



Timeline of Oklahoma History

Created by the Oklahoma History Center Education Department

Oklahoma Prehistory

- According to archaeological research, humans occupy what is now Oklahoma 30,000 years ago.
- 800–1600 AD, Caddoan-speaking people live across a large area west of the Mississippi River (an area 1,200 miles long and 500 miles wide) including present-day Oklahoma.



Image courtesy of Texas Beyond History

AD 900–1300 Spiro Mounds

Spiro Mounds, located in eastern Oklahoma, was a thriving Mississippian-era trade center.

Visit Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center or the Oklahoma History Center to learn more about Oklahoma's fascinating prehistory!



Spiro Mound Archaeological Site
2012.201.B1205.0361, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Early European Explorers



Figure A

- **1541:** Spanish conquistador **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado** treks through present-day Oklahoma in search of gold. Fellow Spaniard **Juan de Oñate** would try to find the famed gold in the Oklahoma Panhandle in 1601.

- **1682:** French explorer **Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle** claims Louisiana Territory, including present-day Oklahoma, for France.

- **Louis Juchereau de St. Denis**, a French explorer, follows the Red River making contact with Caddoan groups.

Figure B



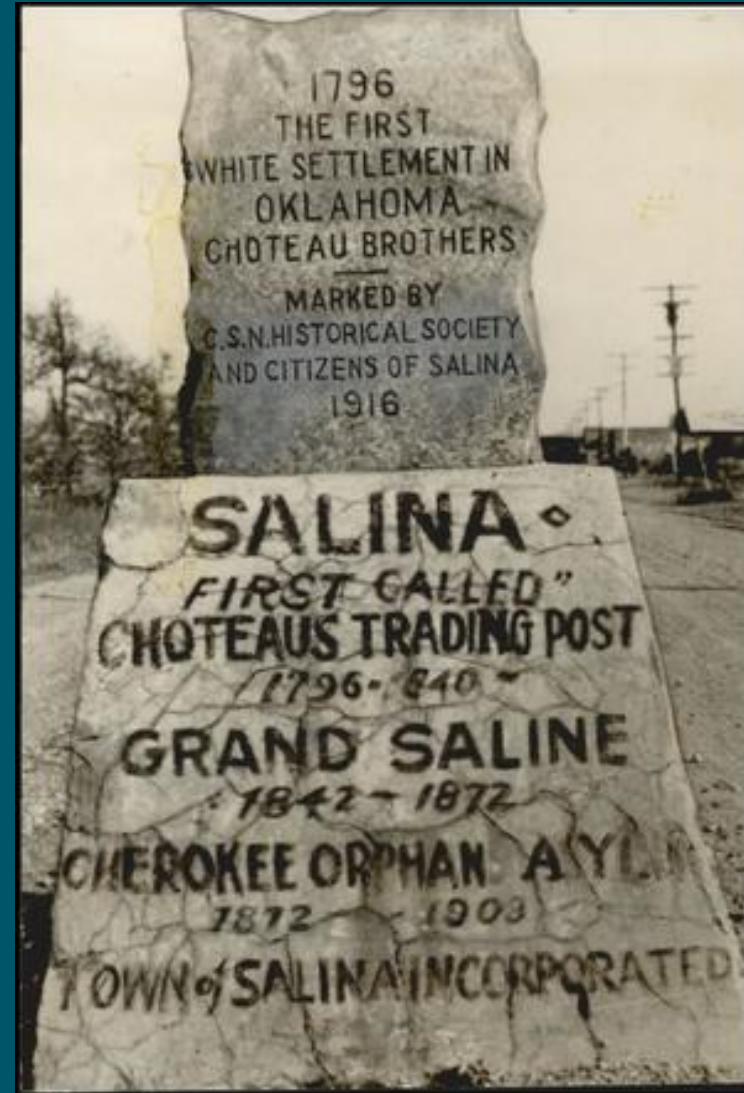
Early European Explorers

- **1719:** French explorer **Claude-Charles du Tisné** leads an expedition south from Illinois through present-day northeastern Oklahoma in a failed attempt to establish a trade route to the new Spanish settlement of Santa Fe.
Fellow Frenchman **Jean Baptiste Bénard de La Harpe** explores the Red River region with the hopes of establishing French settlements along the river.
- **1741:** **The Mallet brothers** and **André Fabry de la Bruyère** attempt to traverse the rivers of present-day Oklahoma to create a trade route to Santa Fe.
- **1770:** **Athanase de Mézières** goes on his first expedition up the Red River, successfully negotiating treaties with four American Indian tribes.

1796 Chouteau Trading Post

Jean Pierre Chouteau established the first permanent non-Indian settlement in Oklahoma near present-day Salina.

The Chouteau family created one of the largest fur-trading outfits in America and were highly influential in early Louisiana Territory history.



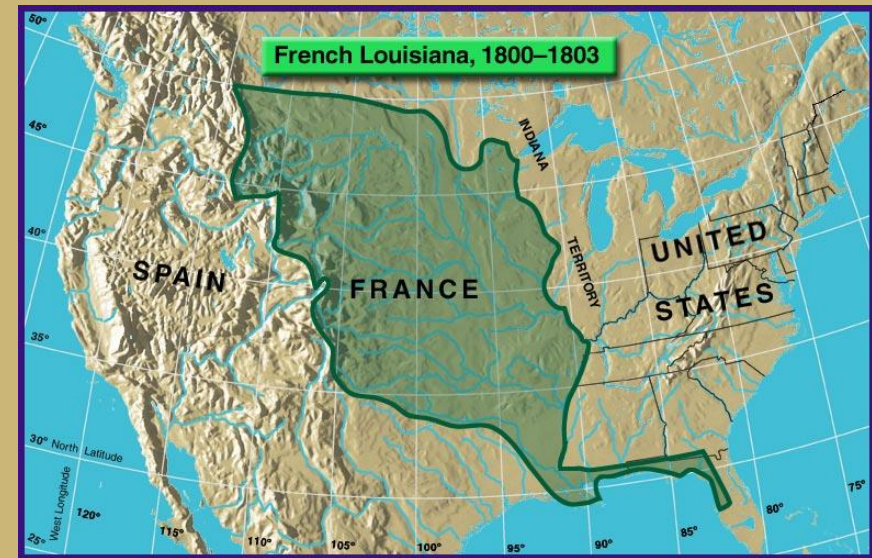
“Historical society’s monument at Salina marking the site of the first white settlement in Oklahoma, Chouteau’s trading post,” 2012.201.B1144.0019, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Whose Land is it Anyway?



➤ **1762:** Spain acquires present-day Oklahoma from France after the Seven Years' War.

➤ **1800:** The Treaty of San Ildefonso transfers ownership of Louisiana Territory, including present-day Oklahoma, from Spain to France.



1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson approves the purchase of the 530-million-acre Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million.

To explore this vast territory, Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Lewis and Clark encountered many tribes on their journey west, including Ojibwa and Missouria groups who would later be removed to Indian Territory beginning in 1880.



Lewis and Clark expedition map. Courtesy of UShistory.org

1811

Great Salt Plains

George Sibley, an Indian agent, and his Osage guide Sans Oreille discover the **Great Salt Plains** near present-day Jet.

It is believed that the area was a shallow sea millions of years ago and the selenite crystals were formed by repeated water level rises.



Piles of salt scraped up from the level surface of the salt plain in northern Woodward County.

2012.201.B0228.0109, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

1821

Sequoyah

Sequoyah completes a syllabary (a phonetic writing system consisting of symbols that represent syllables) of the Cherokee language.

Sequoyah moved to Indian Territory in 1829. You can visit Sequoyah's Cabin near Sallisaw. It is owned by the Cherokee Nation and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Sequoyah. 2012.201.B1162.0171, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Early Trails and Settlements

- **1821:** The first school building in Indian Territory is constructed at **Union Mission** near present-day Chouteau.
- **1822:** Wagons travel the **Santa Fe Trail** (pictured right) through Oklahoma's Panhandle.
- **1824:** **Fort Gibson** and **Fort Towson** are built in Indian Territory to protect American Indians removed from the Southeast.



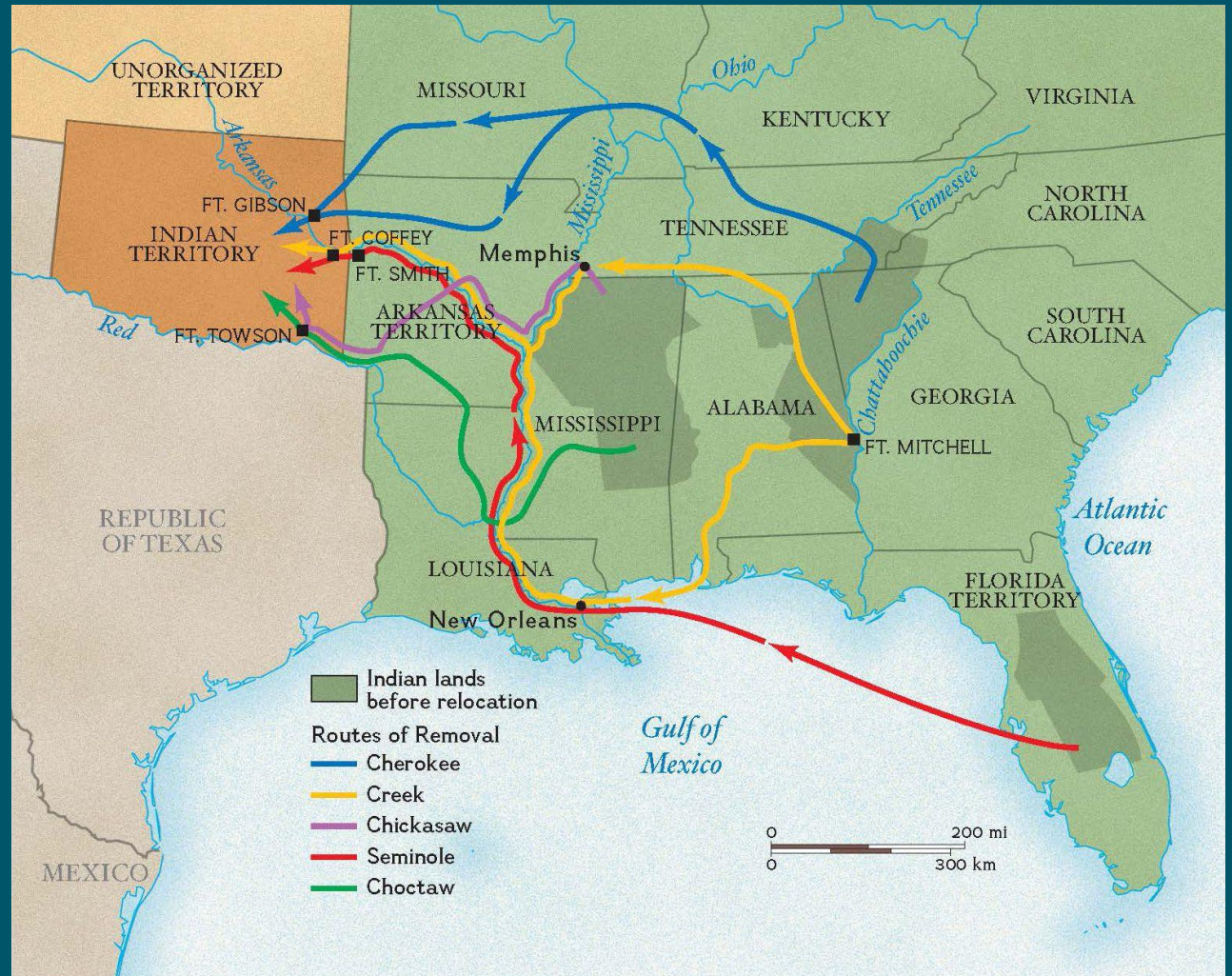
The Santa Fe Trail.
Image Courtesy of National Park Service

1827–1830 Indian Removal

The Muscogee (Creek) people begin the long process of forced removal from Alabama and Georgia to Indian Territory in 1827. More than 23,000 people make the journey over an eleven-year period.

Congress passes the Indian Removal Act in 1830, mandating the removal of American Indians east of the Mississippi River.

The Choctaw people begin removal from their southeastern homelands to Indian Territory, signing the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, September 27, 1830.



Pathways of Indian Removal by Tribe.
Image courtesy of the National Geographic Society

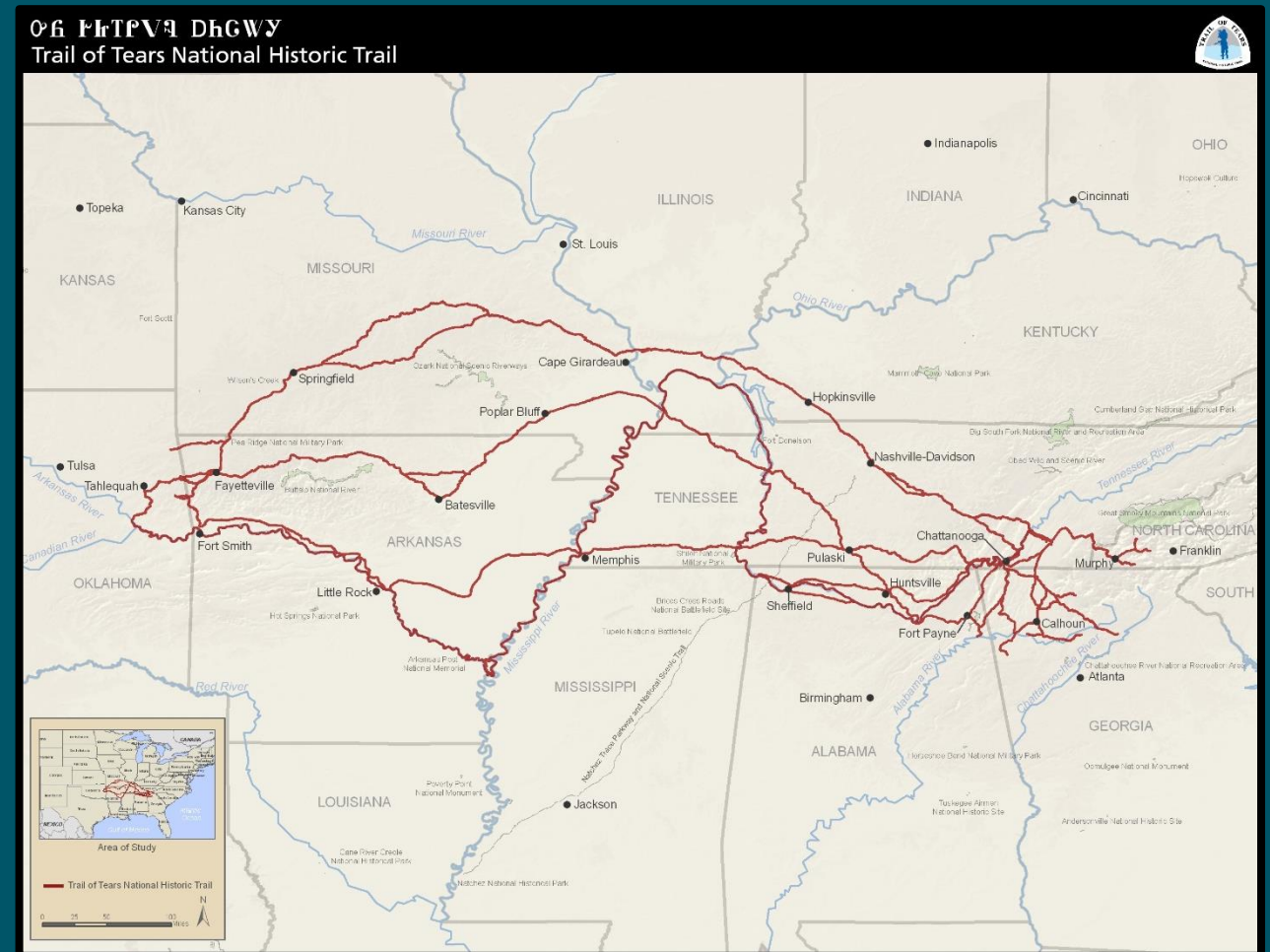
Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1832:** Author **Washington Irving** accompanies an expedition of US Rangers from Fort Gibson to present-day Norman and records his experiences in his book, *A Tour of the Prairies*.
- **1835:** Samuel A. Worcester establishes the **first printing office** in Indian Territory.
- **1837:** The first major party of **Chickasaw** are removed to Indian Territory where they sign a treaty with the Choctaw for land in southeastern Oklahoma.

1838 Trail of Tears

The Cherokee begin their 800-mile trek from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia.

An estimated 4,000 people, or one-fifth of the Cherokee population, perished along the Trail of Tears.



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Courtesy of the National Park Service

1838 Steamboat *Heroine*

On May 7, the steamboat *Heroine* sinks in the Red River near Fort Towson.

Steamboats transported supplies to towns and military settlements in Indian Territory. Early river travel could be dangerous; only two months prior a major logjam was cleared to make the Red River passable.

The *Heroine* was rediscovered in 1999. It is important, as it is the earliest example of a western river steamboat ever studied by archaeologists.



Artist rendering of the *Heroine* steamboat. Image courtesy of *County Line Magazine*

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1842:** **Fort Washita** established in present-day southeastern Oklahoma to protect Chickasaw settlements.
- **1843:** Cherokee principal chief **John Ross** calls a meeting of the leaders of removed tribes to renew ancient customs and revive ancient alliances in the Cherokee capital of Tahlequah.
- **1844:** The ***Cherokee Advocate*** is the first newspaper in Indian Territory. The ***Cherokee Messenger*** is the first periodical.



International Indian Council (Held at Tallequah [sic], Indian Territory, in 1843) by John Mix Stanley.

Image courtesy of Smithsonian American Art Museum

1845

No Man's Land

The future Oklahoma Panhandle is created by:

- Texas's annexation as a slave state
- The established free-state territory line agreed in the Missouri Compromise of 1820

No Man's Land (highlighted in pink) is 166 miles long and only 34 miles wide!



Image courtesy of the Center for Land Use Interpretation

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1855–58:** The US military succeeds in driving out the majority of the **Seminole** from Florida to Indian Territory during the Third Seminole War.
- **1856:** The **Chickasaw** establish tribal government, adopt a constitution, and declare Tishomingo as their capital.
- **1859:** **Lewis Ross**, brother of Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross, discovers oil on the Grand River near present-day Salina.
- **1860:** The **Choctaw** adopt a new constitution establishing three branches of government in Doaksville, near Fort Towson.

1861–1865 Civil War

Large factions of removed tribes side with the Confederacy, while smaller groups ally with the Union.

Confederate victories, Indian Territory:

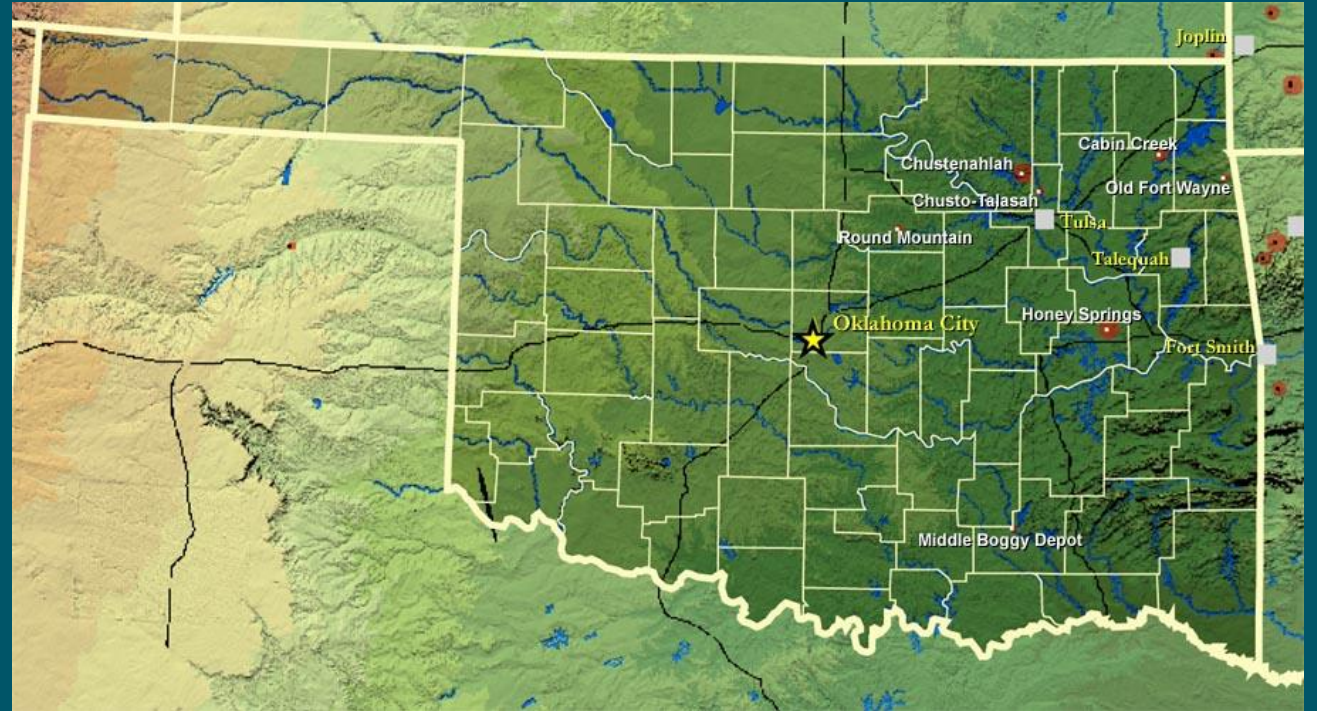
Battle of Round Mountain, November 19, 1861

Second Battle of Cabin Creek, September 19, 1864, the last major engagement in Indian Territory during the Civil War

Union victories, Indian Territory:

First Battle of Cabin Creek, July 1–2, 1863

Battle of Honey Springs, July 17, 1863



Civil War sites in Oklahoma. Courtesy of the National Park Service

1862 Homestead Act

President Abraham Lincoln signed this bill into law on May 20, 1862.

It allowed settlers up to 160 acres of public land, as long as they paid a small filing fee and lived on the land for five years.

Through the Homestead Act, settlers claimed 80 million acres of public land by 1900.

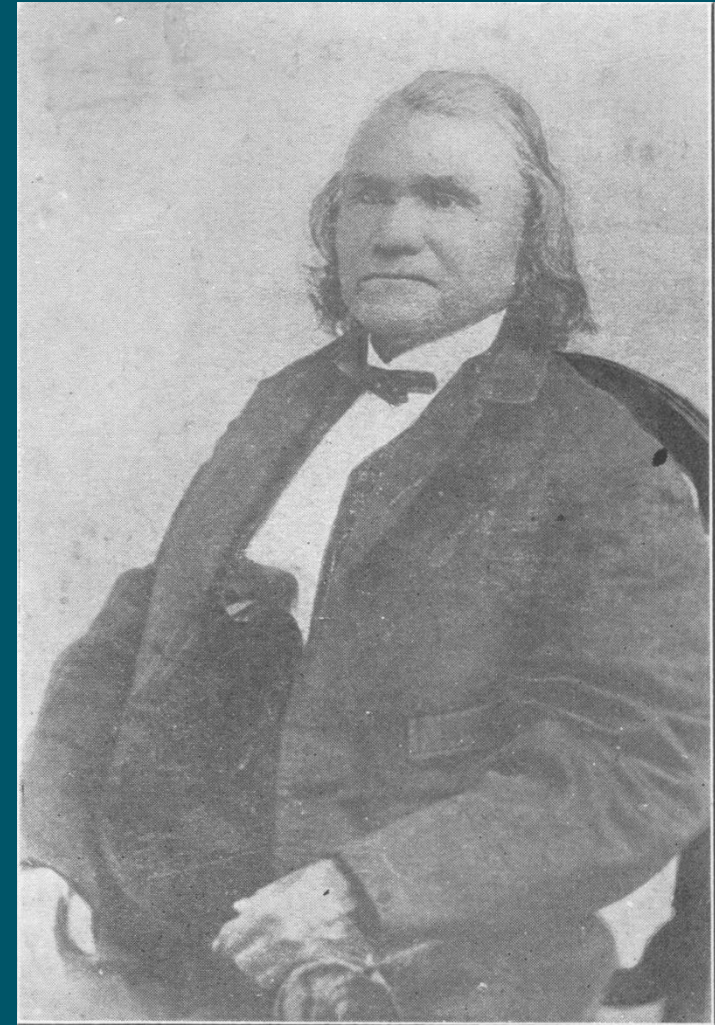


Dugout homestead, Major County
2008.148.035.235, William Edson Photograph Collection, Cherokee Strip
Regional Heritage Center, OHS

1865 Stand Watie

The Cherokee general surrenders at Doaksville near Fort Towson—the last Confederate general to surrender.

Watie's victories for the Confederacy included the capture of the Union steamboat *J.R. Williams* and the Second Battle of Cabin Creek in 1864.

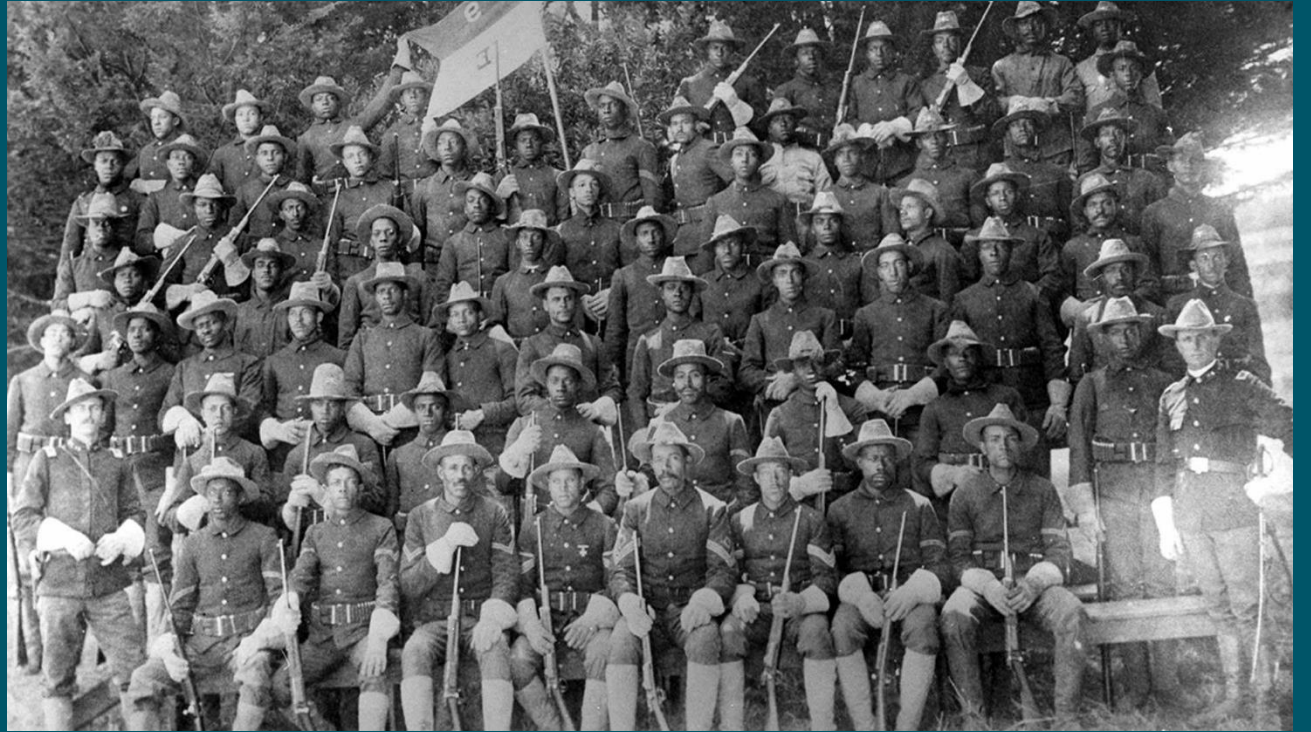


Stand Watie.
3864, William Parker Campbell Collection, OHS

1866 Buffalo Soldiers

Six regiments of Buffalo Soldiers (units composed of African American soldiers) are deployed to protect the Great Plains.

These regiments represented ten percent of the army's strength in the late nineteenth century, and one-half of the available military force in the West.

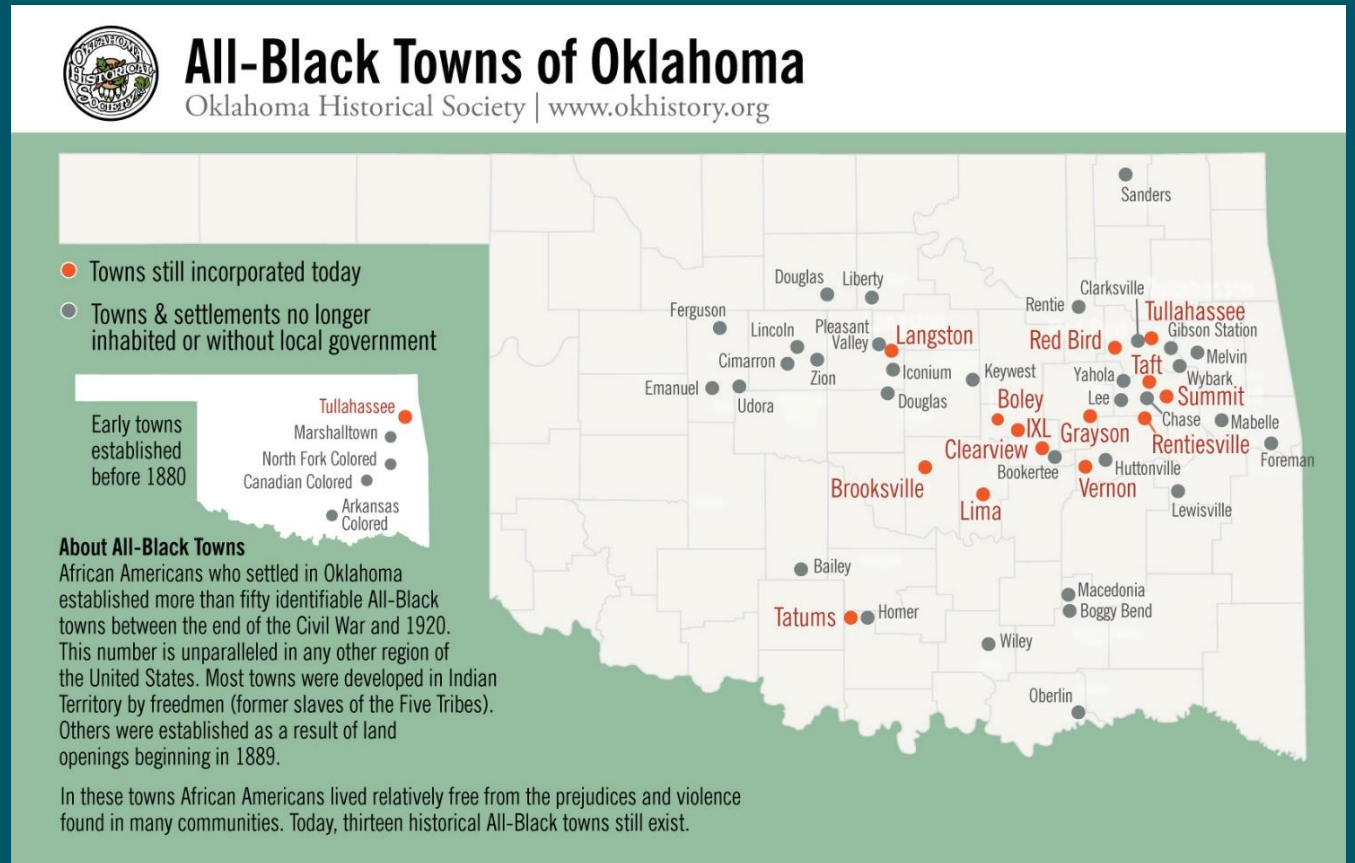


Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers.
Image courtesy of the National Park Service

1866 All-Black Towns

The first of more than fifty All-Black towns are created by emancipated slaves in present-day Oklahoma after the Civil War.

All-Black towns were havens free of discrimination and prejudice as well as prosperous economic and social communities.

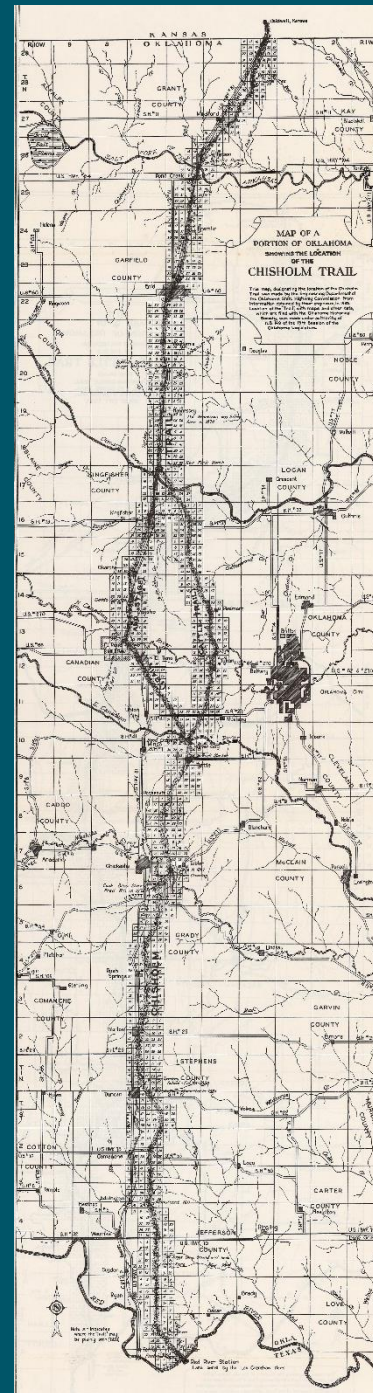


1867 Chisholm Trail

An estimated six million cattle travel the 800-mile trail from Texas to Kansas.

The trail gets its name from Jesse Chisholm, a trader and rancher with business in Oklahoma City and Wichita.

Cattle drives diminish with increased settlement along the trail, a new 1886 quarantine law in Kansas, and a bad blizzard in 1887 that devastated the cattle industry.



HISMAMP.0003, Oklahoma Historical Society Map Collection, OHS

Want a closer look?
Check out this map and much
more on The Gateway to
Oklahoma History!

1868

Battle of Washita

George Custer attacks Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle's camp on the Washita River near present-day Cheyenne on November 27.

Known as the Battle of Washita or the Massacre of Washita, an estimated 103 Indians are killed.



The 1868 Battle of the Washita by Steven Lang
Courtesy of the National Park Service

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1868: Fort Supply** is established in Indian Territory during a US military campaign against the Plains Indians.
- **1869: Fort Sill** is established near present-day Lawton to keep the peace in Indian Territory.
- **1870:** The Missouri, Kansas, Texas Railway, known as the **KATY**, lays the first tracks in Indian Territory.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1871: Riverside Indian School**, the nation's oldest continually operated American Indian boarding school, opens in Anadarko.
- **1872: J.J. McAlester** and partners create the first major commercial coal mining operation in Indian Territory—Osage Coal and Mining Company.
- **1875: Fort Reno** is built to pacify and protect the Cheyenne and Arapaho living nearby.

1875 Bass Reeves

Appointed by Judge Isaac C. Parker, the celebrated African American deputy US marshal begins his post at Fort Smith.

Bass served in Indian Territory for 32 years and arrested more than 3,000 fugitives.

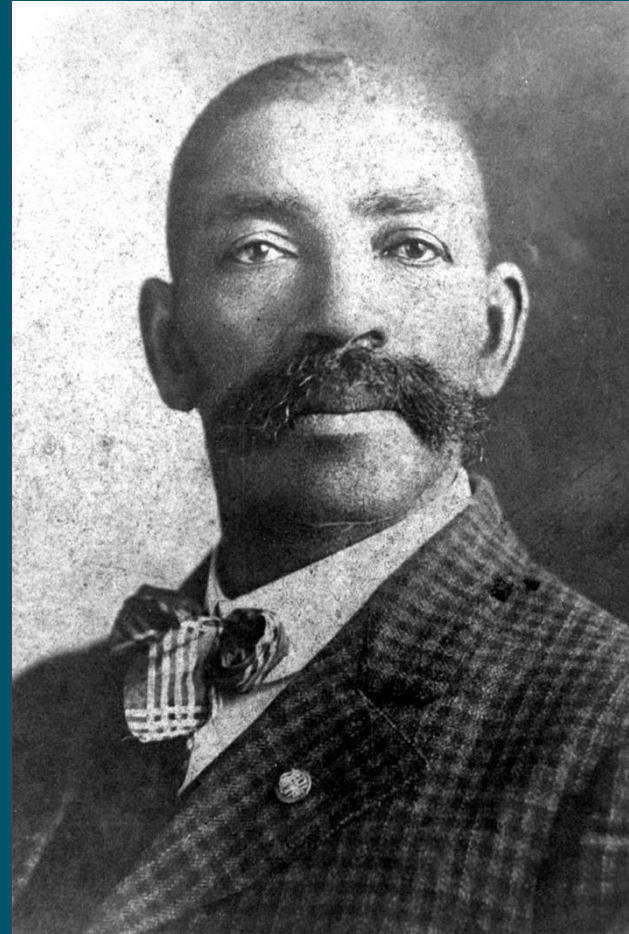


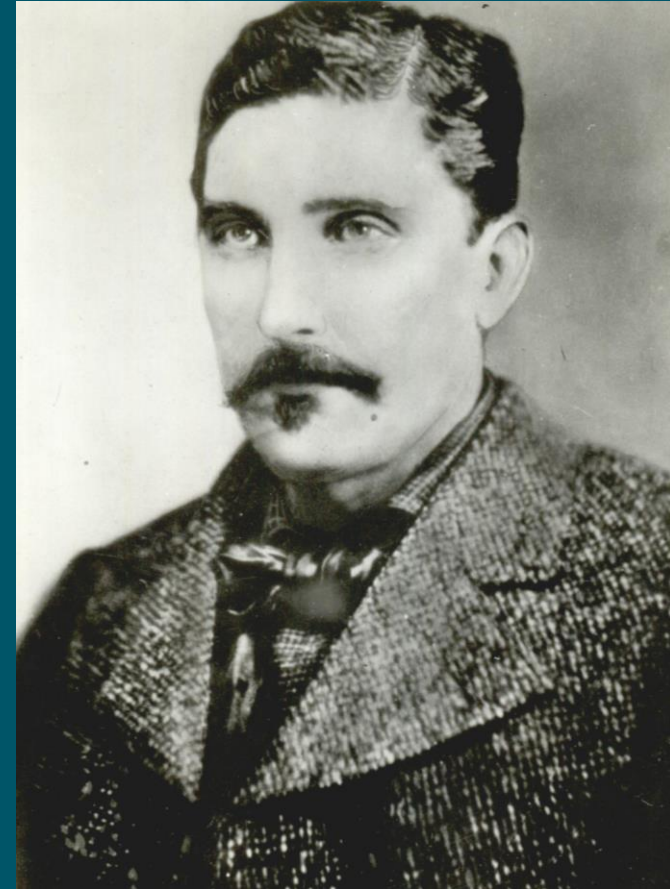
Image courtesy of Fort Smith National Historic Site, National Park Service

1880

David L. Payne

The father of the Boomer Movement is arrested twice for attempting to create a colony of non-Indian settlers in Indian Territory.

Boomers were most interested in settling the Unassigned Lands, former Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole tribal land in present-day central Oklahoma, which was left vacant when land treaties were renegotiated after the Civil War.



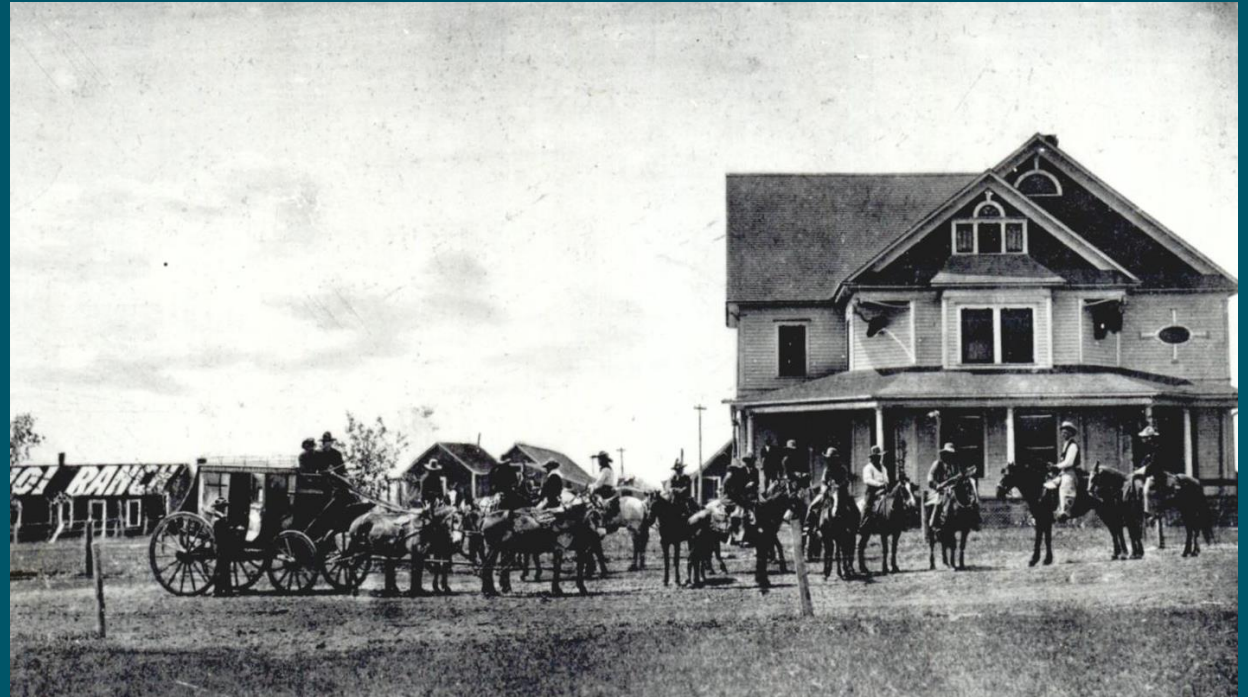
David L. Payne, Boomer Leader in Oklahoma
2012.201.B1010.0278, Oklahoma Publishing
Company Photography Collection, OHS

1881

101 Ranch

Colonel George Washington Miller establishes the famed 101 Ranch in the Cherokee Outlet near present-day Ponca City.

The 101 brand became one of the most recognizable in the ranching and western entertainment worlds, due to the Wild West shows Colonel Miller's sons, Joe and George Miller, put on internationally in the early twentieth century.



Arrival of a stage coach bearing passengers to the famous 101 Ranch near Ponca City 2012.201.B0171.0187, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1881: Bacone College**, Oklahoma's oldest college or university, is chartered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Tahlequah.
- **1887:** Congress enacts the **Dawes Act**, starting the policy of dissolving tribal land ownership and beginning the individual allotment system.
- **1889:** The **first public school** in present-day Oklahoma opens in Edmond.

1889 First Land Run

More than 1.9 million acres in central Oklahoma, known as the Unassigned Lands, are opened for settlement.

More than 50,000 people participated.

Those that attempted to enter early or hide out on the land before the time of entry were called “sooners.”



Family crossing into Oklahoma during 1889 Land Run.
21412.BH772.2, Z.P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1890:** The **Organic Act** establishes separate Oklahoma and Indian Territories. **Guthrie** is established as Oklahoma Territory's capital.
- **1890:** The **University of Oklahoma** and Oklahoma A&M College, (later **Oklahoma State University**) are established in Norman and Stillwater.
- **1891:** **Iowa, Sac and Fox, Potawatomi, and Shawnee lands** are opened by land run. **Tonkawa lands** are opened by allotment.
- **1892:** **Pawnee lands** are opened by allotment. **Cheyenne and Arapaho lands** are settled by land run.

1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run

On September 16, the largest and most chaotic land run began in present-day northwestern Oklahoma.

There were over 100,000 participants vying for 6.5 million acres.

Despite the attempt by lawmakers to make the process more official, the sheer number of participants was overwhelming and the majority of participants did not secure a land claim.



"The Race" by William S. Prettyman.
4364, Czarina Conlan Collection, OHS

1893 Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is founded in Kingfisher.

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

The Oklahoma History Center is one of multiple OHS museums and historical sites and serves as the headquarters for the OHS.



Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1895:** Kickapoo “surplus lands” are opened for settlement by allotment.
- **1896:** The US Supreme Court rules on the disputed area of **Greer County**, incorporating it into Oklahoma Territory.
- **1897:** The first commercial oil well in Oklahoma, **Nellie Johnstone No. 1**, is drilled near Bartlesville.
- **1897:** Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal School, later **Langston University**, is established by the Oklahoma Legislature on March 12.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1898:** The **Curtis Act** abolishes tribal courts and governments. American Indians are placed under federal control, paving the way for expanded settlement in Indian Territory.
- **1901:** The **Wichita, Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache lands** are opened for settlement by lottery—the last major land opening in Oklahoma.
- **1903:** The Oklahoma Railway Company begins electric streetcar service in Oklahoma City.
- **1904:** **Ponca and Otoe-Missouria lands** are opened by allotment.

1905 Sequoyah Convention

Tribal delegates meet in Muskogee, Creek Nation, to discuss the formation of a separate state for Indian tribes.

Many important figures in Oklahoma history attended the convention, such as future Oklahoma governors William H. Murray and Charles N. Haskell. The constitution drafted would serve as a guide for the eventual Oklahoma state constitution.



State of Sequoyah. Courtesy of Oklahoma Digital Map Collection, Oklahoma State University

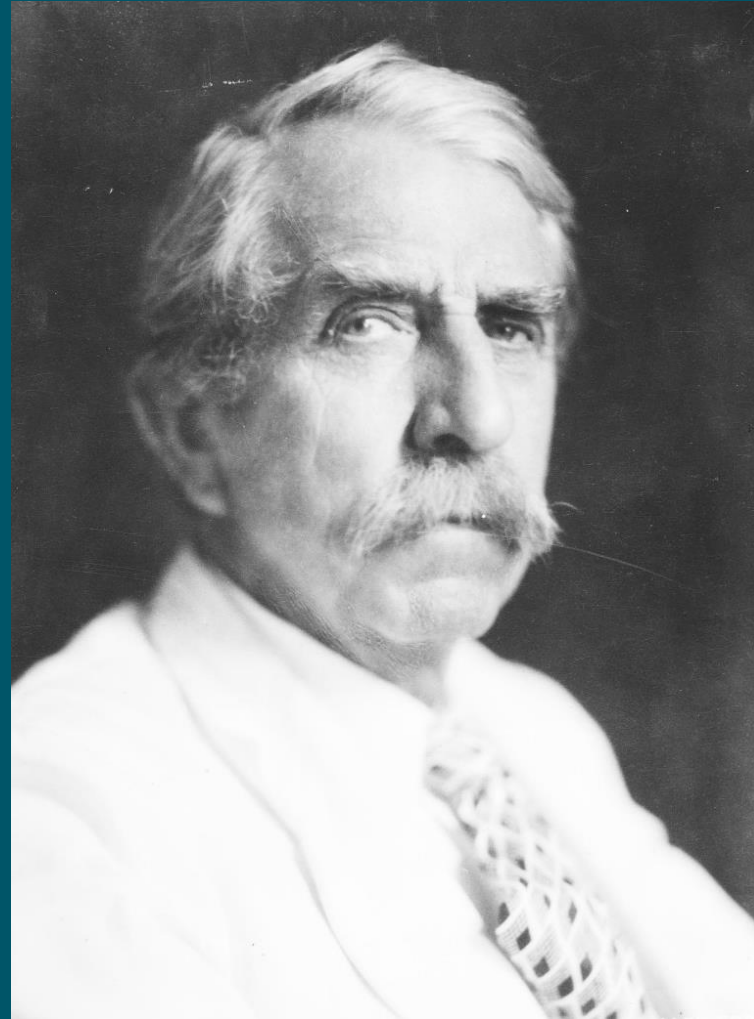
Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1905:** Frank Phillips moves his family to Bartlesville and founds Phillips Petroleum. Glenn Pool, a major oil field, makes Tulsa the “Oil Capital of the World.”
- **1906:** Osage and Kaw lands are opened by allotment—the final land opening.

1906 William H. “Alfalfa Bill” Murray

The future Congressman and Oklahoma governor serves as president of the statehood convention.

A controversial figure, Murray’s governorship was full of interesting events. To learn more about William H. Murray and other important people, places, and events, visit *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*.



William H. Murray.
21412.M49.2, Z.P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman
Photographic Collection, OHS

1907 Oklahoma Statehood

On November 16, President Theodore Roosevelt declares Oklahoma the forty-sixth state.

An important provision of the Oklahoma constitution, Oklahoma became the second state to institute the initiative and referendum system, which allows voters to initiate and approve amendments to the state's constitution.

THE HOBART REPUBLICAN.

VOLUME 5. HOBART, KIOWA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1907. NUMBER 39.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PROCLAIMS STATEHOOD FOR OKLAHOMA

Republican Special.

Washington, Nov. 16—"Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States of America, in accordance with the act of congress aforesaid and by the authority thereof, announce the result of said election to be as certified and do hereby declare and proclaim that the terms and conditions prescribed by congress to entitle the state of Oklahoma to admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original thirteen states is now accomplished. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed, this the sixteenth day of November, 1907.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

STATEHOOD MAY FREE CRIMINALS


The change from a territorial to a state of Oklahoma is a process of such magnitude as to require the attention of the people. The act of congress which provides for the admission of Oklahoma into the Union is a landmark in the history of the West. It is a landmark because it is the first time that a new state has been admitted to the Union since the year 1800. The act is a landmark because it is the first time that a new state has been admitted to the Union since the year 1800. The act is a landmark because it is the first time that a new state has been admitted to the Union since the year 1800.

WAS A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION


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THE STATEHOOD RECEIVED WITH A SHOUT HERE

The news of the admission of Oklahoma into the Union was received here with a shout. The people of this city are proud to welcome Oklahoma as the forty-sixth state of the Union. The admission of Oklahoma is a landmark in the history of the West. It is a landmark because it is the first time that a new state has been admitted to the Union since the year 1800.



Ex-Governor Frank Frazier, retiring executive of the Territory.



Governor Charles N. Haskell, incoming executive of the State of Oklahoma.

AGED MAN DIES FROM EXPOSURE

An aged man died from exposure in the mountains. The man was found dead in the snow. The cause of death was exposure to the elements.

GIVES A CHECK ON BANK THAT DOES NOT EXIST

A man gave a check on a bank that does not exist. The check was cashed by the bank. The man was arrested for fraud.

HOBART MAN LARNS FEDERAL CLEANSHIP

A Hobart man has learned federal cleanliness. The man was praised for his efforts in cleaning up the town.

Front page of *The Hobart Republican*, November 21, 1907. The Gateway to Oklahoma History, OHS

1907 Kate Barnard

Social justice reformer Catherine Ann Barnard becomes the first woman in Oklahoma elected to state public office.

Barnard successfully petitioned two reform measures during the Constitutional Convention: the end of child labor and establishment of the office of commissioner of charities and corrections—the office she would be elected to run.



Kate Barnard.
106, Oklahoma Historical Society Photograph Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1909:** One of the first **Boy Scout** troops in the United States is established in Pawhuska.
- **1910:** Oklahoma state capital moves from Guthrie to **Oklahoma City**.
- **1912:** Sac and Fox athlete **Jim Thorpe** wins gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon at the Stockholm Olympics.
- **1913:** US Senator **Robert L. Owen** cosponsors the Federal Reserve Act, creating the central bank of the United States.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1913:** The first Oklahoma chapter of the **NAACP** was founded in Oklahoma City.
- **1915:** Roscoe Dunjee begins editing the *Black Dispatch*, Oklahoma City's only black newspaper.
- **1917: Henry Post Army Airfield** is constructed at Fort Sill—the oldest airfield in the US Army.

1917 Green Corn Rebellion

Hundreds of impoverished men of all races begin their march to the nation's capital to protest World War I conscription and the plight of the working class.

The rebellion gets its name from the green corn protesters planned to eat along the journey, but the protest march ended before it began when local posses broke up and arrested the rebels.

THE WEATHER
TULSA, OKLA., SAT. AUG. 4. - Clear, with
breeze from the southwest. High 75-80.
OKLAHOMA FORECAST - Clear.
VOL. XII, No. 318
TULSA DAILY WORLD
TULSA, OKLAHOMA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1917 12 PAGES PRICE 5 CENTS

DAYLIGHT ATTACK WILL BE MADE ON DEFIANT DRAFT RESISTERS

FIRST TO ANSWER IS ROBERT IMLER **Governor of Petrograd Is Slain by Assassin's Hand** **TWO BILLION WAR TAX BILL DRAFTED** **HOUSE UNITED ON CONFERE REPORT**

General Erdell Shot From Behind; M. Tcheroff Quits Cabinet.
CZERKOWITZ FALLS TO HUNS
Russians Abandon Capital of Bukovina Without Resistance.

Dr. Hawley Announces Names of Those Who Will Assist With Examination.
DRAFT WILL START MONDAY
At 12 o'clock on Monday

With 20,000 men of various nations
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ONE THOUSAND POSSEMEN PREPARE TO ROUND UP 400 HEAVILY ARMED RIOTERS CAMPED NEAR SASAKWA

Seminole, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Hughes Counties Terrorized by Draft Rebellion

DEPUTY SHERIFF SHOT FROM AMBUSH
Indians, Negroes, I. W. W., Working Class Union Members Make Up Outlaw Mobs

MUSKOGEE, Aug. 3.-Fighting between draft rioters and officers is going on 25 miles north of Ada, according to Undersecretary Purvis of Oklahoma county, who received a report from there late tonight.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Aug. 3.-One thousand armed possemes, collected from Seminole, Hughes, Pontotoc, Okmulgee and Pottawatomie counties, plan to make an attack at daybreak tomorrow morning upon the mob of four hundred draft rioters, who are now camped near Sasakwa, in western (multiple late tonight).

Under orders from Adjutant General Earl Rupp to give whatever assistance they can to local officers and possemen, deputy sheriffs from Oklahoma City, carrying a large quantity of arms and ammunition, left for Muskogee tonight.

Guardians will be used as a last resort, the adjutant general said, but officers who seek a call for help seemed to think they would have enough men to handle the situation.

Organized mobs to defend the state, however, are being organized in Muskogee, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, and Hughes counties, where they have already succeeded in forcing the adjutant general to issue orders for the arrest of many of the rioters.

Two Thousand Organize for Battle, Sheriff Dragan Ar...
Arms and Ammunition

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Headline of the *Tulsa World*, Saturday, August 4, 1917. The Gateway to Oklahoma History, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1917–18:** More than 85,000 Oklahomans serve in **World War I**. Nineteen Choctaw **Code Talkers** use their native language to transmit coded messages.
- **1920s:** World-famous jazz and blues musicians frequent **Deep Deuce**, an African American business and cultural district in Oklahoma City.
- **1921:** **J. C. Karcher** tests the seismic reflection method as a geologic exploration tool at a site near Dougherty.
- **1921:** Marland Refining Company, owned by future governor and oilman from Ponca City, **E. W. Marland**, discovers Tonkawa oil field, Oklahoma's greatest oil producer of the 1920s.

1921 Tulsa Massacre

The thriving African American Greenwood District is looted and burned during the Tulsa Race Massacre, May 31–June 1.

The estimated death toll ranges from 39 to 300 people with millions of dollars of property damage.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	White
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	White
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT MAIN OFFICE, HUCKINS HOTEL BLDG. 14 N. B'WAY, OKLA. CITY.

1921 JUN 1 AM 1 48

9WU 32 11 EXTRA

TULSA OKLA 144A 1

GOVERNOR J B A ROBERTSON

1072

OKLAHOMACITY OKLA

RACE RIOT DEVELOPED. HERE SEVERAL KILLED UNABLE HANDLE SITUATION

REQUEST THAT NATIONAL GUARD FORCES BE SENT BY SPECIAL TRAIN

SITUATION SERIOUS

JOHN A GUSTAFSON CHIEF OF POLICE WM MCCULLOUGH SHERIFF V W

BIDDISON DISTRICT JUDGE

W 7646
Call at 109 am
to 8:00

Telegram from John A. Gustafson, chief of police, Tulsa to Governor James B. A. Robertson, June 1, 1921.

Image courtesy of Oklahoma State Archives Division, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1923:** The Oklahoma Legislature impeaches **Governor John Calloway Walton** due in part to his strong stance against the Ku Klux Klan.
- **1924:** The **45th Infantry Division**, a four-state division of the National Guard, is stationed at Fort Sill. The 45th played invaluable roles in World War II and the Korean War.
- **1924:** Historic music venue **Cain's Ballroom** is built in Tulsa where it served first as a garage.
- **1926:** Construction begins on **Route 66**. The Mother Road runs nearly 400 miles through Oklahoma.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **Late 1920s:** At the University of Oklahoma Oscar Jacobson mentors the **Kiowa Six**, traditional Plains Indian artists who achieved international fame.
- **1929: Black Tuesday**, the stock market crash on October 29, ushers in the **Great Depression**.
- **1930:** Oil well **Wild Mary Sudik 1** blows out in Oklahoma City, spraying an estimated 20,000 barrels of oil over the course of eleven days.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1932:** Oklahoma natives **J. Herman Banning** and **Thomas Allen** become the first African American pilots to cross the United States by airplane.
- **1933:** Congress authorizes the establishment of the **Civilian Conservation Corps**. As a result of this program, many public works projects are constructed in Oklahoma including Lake Murray and Roman Nose and Beavers Bend State Parks.

Wiley Post

1933: Wiley Post sets the solo record for flying around the world: 7 days, 18 hours, and 49 minutes.

1934: Wiley Post develops a new pressurized flight suit and helmet, the precursor to the first space suit.

1935: Wiley Post and friend Will Rogers die in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, on August 15.

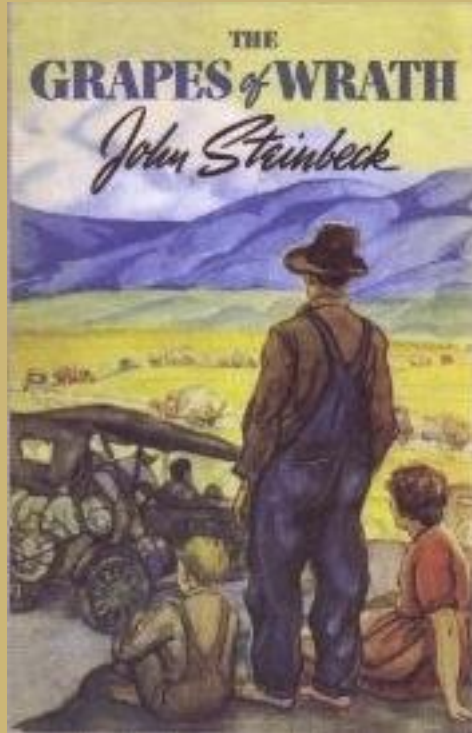


Wiley Post.

Image courtesy of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1934:** Revered scholar and author **Angie Debo** is awarded the John H. Dunning prize by the American Historical Association for her dissertation and book, *The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic*.
- **1935:** On April 14, known as **Black Sunday**, the worst dust storm in western Oklahoma occurred.
- **1935:** **Works Progress Administration** is created, putting approximately 119,000 Oklahomans back to work on public projects like roads and municipal and county buildings.



First Edition Cover by Elmer Hader. Image courtesy of The Viking Press

➤ **1939: *Grapes of Wrath***, John Steinbeck's novel focusing on migration from Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl, is published.

➤ **1940: Woody Guthrie**, Okemah native and internationally acclaimed folk singer, records his first album, *Dust Bowl Ballads*.

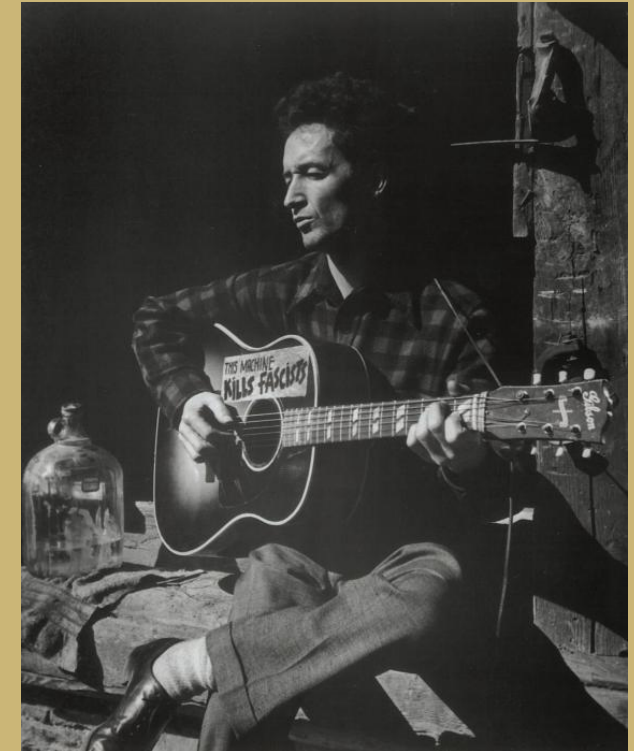
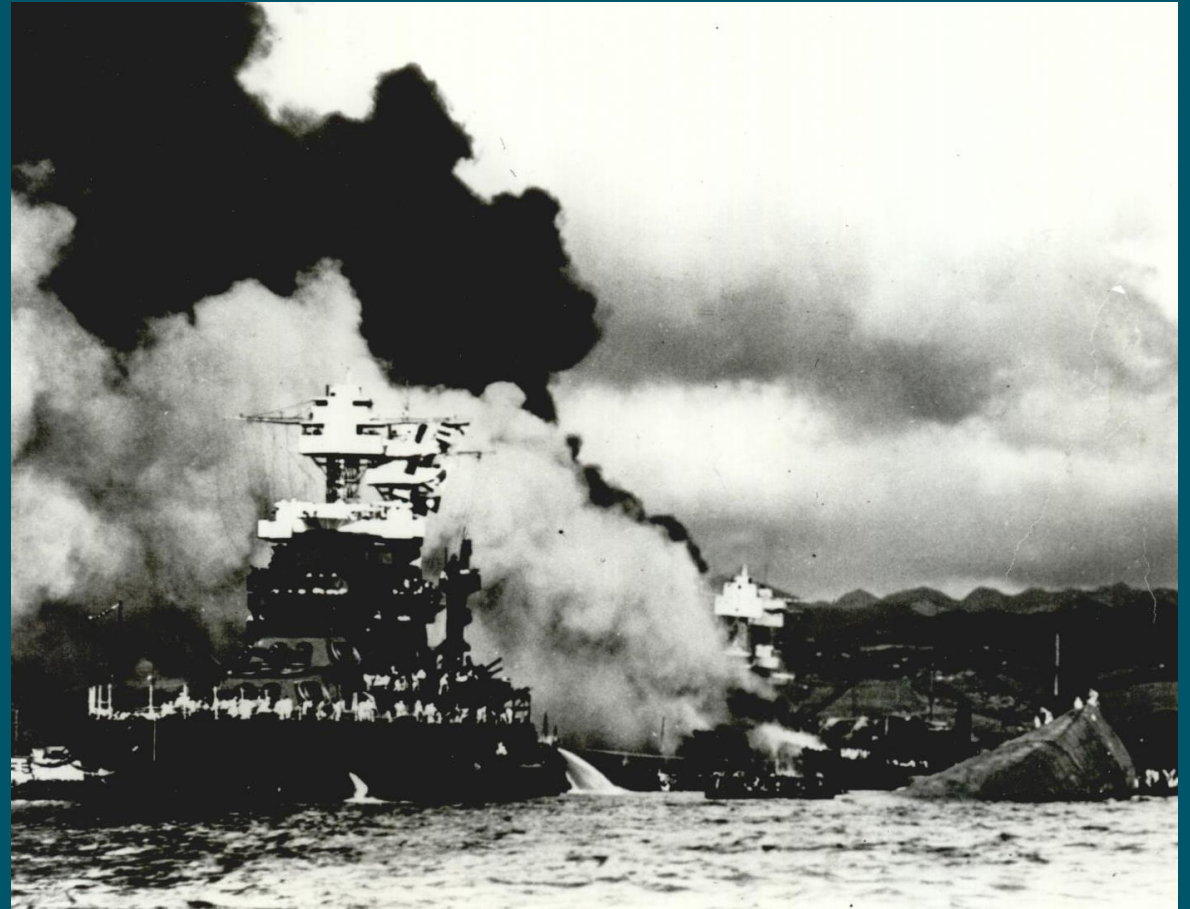


Image courtesy of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941

Japanese forces attack the Hawaiian naval base, killing thousands and spurring the US to war.

The battleship USS *Oklahoma* capsizes in the harbor, killing hundreds of sailors.



A Maryland BB-46 maneuvers around capsized USS *Oklahoma* (upturned hull pictured right).
2012.201.B0927.0335, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1941:** American Indian **Code Talkers** from many tribes serve in World War II.
- **1942:** Oil tycoon and future US Senator **Robert S. Kerr** is elected as Oklahoma's first native-born governor.
- **1943:** Rodgers and Hammerstein's ***Oklahoma!*** premieres at the St. James Theatre in New York City.

1948 Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher

The US Supreme Court rules in Fisher's favor, making her the first African American admitted to the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Fisher went on to serve on the faculty of Langston University in 1957 and was appointed to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, the governing body for the school, in 1992.



Ada Sipuel signing the register of attorneys.

21412.M657.12, Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1950: *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*** mandates school integration in the state.
- **1952: McCarran-Walter Act** reopens immigration from Asian countries following World War II. Asian immigrant populations increase exponentially in Oklahoma as a result.
- **1952:** Oklahoma City native **Ralph Waldo Ellison** publishes *Invisible Man*, a novel about the African American experience and the 1953 National Book Award winner.

1954–1975 Vietnam War

In all, 988 brave Oklahomans lost their lives in the conflict.

Antiwar protests were common across the country during the war. On May 6, 1970, several hundred protesters held a strike at the University of Oklahoma campus. Similar protest occurred at Oklahoma State University and Central State College, now the University of Central Oklahoma.

Many Vietnamese refugees fleeing the violence are processed at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, eventually settling in nearby Oklahoma.



A few members of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry gather around a guitar player and sing a few songs. Image courtesy of U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Clara Luper 1958

The civil rights activist organized the NAACP Youth Council to conduct sit-ins at Katz Drug Store in Oklahoma City—one of the first sit-in protests in the country.

Luper promoted her fight for equality on her radio show from 1960 to 1980. She was the recipient of 154 awards in her lifetime including the Langston Alumni Award and the National Voter Registration Award.



Sit-in at Katz Drug Store
20246-38-395-B, John Melton Collection, OHS

1959

- **Prohibition** is repealed by the Oklahoma Legislature.
- Surgeon **Nazih Zuhdi** performs the first cardiopulmonary bypass surgery in Oklahoma.
- Norman native **Geraldyn Cobb** is one of thirteen women selected for the elite Mercury astronaut program.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1962: Henry Bellmon**, the state's first Republican governor, is elected.
- **1963:** Shawnee native and Project Mercury **astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper** flies his first mission on *Faith 7*, orbiting the Earth twenty-two times.
- **1965:** Weatherford native **Thomas Stafford** pilots his first mission on the Gemini 6A, completing the first rendezvous in space.
- **1968: Hannah Atkins** elected as the first African American woman to the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

1971 McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System was completed in 1971.

There are 144 miles of this system running through Oklahoma.

Millions of tons of cargo are shipped up and down the river system each year.



Oats are unloaded from a barge at the Port of Catoosa on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
2012.201.B0927.0176, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **1971: Carl Albert** begins his post as Speaker of the US House of Representatives—the highest elected public office held by an Oklahoman.
- **1973:** Due in part to overcrowding and degraded building conditions, the three-day **McAlester prison riot** caused \$30 million of damage.
- **1978:** Future chief scientist of NASA and Bethany resident **Shannon Lucid** is selected as one of the first female astronauts. Lucid has logged 5,354 hours in space—more hours than any other female astronaut.

Timeline of Oklahoma History

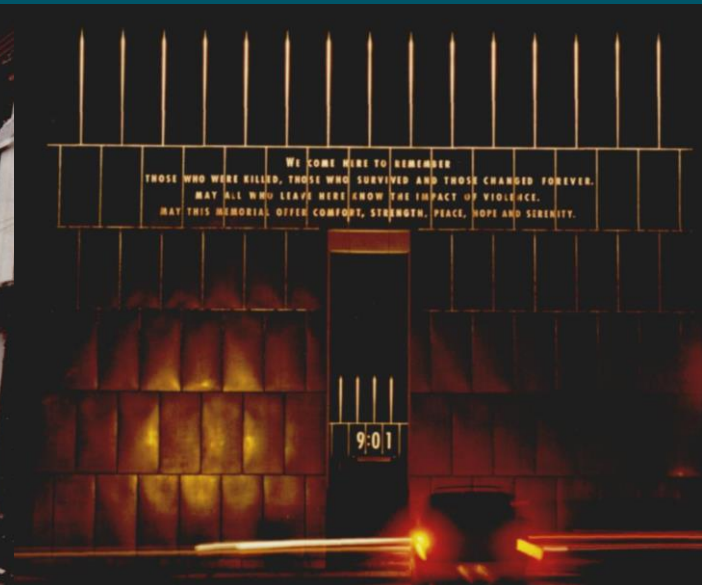
- **1986: Vicki Miles-LaGrange** and **Maxine Horner** are the first African-American females elected to the Oklahoma Senate.
- **1990:** Oklahoma becomes the **first state to limit state legislators' terms** when Oklahoma voters approve State Question 632 on September 18.
- **1991:** *Flight of Spirit*, a mural depicting the famous **Five American Indian Ballerinas**, is installed in the Oklahoma Capitol to celebrate their contribution to the arts.
- **1994:** Eufaula native **J. C. Watts Jr.** is the first African American elected to the US House of Representatives from Oklahoma.

April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing

The nation's worst act of homegrown terrorism resulted in 168 deaths and 850 people injured.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is located at the site of the bombing. Its exhibits, events, and grounds reflect their mission statement:

"We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope, and serenity."



(left) Mourners leave flowers and gifts at bombing site May 5, 1995

(top right) Oklahoma City National Memorial

(bottom right) These glass and bronze chairs represent the number of 168 victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing

Timeline of Oklahoma History

- **2002:** Chickasaw astronaut and Wetumka native **John Herrington** becomes the first American Indian to go to space on the STS-113 *Endeavour*.
- **2004: Tom Colbert** is the first African American appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

2005 Oklahoma History Center

The Oklahoma History Center opens in Oklahoma City.

It serves as the headquarters for the Oklahoma Historical Society and has 215,000 square-feet of gallery and learning spaces.

Visit okhistory.org for great resources to explore Oklahoma's fascinating past!



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