

CHAPTER 5: CHANGES ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

**AMERICA SETTLES THE WEST-
LATE 19TH CENTURY**

SECTION 1: CULTURES CLASH ON THE PRAIRIE

- The culture of the Plains Indians was not well known to Easterners
- The Osage and the Iowa had hunted and planted in the Great plains for over 100 years
- Tribes such as the Sioux and Cheyenne hunted buffalo



THE PLAINS

THE HORSE AND THE BUFFALO



**BUFFALO WERE USED FOR
FOOD, SHELTER AND
CLOTHING**

- **The introduction of horses by the Spanish (1598) and later guns, meant natives were able to travel and hunt**
- **While the horse provided speed and mobility, it was the buffalo that provided for basic needs**

FAMILY LIFE ON THE PLAINS

- Small extended families were the norm
- Men were hunters, while women helped butcher the game and prepare it
- Tribes were very spiritual and land was communal



OSAGE TRIBE

SETTLERS PUSH WESTWARD



**A COVERED WAGON
HEADS WEST**

- The white settlers who pushed westward had a different idea about land ownership
- Concluding that the plains were “unsettled,” thousands advanced to claim land
- Gold being discovered in Colorado only intensified the rush for land

THE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS NATIVES

- As more and more settlers headed west, the U.S. government increasingly protected their interests
- Railroad Companies also influenced government decisions



**RAILROADS GREATLY
IMPACTED NATIVE LIFE**

NATIVES AND SETTLERS CLASH



- 1834 – Government set aside all of the Great Plains as “Indian lands”
- 1850s- Government shifts policy, giving natives much smaller lands
- Conflict ensues
- 1864 - Massacre at Sand Creek; US Army attack killing 150 native women and children

OTHER CONFLICTS AND BATTLES

- **Conflicts continued including; Fetterman Massacre and Red River War**
- **Custer's Last Stand occurred in early 1876 when Colonel Custer reached Little Big Horn**
- **Led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, the natives outflanked and crushed Custer's troops**



ONE OF THE FEW NATIVE VICTORIES WAS LITTLE BIG HORN



NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE WEST: MAJOR BATTLES AND RESERVATIONS

THE DAWES ACT - 1887



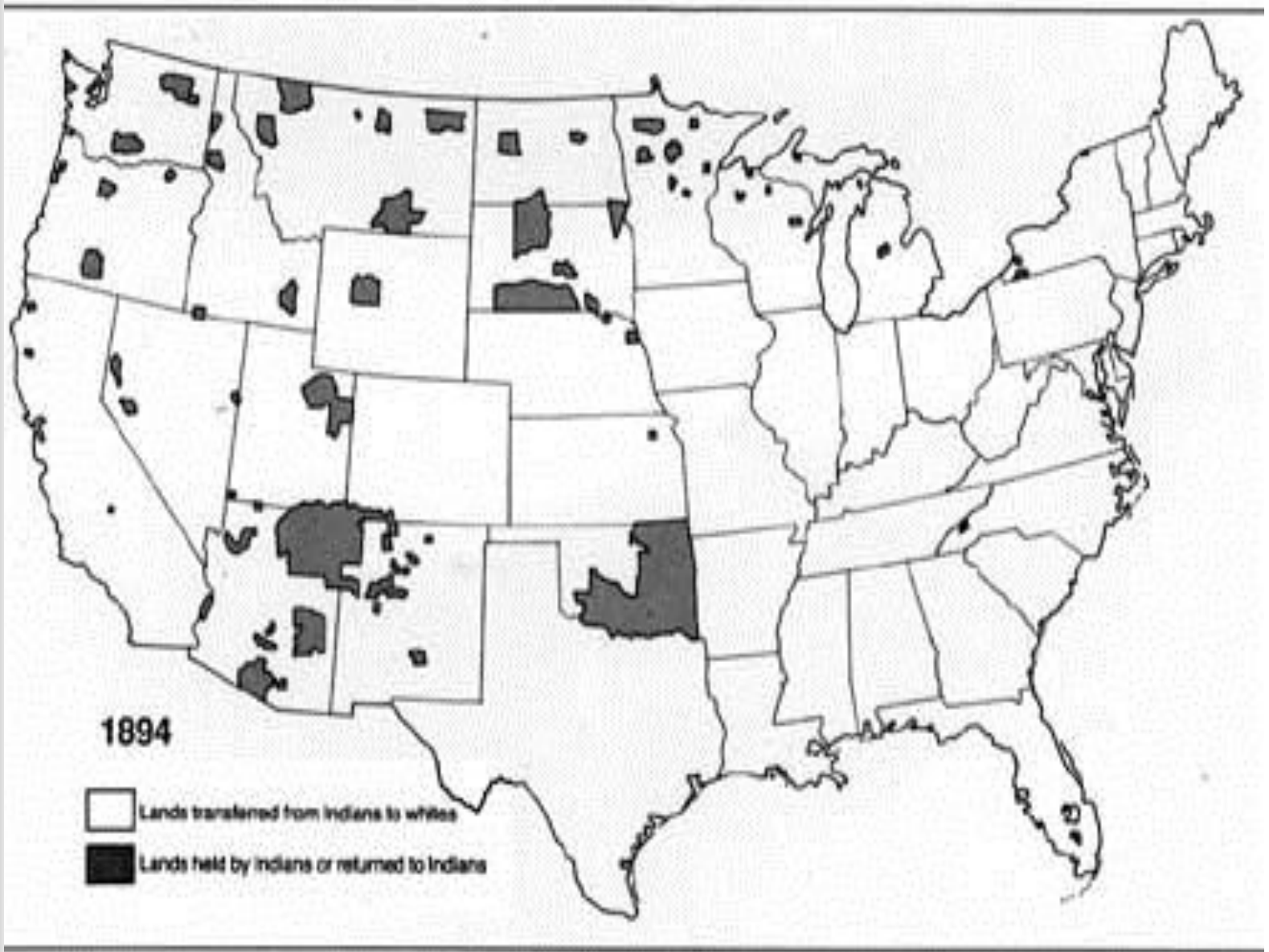
**FAMOUS DEPICTION OF
NATIVE STRUGGLE**

- **The Dawes Act of 1887 attempted to assimilate natives**
- **The Act called for the break up of reservations and the introduction of natives into American life**
- **By 1932, 2/3rds of the land committed to Natives had been taken**

Ghost/Sun Dance

- **Native Americans were to give up their beliefs and way of life and become part of the white culture.**





THE DARK AREAS DEPICT NATIVE LANDS BY 1894

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BUFFALO

- The most significant blow to tribal life on the plains was the destruction of the buffalo
- Tourist and fur traders shot buffalo for sport
- 1800: 65 million buffalo roamed the plains
- 1890: less than 1000 remained



BATTLE OF WOUNDED KNEE



**HUNDREDS OF CORPSES
WERE LEFT TO FREEZE ON
THE GROUND**

- On December 29, 1890, the Seventh Cavalry (Custer's old regiment) rounded up 350 Sioux and took them to Wounded Knee, S.D.
- A shot was fired – within minutes the Seventh Cavalry slaughtered 300 unarmed Natives
- This event brought the “Indian Wars” – and an entire era to a bitter end

BLACK ELK SPEAKING ABOUT WOUNDED KNEE



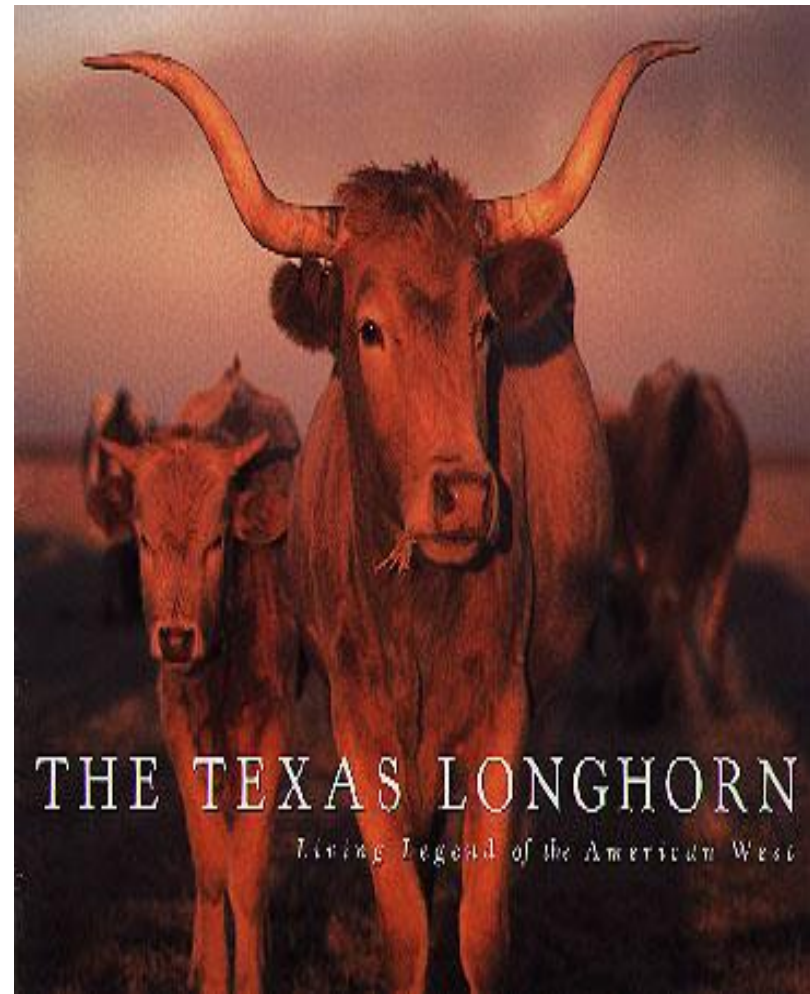
BLACK ELK

“I did not know then how much was ended. When I look back now from this high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young. And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people’s dream died there. It was a beautiful dream...

The nation’s hoop is broken and scattered. There is no center any longer, and the sacred tree is dead.”

CATTLE BECOMES BIG BUSINESS

- **Ranching became increasingly profitable**
- **Texas rangers learned how to handle the Texas Longhorns from Mexican rangers**
- **Lots of vocabulary came from the Mexican Vaqueros**



VOCABULARY BORROWED



**MEXICAN “VAQUEROS”
(COW MAN) PROVIDED THE
VOCABULARY FOR THE
AMERICAN COWBOY**

- **Vanilla, bronco, mustang, chaps, mosquito, pronto, tuna, stampede, tornado, chili, cigar, shack, savvy, siesta, wrangler, lasso, lariat, ranch, corral, burro, canyon, bandit, fiesta, guerrilla, hurricane, matador, plaza, rodeo, vigilante, desperado, cockroach, buckaroo**

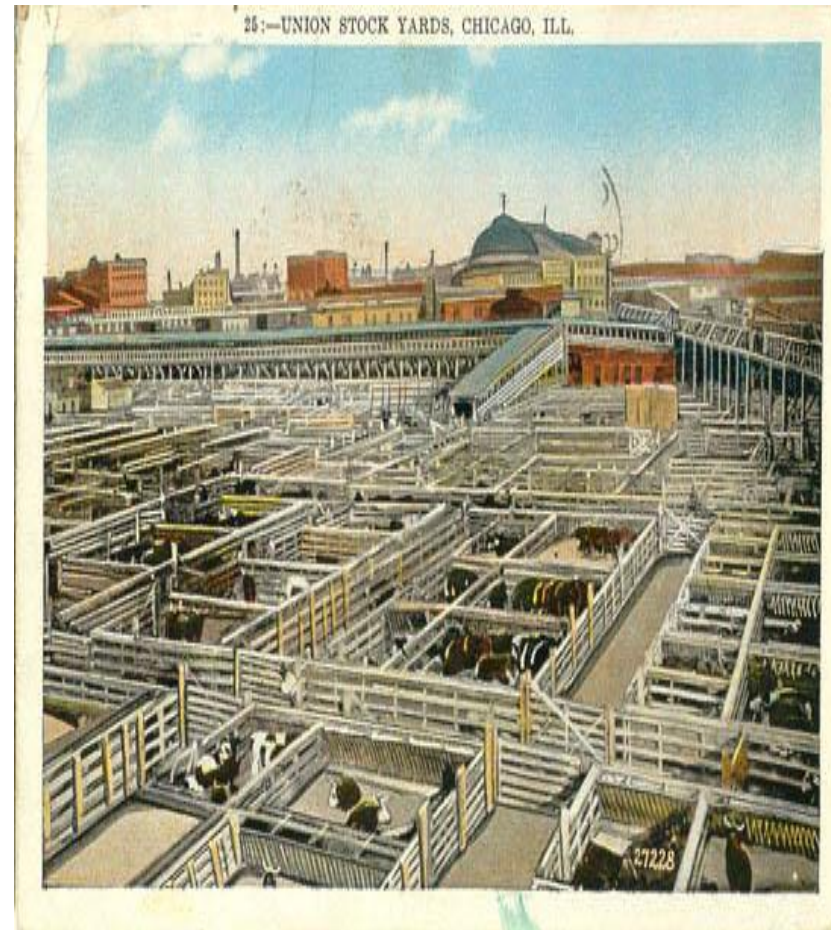


CATTLE TRAILS

TRAILS CONNECTED TO RAILROADS

GROWING DEMAND FOR BEEF

- After the Civil War the demand for beef surged
- Urbanization and the rise of the railroad was instrumental in the increase of beef consumption
- Chicago Union Stock Yards was a famous market after 1865



POSTCARD OF CHICAGO
UNION STOCK YARDS

COW TOWN & THE TRAIL

- **Abilene, Kansas** became famous for being a place where the **Chisholm Trail** met the railroads
- **Tens of thousands of cattle** came from **Texas** through **Oklahoma** to **Abilene** via the famous **Chisholm trail**
- **Once in Abilene** the cattle would board rail cars for destinations across the country



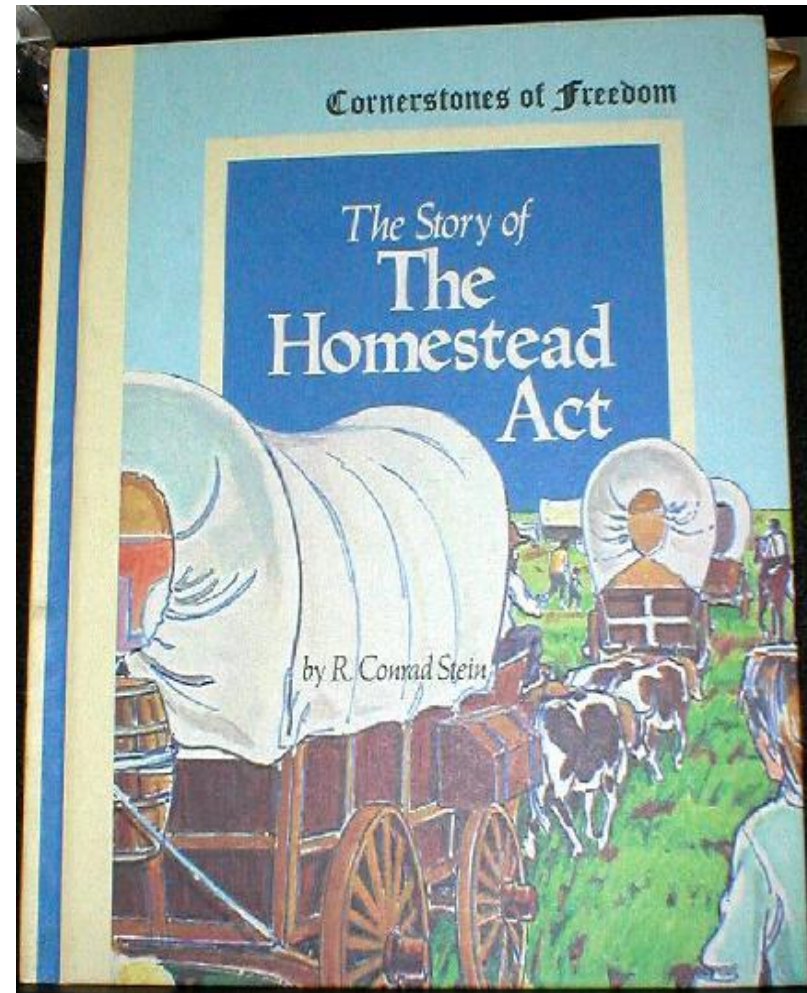
THE END OF THE OPEN RANGE



- Almost as soon as ranching became big business, the cattle frontier met its end
- Overgrazing, bad weather, and the invention of barbed wire were responsible

SECTION 2: SETTLING ON THE GREAT PLAINS

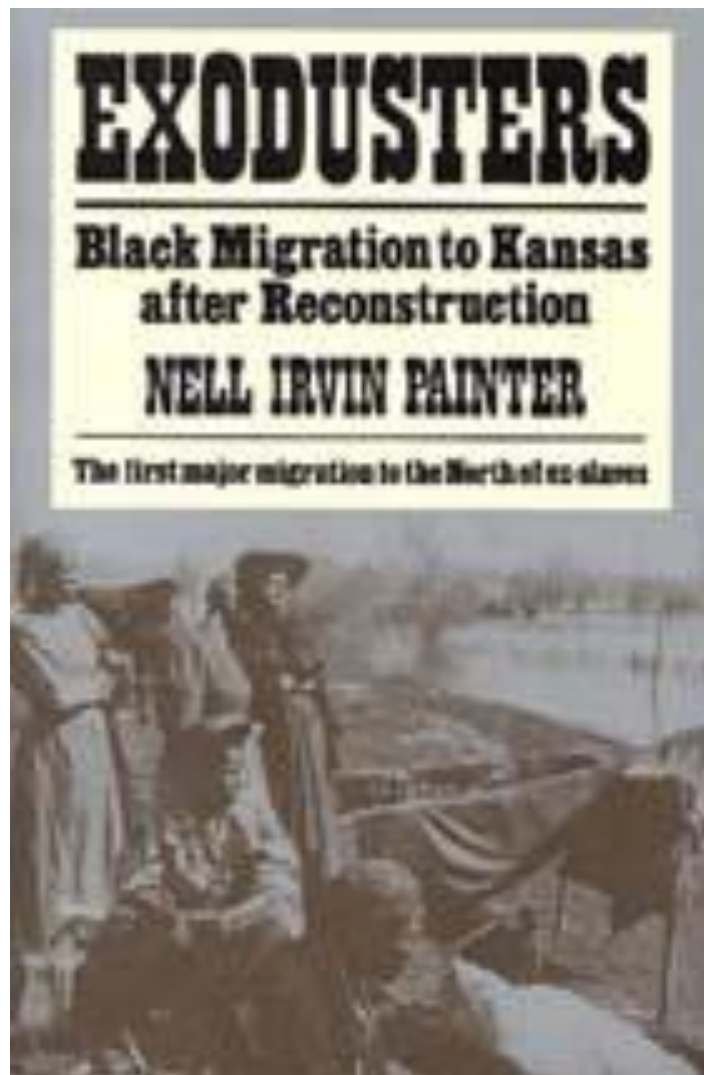
- Federal land policy and the completion of the transcontinental railroad led to the rapid settlement of American west
- 1862 – Congress passed Homestead Act which allowed 160 free acres to any “head of household”





The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1868. The Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads met in Promontory Point, Utah and laid a Golden Spike

EXODUSTERS MOVE WEST



- African Americans who moved from the post-Reconstruction South to Kansas were called Exodusters
- Many exodusters took advantage of land deals

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

- In 1889, a major governmental land giveaway in what is now Oklahoma attracted thousands
- In less than a day, 2 million acres were claimed by settlers
- Some took possession before the government had officially declared it open – thus Oklahoma became known as the “Sooner State”



SETTLERS ENCOUNTER HARDSHIPS

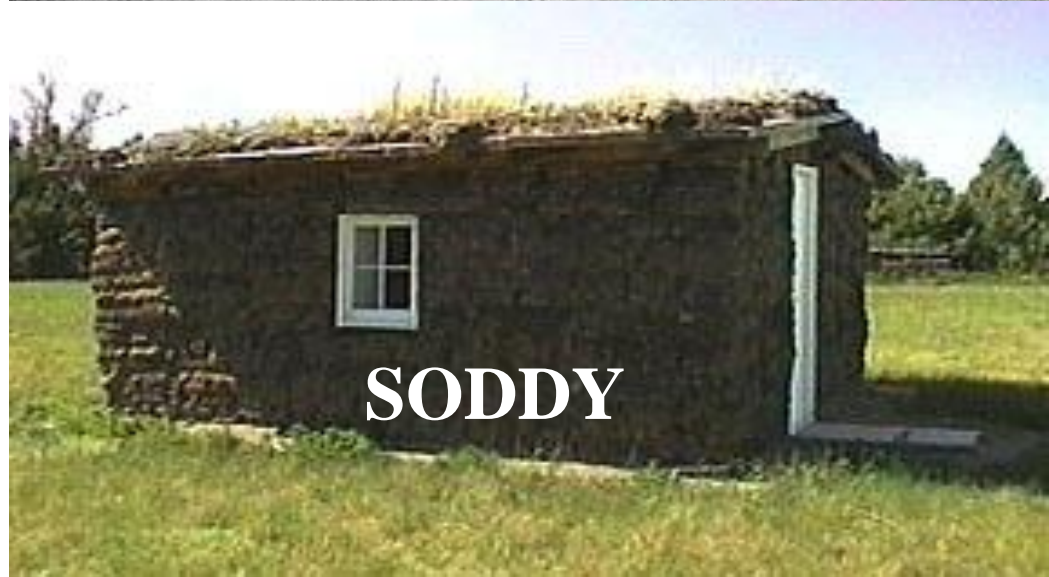
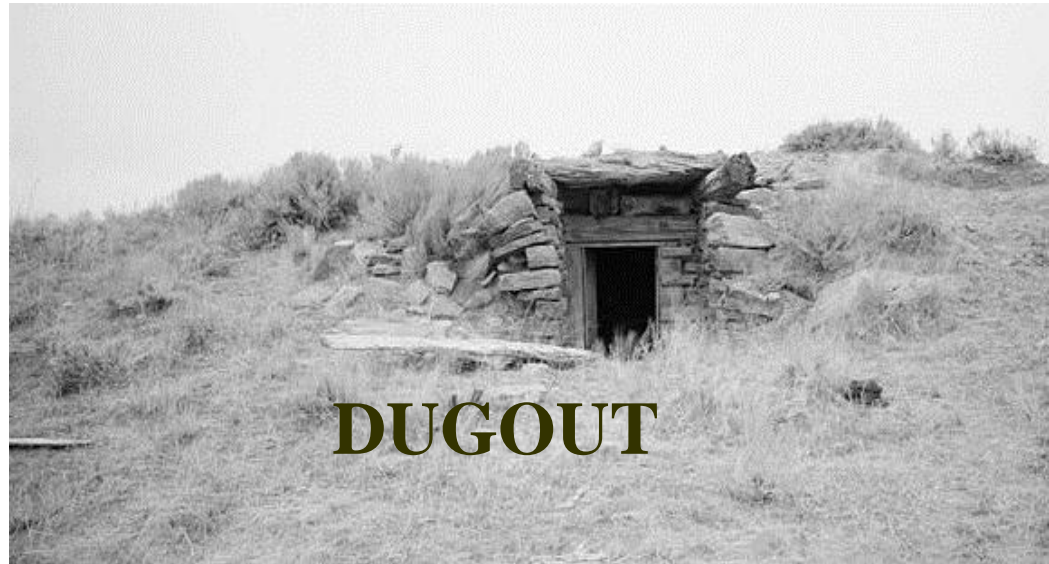


LOCUST SWARM

- The frontier settlers faced extreme hardships – droughts, floods, fires, blizzards, locust plagues, and bandits
- Despite hardships, the number of people living west of the Mississippi grew from 1% of the nation's population in 1850 to almost 30% in 1900

DUGOUTS & SODDIES

- Most settlers built their homes from the land itself
- Pioneers often dug their homes out of the sides of ravines or hills (Dugouts)
- Those in the flat plains made freestanding homes made of turf (Soddies)



INCREASED TECHNOLOGY HELPS FARMERS

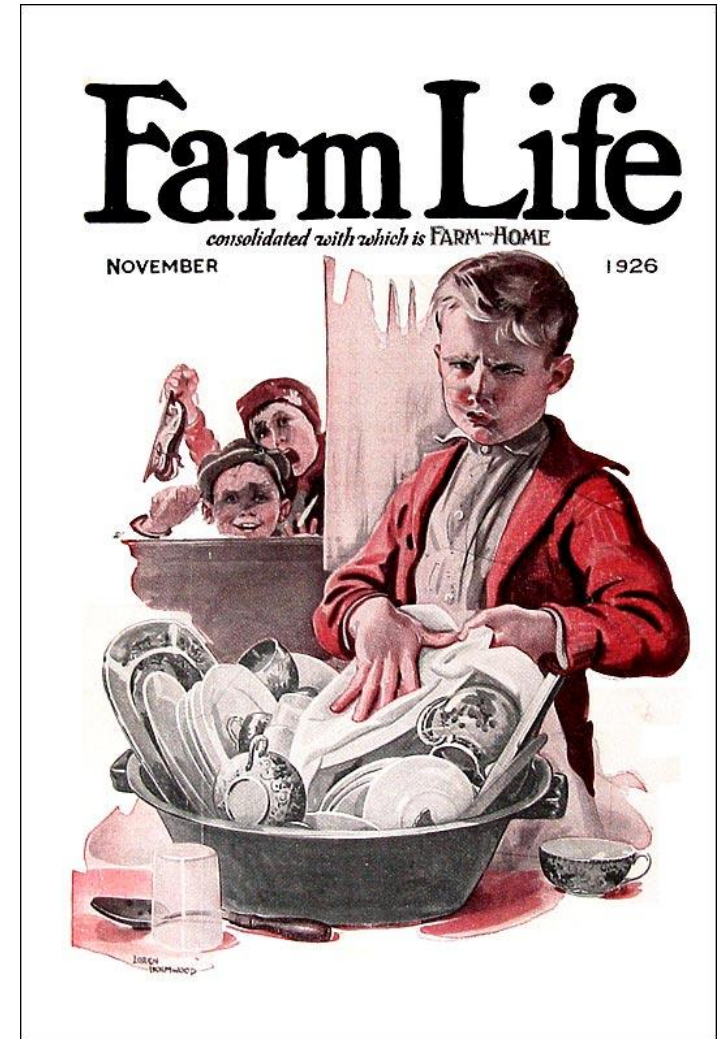


**JOHN DEERE'S STEEL
PLOW HAD TO BE PULLED
BY A HORSE OR MULE**

- **1837 – John Deere invented a steel plow that could slice through heavy soil**
- **1847 – Cyrus McCormick mass-produced a reaping machine**
- **Other inventions included a grain drill to plant seed, barbed wire, and corn binder**

FARMER EDUCATION SUPPORTED

- The federal government financed agricultural education
- The Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 gave federal land to states to help finance agricultural colleges



SECTION 3: FARMERS AND THE POPULIST MOVEMENT



- In the late 1800s, many farmers were struggling
- Crop prices were falling, debt increased
- Mortgages were being foreclosed by banks

ECONOMIC DISTRESS HITS FARMERS

- **Between 1867 and 1887 the price of a bushel of wheat fell from \$2.00 to 68 cents**
- **Railroads conspired to keep transport costs artificially high**
- **Farmers got caught in a cycle of debt**



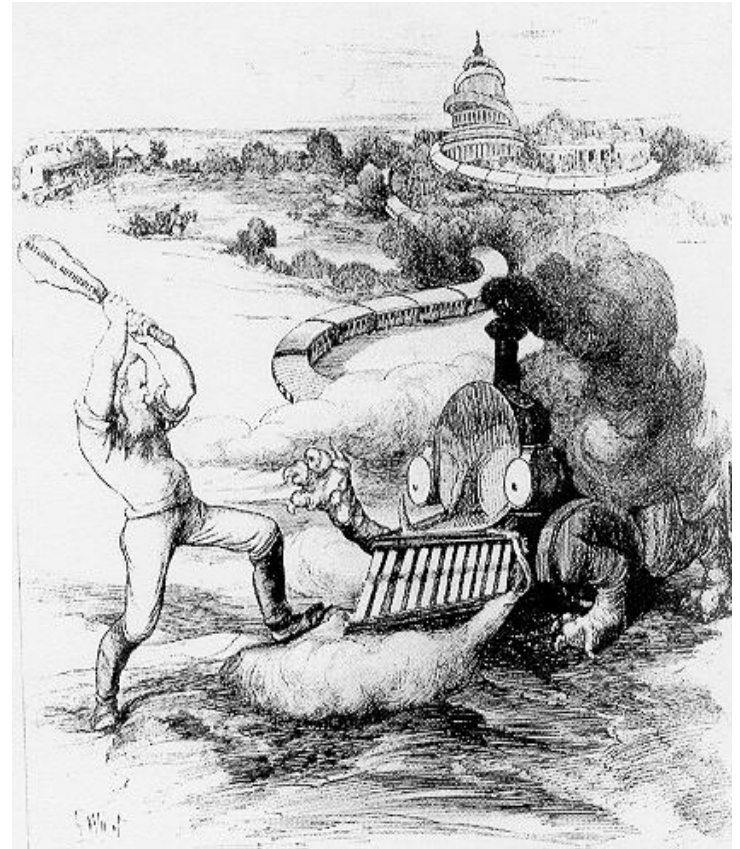
FARMERS ORGANIZE FOR CHANGE



- 1867 – Oliver Hudson Kelley started the *Patrons of Husbandry*, an organization for farmers that became known as the Grange
- By 1870, the Grange spent most of their time fighting the railroads
- Soon the Grange and other Farmer Alliances numbered over 4 million members

POPULIST PARTY IS BORN

- Leaders of the farmers organization realized they needed to build a base of political power
- Populism – the movement of the people – was born in 1892 with the founding of the Populist, or People's Party



**THIS POLITICAL CARTOON
SHOWS A POPULIST
CLUBBING A RAILROAD
CAR**

POPULIST REFORMS



- Proposed economic reforms included; increase of money supply, a rise in crop prices, lower taxes, a federal loan program
- Proposed political reforms included; direct election of senators, single terms for presidents
- Populists also called for an 8-hour workday and reduced immigration

POPULISTS MAKE GAINS

- In the 1892 Presidential election, the Populist candidate won almost 10% of the vote
- In the West, the party elected 5 senators, 3 governors and 1,500 state legislators






FRED AND PHIL VOTED FOR
THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

Election of 1892

Electoral Vote by State

Popular Vote

DEMOCRATIC* Grover Cleveland	277		5,555,426
REPUBLICAN Benjamin Harrison	145		5,182,690
PEOPLE'S (POPULIST) James B. Weaver	22		1,029,846
MINOR PARTIES	—		285,297
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	444		12,053,259

*Electors classed as Democratic were in many states elected on joint Democratic and People's party tickets.



THE PANIC OF 1893



**THE STOCK MARKET
CRASHED IN 1893**

- **Nationwide economic problems took center stage in America in 1893**
- **Railroads went bankrupt, the stock market lost value, 15,000 businesses and 500 banks collapsed,**
- **3 million people lost their jobs – putting unemployment at 20%**

SILVER OR GOLD?

- **The central issue of the 1896 Presidential campaign was which metal would be the basis of the nation's monetary system**
- **Bimetallism (those who favored using both) vs. those that favored the Gold Standards alone**



BRYAN AND THE “CROSS OF GOLD”



**BRYAN'S CROSS OF GOLD
SPEECH**

- Republicans favored the Gold standard and nominated William McKinley
- Democrats favored Bimetallism and nominated William Jennings Bryan
- Despite Bryan's stirring words, "You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," McKinley won the 1896 election

Election of 1896

Electoral Vote by State		Popular Vote	
REPUBLICAN William McKinley	271	●	7,102,246
DEMOCRATIC William J. Bryan	176	●	6,492,559
MINOR PARTIES	—		315,398
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	447		13,910,203



THE END OF POPULISM

- **With McKinley's election victory, Populism collapsed, burying the hopes of the farmer**
- **Populism left two important legacies: 1) A message that the downtrodden can organize and be heard and 2) An agenda of reforms, many of which would be enacted in the 20th century**



**THE PEOPLE'S PARTY WAS
SHORT-LIVED BUT LEFT AN
IMPORTANT LEGACY**