

# *Chapter 12*

## **Creating the 46<sup>th</sup> State**



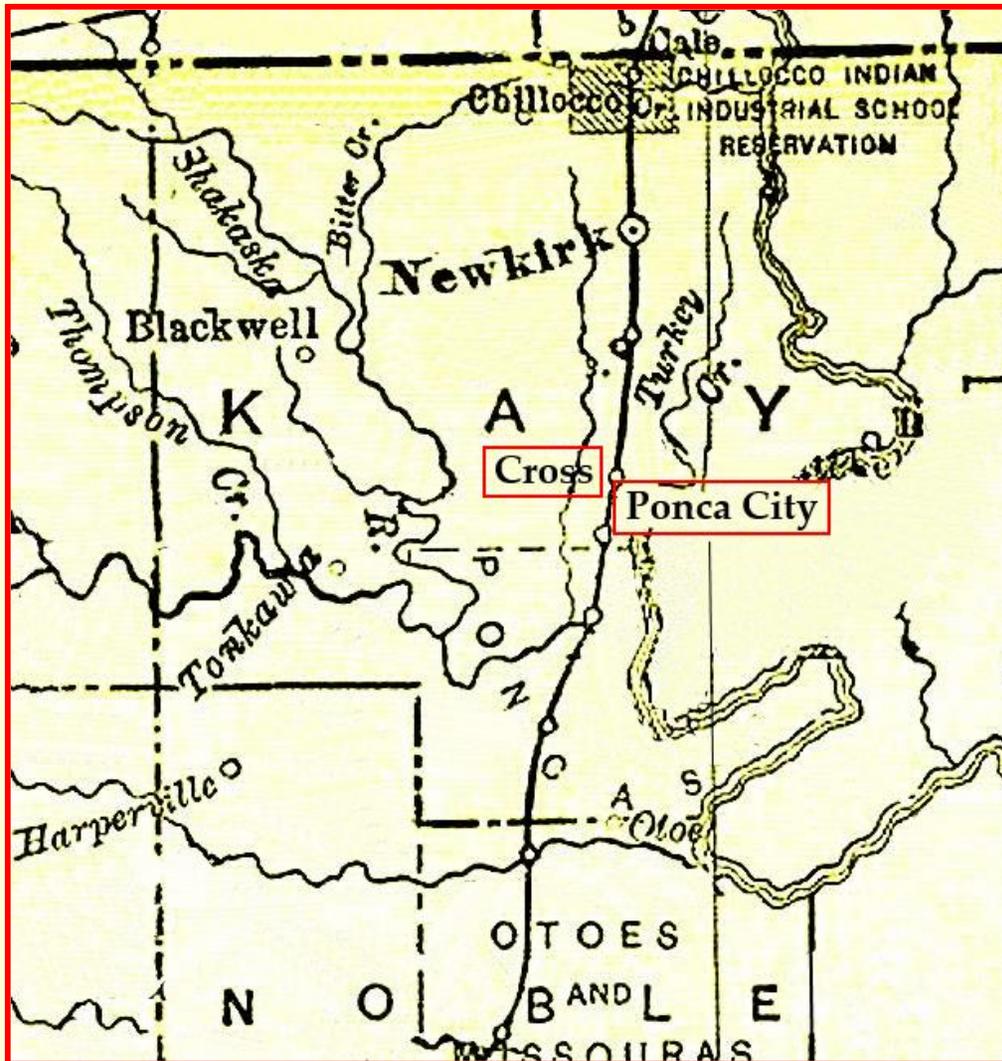
*In this chapter:*

- ❖ *Massive - and sometimes radical - changes will take place in the Twin Territories between the 1889 Land Run and Statehood in 1907, with railroads, agriculture, and minerals leading the way.*
- ❖ *The Five Civilized Tribes will advocate for a separate Native American state, but the United States Congress will ignore them.*
- ❖ *A constitutional convention in Guthrie will lay the foundations of the new state government.*

# *Section 1: Growth in the Twin Territories*



A railroad stop almost guaranteed growth for a community, and many fought for it.



*The Santa Fe Railroad originally stopped at Cross in Kay County, but the new townsite of Ponca City lured it away.*

*Cross became a ghost town.*

*Reno City even moved its buildings across the river to El Reno when the railroad passed them by.*



**In 1902, the Frisco Railroad made the town of Sapulpa its division headquarters.**



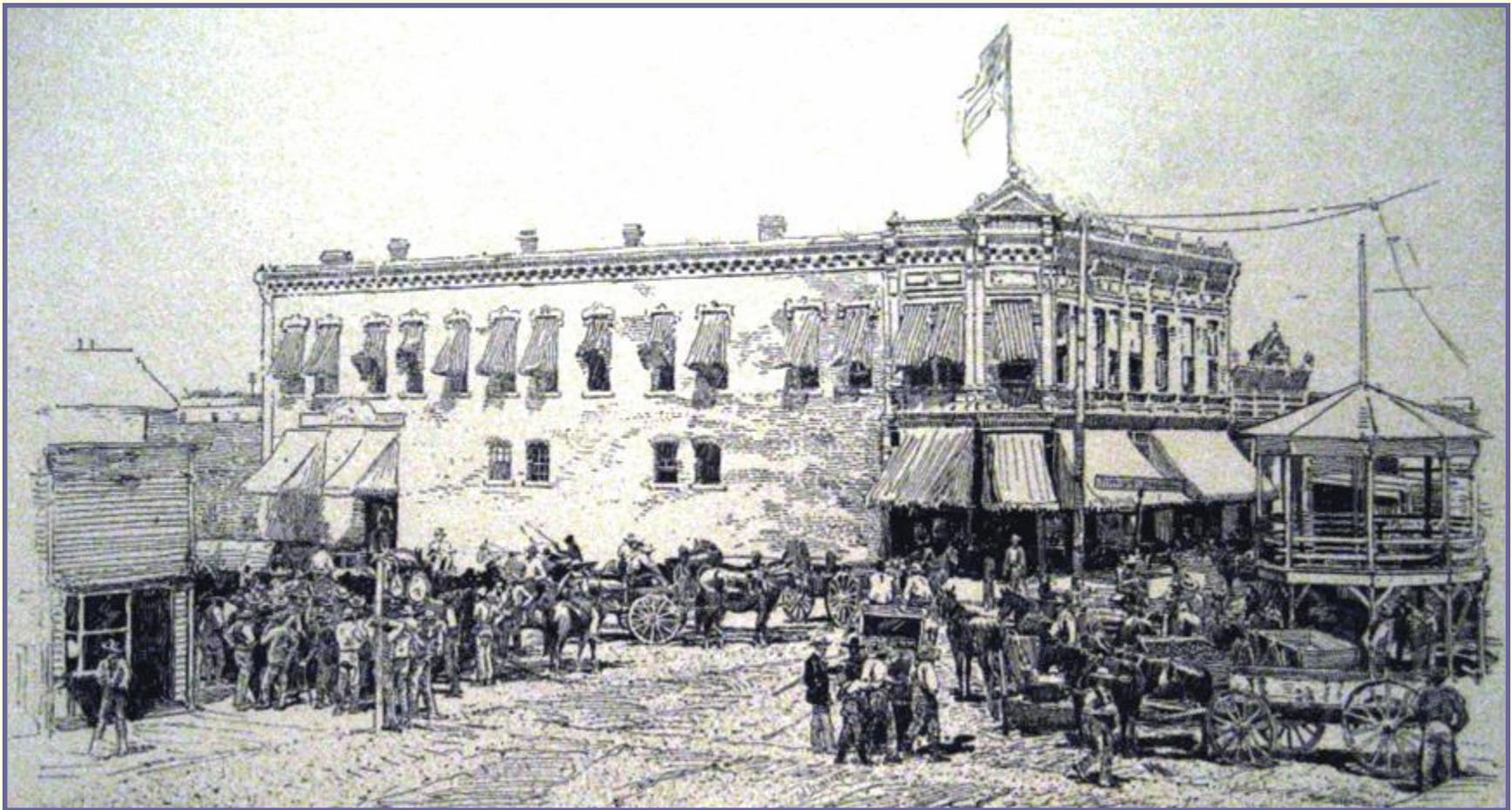
**Tulsa offered the Katy Railroad a \$12,000 bonus and free right-of-way land if it would stop in their city instead of Sapulpa.**

**It worked. Tulsa became our second-largest city.**



# Most of Oklahoma City's rail traffic went through the freight yard known as Bricktown.

*The cargo included cotton, cattle, horses, wheat, corn, and minerals.*



# Interurbans, or short railroads with trolleys, came to Oklahoma City in 1904.

*Their success led to other routes to Guthrie and Norman.*



*In 1976, the trolley station in Norman was converted into a restaurant.*



# One of the first crops planted was sorghum.

*The grain on top was made into cattle feed, but the cane was milled into molasses.*

*Sorghum molasses was used as a sweetener and for flavoring.*



**Oklahoma also led the nation in the production of broomcorn, which was used for sweeping.**

*Broomcorn is not corn, but a variety of sorghum.*



# Cotton was the most popular crop in the Territories.

*It was easily planted and didn't require a lot of rain, but it had to be constantly weeded and harvesting was difficult.*

*"Pulling cotton" required that each plant be picked by hand.*



# The Boll Weevil began destroying cotton crops across the state in the 1890s.

*Over the next 30 years, many farmers went bankrupt.*

*However, farmers who had depended solely on cotton began to plant other crops, and many became wealthy as a result.*



# One of the few edible native fruits was the sand plum.

*Oklahomans used it in jellies, jams, and pies.*

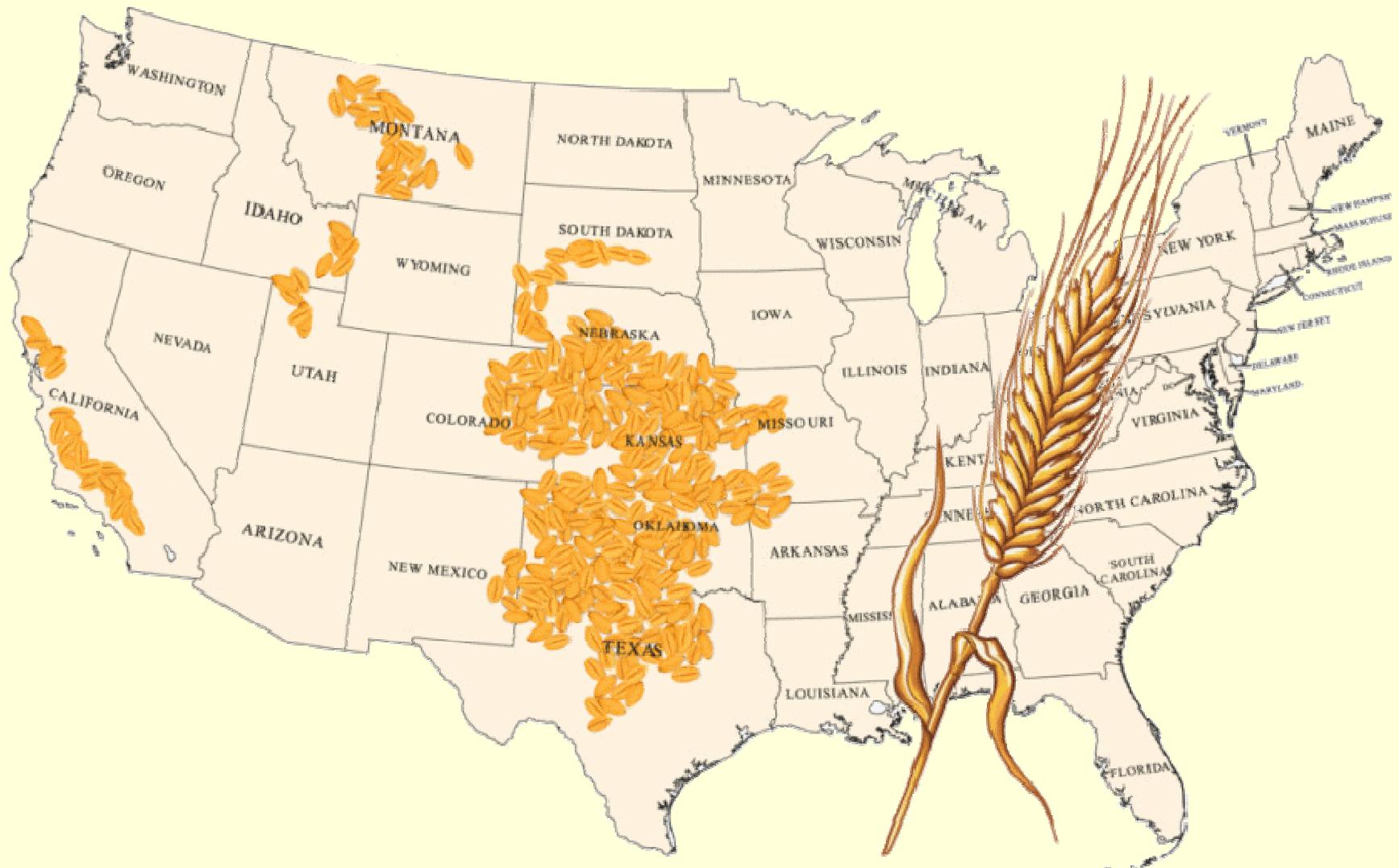
*They could also be cooked into a batter that was spread out on cloth to dry.  
They were the forerunner of today's fruit roll-ups.*



**German and Russian immigrants who settled in the Twin Territories in the late 1800s brought a new crop called Hard Red Winter Wheat.**

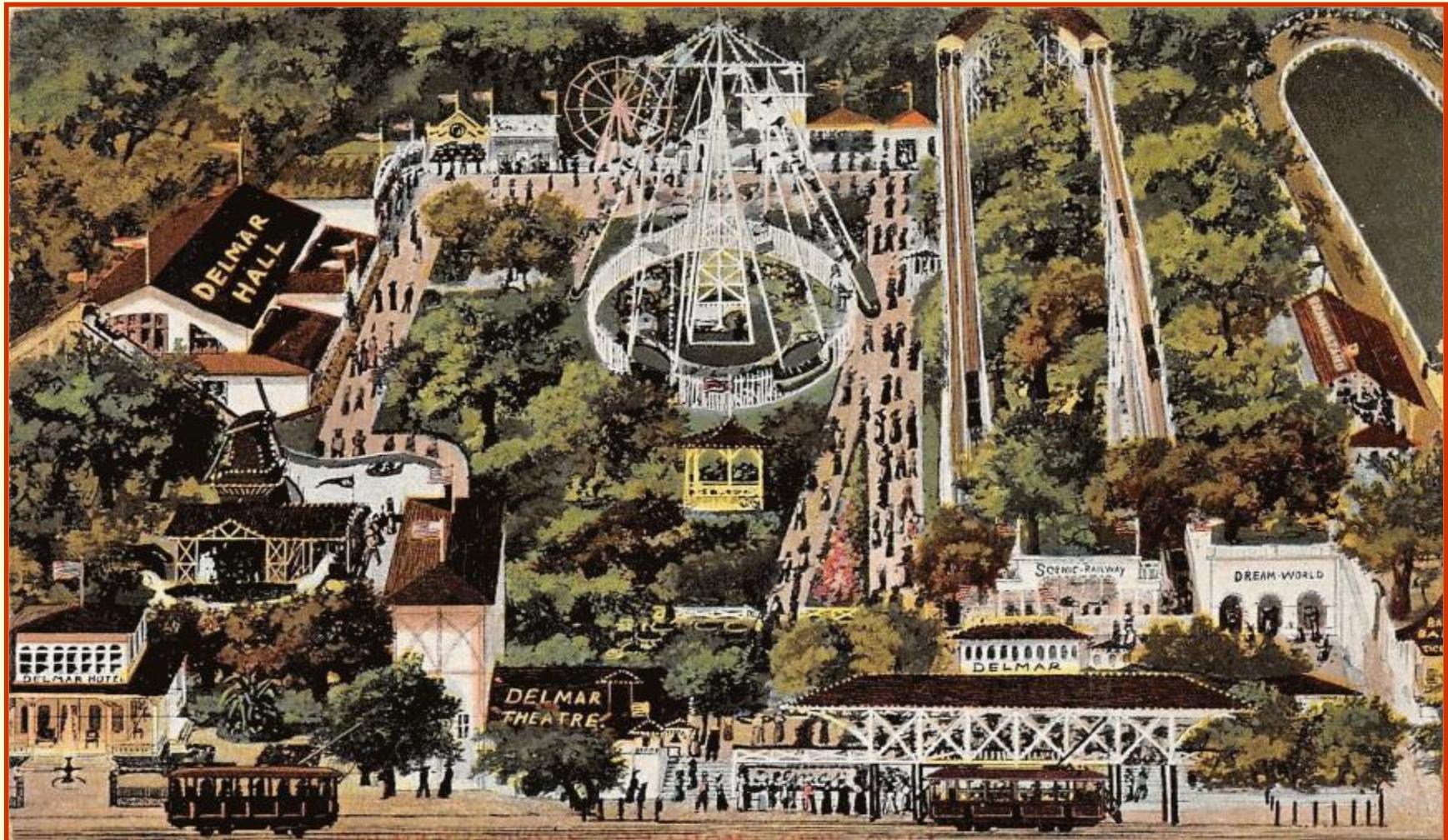


*It was well-suited to the drastic climate changes of the Great Plains and became the #1 crop.*

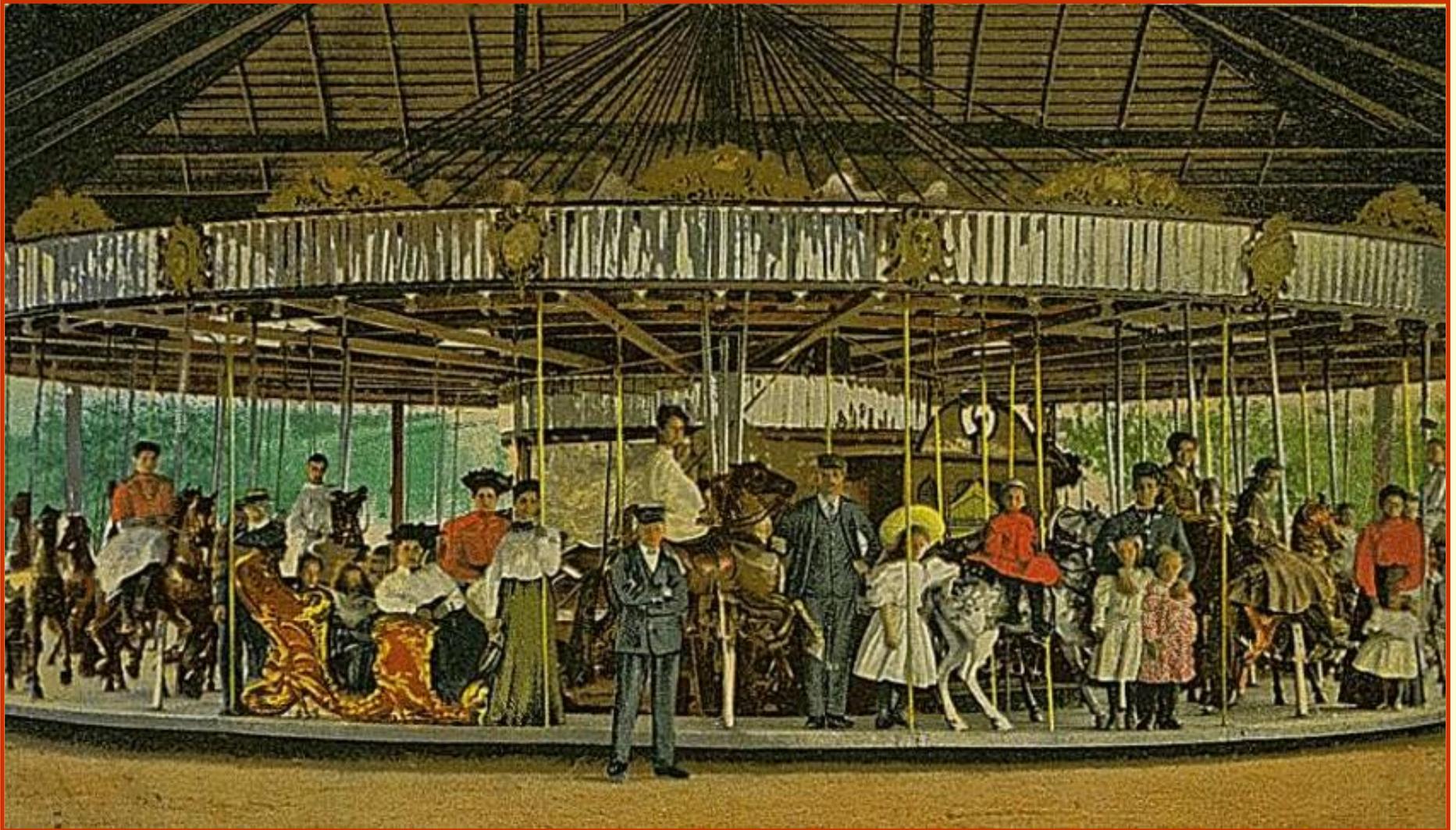


# Oklahoma City offered fine entertainment at The Delmar Gardens, by the Canadian River.

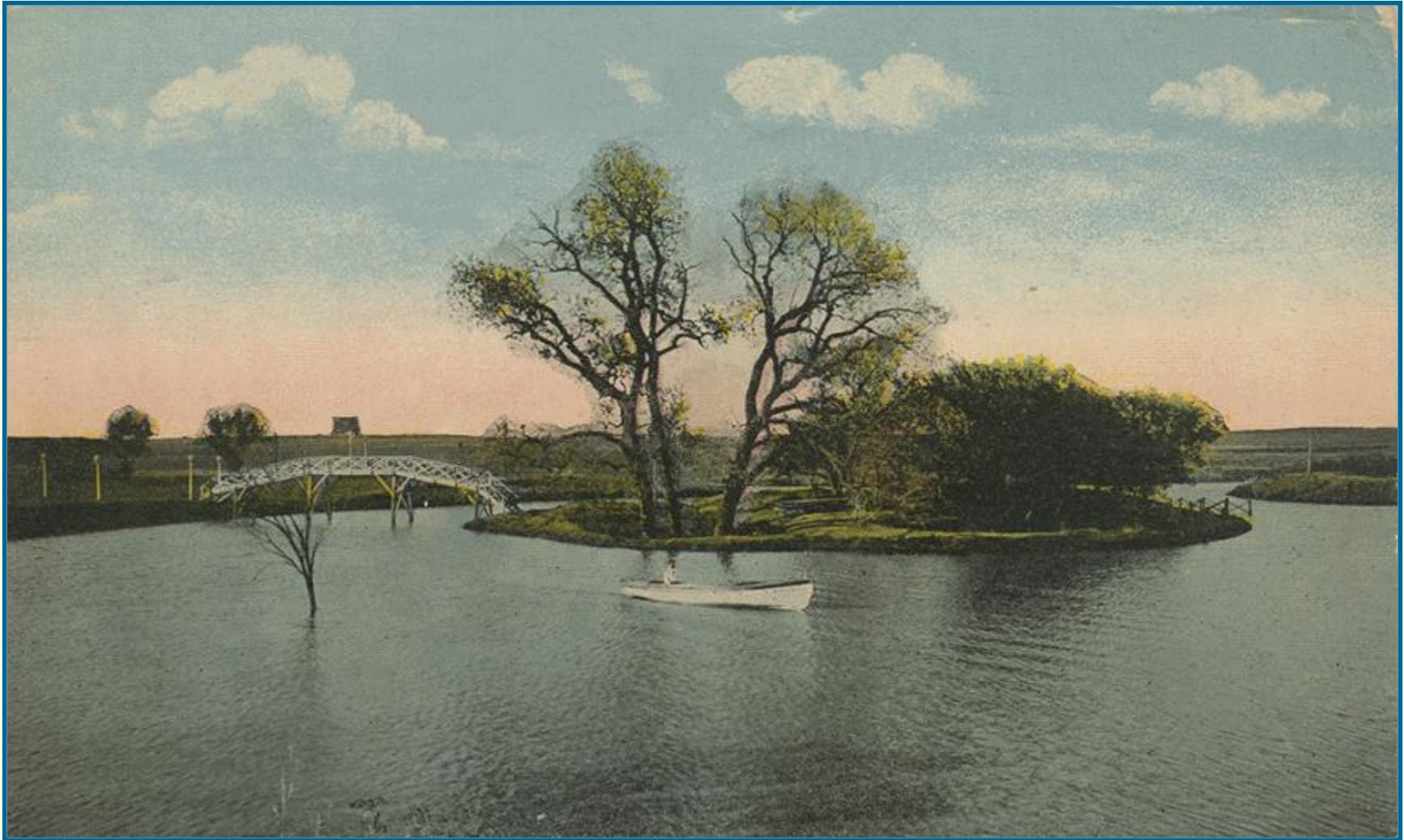
*It had a theatre, race track, midway, beer hall, and restaurant.*



*Many cities were using a new power source.  
Tulsa's Electric Park showcased a carousel.*



*Belle Isle Park offered boating and swimming  
as well as an island for enjoying picnics.*



*Springlake Amusement Park, featuring the state's first roller coaster, opened in 1924.*



# The Tri-State District was the world's largest source of lead and zinc.

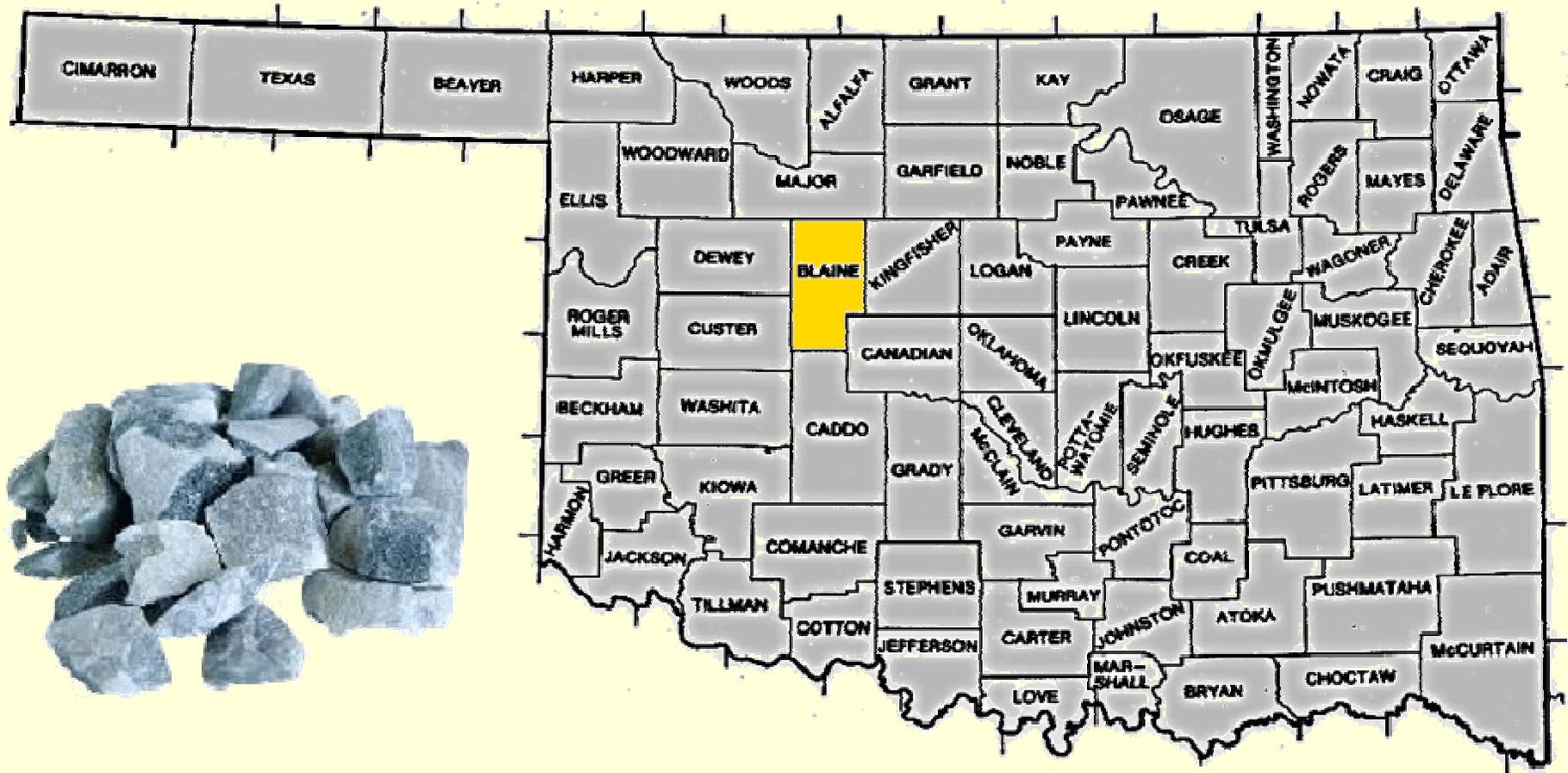
*It included fields in southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, and Ottawa County in northeast Oklahoma.*



*It was home to hundreds of small mining and milling companies.*

*Unfortunately, the mines contaminated the aquifer beneath the region, and many of the area towns had to be abandoned.*

Some of the purest gypsum in the world is produced in northwest Blaine County.



**Oklahoma Territory's gypsum products were featured at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis**

*The Fair celebrated the centennial of Lewis and Clark's Expedition.*

**QUICK FACT**

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE  
EXPOSITION**

The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair not only made Dr Pepper a national hit, but also was responsible for hamburgers, hot dog buns, and ice cream cones becoming national favorites.

**The legislature spent \$40,000 to build the exhibit.**



**Fairgoers were  
more impressed  
with the sandstone  
“Rose Rocks”  
that were handed out  
as souvenirs.**

**Towns sprang up quickly when a gold rush hit the Wichita Mountains in the 1890s.**

*Would-be miners swarmed the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache reservations.*

**But the fever ended when a geologist determined that the ore had no economic value.**



*The Native Americans watched their way of life slowly being stripped away.  
The territories were destined for statehood.  
The only questions were when - and how.*



## *Section 2: Statehood*



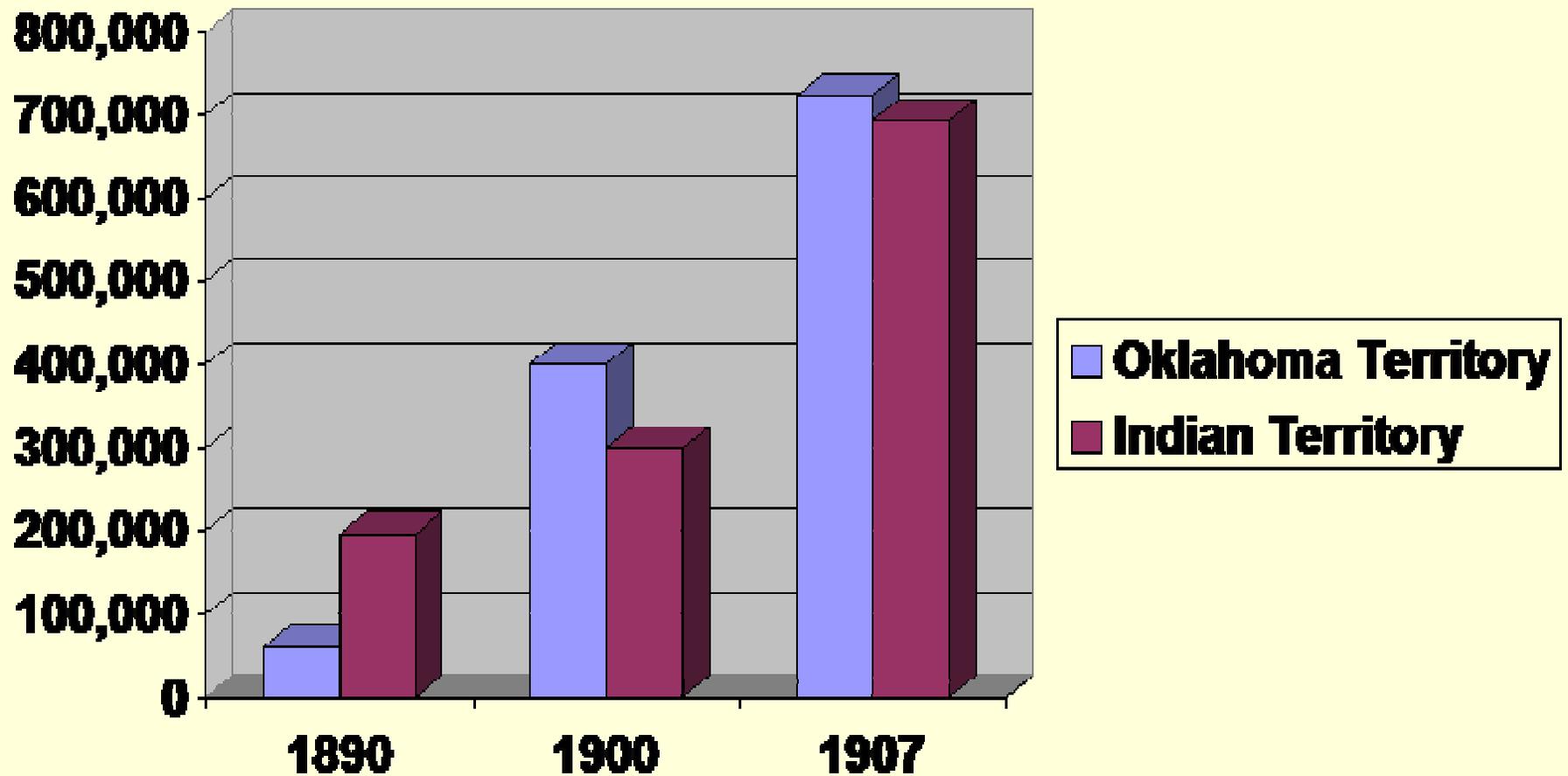


*The call  
for statehood  
was persistent,  
and meetings  
about it  
were held  
almost  
every year.*

**The population of Oklahoma Territory had grown with each new land opening.**

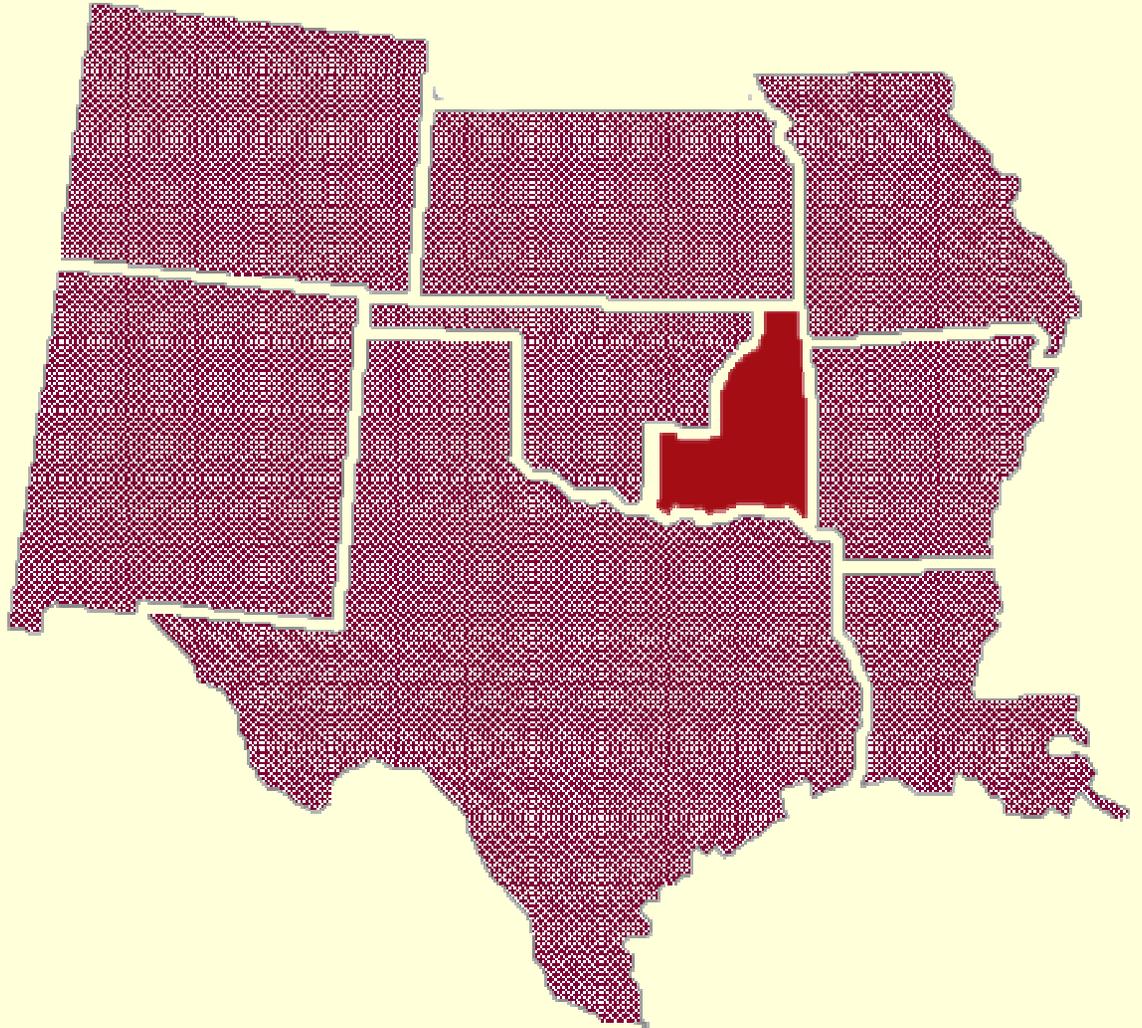


The population of Indian Territory was also growing rapidly, and tribal leaders opposed creation of a single state.



*Leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes  
met to discuss statehood for Indian Territory.*

**In August 1905,  
a constitutional  
convention for the  
State of Sequoyah  
was held  
in Muskogee.**



*Henry S. Johnston*

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
STATE OF SEQUOYAH

PREAMBLE.

Involving the blessing of Almighty God and repeating faith in the Constitution and Treaty obligations of the United States, we, the people of the State of Sequoyah, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All political power is vested in and derived from the people; is founded upon their will, and is instituted for the good of the whole.

SEC. 2. The people of this State have the inherent and exclusive right to regulate the internal government and police thereof, and to alter and abolish their Constitution and form of government whenever they may deem it necessary to their safety and happiness: Provided, Such change be not in conflict with the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 3. All persons have an inherent right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the gains of their own industry. To give security to these things is the practical effect of government.

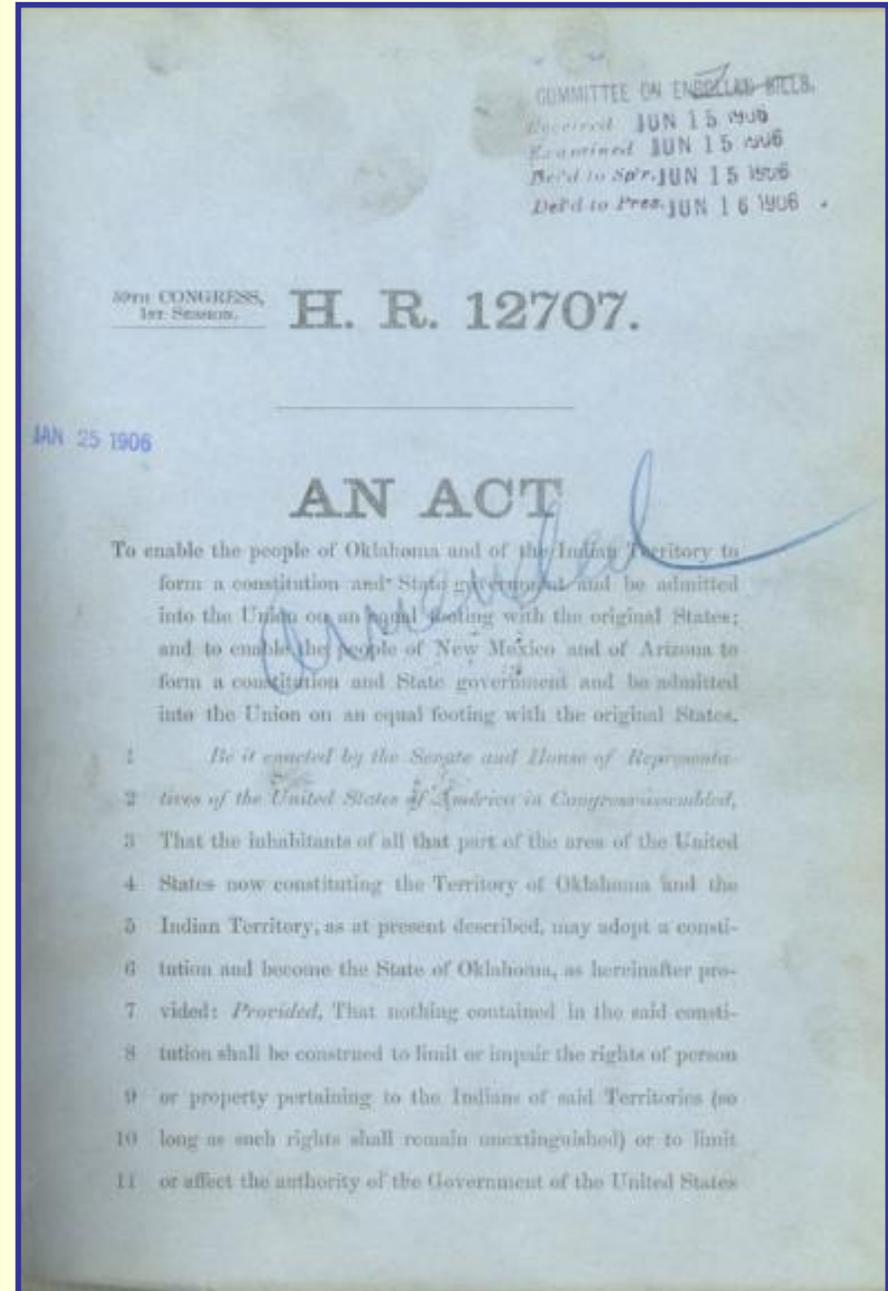
SEC. 4. All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No person shall, on account of his religious opinions, be rendered ineligible to any office of trust or profit under this State, or be disqualified from

**The constitution  
was approved.**

*On November 7, 1905,  
it was submitted  
to the U.S. Congress.*

*The proposal  
was ignored.*

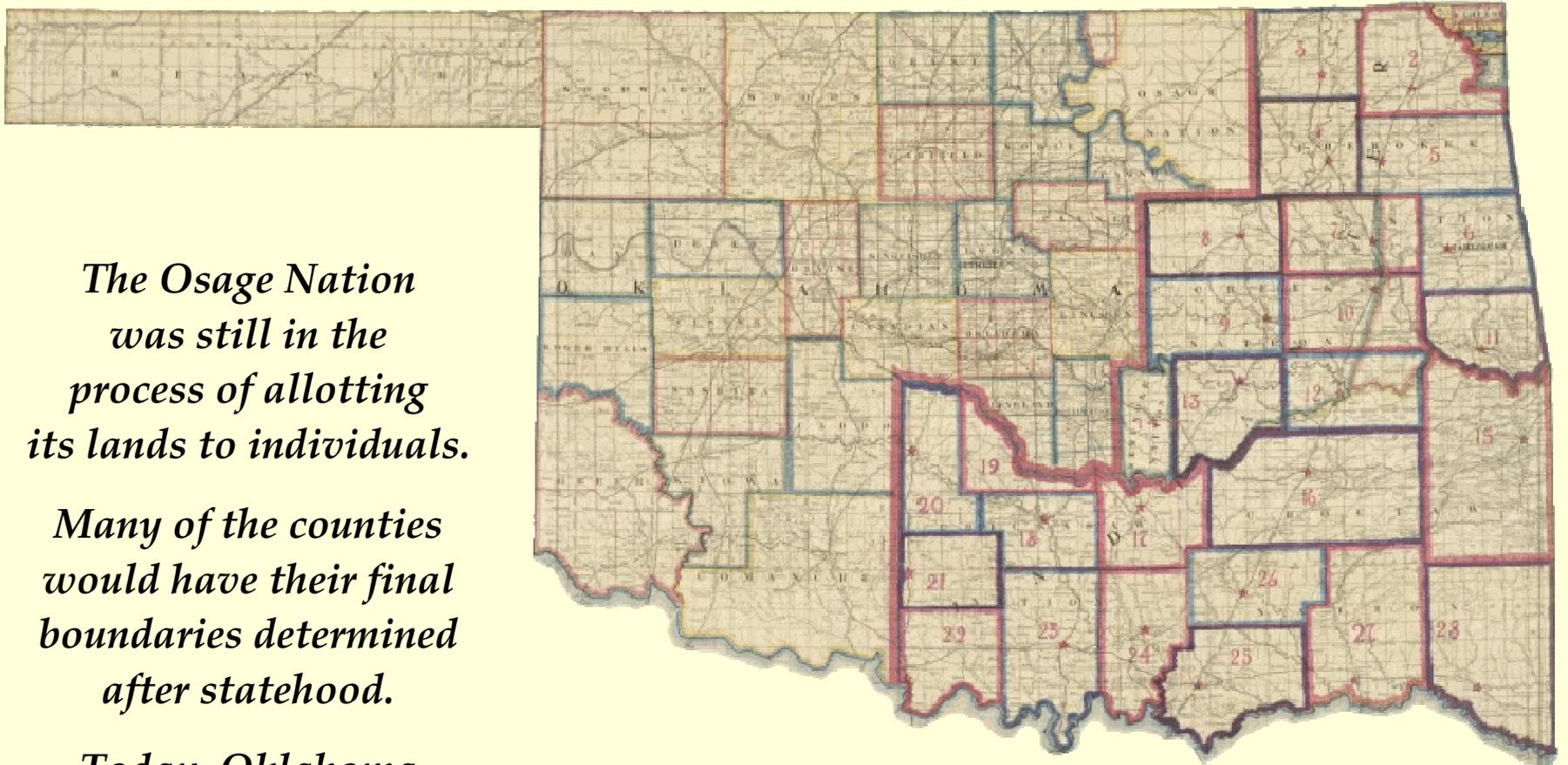
**Instead,  
in June of 1906,  
President  
Theodore Roosevelt  
signed the  
Enabling Act,  
providing for  
the joining of the  
twin territories.**



**The Enabling Act required the following:**  
**a republican form of government**  
**religious liberty**  
**the banning of polygamy**  
**the right to vote for all races**  
**the prohibition of alcohol for 21 years**



*Two delegates from each of the 55 existing counties and two from the Osage Nation were elected to the Constitutional Convention in Guthrie – 112 in all.*

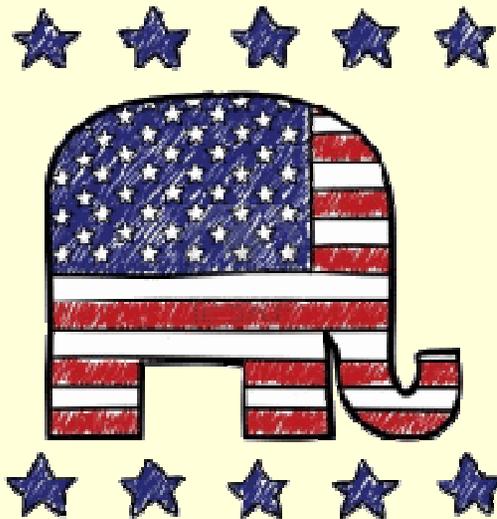


*The Osage Nation was still in the process of allotting its lands to individuals.*

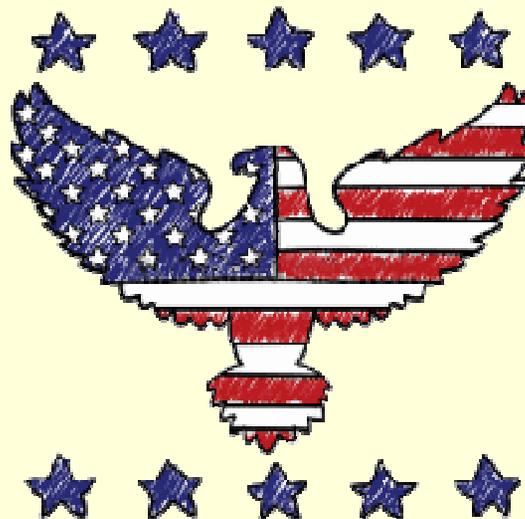
*Many of the counties would have their final boundaries determined after statehood.*

*Today, Oklahoma has 77 counties.*

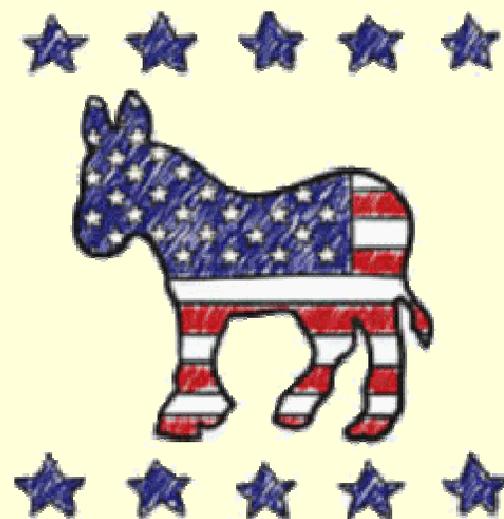
**There were no African American delegates  
or women elected to the convention,  
and political party representation was unusual.**



**There were 12  
Republicans.**



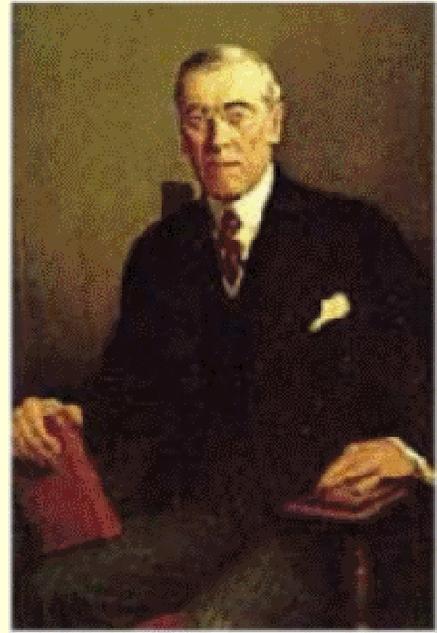
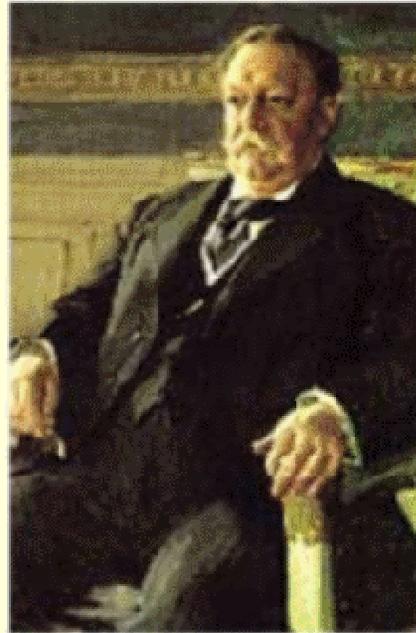
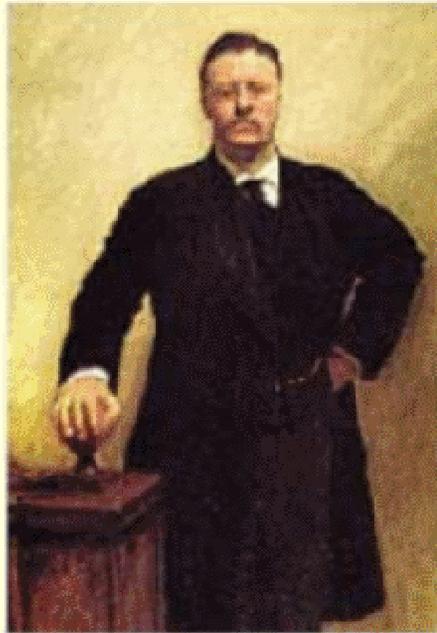
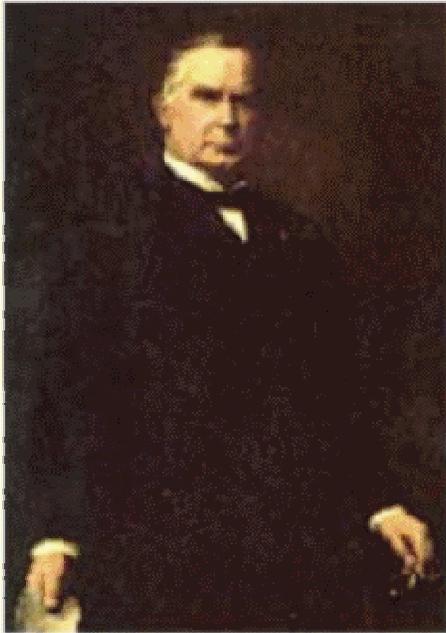
**There was 1  
Independent.**



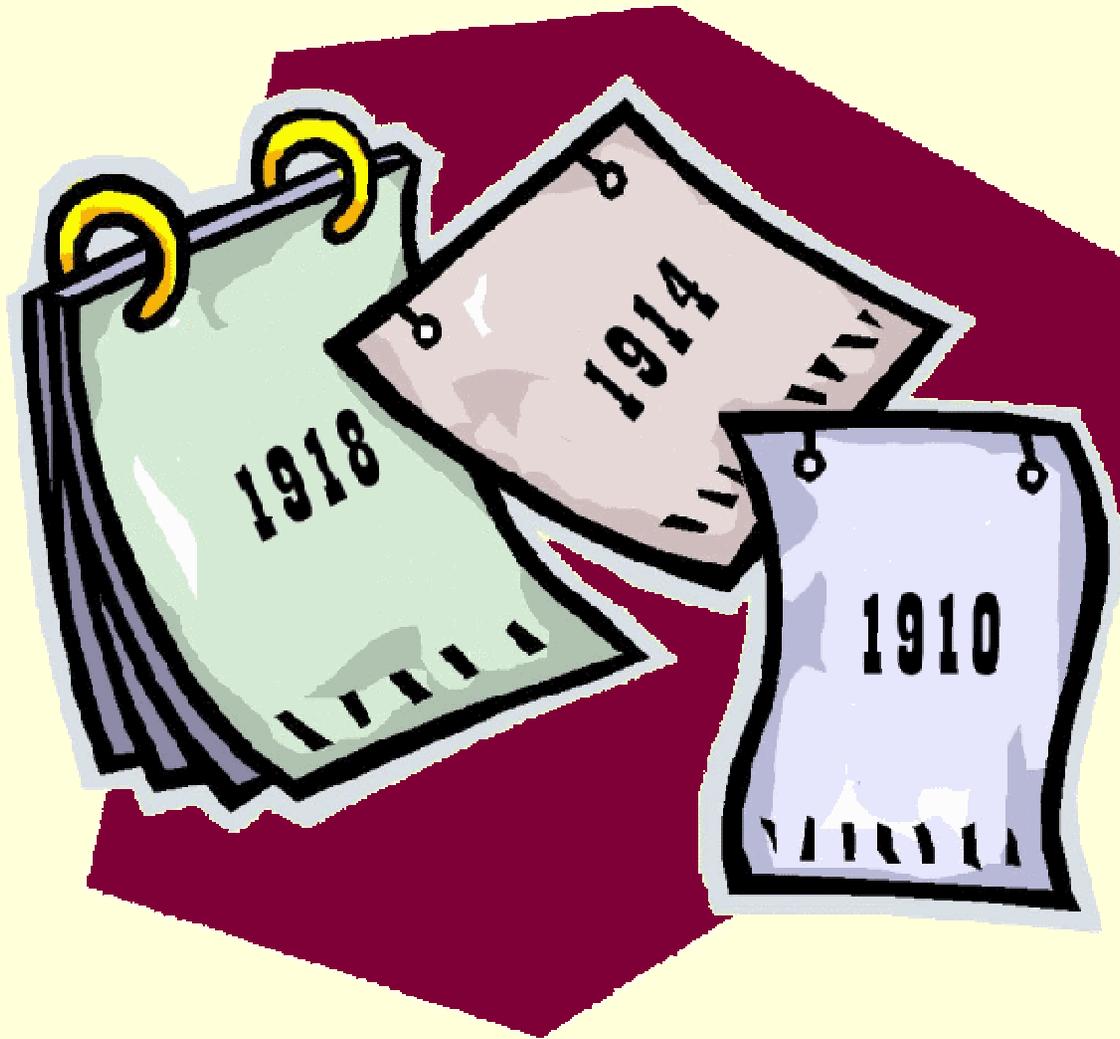
**There were 99  
Democrats.**

**Oklahoma was part of the Progressive Movement, reformers who believed that the federal government was best-equipped to correct the problems of society.**

*The movement elected four presidents: William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.*



The delegates intended for the legislature, as the “voice of the people,” to have the most power.



*Elections for Governor  
were scheduled for  
off-presidential years,  
to keep a popular president  
from swaying  
the state election.*

**The new constitution established a two-chamber lawmaking body called a bicameral legislature.**

*Members of the State House of Representatives would serve a two-year term, while members of the State Senate would serve a four-year term.*



**Citizens were also allowed to veto laws through a process called a referendum, or a popular vote before the law went into effect.**

*Senate appoints one Democrat and one Republican. The Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints one Democrat and one Republican. The Governor appoints one Democrat and one Republican.*

*The measure provides that the Lieutenant Governor chairs the Commission and is a nonvoting member. It requires orders of apportionment to be made by at least four members of the Commission.*

**SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?**

**FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES**



**AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO**



**Citizens of Oklahoma could  
propose laws by initiative petition, or  
gathering the signatures of registered voters.**

*People could also propose amendments to the constitution.*

*When it was ratified, it was the longest governing document  
not just in the United States, but in the world.*



**Women's suffrage, a national movement to give women the right to vote, was gaining strength as statehood approached.**



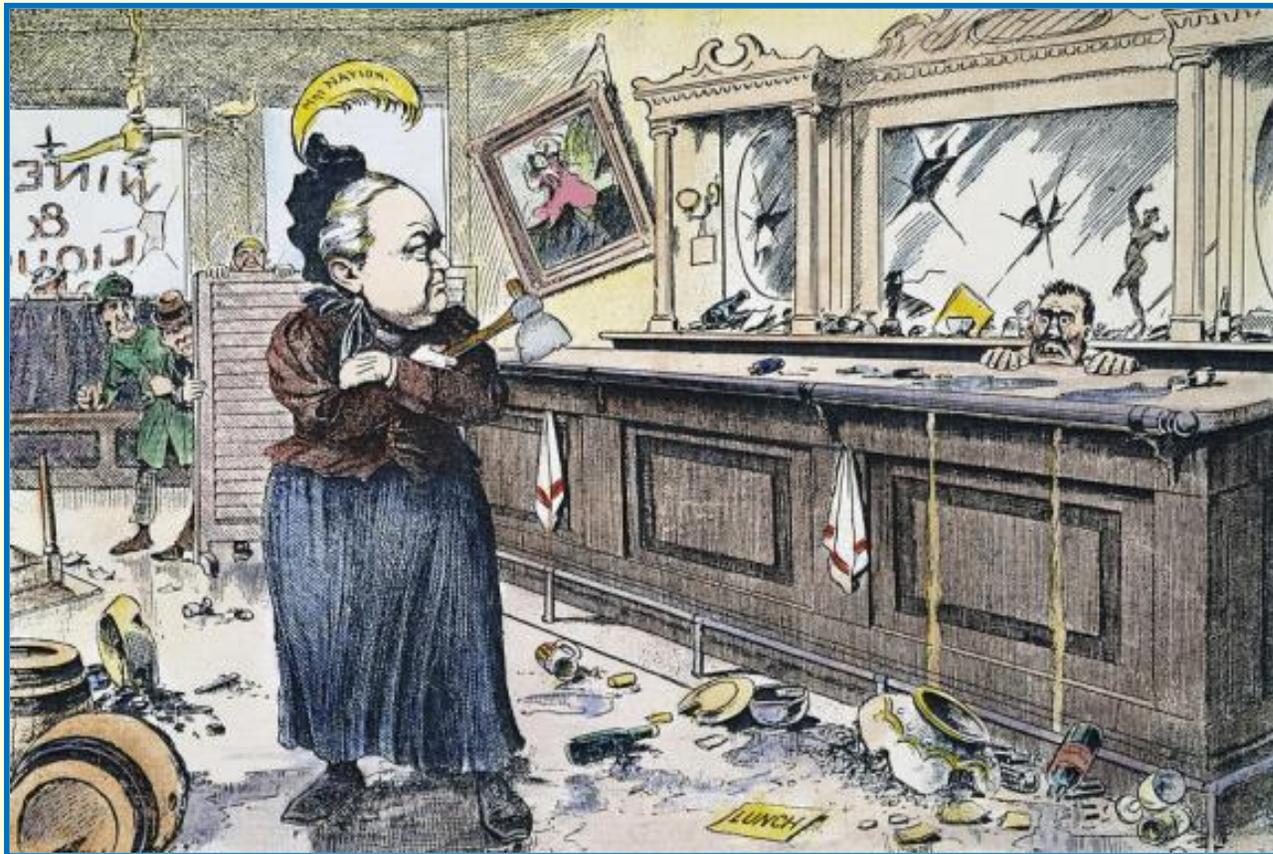
# But the delegates decided against women voting.

*Oklahoma women finally gained the right to vote in 1918, when voters approved State Question 97, an initiative petition.*



# Prohibition, which banned alcoholic beverages, had been a sensitive issue since the 1830s.

*Prohibition leader Carrie Nation moved to Guthrie in 1905 to support the ban. Former Abolitionists supported the group, also called the Temperance Movement.*



The delegates  
chose to leave  
Prohibition  
out of the  
constitution  
and added it  
as an amendment  
instead.





**African Americans  
who moved to Oklahoma  
hoped to escape the  
discrimination of the  
Jim Crow Laws,  
which limited the rights  
of black people.**

*Many of the delegates wanted  
segregation provisions,  
but the matter was tabled  
until after statehood was achieved.*

## JIM CROW LAW

Will Be One of the First in the State of Oklahoma.

Muskogee, I. T., Sept. 10.—When Indian Territory gets statehood doubtless it will at the time of its legislative convention pass a Jim Crow law, and that is going to cause a big howl from the minority population of the Territory. The negroes here, especially the freedmen, have by virtue of being land holders, brought themselves to believe they are entitled to all the privileges of the white man. This will continue until some form of local self government comes and the feeling at that time is likely to be so intense that a very stringent law of this character will be enacted. In railway coaches, street cars and elevators the negroes take equality with whites. Since the new railroads have been built into Texas and Arkansas where Jim Crow laws are in force the negroes from the Territory have been given a taste of what they may expect in the future in the Territory and they resent it bitterly. But the white population recognize the fact that there must be some such law to protect the public and it is likely that both political parties will agree to such a bill.



## Other Constitutional provisions:

### Labor rights:

- \*8-hour day for coal miners and public workers.
- \*Children under 16 can't work in hazardous jobs.

### Public education:

- \*Free public schools not connected to any religious group.

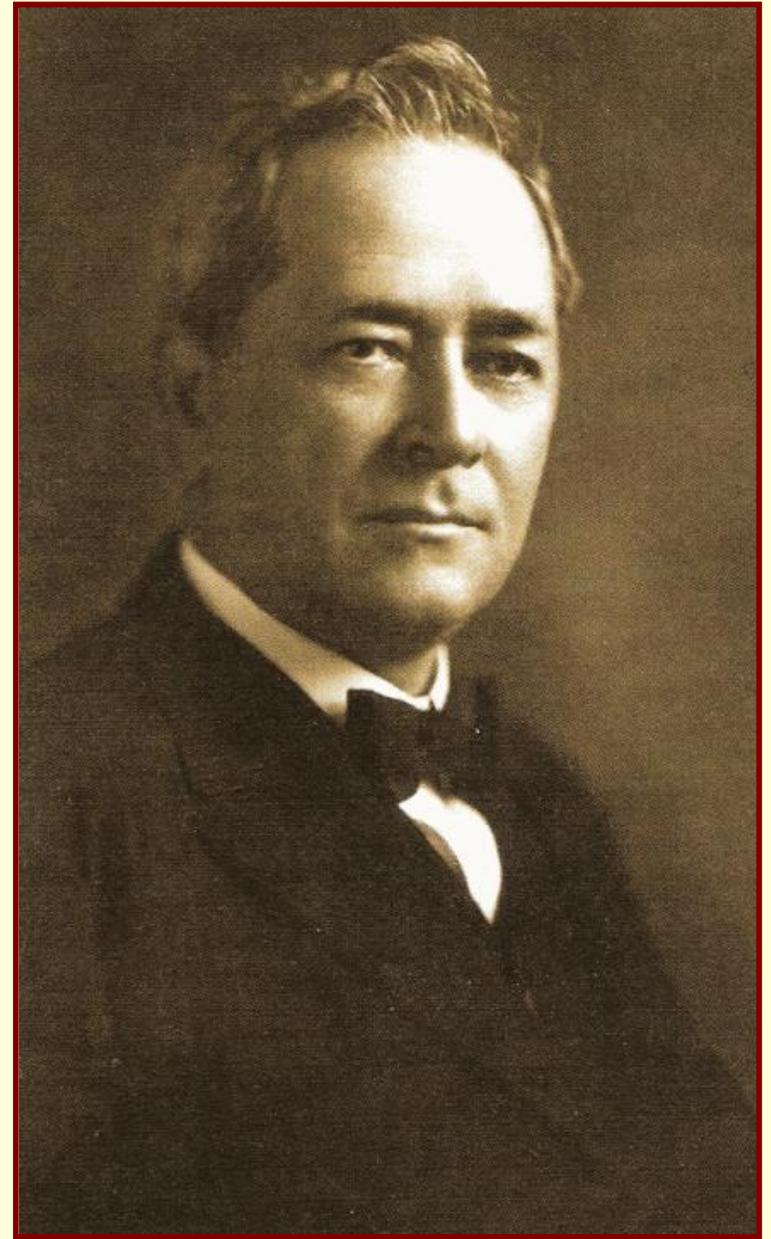
### Businesses:

- \*Required to have a charter to operate in the state.
- \* Cannot influence political campaigns.
- \* Cannot own stock in a competing company.
- \*All businesses regulated by an elected Corporation Commission.

*On Sept. 17, 1907,  
the constitution was  
ratified by a margin of  
more than 2 to 1.*

**Charles Haskell  
was elected Governor.**

**The Prohibition Amendment  
passed by a vote of  
130,000 to 112,000.**



# President Theodore Roosevelt signed the statehood proclamation on Nov. 16, 1907.

*Through a direct telegraph wire from the White House, the news was received in Guthrie two minutes later, at 9:18 a.m. Oklahoma time.*



*The announcement was signaled with a pistol shot.*

*Immediately, bands played, church bells rang, trains blew their whistles, and most of the citizens present fired their guns.*

Oklahoma, so long a maverick of the southwest, has finally received the coveted brand of statehood and been admitted to the corral

21,040

DAILY AVERAGE FOR OCT.

# THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
IN GREATER OKLAHOMA

VOL. 16, NO. 188

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1907—THIRTY-SIX PAGES

PRICE 8 CENTS

## OKLAHOMA BECOMES STATE

### SALDON DUEL CAUSE OF DEATH

Theft of a Bottle of  
Whisky Responsible  
for Fight

### ROBT. JOHNSON IS DEAD

His Assistant, Fred Morris,  
Surrenders to Under Sher-  
iff Garrison

### CHAUFFEUR IS FATALLY CUT DURING FIGHT

BELIEVED THAT VICTIM OF FIGHT  
AT THREADGILL WILL  
NOT LIVE

With four serious flesh wounds to his back as the result of a saloon brawl at the Threadgill bar at 1110 North First last night, Harry H. Dixon, chauffeur for the Oklahoma Motor Car company, lies at Edgewater hospital. His skull is cracked, and the point of death from the loss of blood.

K. B. Dorman and W. P. Chicago, employes of the Western States, warehouse of Chicago, are being held at the county jail to await the outcome of Dixon's injuries, which are expected to prove fatal. Chicago, however, is believed to have done the killing. He was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Miles Casey and City Detective Robert Moore and District Marshal at the scene of the killing at Threadgill.

### SCRATCH OF QUILL PEN LETS THE NEW STATE INTO UNION

"That Makes Oklahoma a State,"  
Says Roosevelt, When He  
Affixes Signature

Special to The Oklahoman.  
Washington, Nov. 16.—"There, that makes Oklahoma a state," declared President Roosevelt this morning as he scribbled at the signature in the cabinet room after he had appended his signature to the document admitting Oklahoma and Indian Territory as the forty-sixth state.

The actual signing of the document took place in the cabinet room at 10:30 o'clock in the eve-

### INDIAN TERRITORY AND OKLAHOMA ARE SYMBOLICALLY WED

Thirty Thousand People Attend the  
Inaugural Ceremonies at  
State Capitol

Special to The Oklahoman.  
Gallatin, Okla., Nov. 16.—At 9:20 o'clock this morning Governor Haskell received a telegram stating that the statehood proclamation had been signed by the president; at 9:30 o'clock in his room at the Royal Hotel, with only the members of his family, Senator Robert L. Owen of Muskogee, Thomas H. Owen of Muskogee, Frank M. Canton of Oswego, Dr. J. W. Drake of Gallatin, Mar-

### ENID FIREBUG CAUGHT WHILE MAKING BLAZE

NIGHT WATCHMAN DETECTED  
FIRING OIL SOAKED BAGS  
NEAR BIG MILL

Special to The Oklahoman.  
Enid, Okla., Nov. 16.—Caught in the act of firing a bag of oil soaked sacks, Clyde Cavitt, night watchman for the Phoenix Mill and Elevator company, was arrested at 10:30 o'clock this morning. A crowd of nearly 500 men gathered around the county jail. Cavitt has been suspected since early yesterday afternoon, when it was found that the sacks used in starting the fire the night before were from the Phoenix mill. He was searched tonight and caught while applying a match to one of the sacks. He was taken to the jail. The jail was on fire and the fire was extinguished. The jail building.

### BATTLE WITH GUNS; TWO DEAD

Marshal and Bootlegger  
Victims of Fur-  
tal Shooting

### "BAD MAN" STARTS IT

Officers Attempt to Arrest  
Bootlegger Kills and  
Is Slain

*A short time later, Governor Haskell took the oath of office on the steps of the Carnegie Library.*



*A symbolic marriage ceremony joined  
Mr. Oklahoma Territory and Miss Indian Territory.*

**With a population of 1.4 million,  
Oklahoma joined the Union as the 46<sup>th</sup> state.**

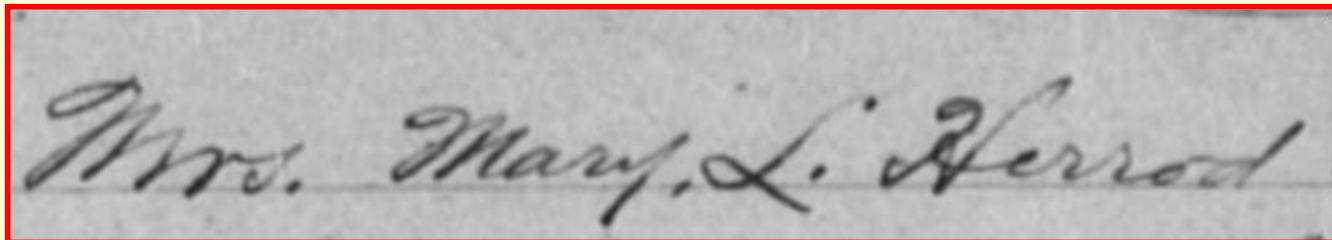


*Some citizens, especially in Indian Territory,  
were not joining the celebrations.*

*“As Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November will be the  
last day of the Indian Territory, and after that  
we will be no longer a nation, some of us feel  
that it is a crisis in the history of the Indians...*

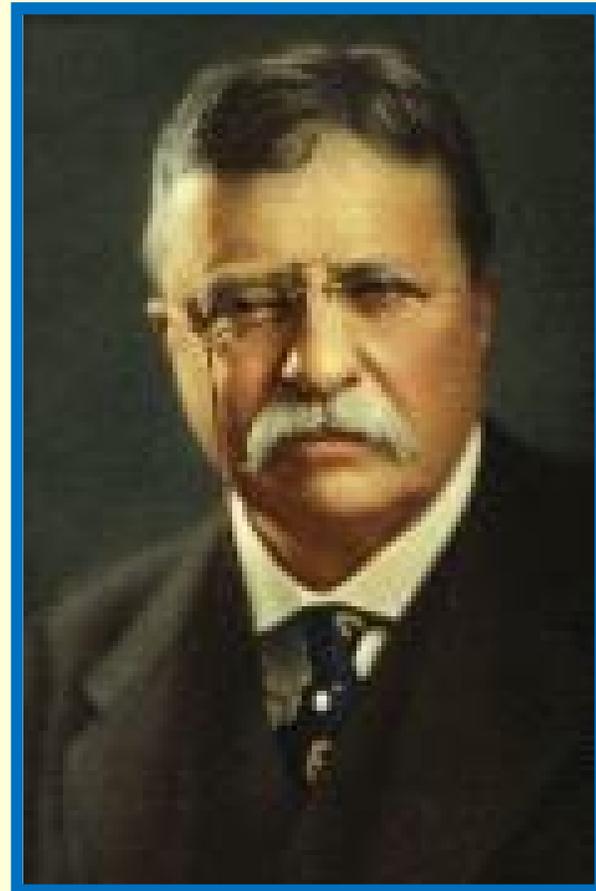
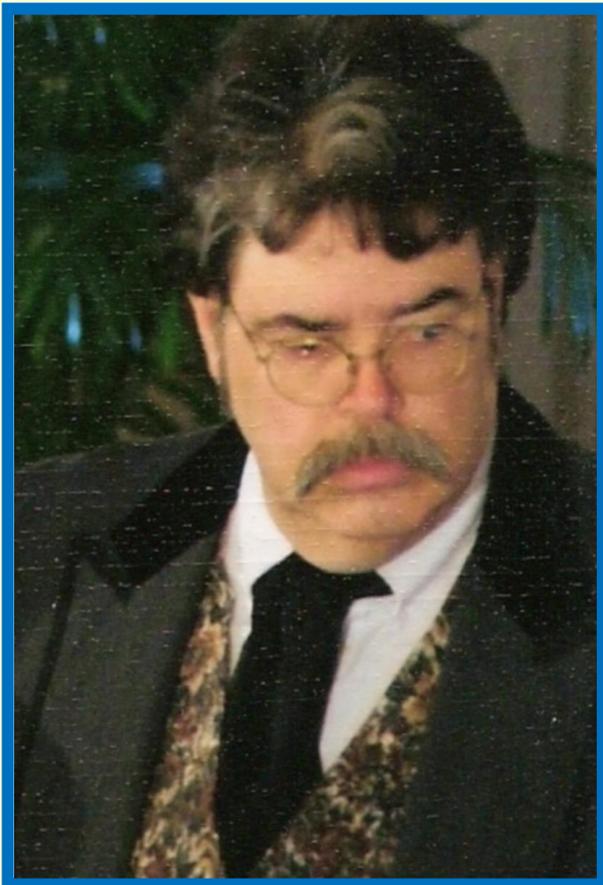
*The Indian does not count any more, even in his  
own territory. I shall never write another letter.*

*I cannot date my letters ‘Indian Territory,’  
and I shall not write.”*



*Mrs. Mary L. Herrod*

*In 2007, during the Centennial Celebration,  
I played President Theodore Roosevelt  
and presented a speech to a combined session  
of the state Senate and House of Representatives.*



*The President addresses the gathering.*



*Stellon's Photography & Design*

*Mr. Roosevelt accepts the congratulations of Mr. Brad Henry, the Governor of Oklahoma.*

