

- AMH 2010 & AMH 2020: AMERICAN HISTORY
- DR. ANDREW GOTTLIEB

3 – THE OPENING OF THE WEST



Overview of “The Opening of the West”

- Following the Civil War, 200,000 Indians were still living on the frontier.
- Defeat of General Custer’s 7th army at Little Big Horn in 1876 was the last major Indian victory in these conflicts, but whatever sympathy the Indians had, and they did have sympathy among many people, even soldiers, was LARGELY squandered when the Sioux mutilated the bodies of American soldiers after the battle.
- So Wounded Knee was seen as a just revenge 14 years later, when the same 7th army killed Sitting Bull and 200 other unarmed Sioux. This is often noted as the last major Indian confrontation. In fact, this is the date often used to signify the end of the traditional lifestyle of the Native American in the U.S.
- 1The Dawes Act (1887) sought to Americanize the Indians. “You can live equal to us, but you must live *like* us. Land grants given to willing Indians, although there was a requirement that they could not share communal land; each family had to farm separate from others, seeking its own progress.

- Two major factors will lead to the whites' desire to take away Indian lands, and give less desirable land to them:
 - 1) 2 billion in gold found in west 1860-1890
 - 2) Open range, Joseph Glidden's barbed wire, and miles of rail (**1865=35k, 1900=200k**) allowed the beginning of major beef markets to open back East.
- 1890 CENSUS declared "frontier closed"
- Frederick Jackson Turner's *frontier thesis* was an attempt to explain the rugged American character and individualism which allowed settlement of the West so fast. When he engineered the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson thought it would take 1,000 generations. Instead it took four!



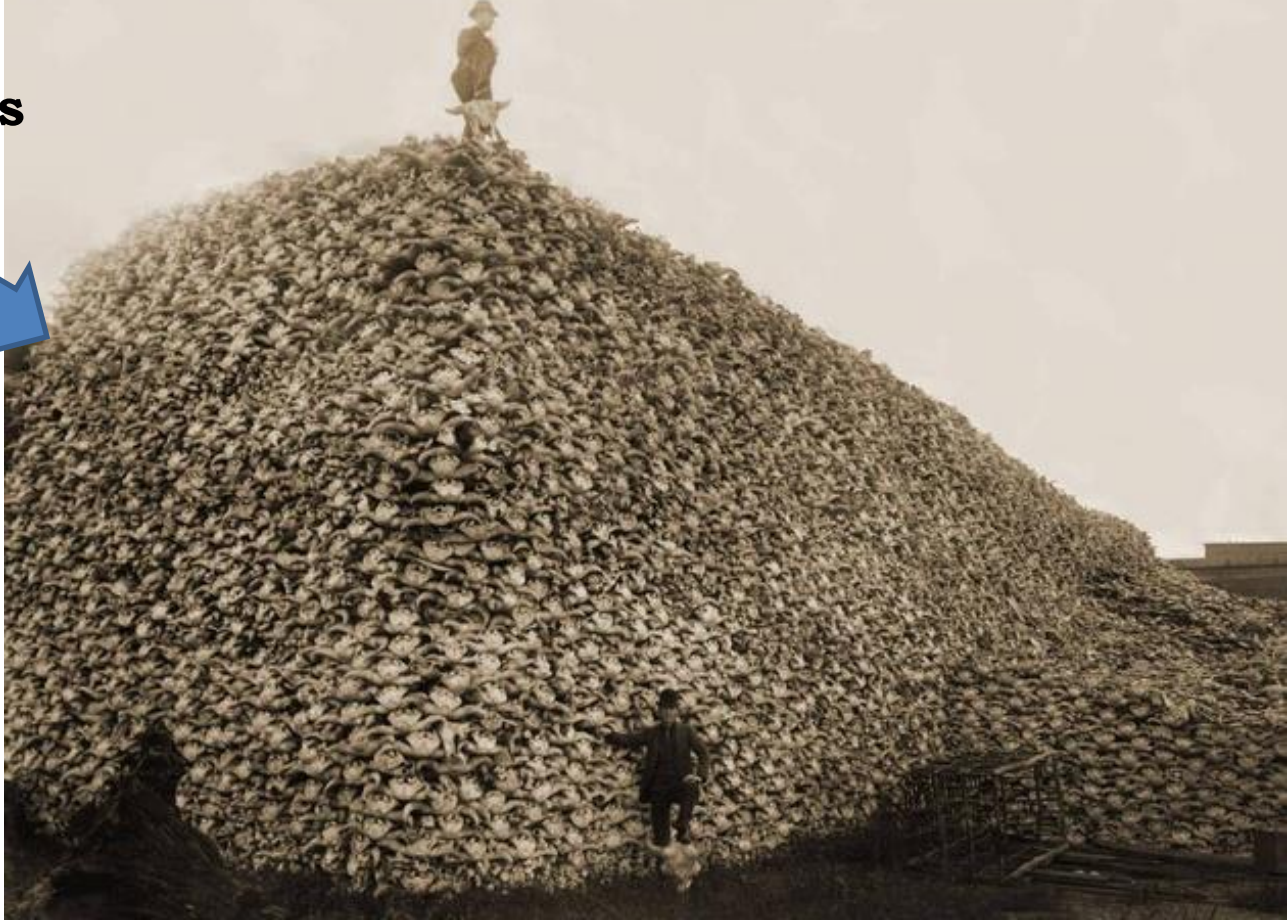
Earle Fraser's *End of the Trail* (1893)

I. The Struggle of the Plains Indians

Buffalo skulls



The Plains Indians relied on all parts of the buffalo for survival. Killing them was an indirect way to “pacify” the Plains Indians.

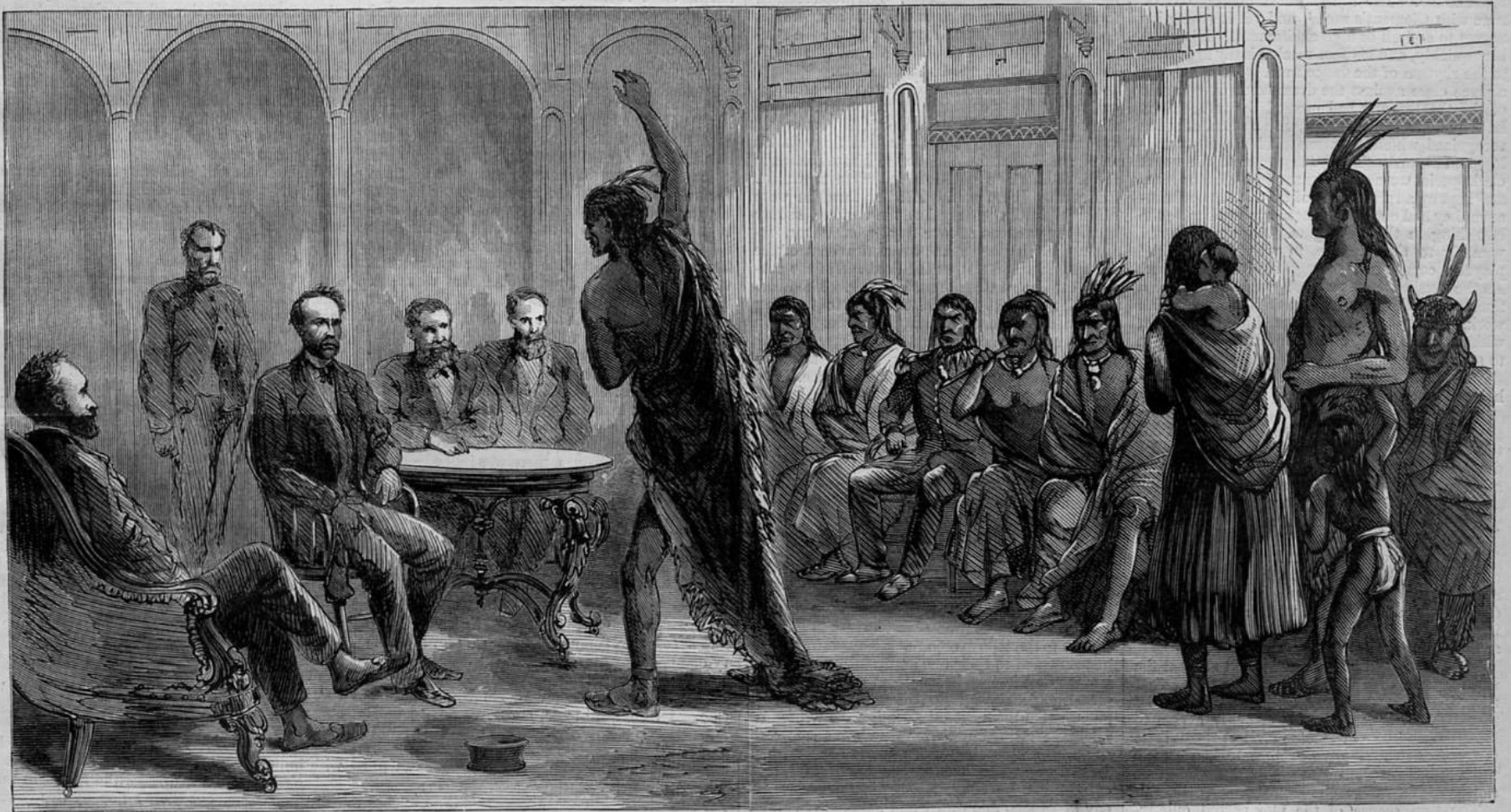


Although hostilities between whites and Indians occurred throughout the West before the end of the Civil War, the Plains Indian Wars became a major concern to Kansans after 1865. Various Plains tribes associated with Kansas, such as the Cheyenne and Kiowa, clashed with white settlers who encroached upon their traditional hunting grounds during the years following the Civil War. Thus, Kansans of all races experienced warfare of a different variety during the late 1860s and 1870s as white Americans sought to conquer the West.



INDIAN OUTRAGES

B. Conflict with settlers in the East before the Civil War resulted in the removal policy which placed Indians in the trans-Mississippi west, most in Oklahoma territory.



COUNCIL ON THE STEAMER "SAINT JOHN" BETWEEN THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS AND CHIEFS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES OF DAKOTA.

This genuine antique wood-cut engraving is titled "COUNCIL ON THE STEAMER SAINT JOHN BETWEEN THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS AND CHIEFS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES OF DAKOTA", published in "Harper's Weekly" October 1867. This dated engraving from the year of 1867 is 5 x 9 inches in size with wide margins. It is in excellent condition, highly displayable and ready for framing and is guaranteed to be as described. (45.00 on ebay)

D. Conflicts between Indians and the U.S. Army



1. **Sand Creek Massacre-1864. 150 Arapaho and Cheyenne men, women, and children killed in Colorado Territory by Col. Chivington's volunteer forces.**



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The **Sand Creek Massacre** was an atrocity in the Indian Wars of the United States that occurred on November 29, 1864, when a 700-man force of Colorado Territory militia attacked and destroyed a village of friendly Cheyenne and Arapaho encamped in southeastern Colorado Territory killing and mutilating an estimated 70–150 Indians, about two-thirds of whom were women and children. The location has been designated the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and is administered by the National Park Service. **Why? Short Answer-Gold had been found nearby.**

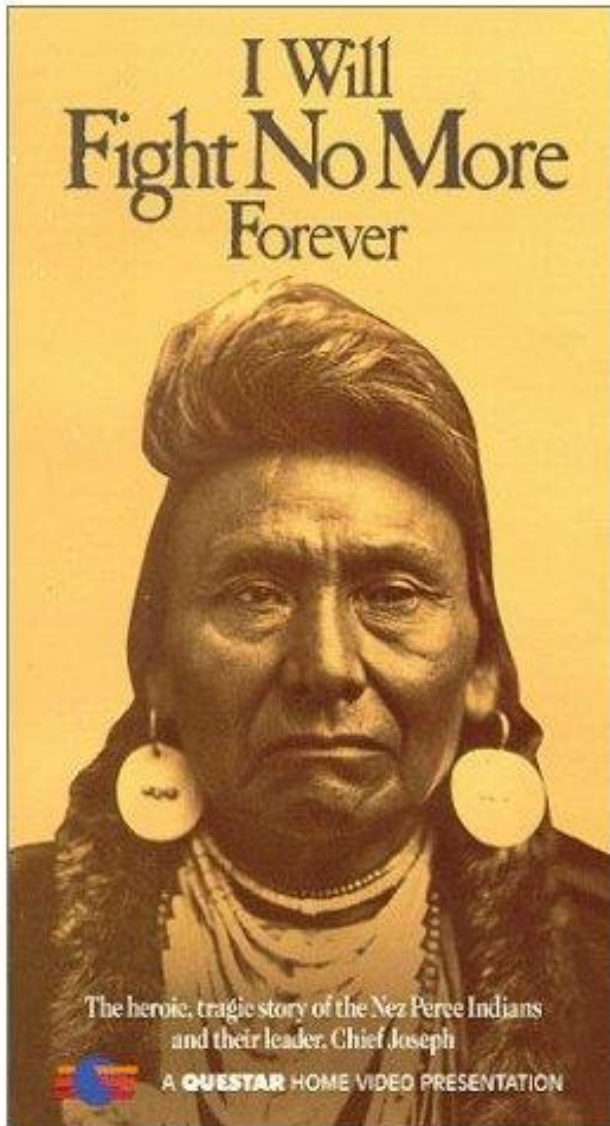
2. Little Big Horn-1876. Gen. Custer and 264 troops killed by Sioux Indians in Montana Territory.



The **Battle of Little Bighorn** involved the combined forces of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, against the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. The battle, which occurred on June 25 and 26, 1876 near the Little Bighorn River in eastern Montana Territory, was the most prominent action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. It was led by Crazy Horse and Gall. Five of the U.S. 7th Cavalry's companies were annihilated; Custer was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew, and a brother-in-law. The total U.S. casualty count, including scouts, was 264 dead and 55 injured.

After their victory, many of the Cheyenne and Arapaho returned to Little Bighorn to mutilate the corpses of the soldiers. This atrocity led to public outrage, even among many previously sympathetic to the Indians, and, in the minds of many, would serve to justify the Battle of Wounded Knee fourteen years later.

3. Chief Joseph and Nez Perce captured by army after 1300 mile chase.



The war between the U.S. and the Nez Perce resulted from the latter's unwillingness to abandon their ancestral lands. After the first armed engagements in June, 1877, the Nez Perce sought sanctuary with the Lakota led by Sitting Bull, who had fled to Canada in May 1877 to avoid capture following the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The Nez Perce were pursued by elements of the U.S. Army with whom they fought a series of battles and skirmishes on a fighting retreat of 1,300 miles. The war ended after a final five-day battle fought alongside Snake Creek at the base of Montana's Bears Paw Mountains only 40 miles from the Canadian border.

Remaining tribe members were sent by rail to Kansas.

4. Wounded Knee-1890. 200 unarmed Sioux killed after Sitting Bull was killed. This massacre that ensued is largely viewed as Revenge for the massacre at Little Big Horn.

The Battle of Wounded Knee occurred on December 29, 1890, near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota. It was the last battle of the American Indian war. On the day before, a detachment of the U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment intercepted Spotted Elk's band of Miniconjou Lakota and 38 Hunkpapa Lakota near Porcupine Butte and escorted them five miles to make camp.

On the morning of December 29, the troops went into the camp to disarm the Lakota. One version of events claims that during the process of disarming the Lakota, a deaf tribesman named Black Coyote was reluctant to give up his rifle, claiming he had paid a lot for it. A scuffle over Black Coyote's rifle escalated and a shot was fired which resulted in the 7th Cavalry's opening fire (no one knows who fired this shot). The few Lakota who still had weapons began shooting back at the



http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/img/graphics/553_or/TileGroup0/

attacking troopers, who quickly suppressed the Lakota fire. The surviving Lakota fled, but U.S. cavalrymen pursued and killed many who were unarmed.

E. Dawes Act (1887) sought to Americanize Indians

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YOUR OWN
*
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PERFECT TITLE
*
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WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

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Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
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Hoopa.
Colorado.
Igualdo. | MINNESOTA:
Oulgun. | NORTH DAKOTA:
Fort Totten.
Fort Yates. | OKLAHOMA—Cen.
Saw and Fox Agency.
Shawnee.
Wyandotte. | SOUTH DAKOTA:
Cheyenne Agency.
Crow Creek.
Greenwood. | WASHINGTON:
Fort Simcoe.
Fort Spokane.
Tehon. |
| IDAHO:
Lapwai. | MONTANA:
Crow Agency. | OKLAHOMA:
Anadarko.
Catoomau.
Colony. | OREGON:
Klamath Agency.
Pendleton.
Roseburg.
Siletz. | LOWER BRIT.
Pine Ridge.
Rosebud.
Sisseton. | WISCONSIN:
Oceida. |
| KANSAS:
Horton.
Stigean. | NEBRASKA:
Macy.
Sawie.
Winnipeg. | NEBRASKA:
Cantonment.
Muskogee, ^{Wm.}
Pawnee. | | | |

WALTER L. FISHER, Secretary of the Interior. **ROBERT G. VALENTINE,** Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The **Dawes Act of 1887** (1887) authorized the President to survey Indian tribal land and divide it into allotments for individual Indians. The objective of the Dawes Act was to stimulate assimilation of Indians into American society. Individual ownership of land was seen as an essential step. The act also provided that the government would purchase Indian land "excess" and open it up for settlement by non-Indians. Profits helped the Indians.

The Dawes Commission, set up under an Indian Office appropriation bill in 1893, was created, not to administer the Dawes Act, but to attempt to get the Five Civilized Tribes, which were excluded under the Dawes Act, to agree to an allotment plan. This commission registered the members of the Five Civilized Tribes into the Act.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bf/Indian_Land_for_Sale.jpg

II. Gold and Silver Fever

A. Strikes brought thousands of settlers



<http://media.beta.photobucket.com/user/RODZM/media/P1010497.jpg.html>

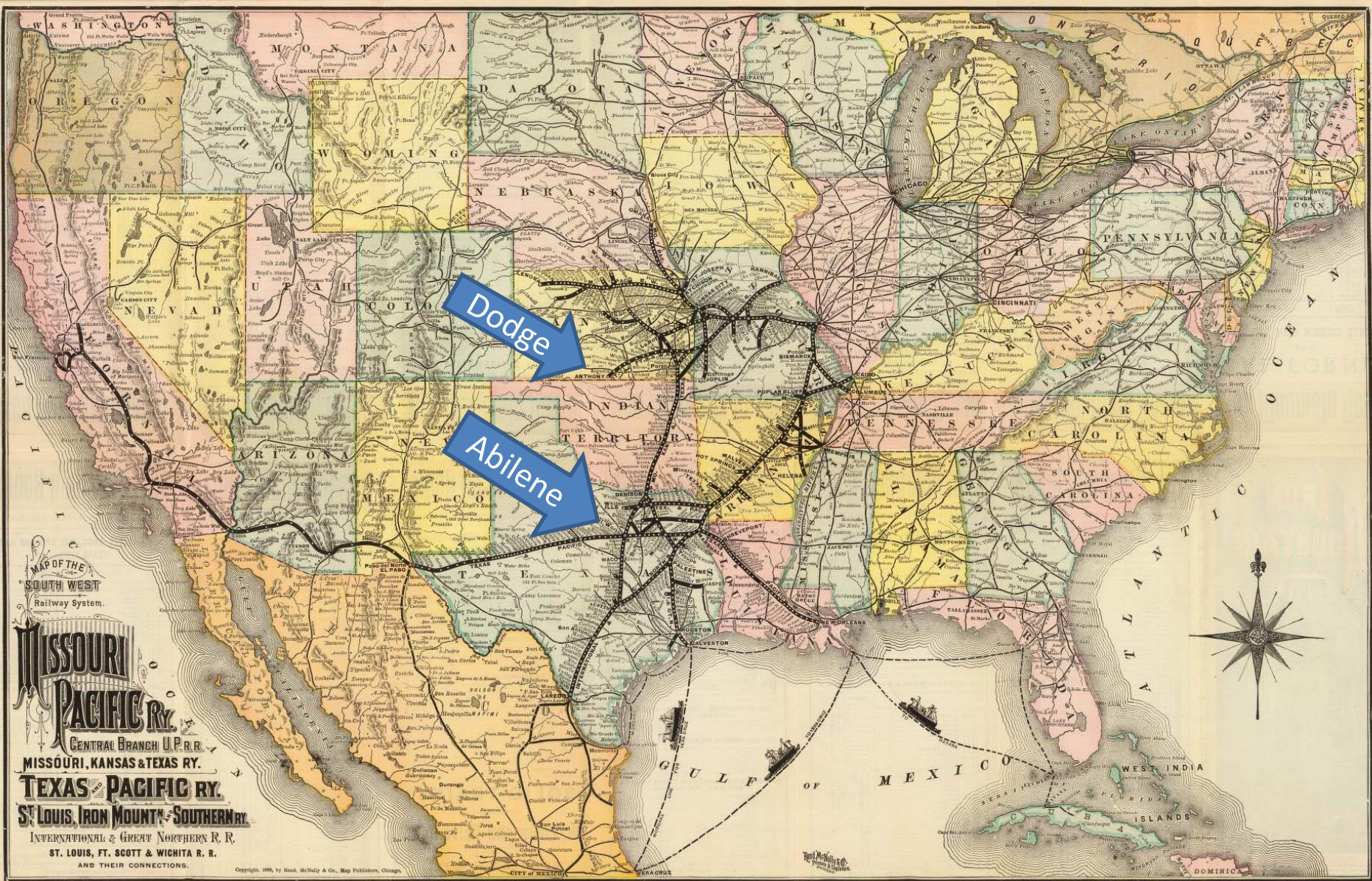
B. Between 1860 and 1890, \$2 billion in gold and silver mined in the west.



III. Cattle Ranching in the West



A. Western lands and open range proved ideal for cattle ranching



B. Open range ended in 1880s



IV. Farmers on the Frontier

The **Homestead Acts** were several United States federal laws that originally consisted of grants totaling 160 acres (one-fourth of a section) of unappropriated federal land within the boundaries of the public land states. They were initially proposed as an expression of the "Free Soil" policy of Northerners who wanted individual farmers to own and operate their own farms, as opposed to Southern slave-owners who could use groups of slaves to economic advantage.

The first of the acts, the **Homestead Act of 1862**, was signed into law by President Lincoln on May 20, 1862. Anyone who had never taken up arms against the U.S. government (including freed slaves and women); was 21 or older, or the head of a family; could file an application to claim a federal land grant. There was also a residency requirement.

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

MILLIONS OF ACRES

View on the Big Star, between Camden and Crest, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.

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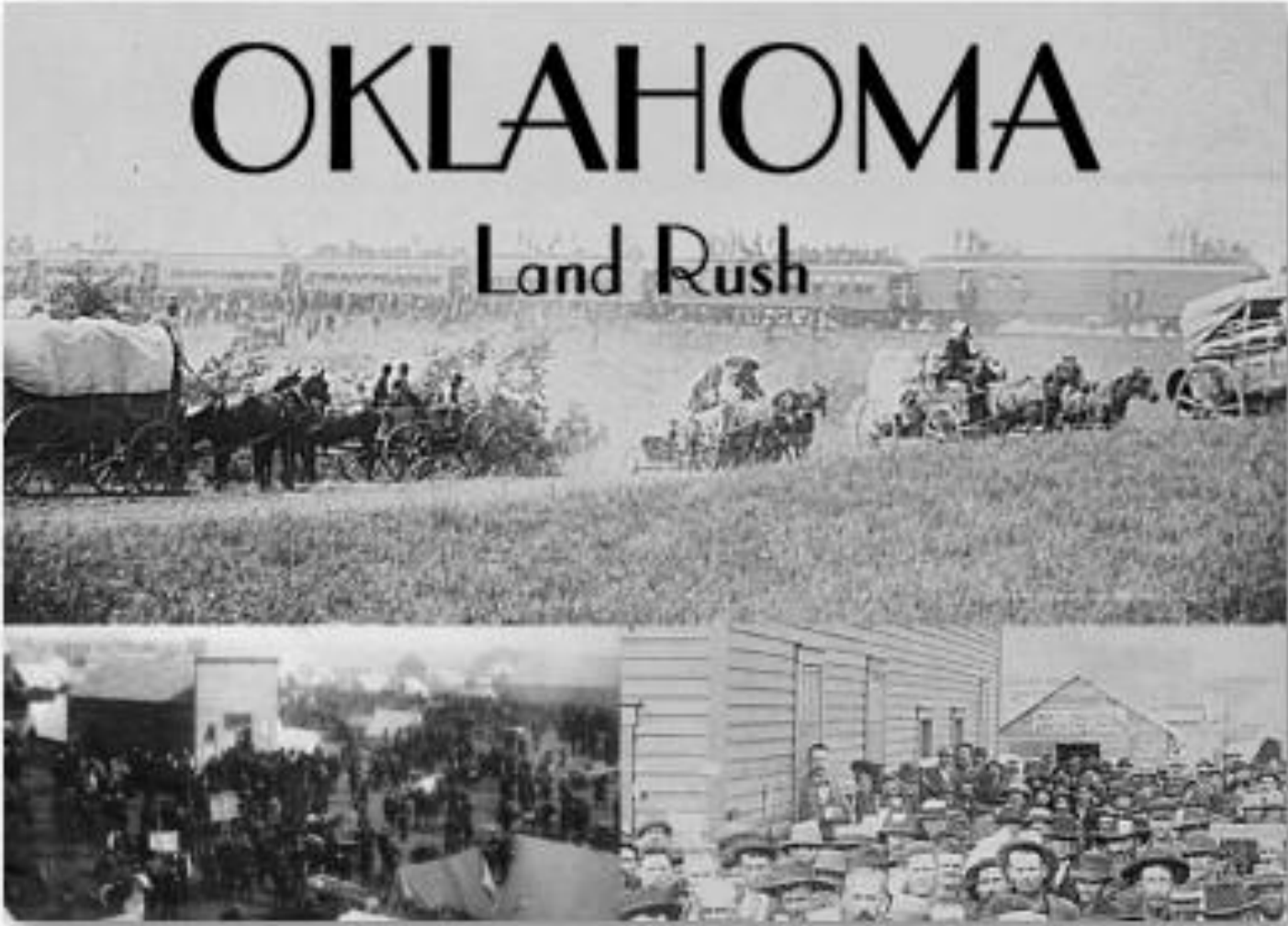
FREE ROOMS for buyers to board themselves are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF LANDS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

C. Railroads established towns, sold land after huge land grants from the government.



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V. Closing of the Frontier



A. 1890 census declared that the frontier was closed.

Herman Hollerith's 1890 tabulating machine is shown above (image from IBM). The results of a tabulation are displayed on the clock-like dials. A sorter is on the right. On the tabletop below the dials are a Pantographic card punch, in which metal pins pass through the holes, making contact with little wells of mercury, completing an electrical circuit. All of these devices are fed manually, one card at a time, but the tabulator and sorter are electrically coupled.



B. Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis ("The Frontier in American History") stated...

“The Significance of the Frontier in American History” (1893) sought to acknowledge the distinctive features unique to us as Americans, particularly from the presence of a receding frontier. “The existence of an area of free land,” he wrote, “its continuous recession, and the advance of American settlement westward, explain American development.” The repeated rebirth of civilization among pioneers whose cultural patterns were disrupted by contact with raw nature and by mingling with other settlers from different back-grounds helped endow the American people with characteristics and values different from those of their European ancestors. Among these Turner listed coarseness and strength, an inventive mindset, physical and social mobility, a restless energy, a strong spirit of self-reliance, dominant individualism, an emphasis on materialism, and, especially, a quickened faith in democracy and the national destiny. On the frontier, he insisted, an “Americanization” of men and institutions took place.



http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Frederick_Jackson_Turner.aspx