

Chapter 6

New Land, New Beginnings



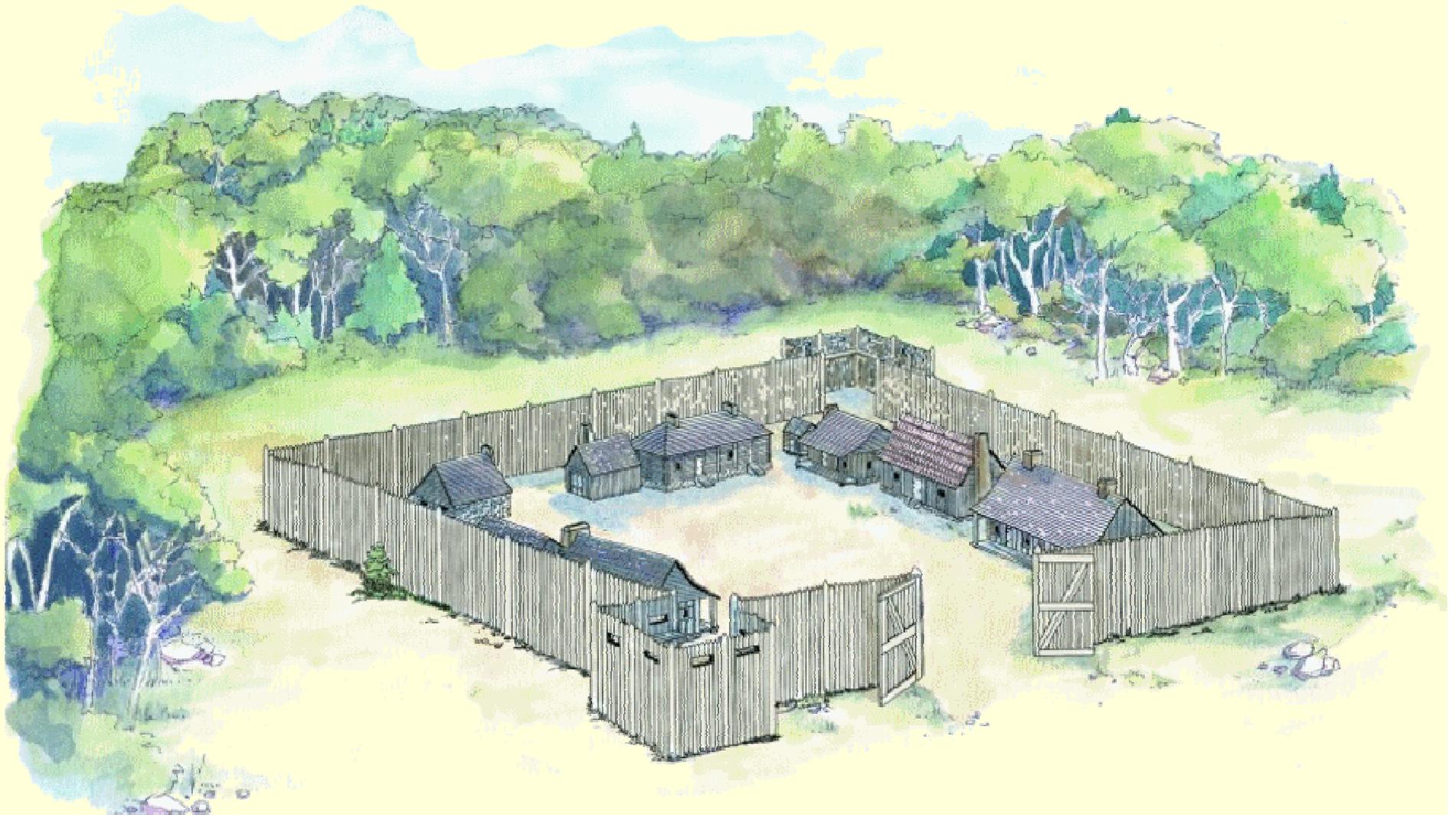
In this chapter:

- ❖ *The U.S. will attempt to maintain peace between the newly-settled Eastern tribes and the natives of the Plains; and to prevent hostilities between American settlers in Texas and Mexican authorities.*
- ❖ *The Five Civilized Tribes will adjust to life in Indian Territory with varying degrees of success.*

Section 1: Balance of Power

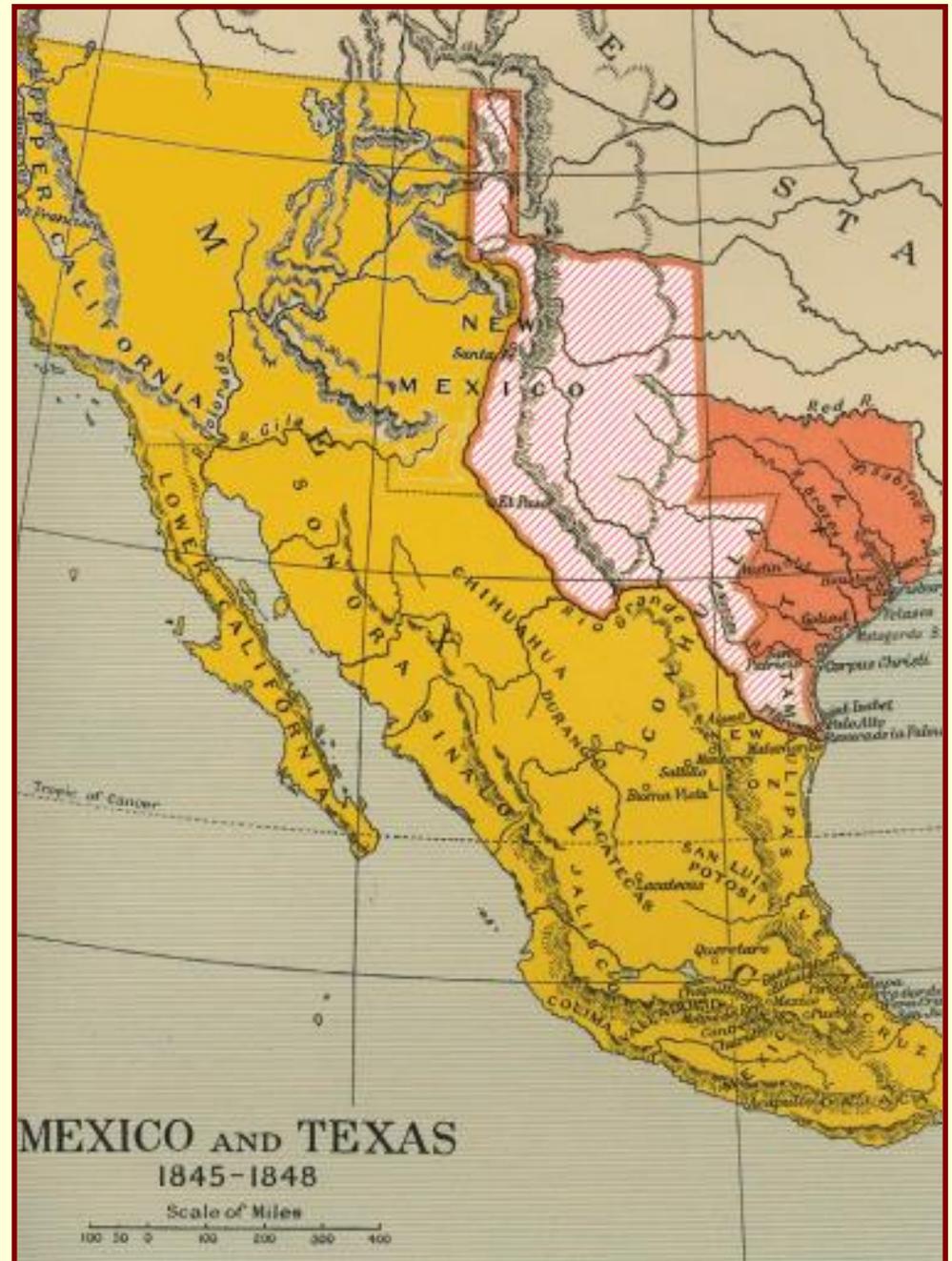


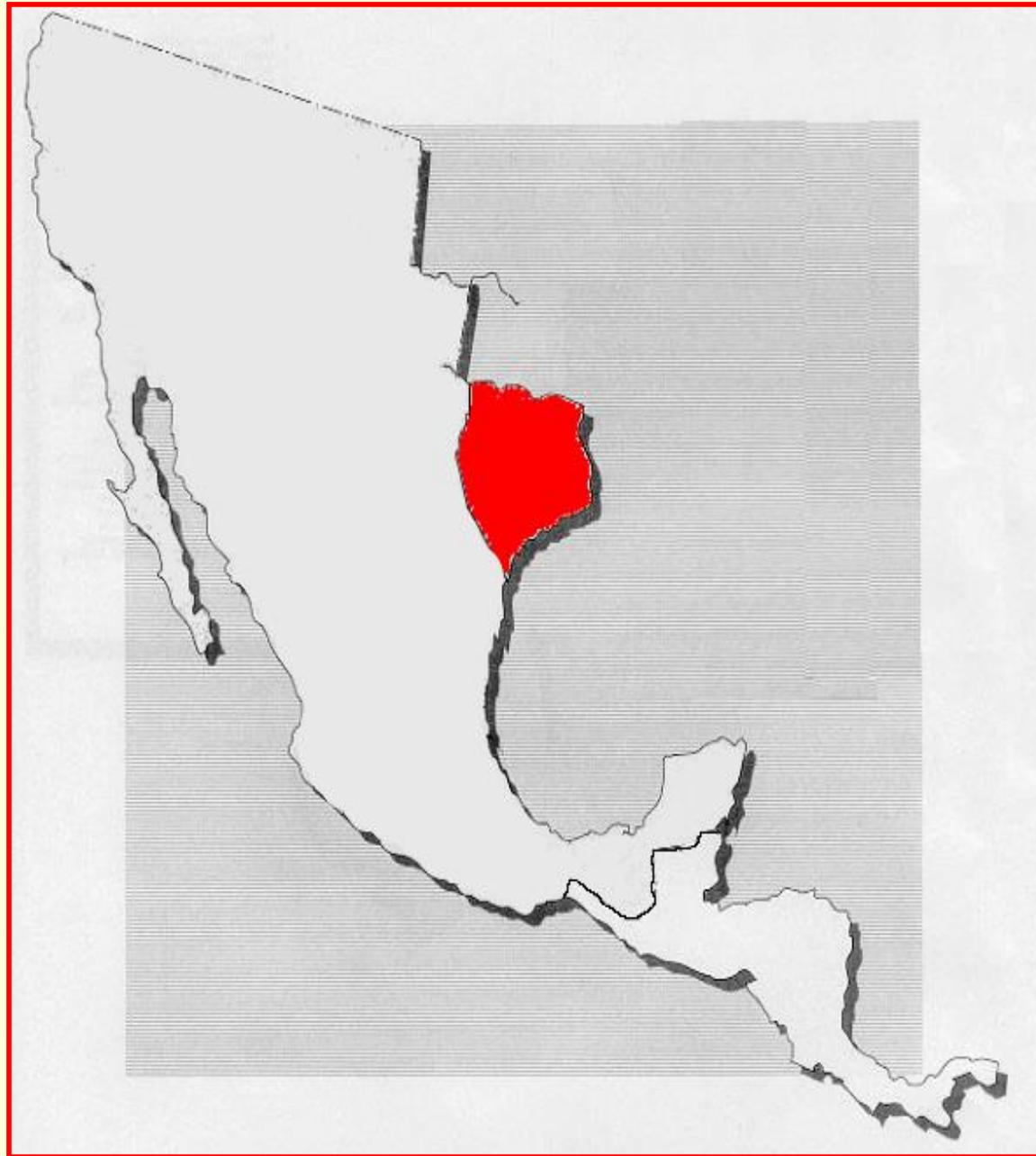
The Army began building forts in Indian Territory to maintain peace among the Native Americans, as some adapted to the changes and others didn't.



Texas was a region south and west of Indian Territory. The Army also built forts to ease tensions between Mexican authorities and Americans who were settling in Texas.

Both sides were trying to draw the Plains Indians into their fight over control of the land and the culture.





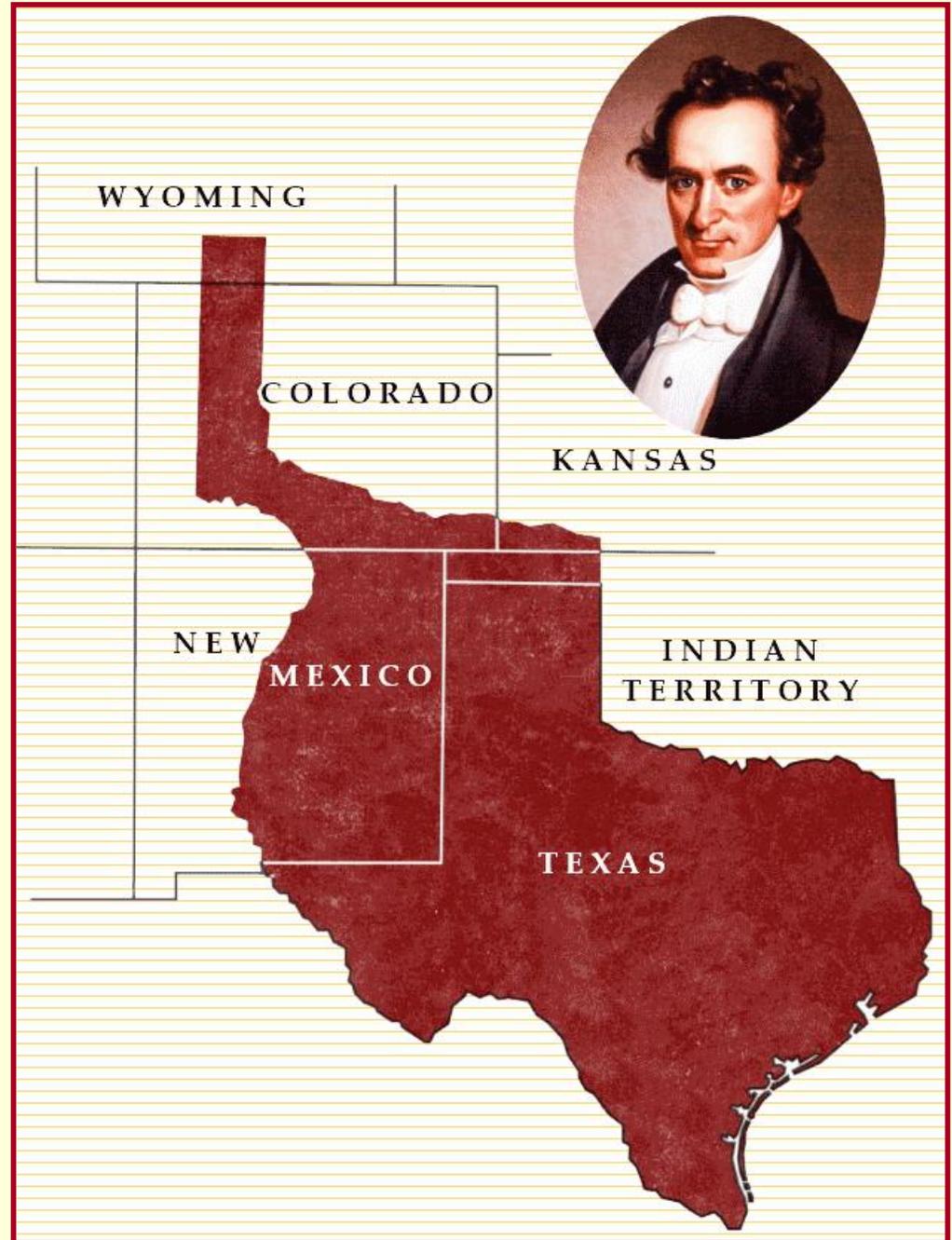
**In 1820,
Spain had invited
American settlers
into the northeast
region of Mexico
known as Texas.**

*The Americans' mission
was to help raise the
standard of living.*

*When Mexico won its
independence a year later,
the new government
honored the agreement.*

**Stephen F. Austin
led 300 families
from Missouri
to settle in Texas.**

*But the Americans
failed to follow
the terms of
their agreement.*



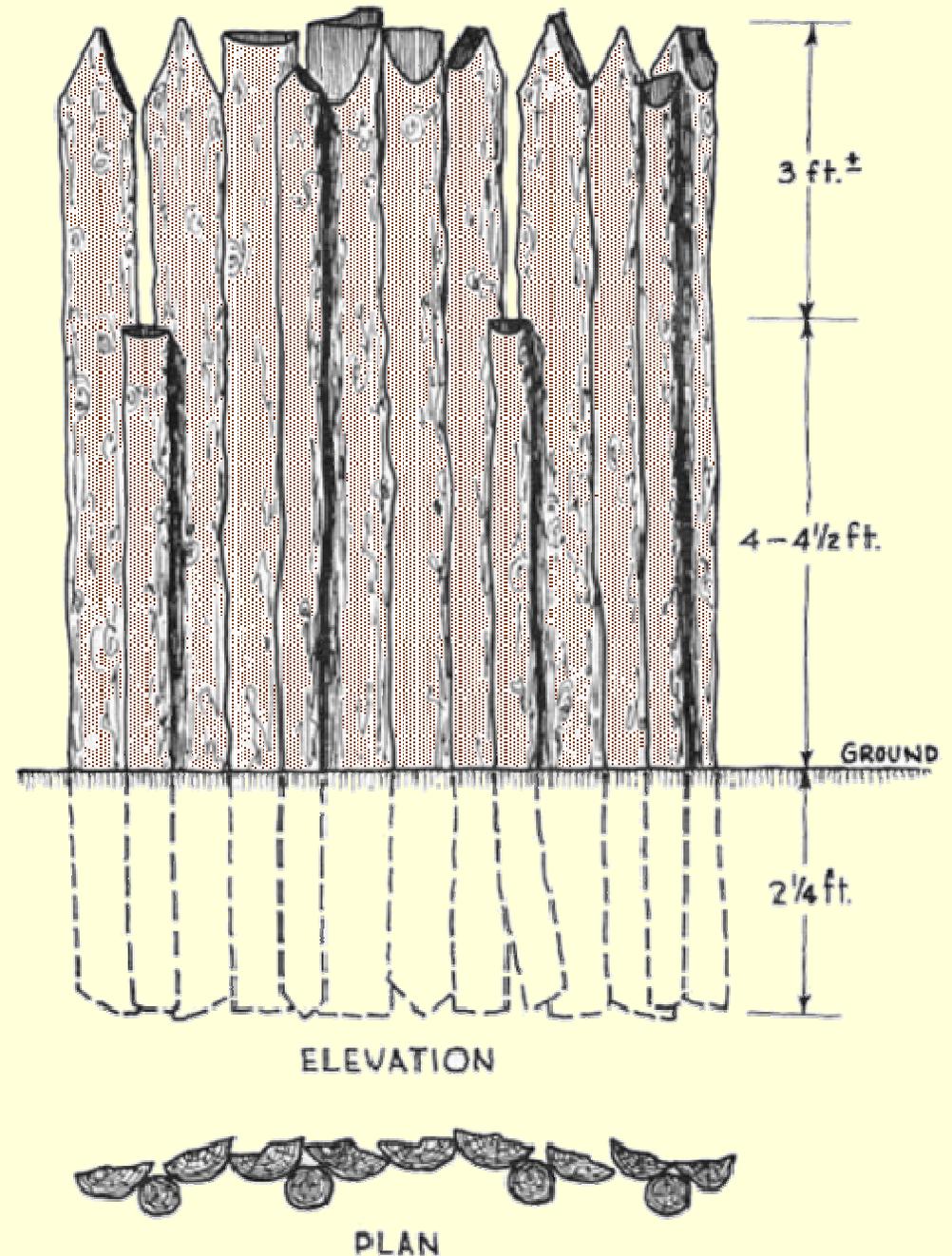
**By 1835, there were 145,000 Americans
living in Mexico illegally.**



Most forts were constructed with palisades, or walls made from tree trunks.

Indian Territory had an abundance of Scrub Oak trees.

They could be put together quickly and were usually accompanied by earthworks.



*Fort Coffee was built on the Arkansas River in 1834
to protect the relocated Choctaw.*

The soldiers there also stopped whiskey from entering the Territory.

It was decommissioned in 1838 and turned over to the tribe.



**Fort Coffee Academy, a school for Choctaw boys,
was established in the old buildings in 1843.**

The Choctaw would build a girl's academy two years later.



**Also in 1834, the Osage killed more than a hundred
Kiowa hunters at the Cutthroat Gap Massacre.**

*The U.S.
government
decided it was
time for a
peace treaty
between all the
Plains Indian
tribes.*



**The
U.S. Army Dragoons,
an expedition of
500 Cavalry soldiers
led by General
Henry Leavenworth,
was sent into
Indian Territory.**

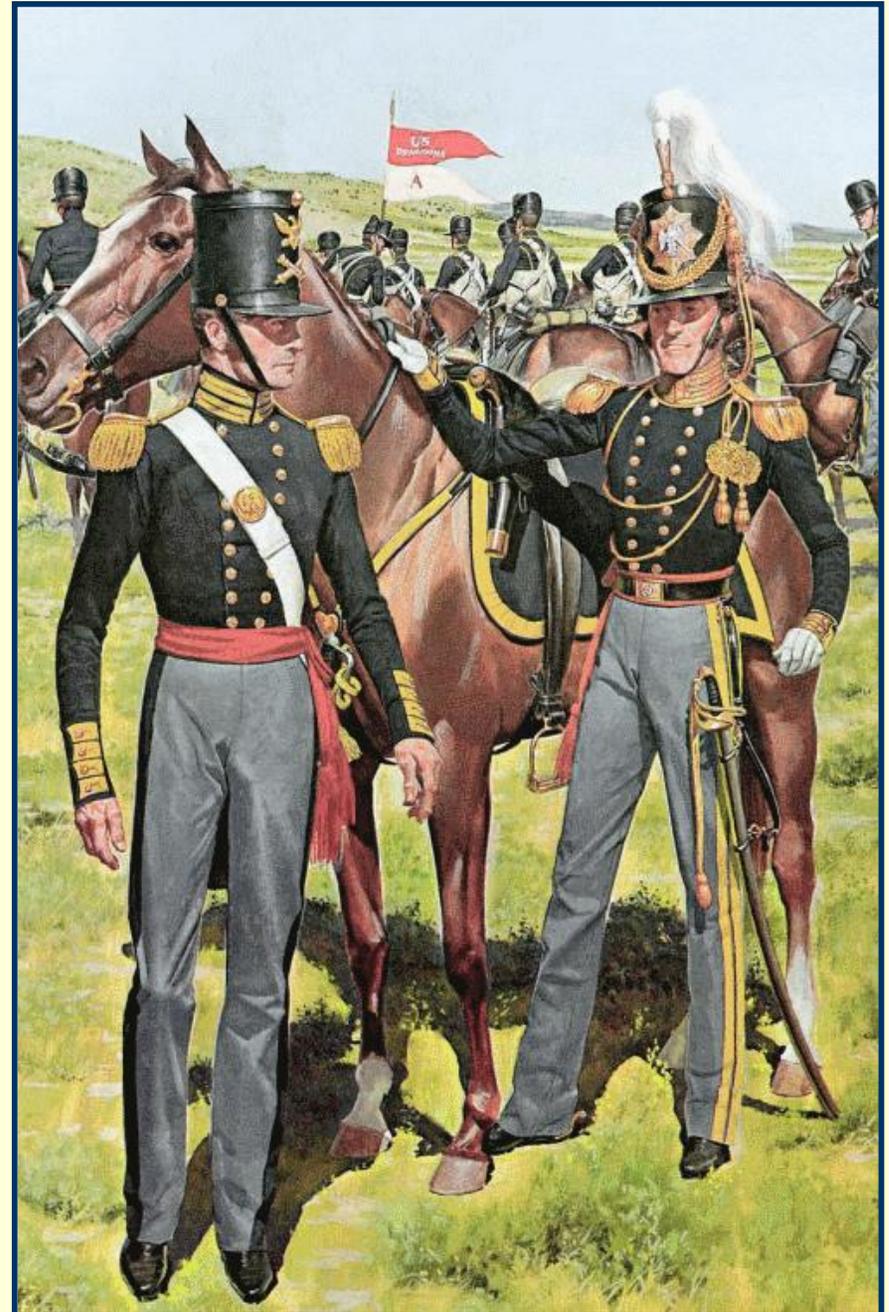




**The expedition
was designed
to impress the
Plains Tribes
with the Army's
military power
and to secure
a peace treaty.**

*Among the soldiers
was a young lieutenant
from Mississippi named
Jefferson Davis,
who would later become
the president of the
Confederate States
of America.*

**When Leavenworth died,
Colonel Henry Dodge
convinced several of the
southern Plains tribes
to journey east
to Fort Gibson
for a peace conference.**



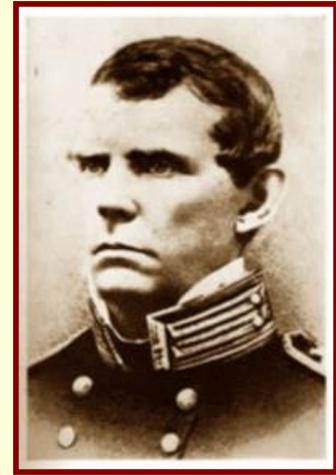
But the Comanche refused to go into the Cross Timbers.

As a Plains tribe, they were apprehensive about entering the dense forest.



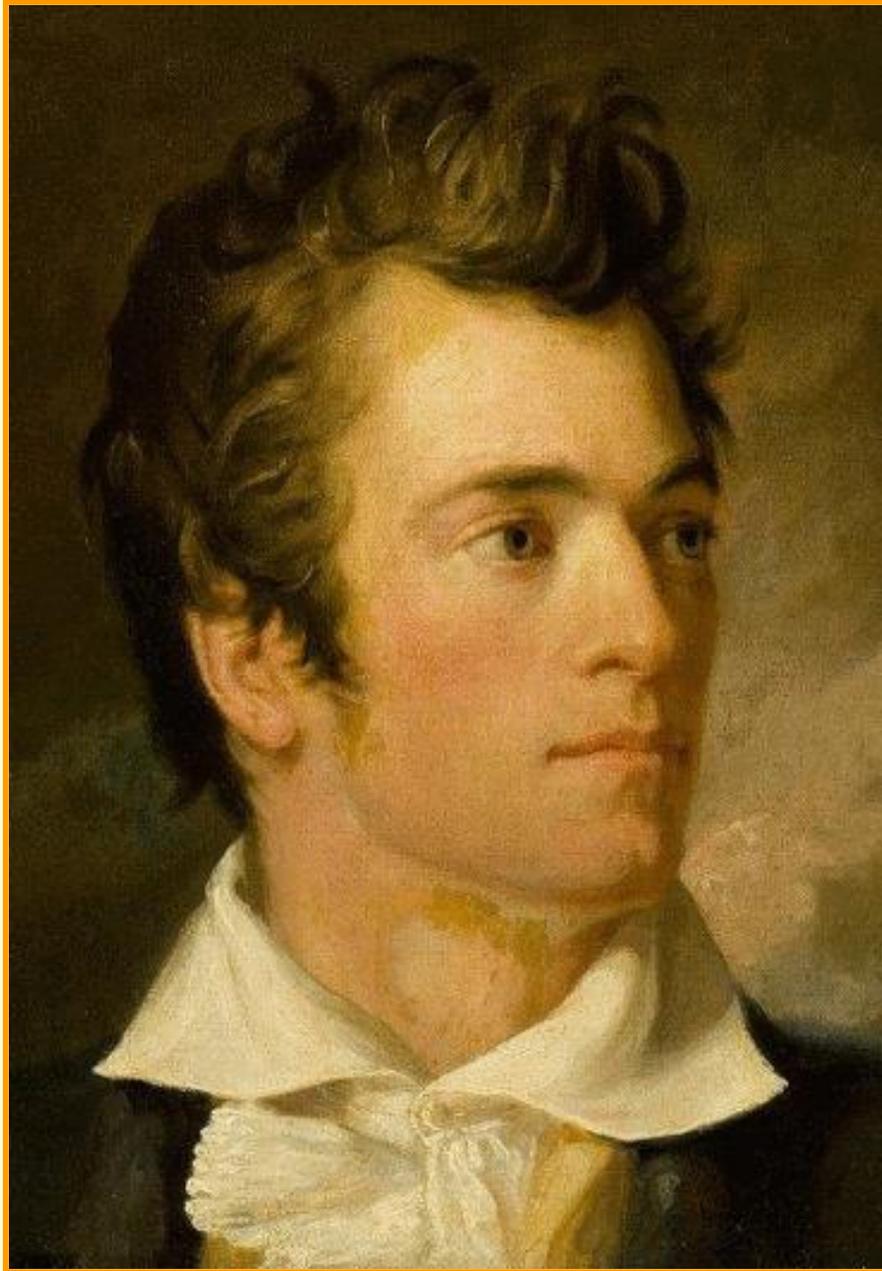
**Camp Mason, a new fort,
was built west of the Cross Timbers
near present-day Lexington in 1835.**

*Representatives of the Plains tribes and the eastern tribes
signed a treaty protecting American travelers and traders
and pledging to maintain intertribal peace.*

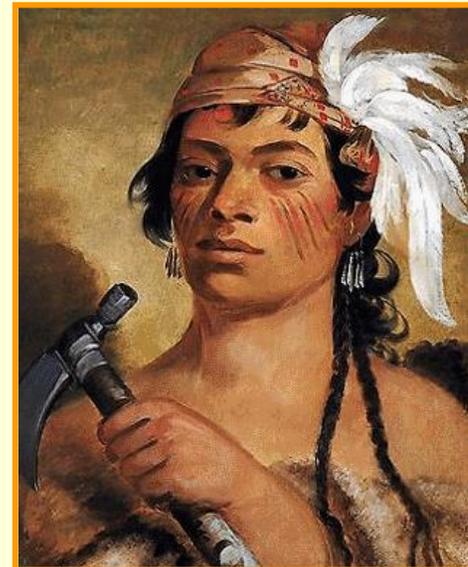


Major Richard Mason





**George Catlin (left)
accompanied
the Dragoons,
and was one of
America's first
"Western" artists.**



*"Seneca Warrior"
by George Catlin*

Catlin was also a conservationist, and was the first to propose the idea of creating national parks.

He became aware that the fur trade might lead to the extinction of the buffalo.



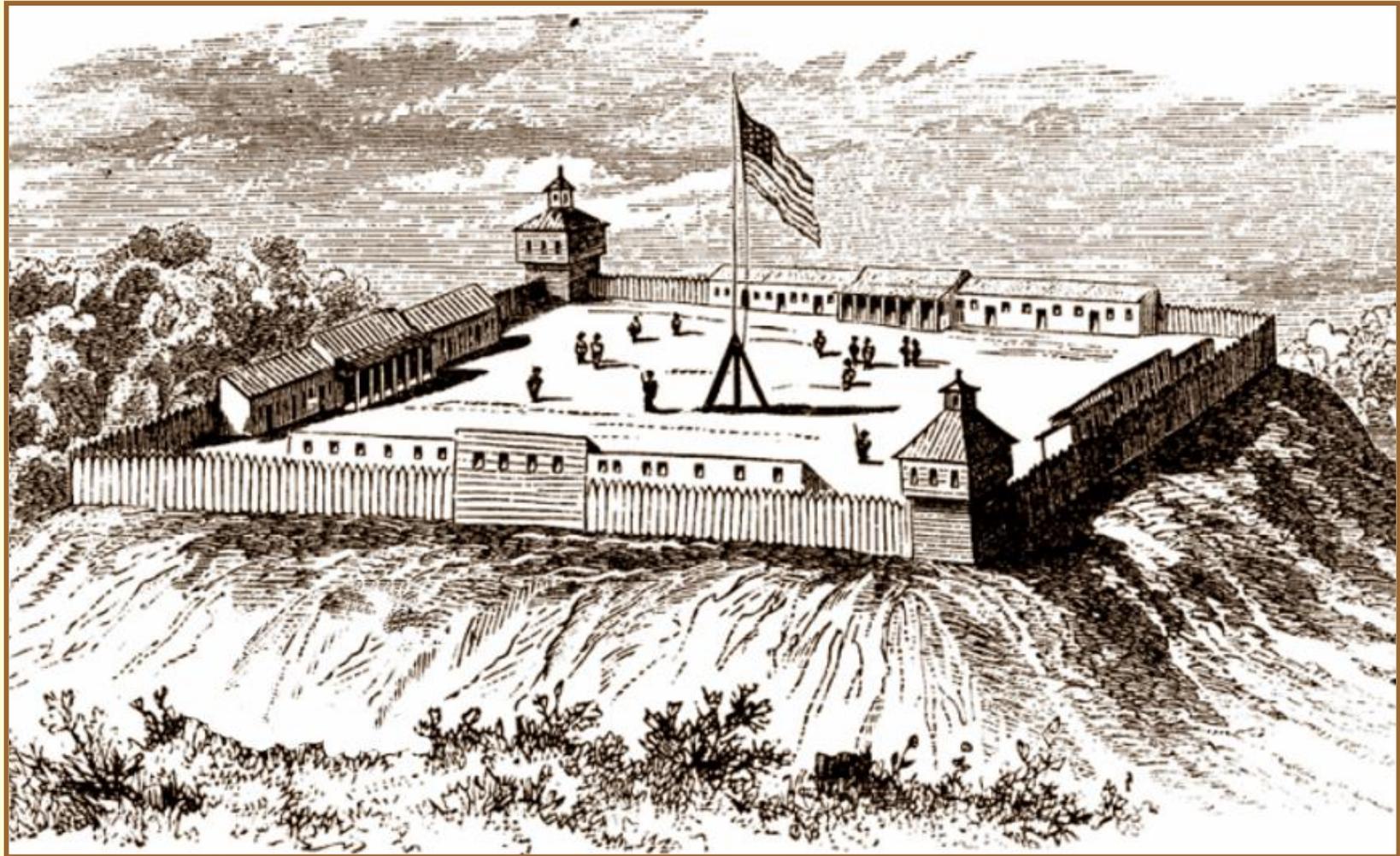
*The
inspiration for
Rumble
the Bison?*



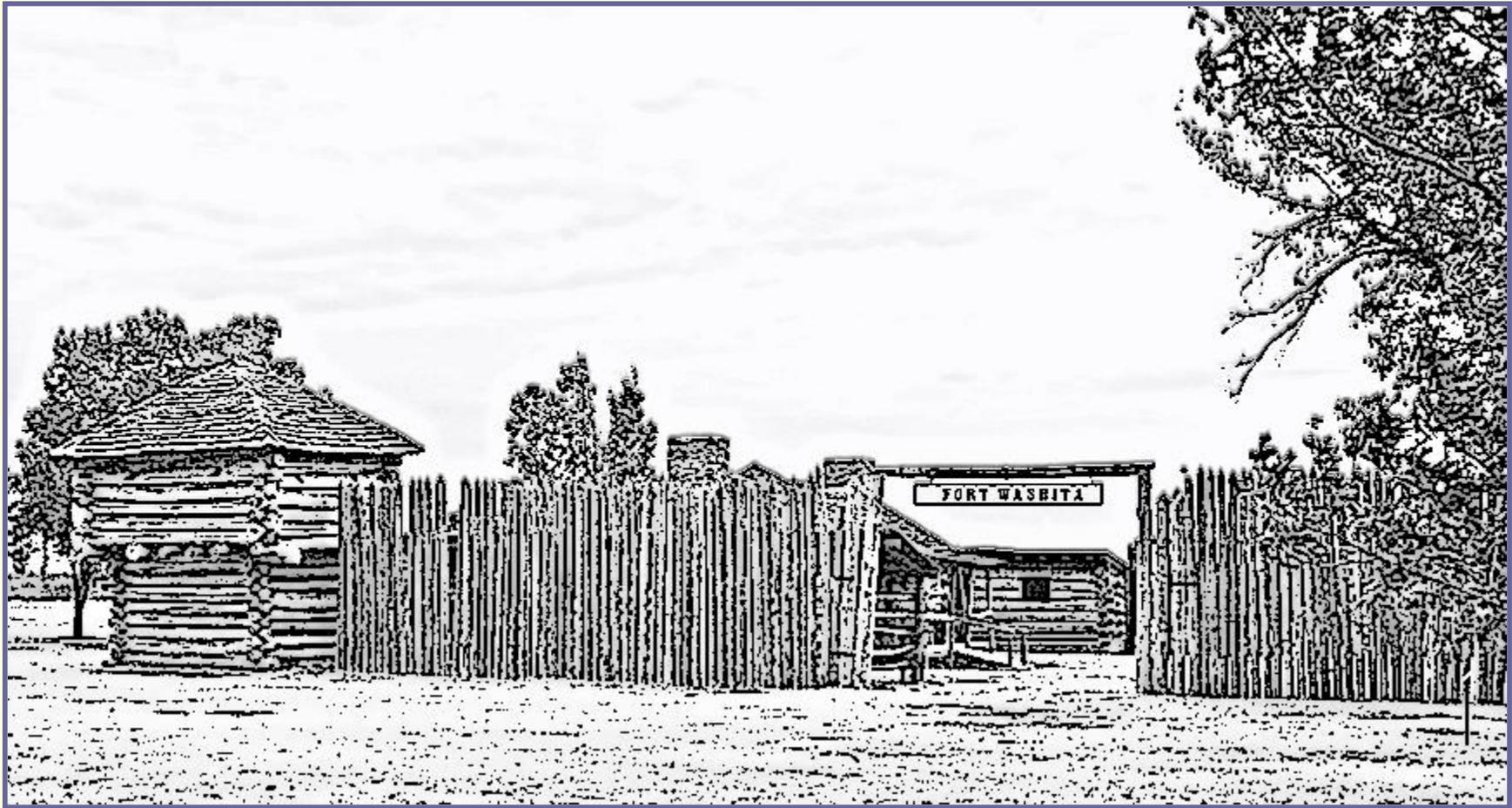
After Camp Mason, the Army began constructing new forts for specific circumstances.



Fort Wayne was built in 1838 to control the feuding Cherokee factions, but was quickly abandoned when soldiers there died from a malaria epidemic.



Fort Washita was built in 1842 near Durant.



*It protected the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes
from raids by hostile Plains tribes.*

In 1851, Fort Arbuckle was built on the Washita River.

Also built to prevent raiding, it was an open fort, with each building facing the quadrangle (parade grounds).



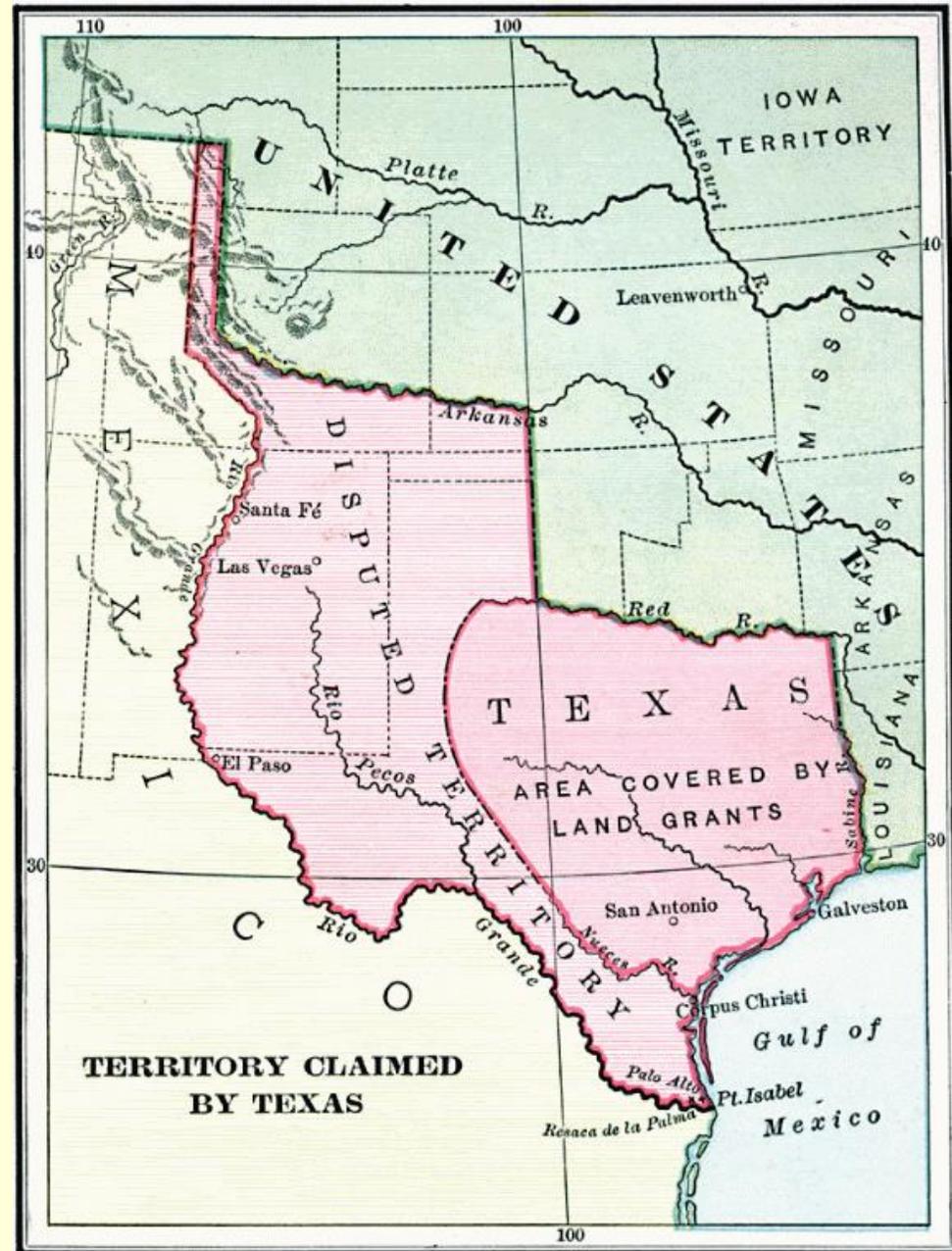
In 1859, Fort Cobb opened in Caddo County as a peace-keeping mission.

The military used it to prevent two southwestern tribes from going to war against each other.



The illegal immigration problems in Texas began affecting Indian Territory.

First, American settlers in Texas began to claim more land than they had been granted, including Oklahoma's Panhandle.



Then, as required by Mexican law, they had also refused to give up the use of slavery.



They had also promised to convert to the Mexican national religion, Roman Catholicism, but didn't.



In 1836, the revolution started.





**To stop
the rebellion,
the Mexican Army,
commanded by
General Santa Anna,
attacked the Texans
defending the
old mission
in San Antonio.**

After a 13-day siege, all of the Texans were killed.

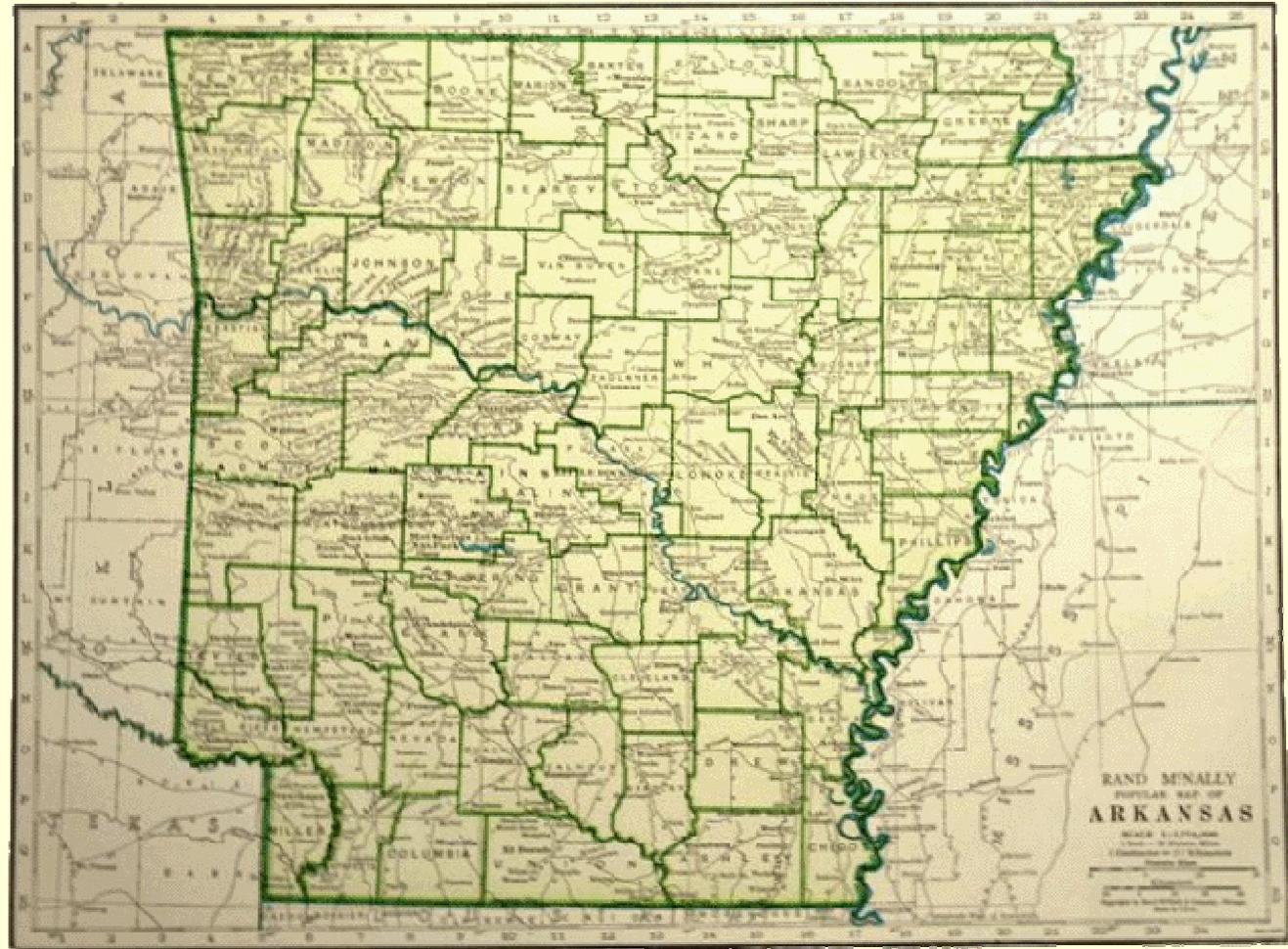




**The rallying cry of
“Remember
the Alamo!”
inspired others
to fight on,
and Texas won
its independence
at the Battle
of San Jacinto.**

When Arkansas became a state in 1836 and Texas in 1845, more tribes were relocated.

*More than
10,000
Native
Americans,
including
bands of
Kickapoo,
Iowa,
Delaware,
Sac and Fox,
and Miami
moved to
Indian
Territory.*



Section 2: Adapting to Indian Territory



Most Natives lost everything when they moved west.

Their household goods and their livestock had been left behind.

Many lost family members and tribal leaders on the Trail of Tears.

When they arrived, there were no established towns and not much shelter.

Most had to start their lives over.

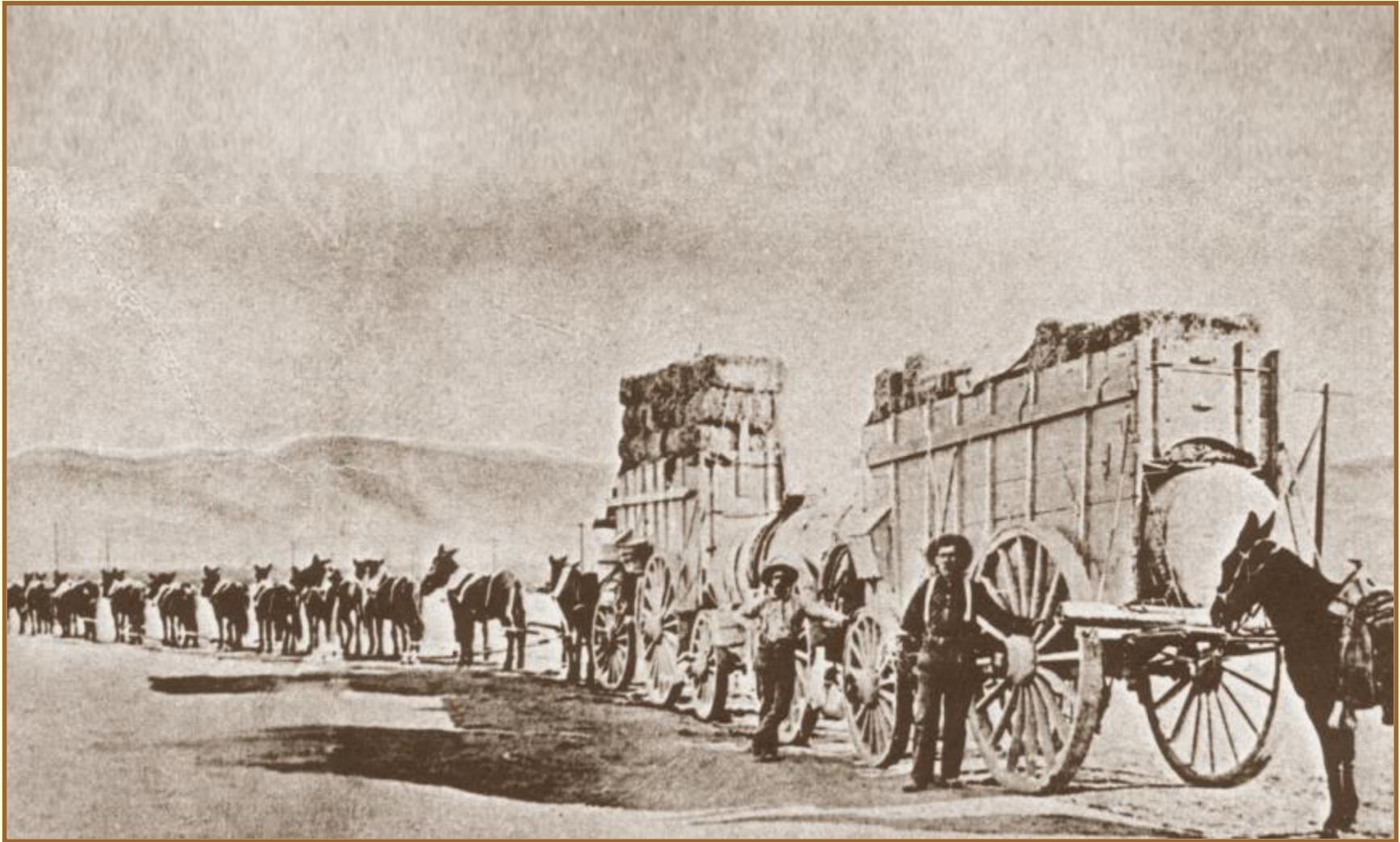




**The U.S. broke
nearly every treaty
it signed.**

**Promises made
to the Natives
were rarely kept.**

Dishonest traders stole food intended for the tribes and sold it elsewhere.



The Creek banned Christian missionaries for 20 years, partly blaming them for the tribe's problems.



Food, clothing, and shelter were the first order of business for new arrivals.

Once their basic needs had been met, they began building farms, towns, businesses, and schools for the children.

Tribal members who had relocated earlier helped settle the newcomers.

Most Natives were destitute, or suffering from extreme poverty.



Night watch.

The Choctaw had ceded their Mississippi lands
in The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

Done at Dancing Rabbit Creek the 28th
day of September 1830

In presence of
E. Brea at this treaty to Com?
W. Ward Sgt for Choctaw
M. Mackey US Intx.

John Pritchard
US Intx
P. W. Byrd
Geo. S. Baird

Wm St Calow
J. Coffee
Greenwood, Le Lore
Wittuachee his X mark
Musholatuthee his X mark
Ofa homma L his X mark
Eyarhcuttuthee his X mark
Tyaehurhopia his X mark
Holubbee his X mark
Cnarhuthee his X mark

Human rights, which are privileges that belong to all people, were the primary focus of the new Choctaw constitution written for Indian Territory.



Literacy, or the ability to read and write, was the mission of the Choctaw schools.

The goal was an advanced education, rather than simple vocational (work) skills.



**By 1837, the Choctaw were prospering,
raising corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, and cotton.**

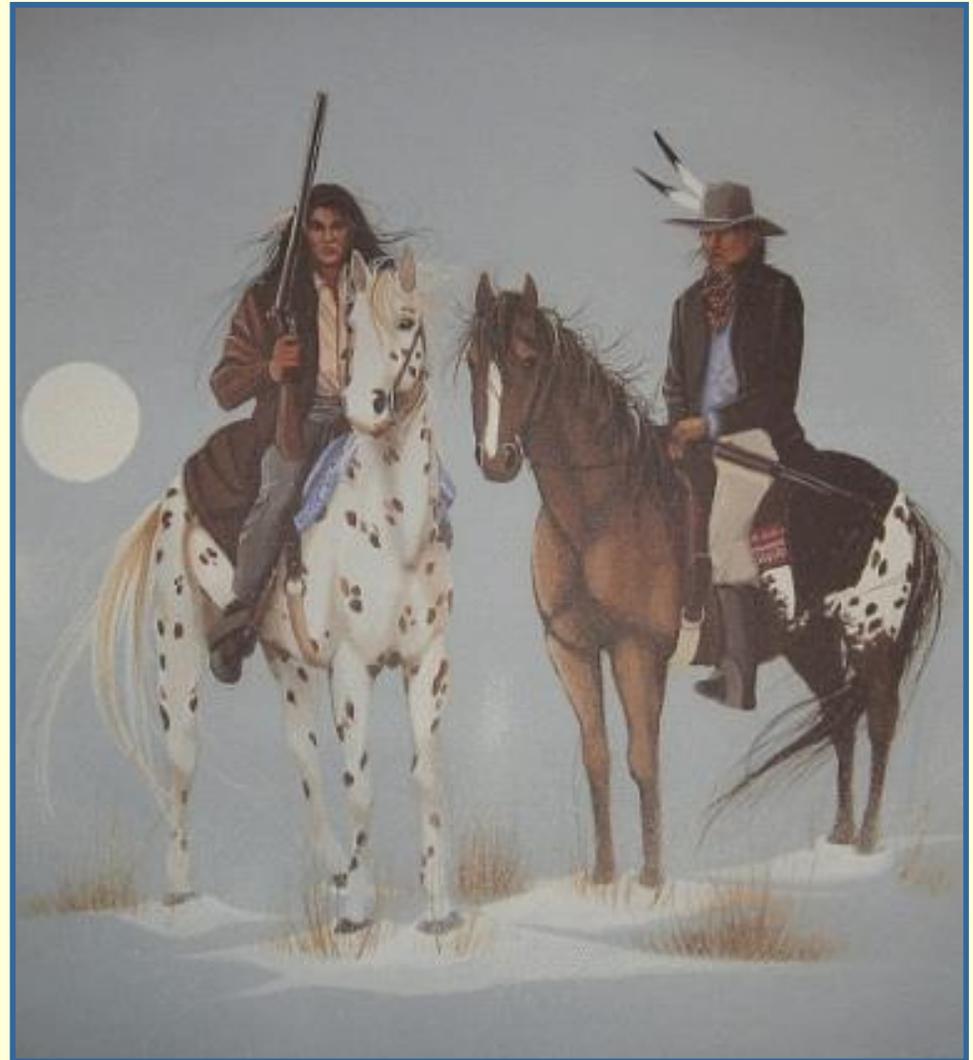
There were mills on the Red River for cotton, grain, and lumber.

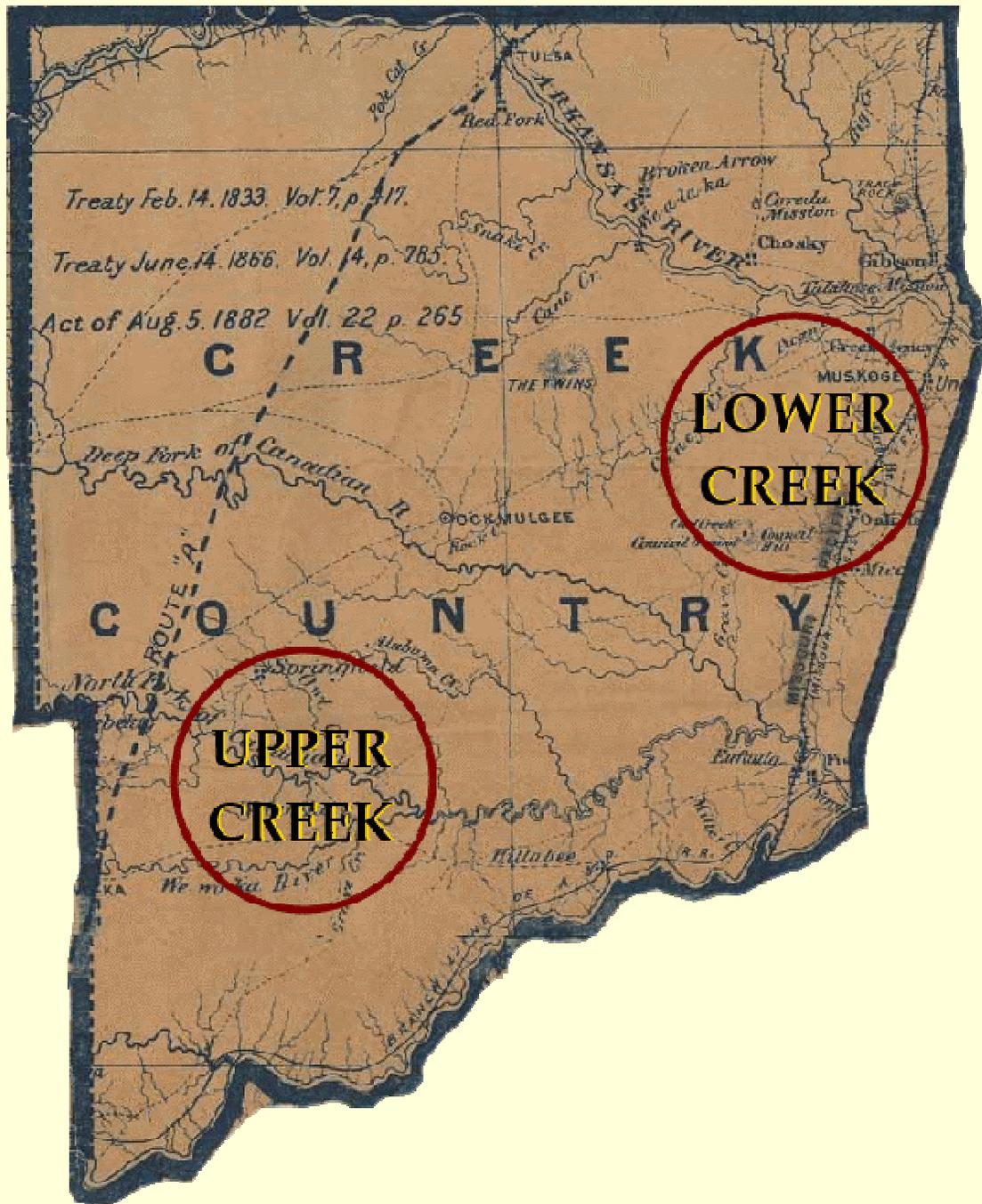
A few Choctaw plantations even had African slaves.



*When the U.S. Army decommissioned Fort Towson,
it became the Choctaw Nation's new capital.*

**They established
the first
Native American
police force in
Indian Territory,
known as the
Light Horsemen.**





The two tribes of the Creek Nation remained separated in Indian Territory.

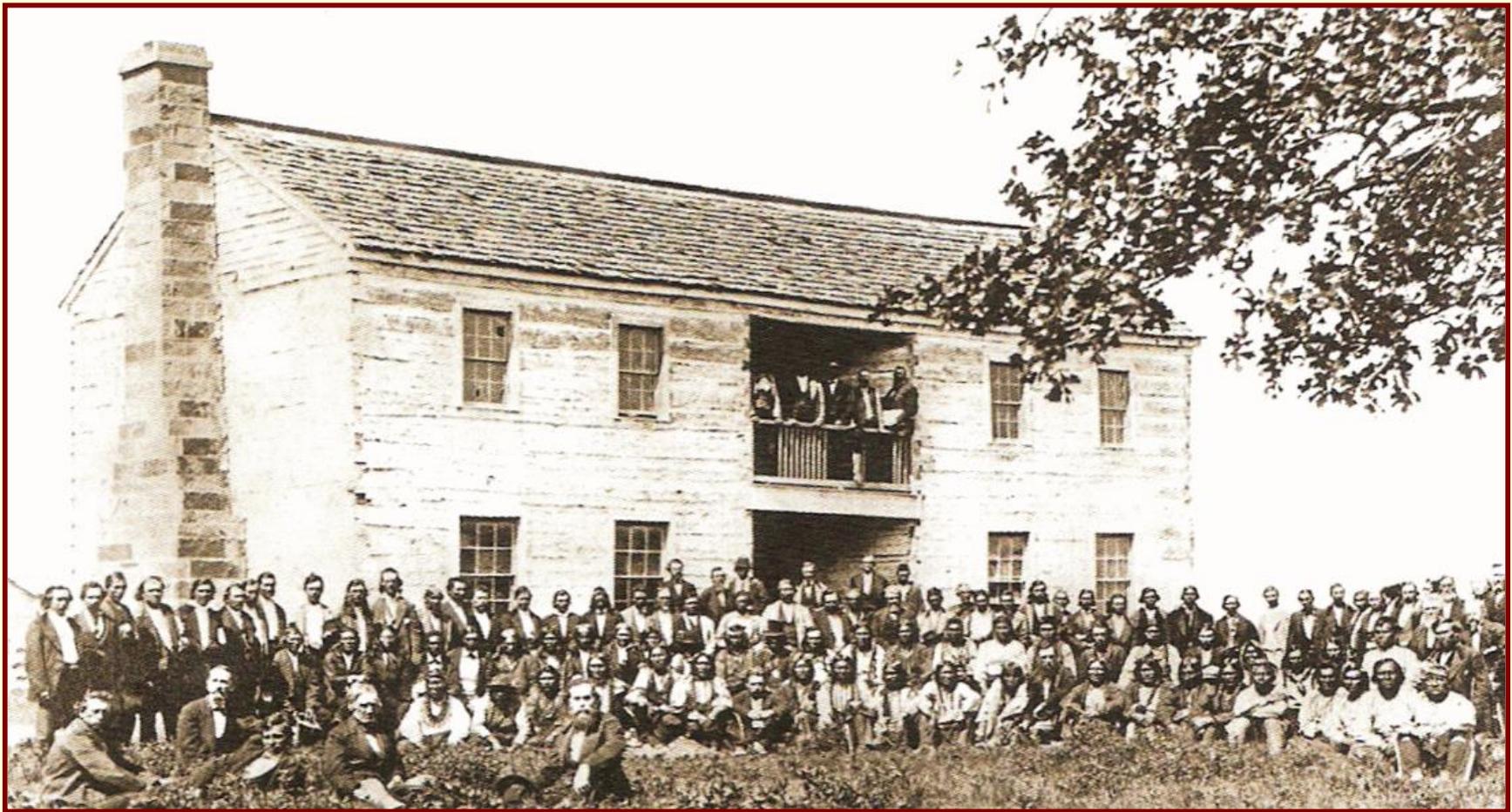
The Lower Creek settled around Three Forks.

The Upper Creek lived on the Canadian River.

**The Creek quickly turned to farming,
and even had cotton plantations with slaves.**



They established a single government at the National Council in 1839 and built their first Capitol Building at Okmulgee in 1867.



**The Great Seal
of the
Muscogee Nation
shows a plow
and a bundle
of wheat.**

*They were a reference to
the prosperity that agriculture
brought to the tribe.*



TREATIES.

*Convention between the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Concluded January 17, 1837. Approved and Confirmed March 24, 1837.** Jan. 17, 1837.

ARTICLES of convention and agreement made on the seventeenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, between the undersigned chiefs and commissioners, duly appointed and empowered by the Choctaw tribe of red People, and John McLish, Pitman Colbert, James Brown, and James Ferry, delegates of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians, duly authorized by the chiefs and head men of said people for that purpose, subject to the approval of the President and Senate of the United States.

ARTICLE I. It is agreed by the Choctaws that the Chickasaws shall have the privilege of forming a district within the limits of their country, to be held on the same terms that the Choctaws now hold it, except the right of disposing of it, which is held in common with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, to be called the Chickasaw district of the Choctaw Nation, and to be placed on an equal footing in every other respect with any of the other districts of said nation, except a voice in the management of the consideration which is given for these rights and privileges; and the Chickasaw people to be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Choctaws, with the exception of participating in the Choctaw annuities, and the consideration to be paid for these rights and privileges, and to be subject to the same laws to which the Choctaws are; but the Chickasaws reserve to themselves the sole right and privilege of controlling and managing the residue of their funds, as far as is consistent with the late treaty between the said people and the Government of the United States, and of making such regulations and electing such officers for that purpose as they may think proper.

ARTICLE II. The Chickasaw district shall be bounded as follows, viz: beginning on the north bank of Red River, at the mouth of Island bayou, about eight or ten miles below the mouth of False Wachitta, thence running north along the main channel of said bayou to its source; thence along the dividing ridge between the Wachitta and Low Blue rivers, to the road leading from Fort Gibson to Fort Wachitta; thence along said road, to the line dividing Mushallatubbee and Pushmatahaw districts; thence, eastwardly, along said district line, to the source of Brushy Creek; thence, down said creek, to where it flows into the Canadian River, ten or twelve miles above the mouth of the south fork of the Canadian; thence, west, along the main Canadian River, to its source, if in the limits of the United States, or to those limits; and thence, due south to Red River, and down Red River to the beginning.

ARTICLE III. The Chickasaws agree to pay the Choctaws, as a consideration for these rights and privileges, the sum of five hundred and thirty thousand dollars; thirty thousand of which shall be paid at the time, and in the manner, that the Choctaw annuity of 1837 is paid; and the remaining five hundred thousand dollars to be invested in some safe and secure

* Published in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the United States, dated February 9, 1839.

At first,
the Chickasaw
lived on
the western
half of the
Choctaw lands.
The tribe paid
an annuity,
or yearly rental.

**One of their first towns was Boggy Depot,
named for its swamp-like environment.**

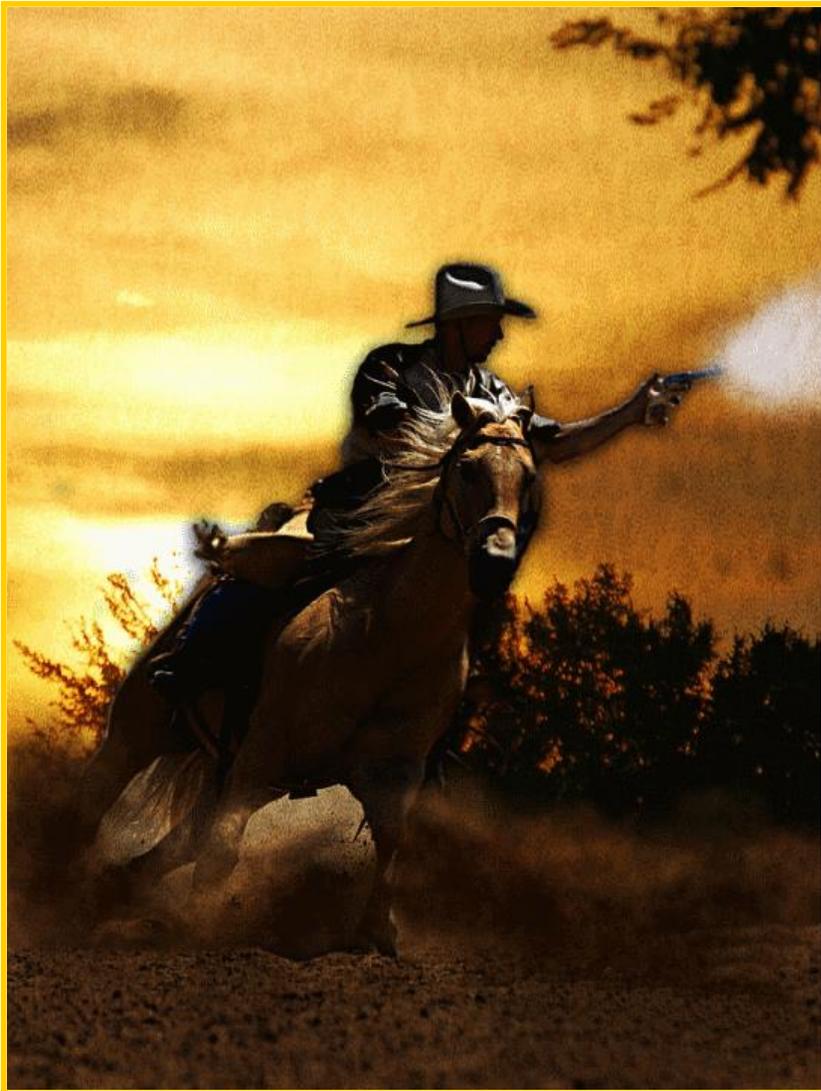


**The town was an important stop
on the route of the Butterfield Overland Mail
from Memphis to San Francisco.**

The tribe profited from travelers and traders on their way to Texas or California.



The Chickasaw were reluctant to settle anywhere west of the 98th Meridian.



“Desperados” and hostile Plains tribes to the west often raided their outlying towns.

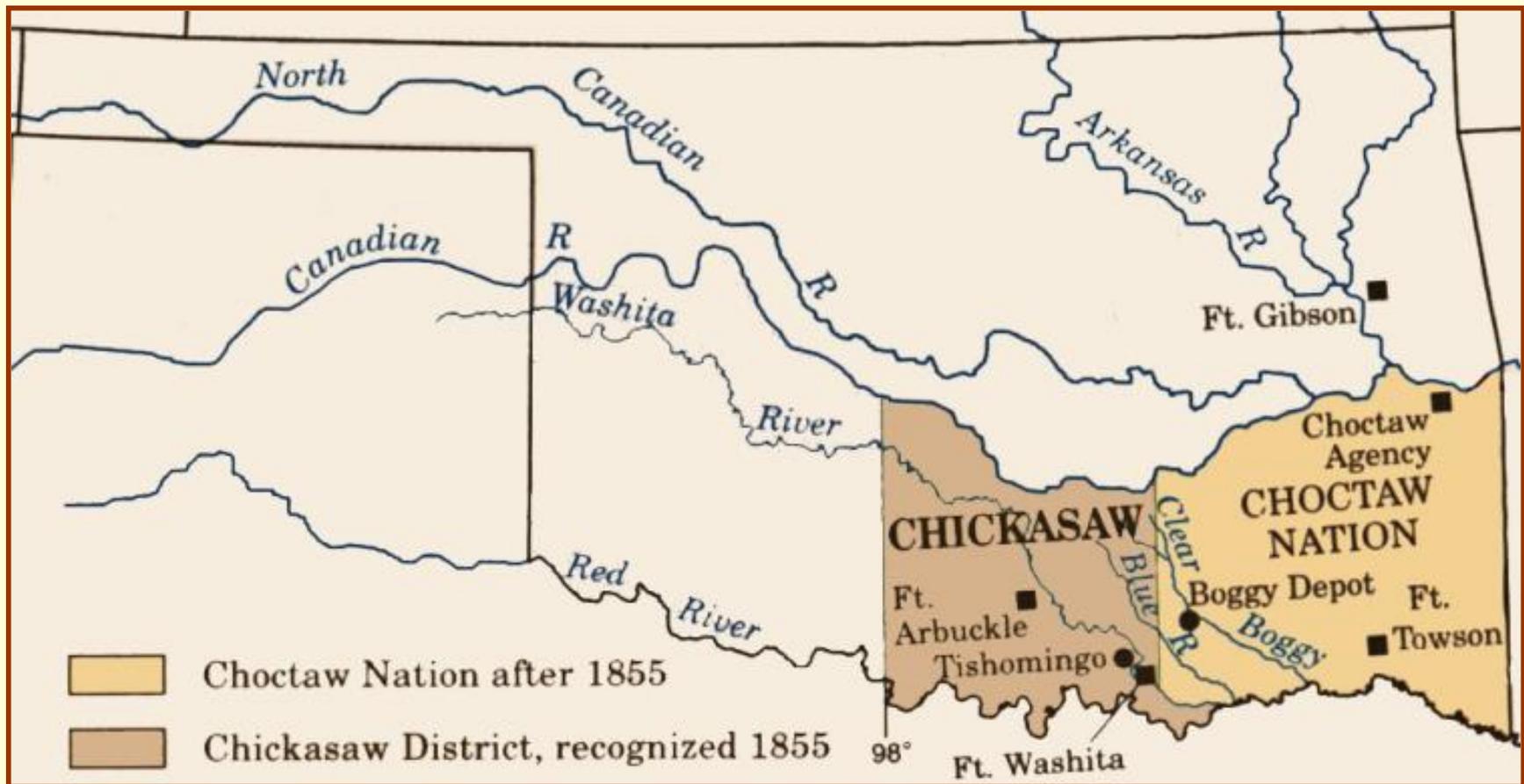
Desperados were outlaws.

The Plains tribes took livestock and, occasionally, hostages.

Still, the Chickasaw were able to raise cotton, wheat, oats, rye, and corn, which had a market in Texas.

The Chickasaw became a separate nation in 1855.

Although Boggy Depot was now a Choctaw town, the Chickasaw built a new capital city named for their great chief Tishomingo.



**When the Cherokee reunited in 1839,
John Ross was re-elected as principal chief.**

Joseph Vann, of the Western Cherokee, was elected as the assistant chief.



- **The tribe also established eleven primary schools and two secondary schools.**

- **The Cherokee Advocate was the first newspaper in Indian Territory.**

**Tahlequah, a new town on the Illinois River,
was selected as the tribal capital.**



The Cherokee were also merchants, operating sawmills, blacksmith shops, and trading posts.

This mill near Tahlequah was built in 1838.



The Seminole were expected to live among the Muscogee Creek, but they refused.



Instead, they isolated themselves on the far southwestern edge of the Creek lands.

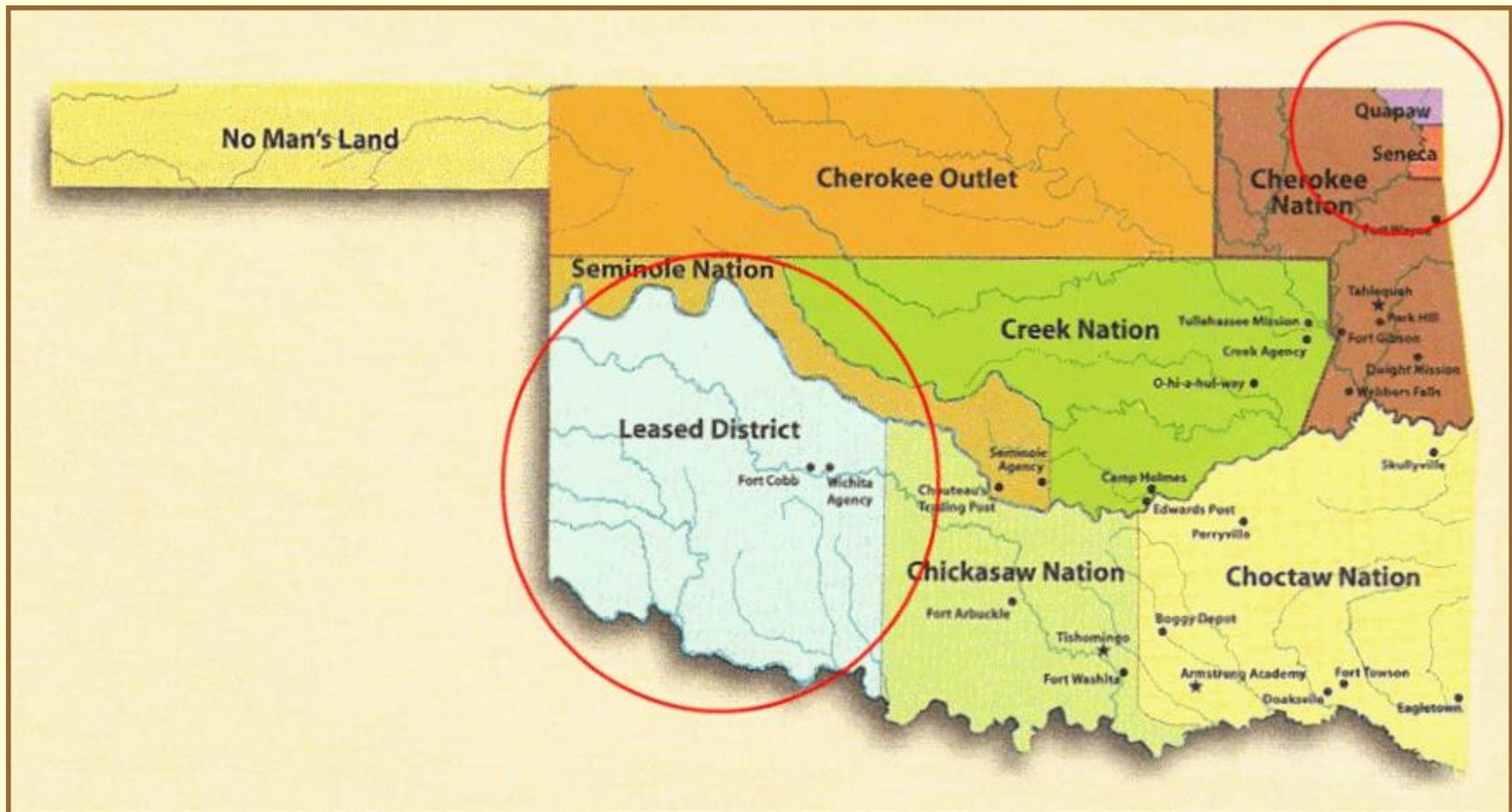
They would get their own land in 1856.

The Seminole were exhausted from the seven-year war to prevent their relocation.

They also had a difficult time adjusting to Indian Territory's geography and climate.



In the 1850s, many Plains tribes ended up in the Leased District in southwest Indian Territory; smaller Eastern tribes were relocated in the northeast. The only region without tribes was the Panhandle.



Despite a few successful transitions, most of the Natives remained bitter about their removal.

