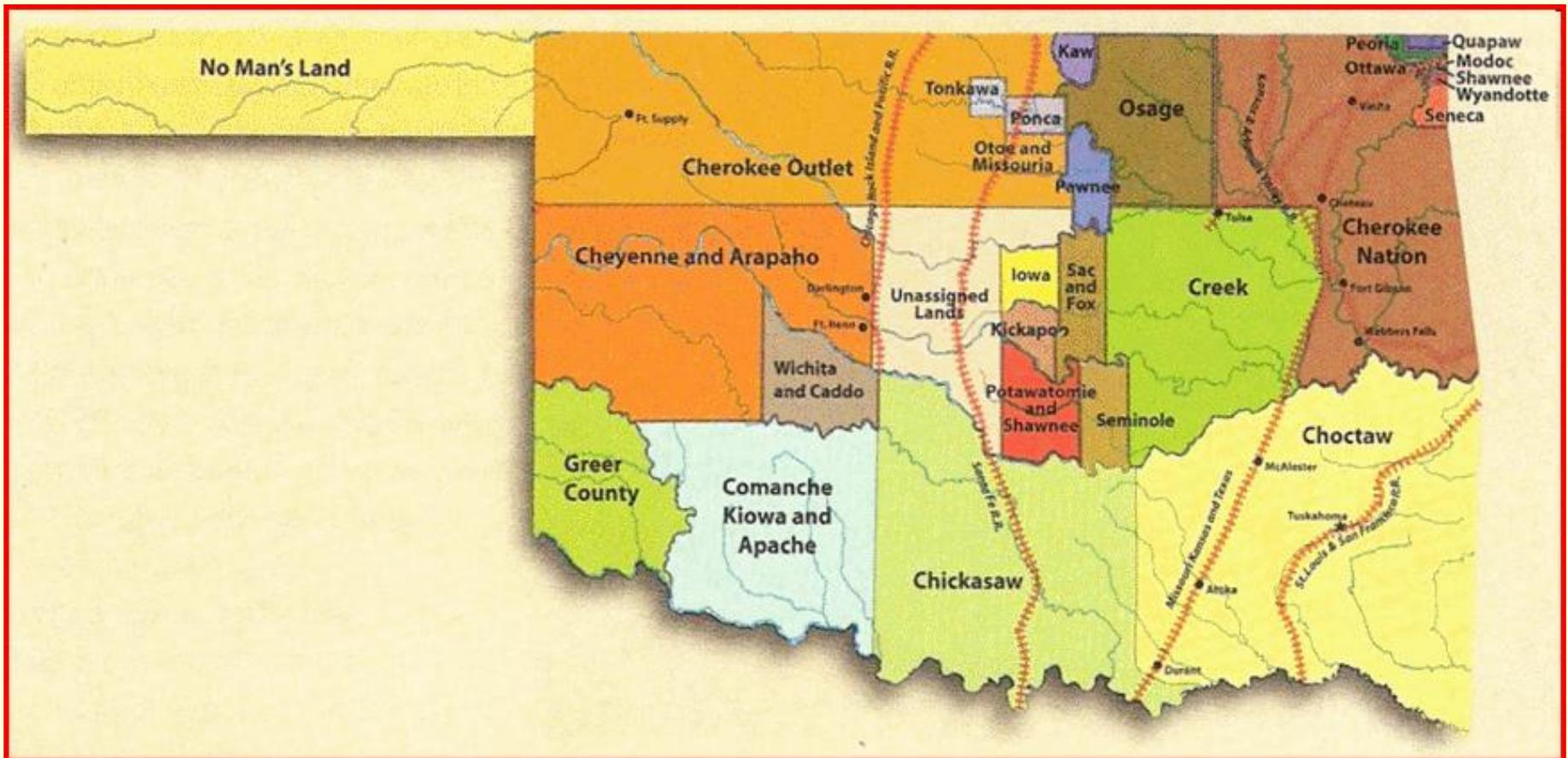
The most important rail line was the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.

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.**

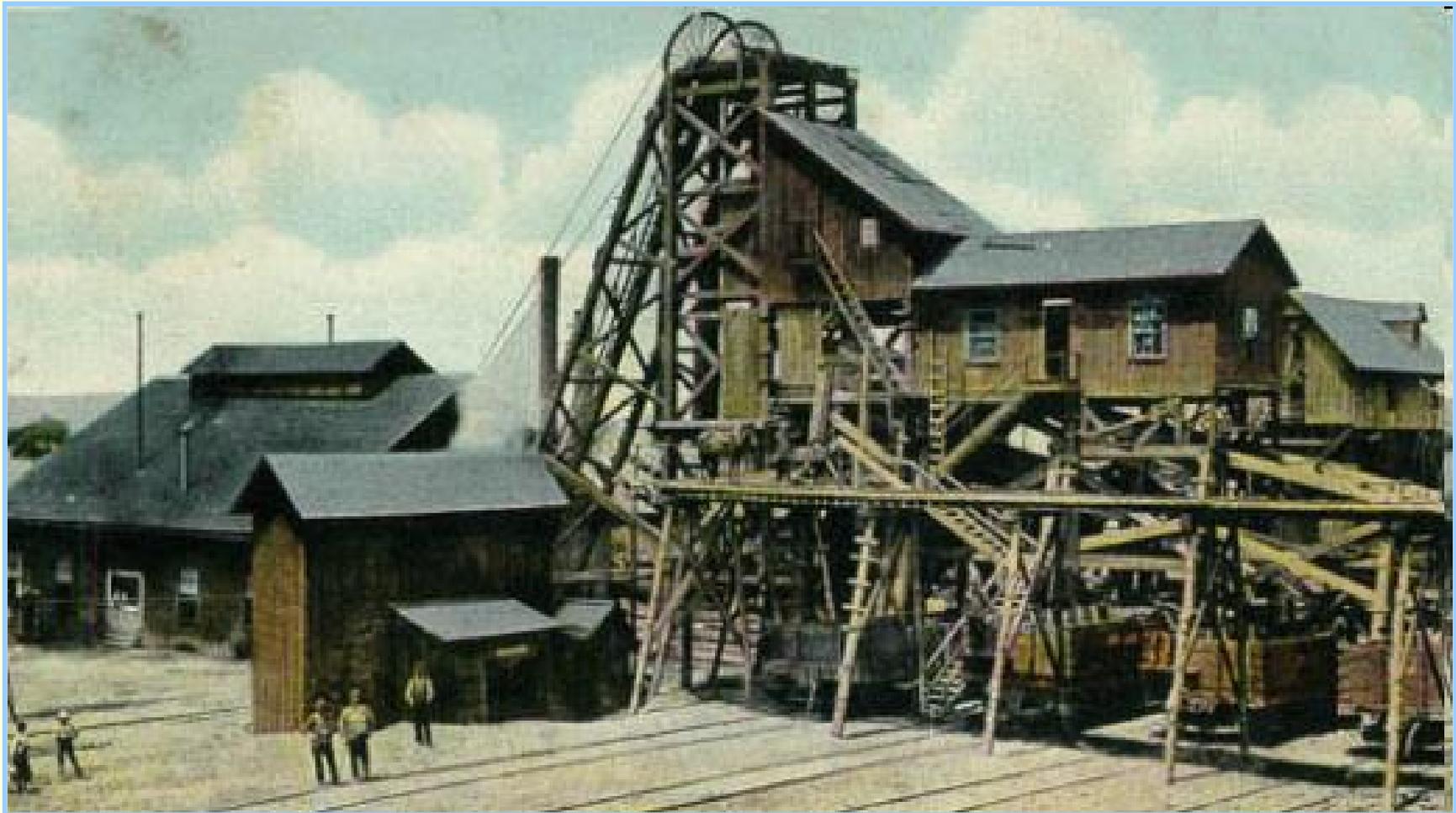


**He moved to Indian Territory and opened
a general store there in 1870.**

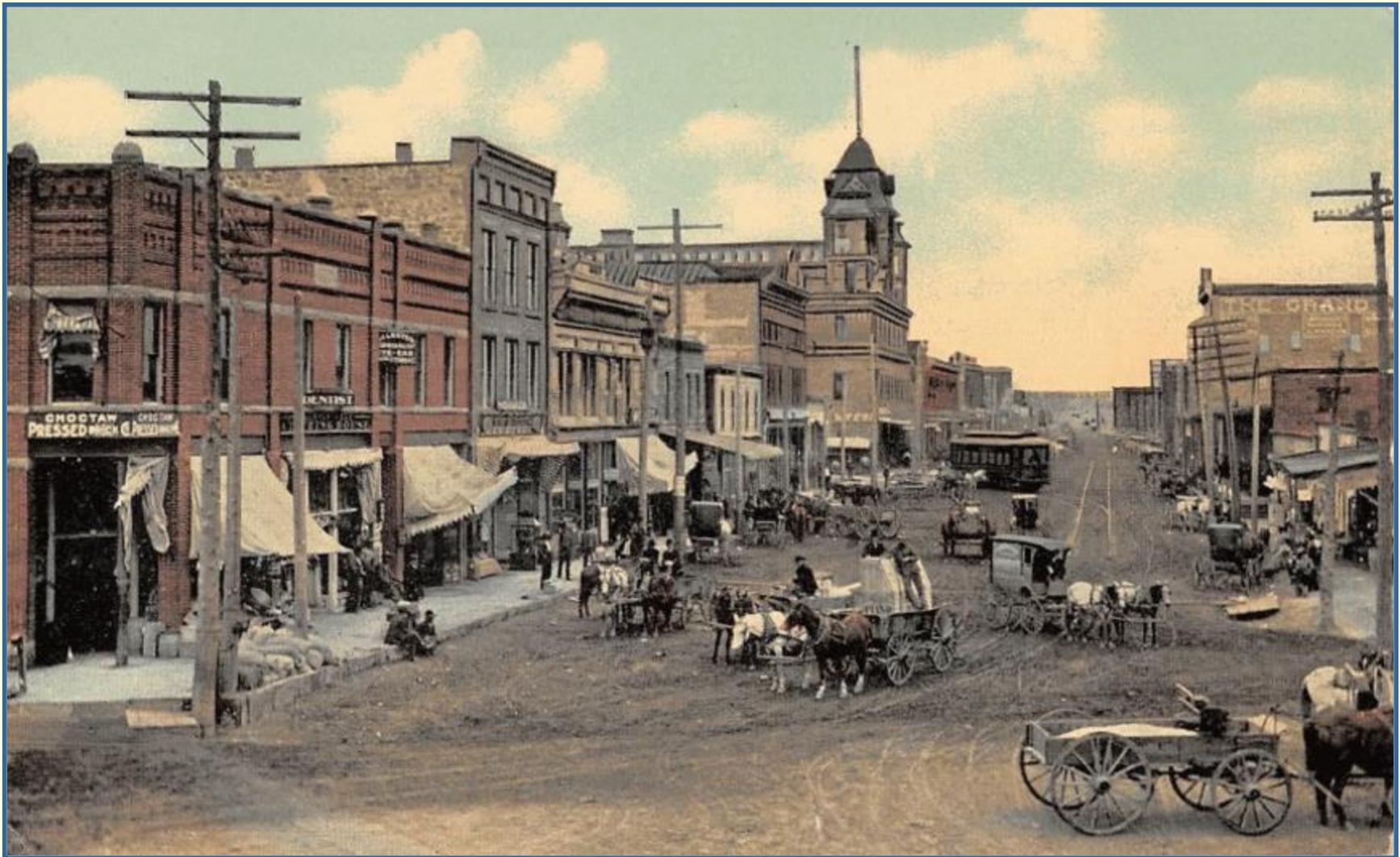


He built the Oklahoma Mining Company and then shared the profits with the Choctaw Nation.

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.**

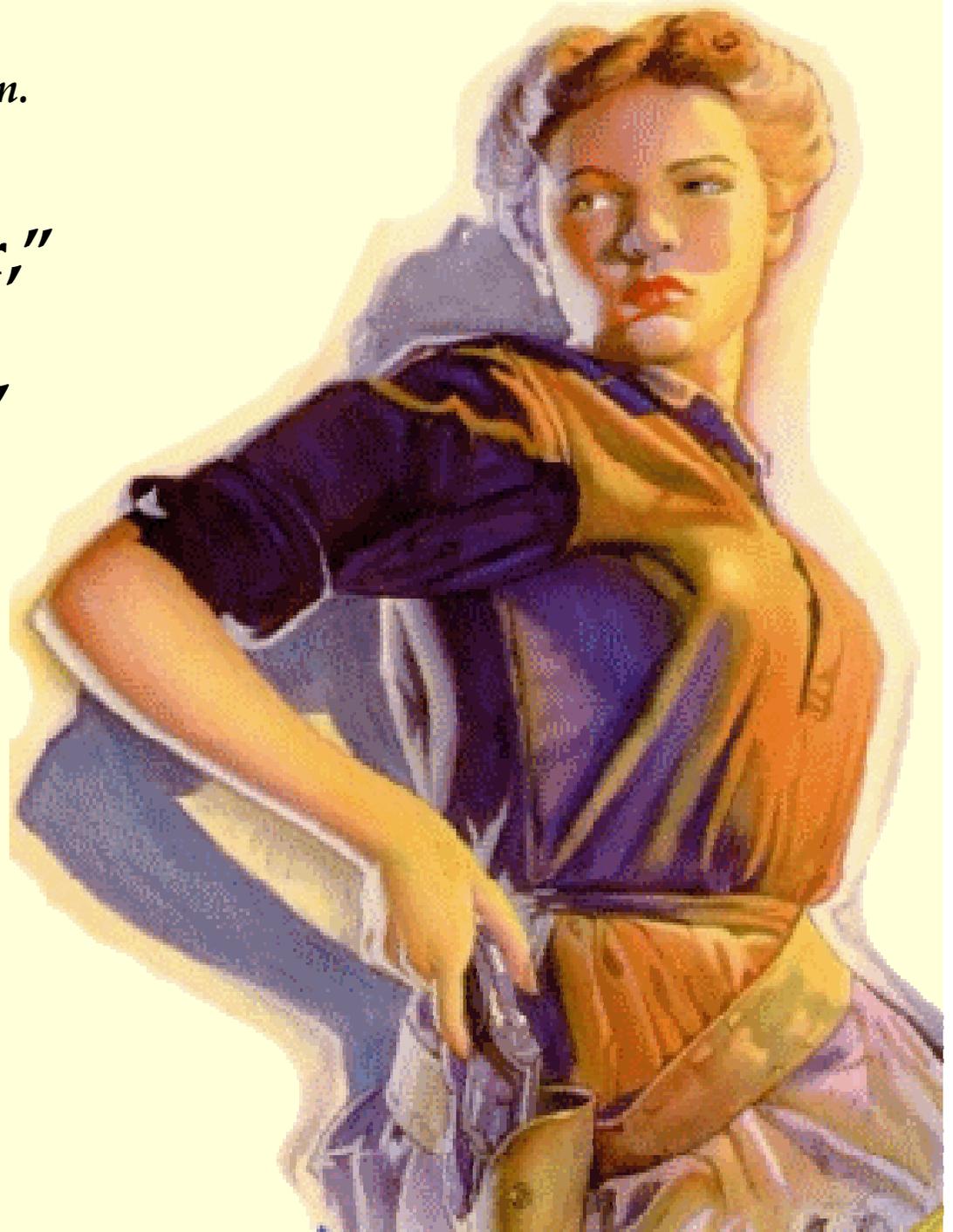
*Bank robbers, horse thieves,
cattle rustlers, and others
fled from the law
and hid out in
the Cross Timbers,
caves, and hills.*

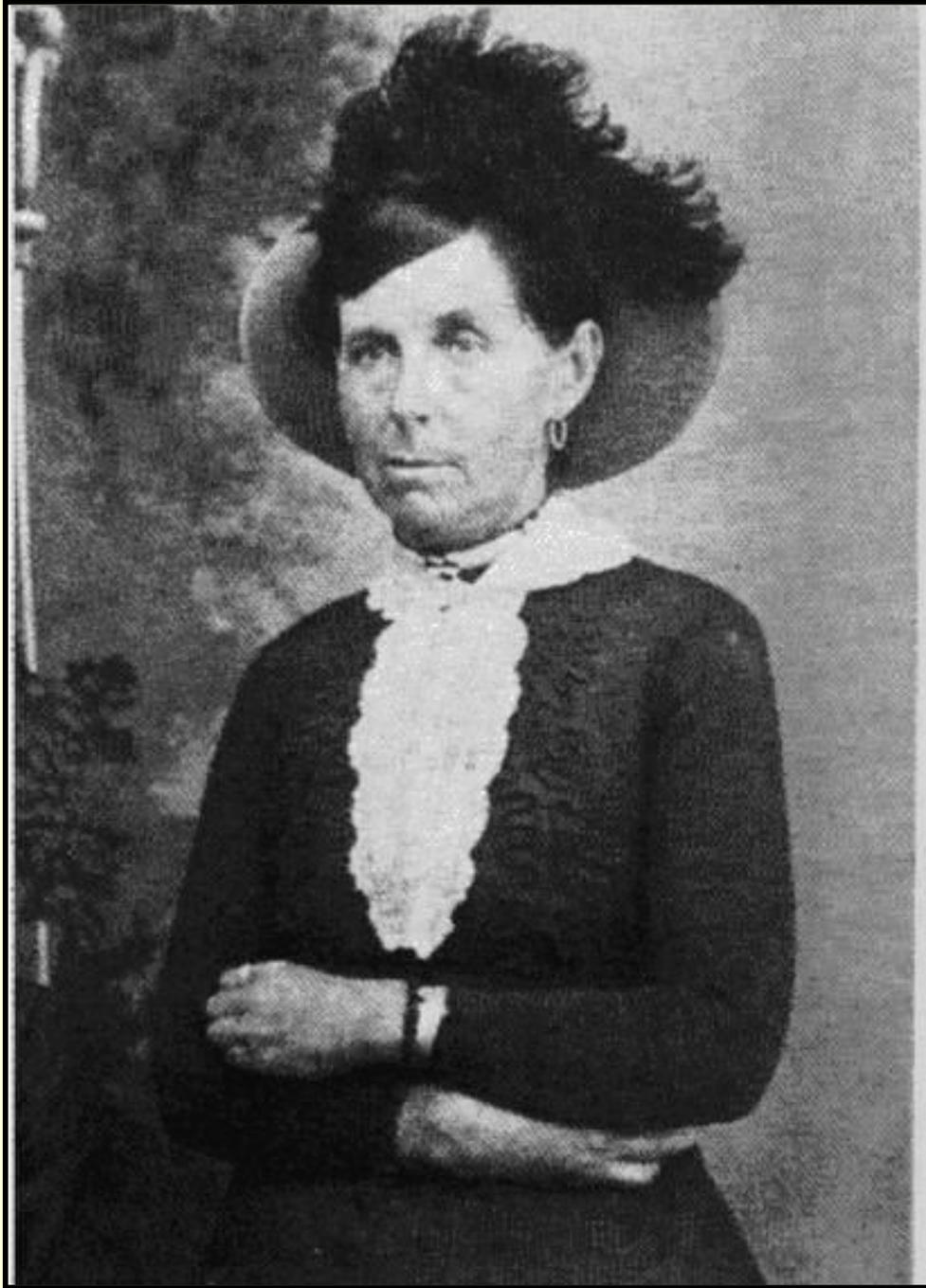
Not all of these outlaws were men.

**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.**



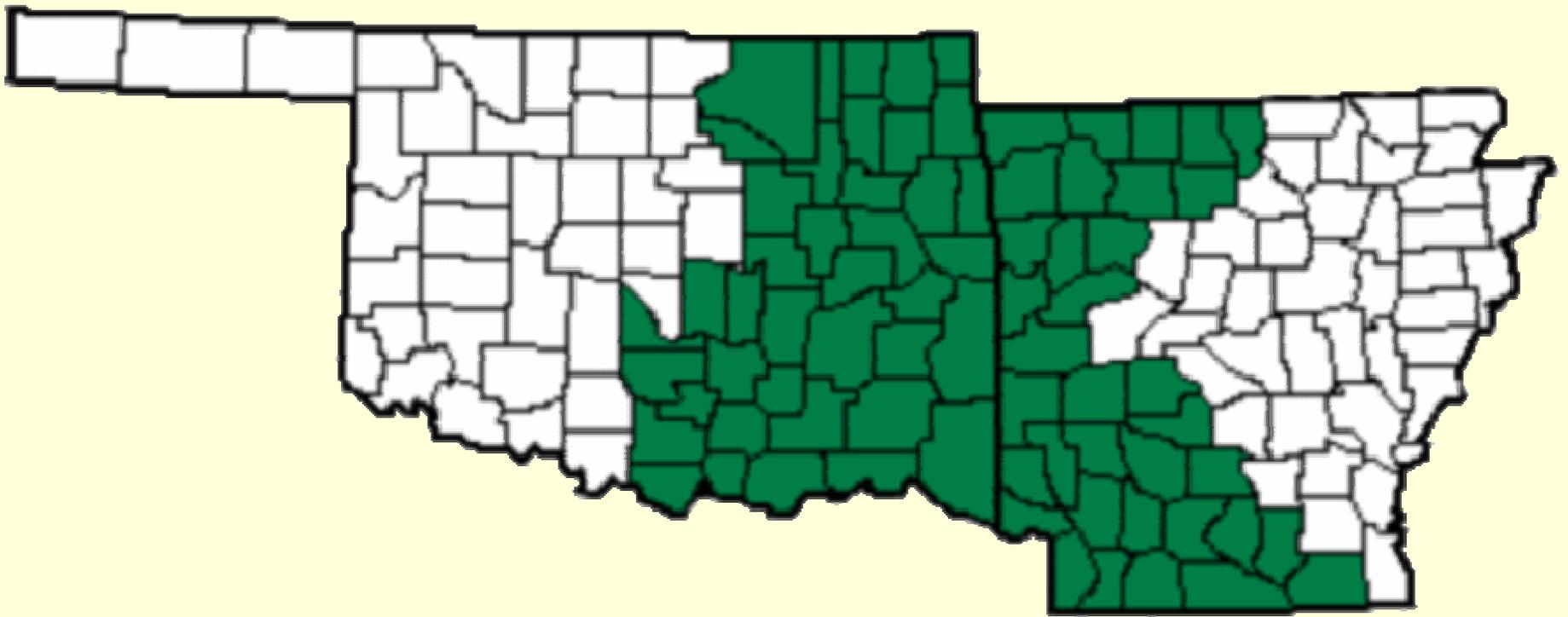
Outlaws were often hunted by a mounted group of local lawmen called a posse.

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.”



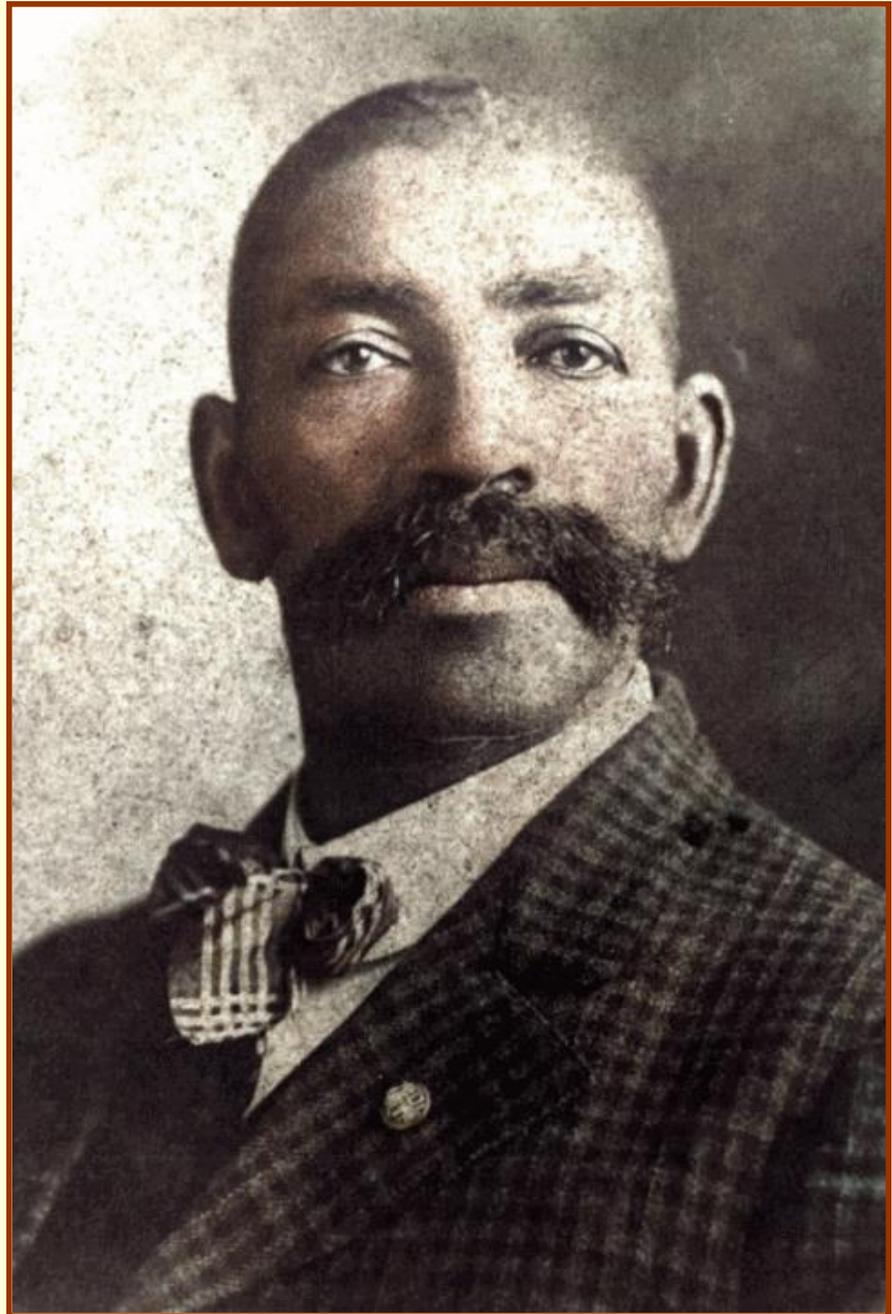


**Bass Reeves,
an outstanding deputy,
was an ex-slave
who spoke several
Indian languages.**

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

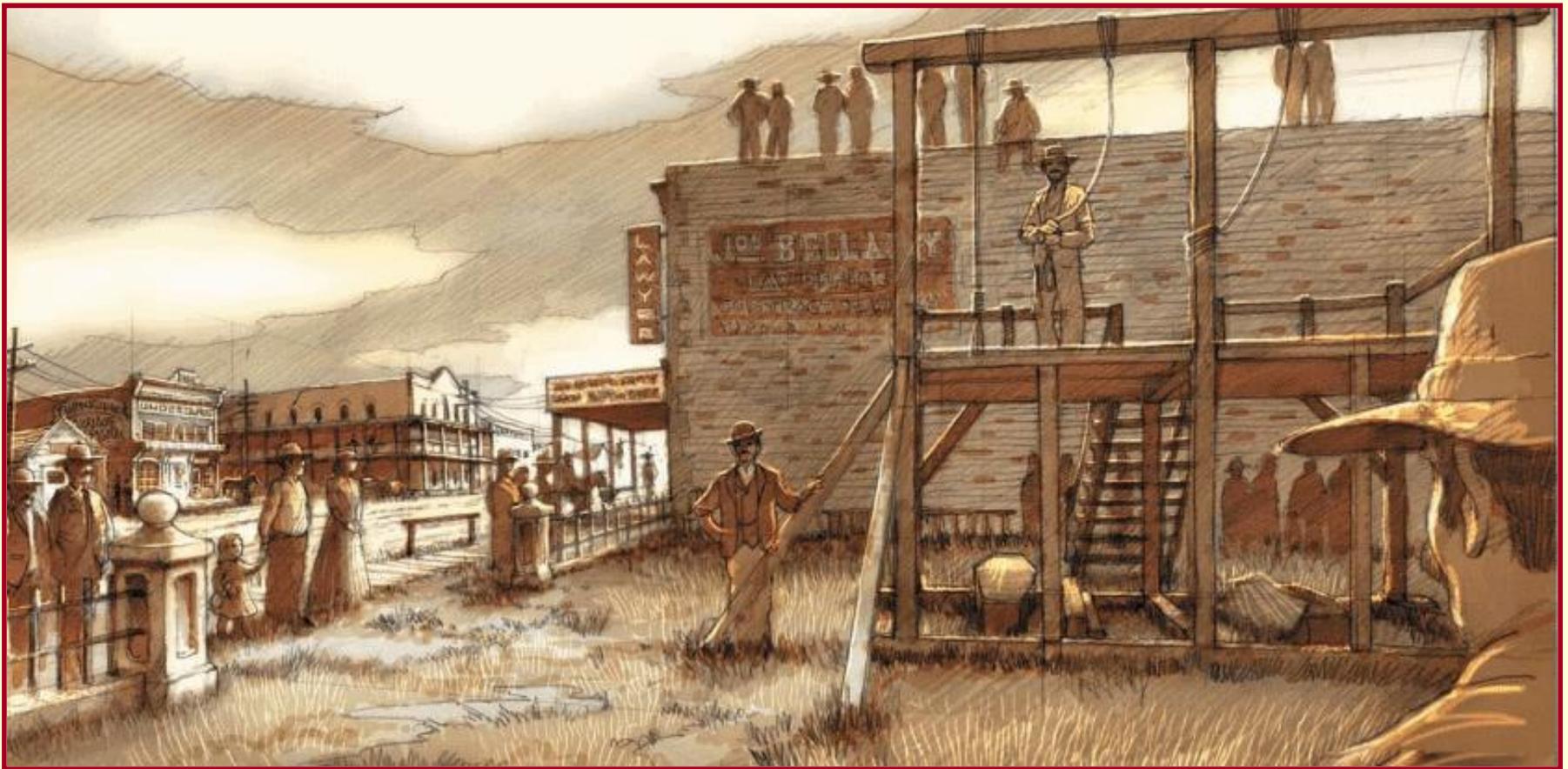
*He was a master of disguise,
often posing as a drifter.*

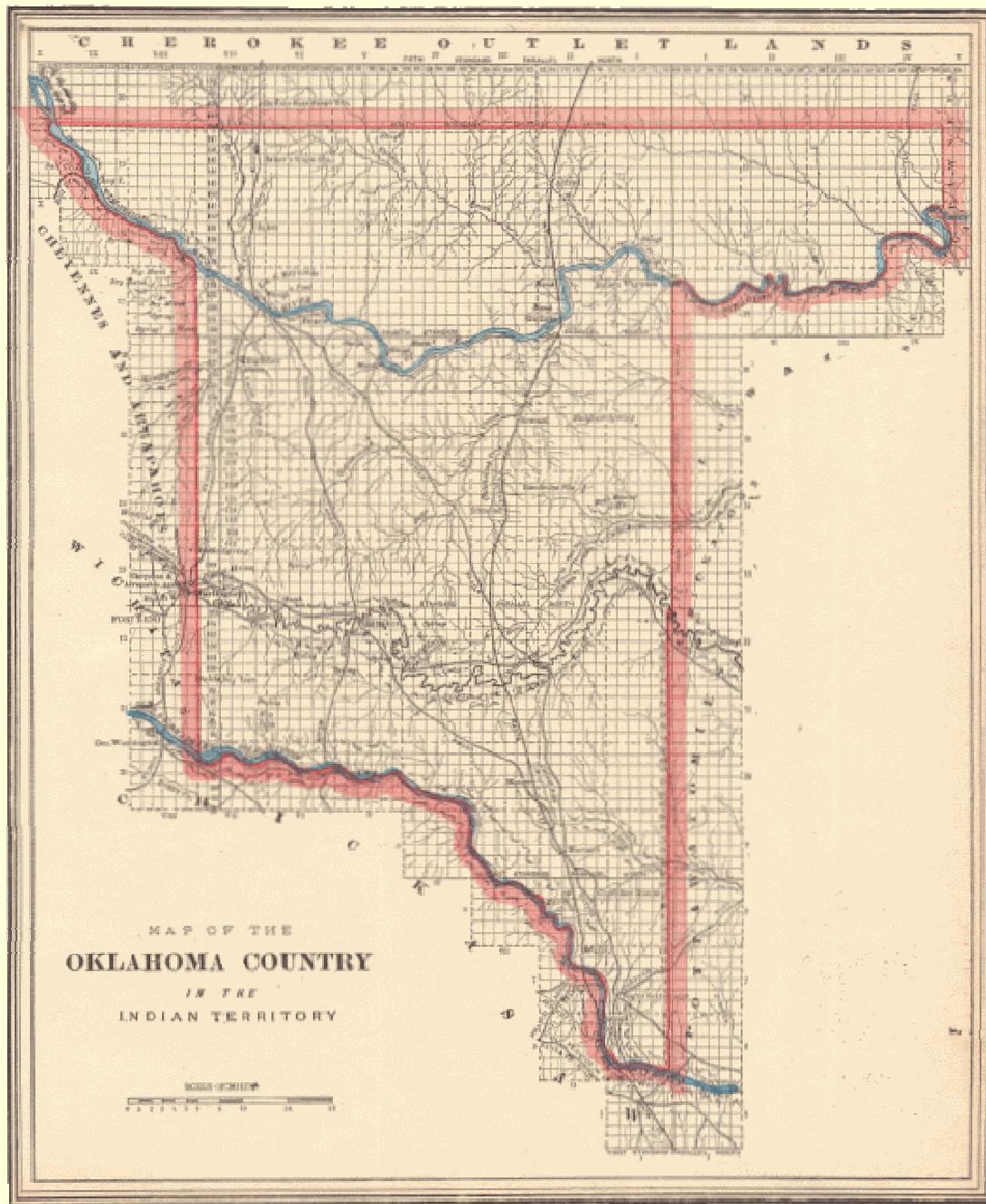
*This is
the real
Bass Reeves.*



*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.*