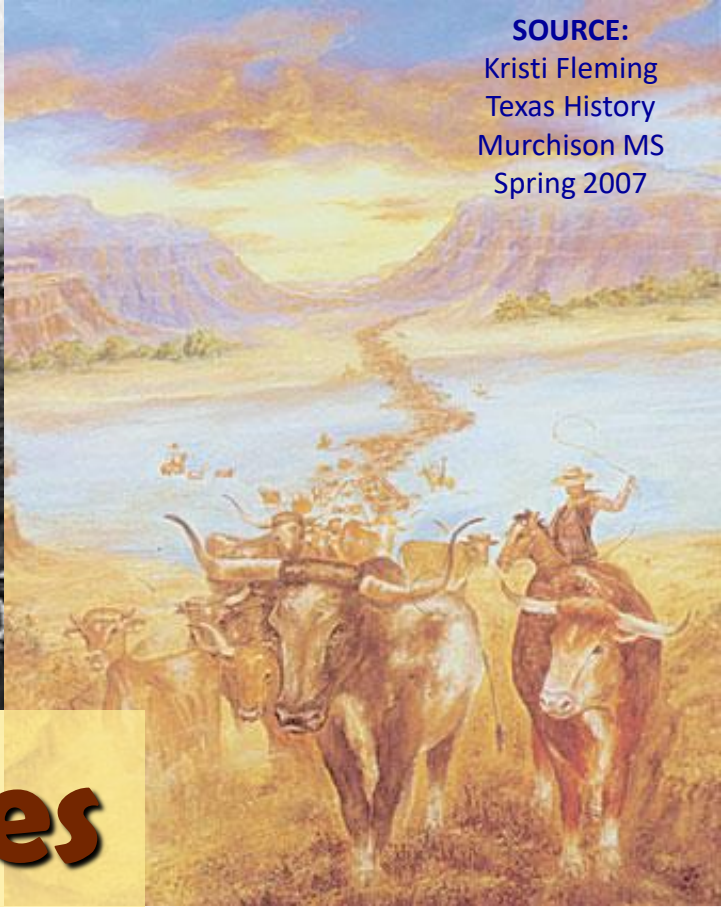
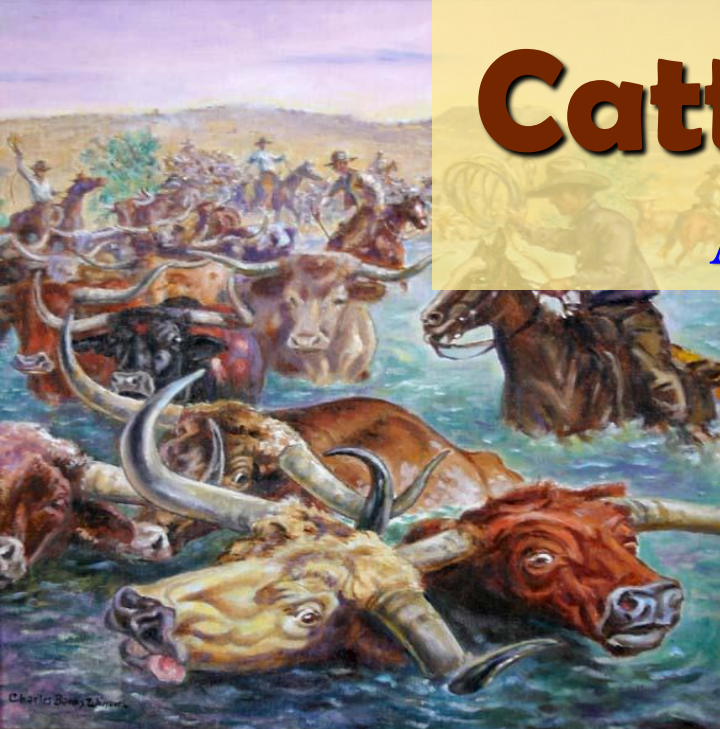


SOURCE:
Kristi Fleming
Texas History
Murchison MS
Spring 2007



Cattle Drives

A Visual History



Beginnings of the Cattle Industry of the 19th Century

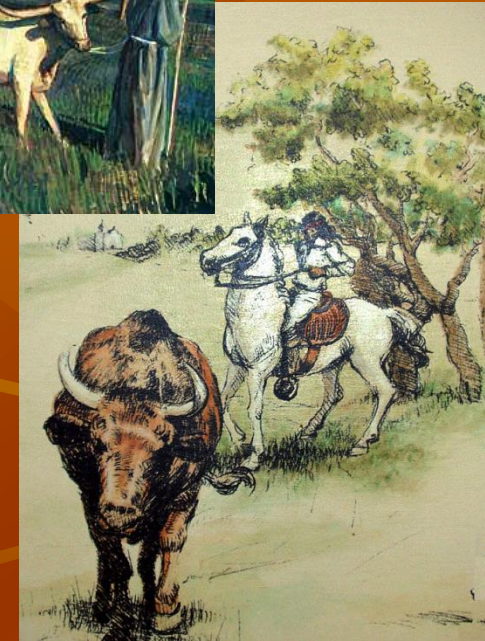
Began with the Spanish in the 1600s...

The Spanish explorers brought the first cattle to Texas in the 1600s. Some of the cattle escaped and roamed throughout parts of Texas. The Spanish missions of the 1600s and 1700s later started raising cattle.



South Texas Cattle “Diamond”

Cattle herds were neglected during the Civil War and barbed wire fences had not yet been invented. They roamed wild on the South Texas Plains during the 1860s and 1870s. Many of these cattle were rounded up and driven to cattle markets and railroads further north. The area in which much of these cattle roamed before they were rounded up is sometimes referred to as the Cattle “Diamond” of Texas.



A native vaquero, or cowboy, tends cattle on the mission ranch. Although most were unbranded and roamed freely, cattle were the lifeblood of the mission, providing meat and hides for the mission residents as well as important commodities for revenue. With up to 40,000 head of cattle at one point, Mission Espiritu Santo was the first large cattle operation in Texas.

What Type of Cattle Were Driven?

Which of these cattle do you think would do best on a 900-mile trip from Texas to the railheads in Kansas? Why?



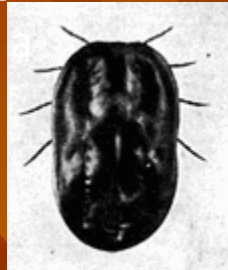
Today's Longhorn



Original Longhorn

The original Texas longhorn was typically smaller and leaner than your typical beef cattle today. Why? Because in the 1880s, we needed cattle that could survive the long walk to the railheads. Today, we have the technology to transport them to the slaughterhouse. Think about the difference between a weightlifter's body and marathon runner's body. If you were a Tonkawa, which one would you rather eat?

Longhorns were a mix of Spanish stock and English cattle. Even though immune to diseases, they carried some cattle diseases to other ranchers outside Texas. The most devastating disease was known as "Texas fever".



Cattle Tick

Why Did Ranchers Start “Driving” Cattle?

It’s all about the money...

The Cattle Business in Texas became profitable after the Civil War for three main reasons...

The High Price of Cattle and the High Demand for Beef in the Northern and Eastern U.S.

The price of cattle in the Southwest was about \$4 a head... the same steer went for \$30 to \$40 a head “up east”.



The Expansion of the Railroads

Railroads in the 1860s and 1870s expanded westward allowing ranchers the opportunity to get their cattle to these markets “up east”. They would drive cattle to railroad towns and put them on the train to the stockyards in Chicago and St. Louis.



Trail Driving was Economical

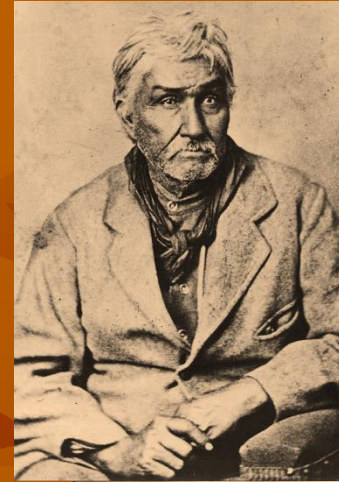
Only 12 cowhands were needed per 2,000 head of cattle at a cost of only \$1.00 a head.



Notable Texas Ranchers

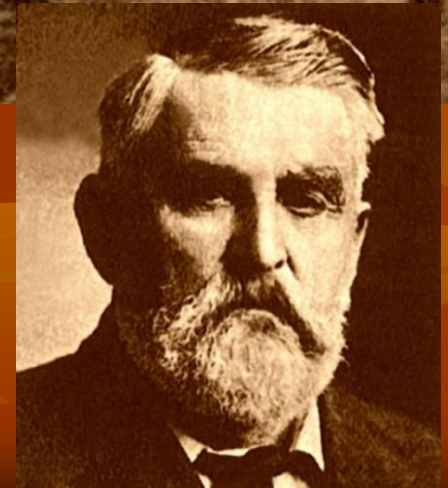
Jesse Chisholm

- **1865—Created the FIRST cattle trail called the Chisholm Trail (from South Texas to Kansas)**
- Indian trader, guide, and interpreter who spoke 14 different Native American languages—interpreted at treaty councils in Texas, Indian Territory, and Kansas.
- While president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston called on him to contact the prairie Indian tribes of West Texas.



Charles Goodnight

- **1865—Created the Goodnight-Loving Trail (from Central Texas to NM, CO and WY)**
- **1866—Legendary ranchman and trail driver invented the chuck wagon for use by his crews.**
- **1876—Founded JA Ranch in the Panhandle at Palo Duro Canyon with partner John Adair.**
- He and his partner, Oliver Loving, blazed a trail from Fort Concho, TX to railheads in Colorado and Wyoming—Loving was killed by the Comanche.



Major Cattle Ranches

Panhandle Ranches (4)

■ JA RANCH

John Adair, Charles Goodnight

■ XIT RANCH

After the Capitol building in Austin burned down in 1881 a group of Chicago investors agreed to fund a new Capitol building for \$3 million in exchange for 3 million acres of land in the Texas Panhandle—this land became the XIT. The name “XIT” apparently has no meaning and was created because its brand was hard to copy.

■ SHOE BAR RANCH

Thomas Bugbee

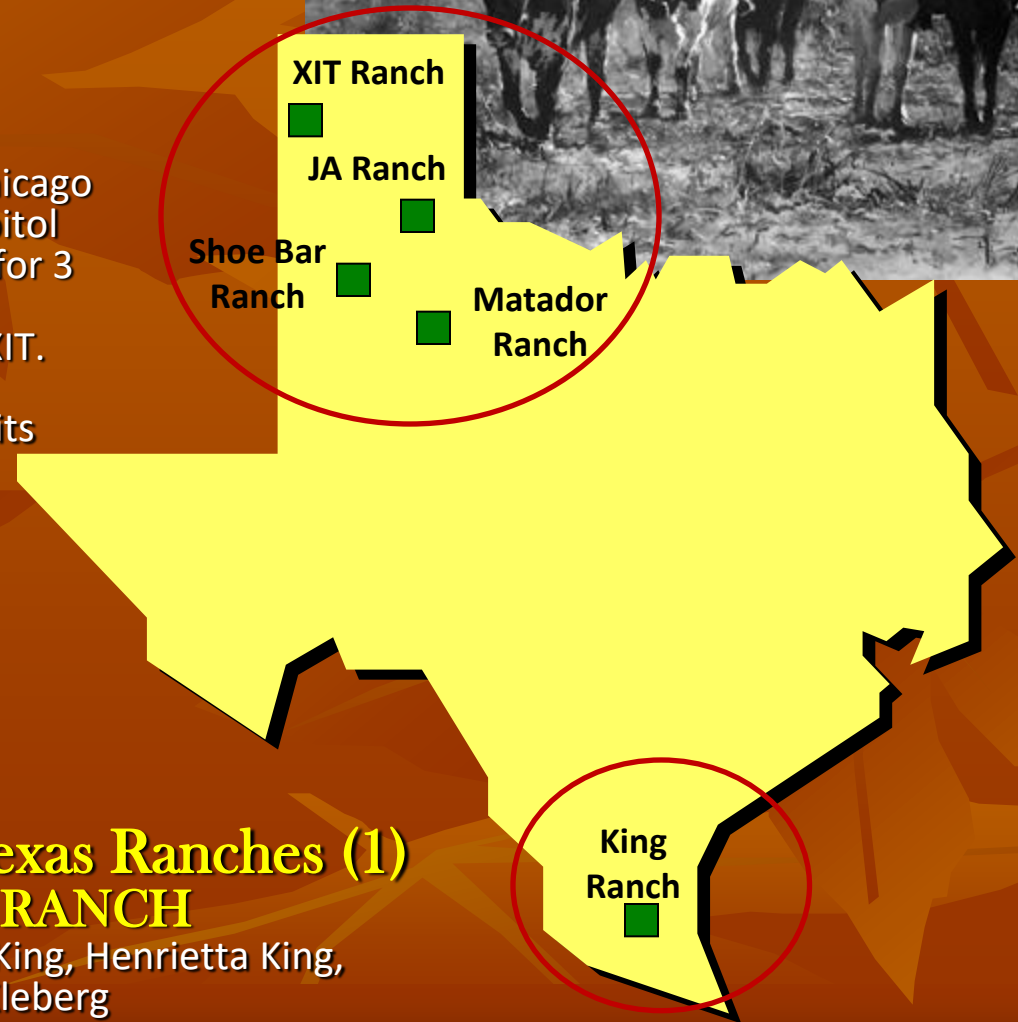
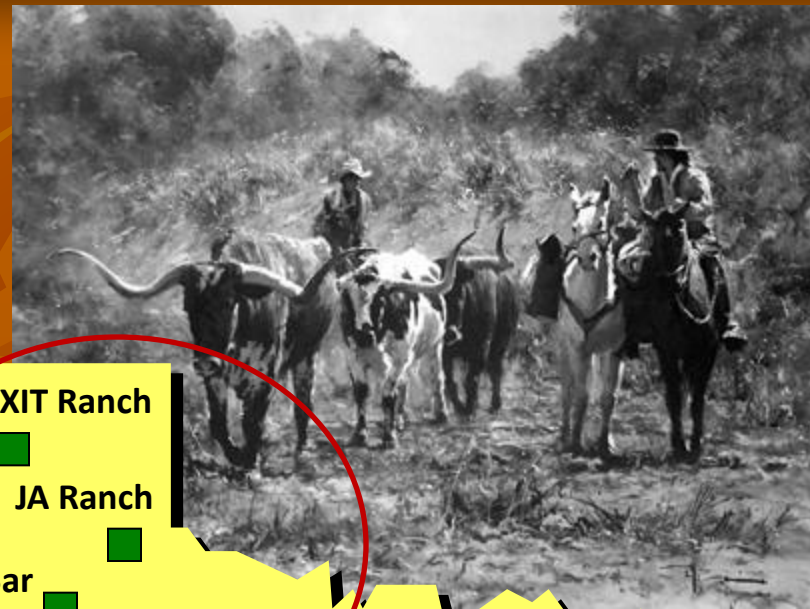
■ MATADOR RANCH

H.H. Campbell and others

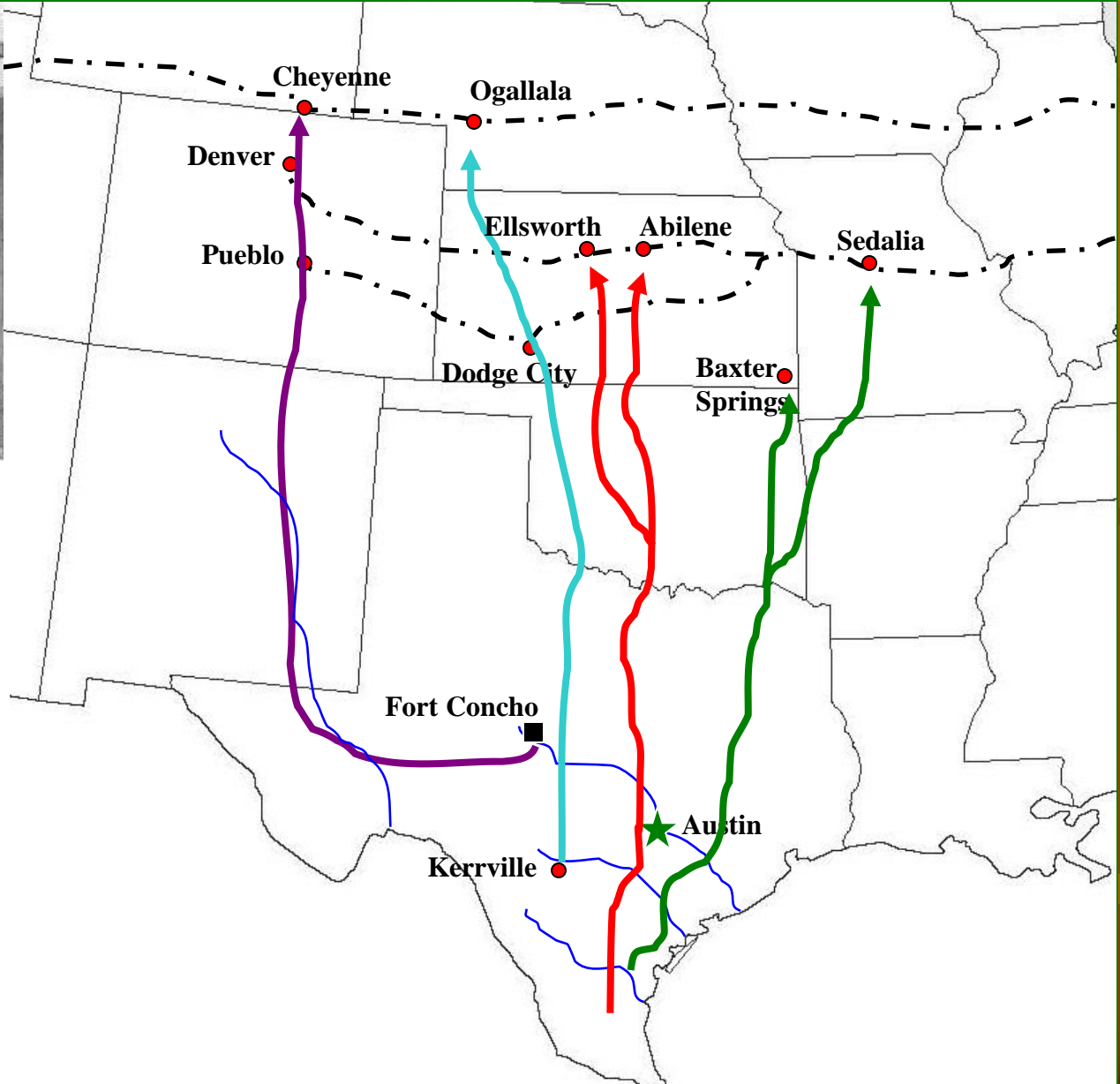
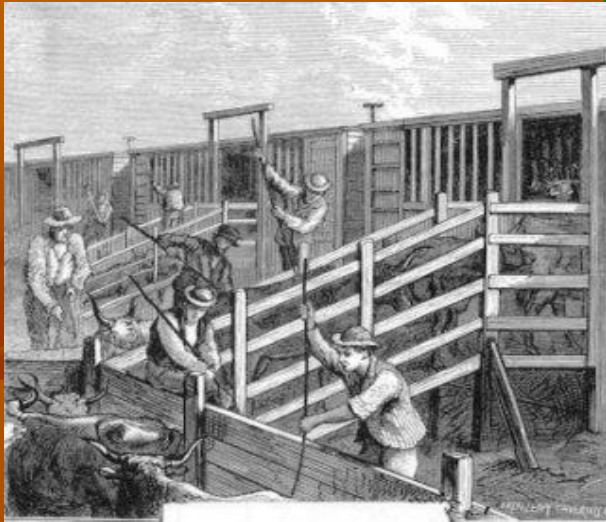
South Texas Ranches (1)

■ KING RANCH

Richard King, Henrietta King, Robert Kleberg



Major Cattle Trails



KEY

Goodnight-Loving Trail 

Great Western Trail 

Chisholm Trail 

Sedalia (Shawnee) Trail 

Towns 

Forts 

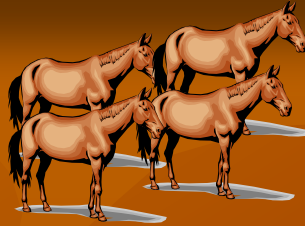
Railroads 

Rivers 

Wrangler



Remuda



Point



Chuck Wagon
(Cook)

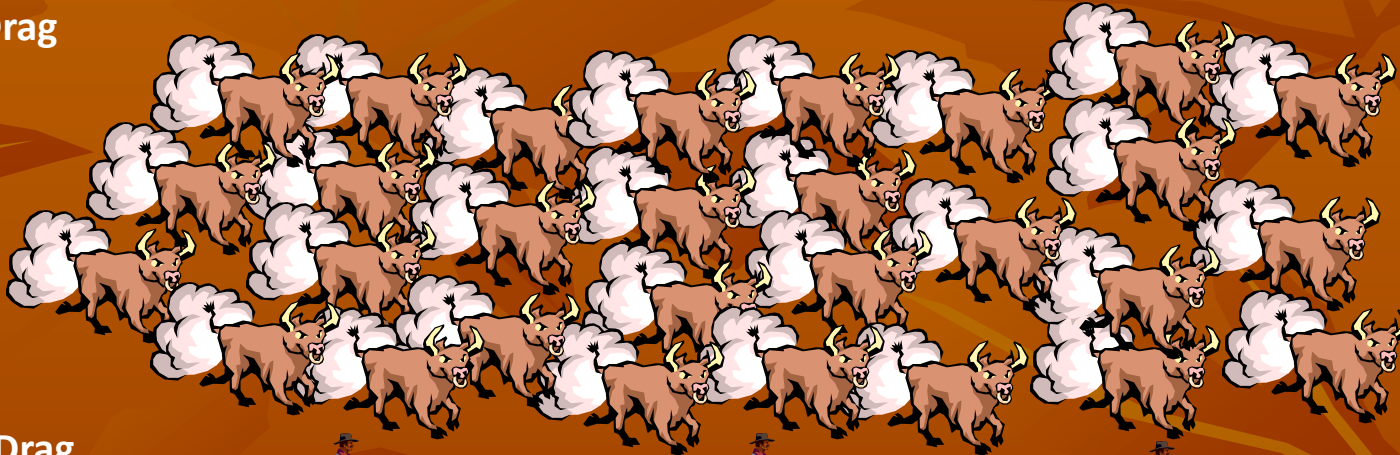
Flank



Swing



Drag



Trail Boss



Drag



Flank



Swing



Point



- **Trail Boss**—most experienced drover and overall leader of the cattle drive; works ahead looking for water, grass and best trail routes
- **Point Riders (Pointers)**—guide the cattle in the desired direction
- **Swing Riders**—assist the Pointers in guiding the cattle and keep herd together
- **Flank Riders**—work at keeping the formation intact at the back of the formation
- **Drag Riders**—least experienced riders in the most undesirable position because of the dust; push the weaker, lagging cattle from slowing the herd down
- **Wranglers**—entry-level position in charge of maintaining the remuda

LIFE ON A CATTLE DRIVE

Typical Formation

The Cattle Drive Crew

Wrangler



Remuda



Chuck Wagon



Flank



Swing



Point



Drag



Drag



Drag



Trail Boss



Flank



Swing



Point



Jobs Along the Cattle Trail

Trail Boss



■ Qualifications

Leadership, Competence, Cooperative, Cool-headed, Resolute, Quick thinker, Previous experience with cattle drives

■ Duties

- Responsible for entire operation (money, cowboys, cattle) while on trail
- Involved in finding water, grass, and good trails for cattle
- Can track different animals across the range; knows the range well
- Keeps peace between cowboys
- Keeps horses and cowboys fed
- Handles money involved with placing orders for supplies and paying appropriate tolls

■ Pay (1890s)– \$90 / month

■ Pay (2010)– \$2156 / month

<http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>



*Zack T. Burkett, LS Foreman,
Overlooking the Canadian River (1907)*

The Cowboy

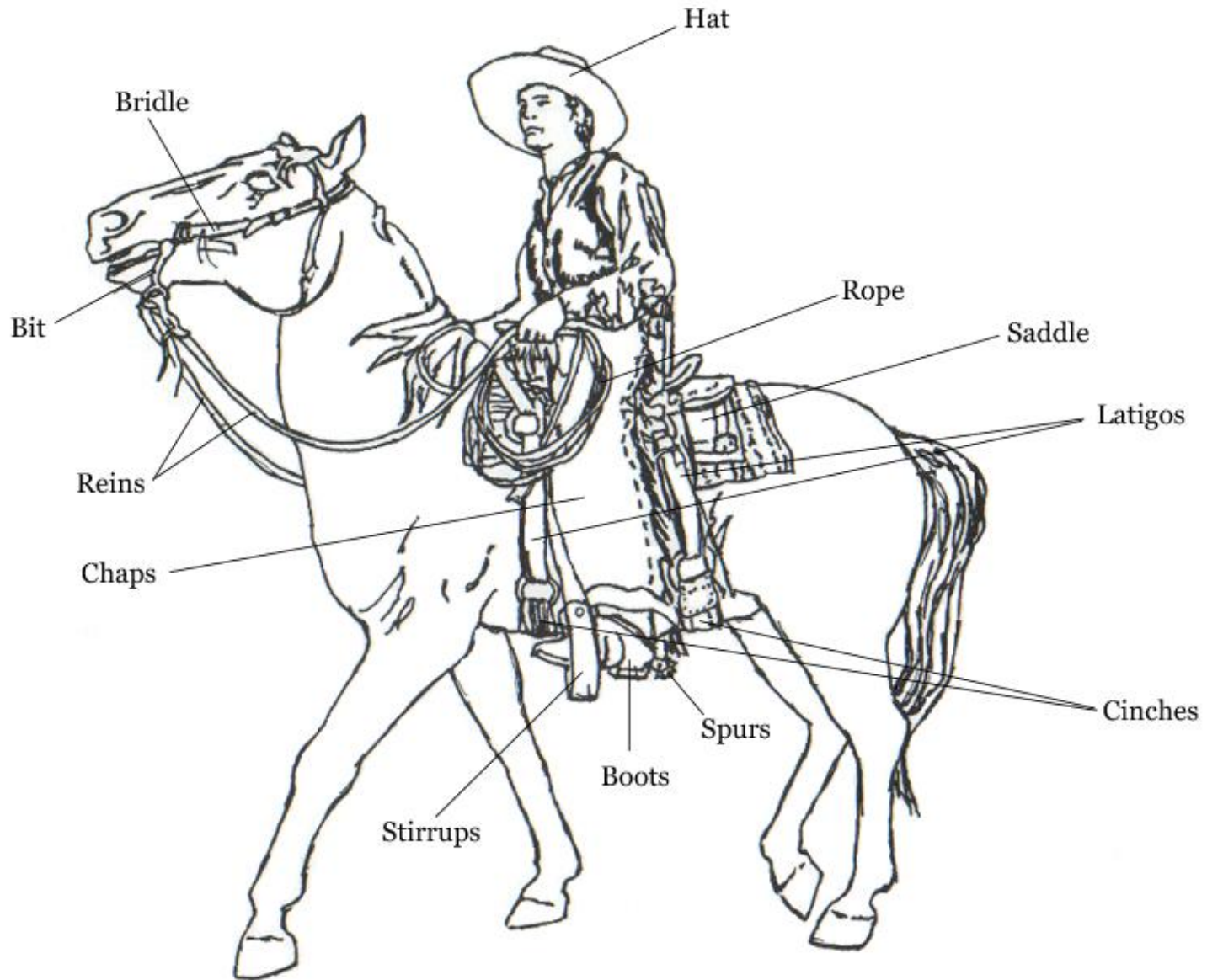


Image generously provided by the Witte Museum, San Antonio.

Chuck Wagon Cook



A JA Cook Inspecting His Stew, *JA Ranch, Texas, 1908*

Legendary ranchman and trail driver Charles Goodnight invented the chuck wagon in 1866 for use by his crews. The chuck wagon, sometimes drawn by oxen, but usually by mules, carried not only food, utensils and a water barrel, but also tools and the crew's bed rolls. A fold-out counter, supported by one or two hinged legs, was used for food preparation. The wagon contained several drawers and shelves, with a "boot" or storage compartment underneath, all covered by a canvas top. The cook served beef and bison steaks, SOB stew (made from calf parts), "chuck wagon chicken" (bacon), "Pecos strawberries" (beans), "sourdough bullets" (biscuits) and cowboy coffee.

The Matador wagon cook [Harry Stewart] making a cobbler. *Matador Ranch, Texas, 1908*



Qualifications

Must know how to drive a wagon, be able to prepare meals with limited resources and serve them on time, some experience and knowledge of medical techniques also necessary

Level of Experience

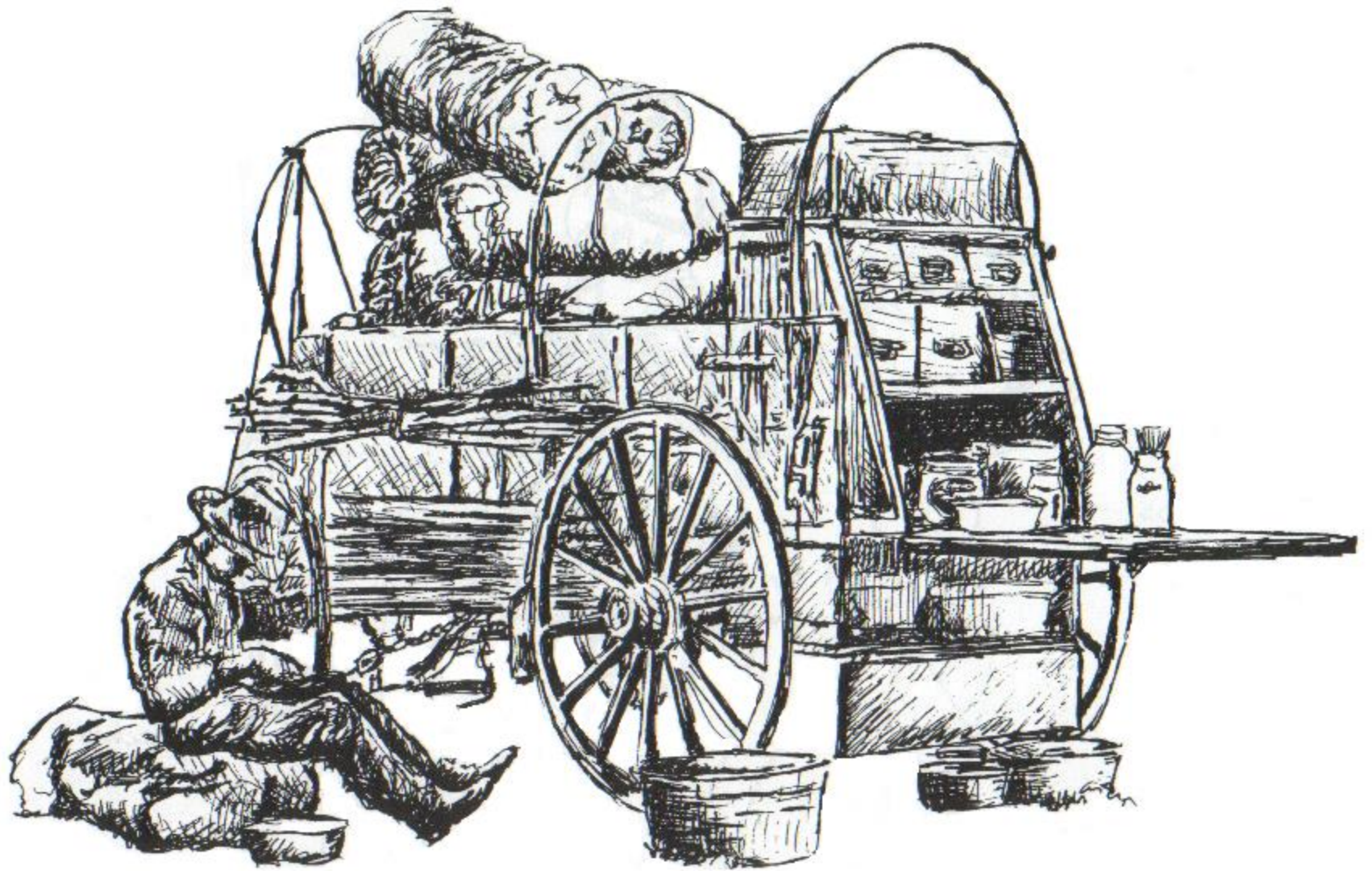
- HIGH; former cowboy who is either too old for the more difficult work or has been hurt

Duties

- Prepares 3 meals a day out of the back of a wagon
- Not expected to assist with any cattle or other trail jobs
- Cooks for the men on the trail
- Moves wagon about two times a day, 10-15 miles each time
- Awakens at 3am and has breakfast ready when the others are awakened
- Pay (1890s)– \$60 / month
- Pay (2010)– \$1440 / month

The Matador outfit having dinner at the chuck wagon. The noon meal is known as "dinner" in the ranch country. *Matador Ranch, Texas., 1908-1909*





The Chuck Wagon

Point Rider

■ Qualifications

Reliable, ability to work in a group with others toward a common goal

■ Level of Experience

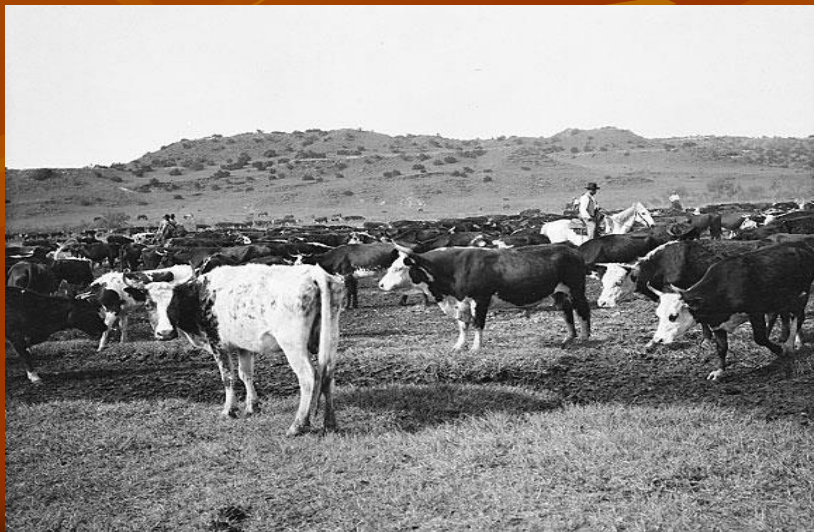
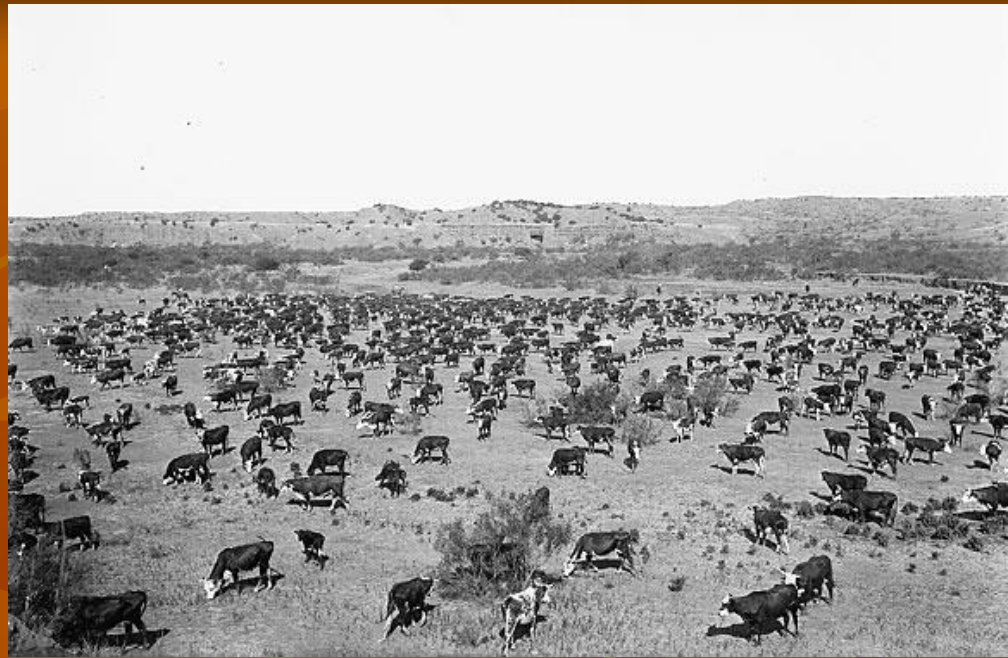
HIGH; most honored post on the drive. These cowboys would determine the direction of the drive.

■ Duties

- Works in groups of two and points the lead steers in the right direction
- Sets the pace for the drive

■ Pay (1890s)– \$30 - \$40 / month

■ Pay (2010)– \$720 - \$960 / month



Swing Rider

■ Qualifications

Must know how to ride a horse, previous experience with trail drives

■ Level of Experience

- Some experience required

■ Duties

- Rides a third of the way back from the front of the herd as it is moving down the trail

■ Pay (1890s)– \$30 - \$40 / month

■ Pay (2010)– \$720 - \$960 / month

Flank Rider

- **Qualifications**
 - Must know how to ride a horse, previous experience with trail drives
- **Level of Experience**
 - Some experience required
- **Duties**
 - “Cuts in” cattle that have gotten out of the herd
 - Rides about 2/3 of the way back from the front of the trail
 - Makes sure that cattle do not wander too far away from the main herd
- **Pay (1890s) - \$30-40/month**
- **Pay (2010) - \$719-958/month**

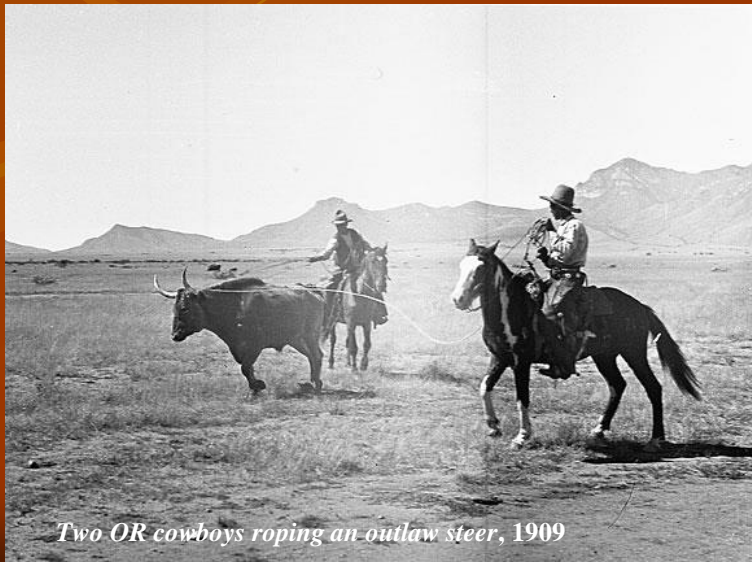


Jack Woffard of the Shoe Bar outfit flanking the trail herd. Shoe Bar Ranch, Texas, 1912



Drag Rider

- **Qualifications**
 - Willing to work hard and endure dust and dirt kicked up by the herd and riders ahead of them
- **Level of Experience**
 - Usually an entry-level position
- **Duties**
 - Rides at the back of the herd on the trail to make sure that beeves, cows, etc. stay with the herd
 - Must be able to “push” these slower cattle forward
- **Pay (1890s) - \$30-40/month**
- **Pay (2010) - \$719-958/month**

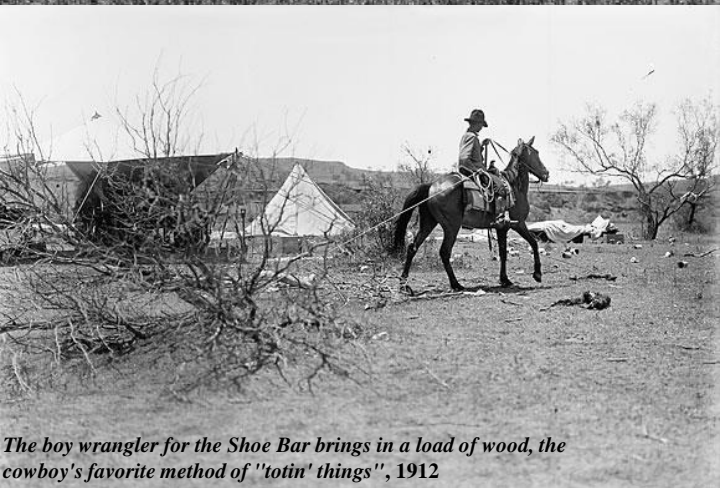


Two OR cowboys roping an outlaw steer, 1909

Wrangler



Erwin E. Smith (1886–1947)
Smearing His Loop on a Wild One [A JA Cowpuncher Making a Houlihan Catch in the Remuda as the Horses Attempt to Dodge His Lariat], JA Ranch, Texas, 1908



The boy wrangler for the Shoe Bar brings in a load of wood, the cowboy's favorite method of 'totin' things', 1912

The wrangler was usually a young boy who worked as an apprentice to learn the ways of a cowhand. His primary responsibility was to care for the remuda (herd of horses). In the morning he rose before the men to round up all the horses that might have wandered away in the night. He had to keep them together until they could be roped for the men to ride. One of the most popular cowboy songs of all time, "Little Joe, the Wrangler," written by Jack Thorp in 1898, told the story of a youngster who worked hard at a "man's job" and died tragically when the herd stampeded during a storm.

Often horses in the remuda would dodge cowhands' attempts to rope them, making rope-handling skills all the more important. In this image, the cowhand is roping his mount for the day, using a smear or houlihan catch. A roper had different throws for different purposes; the smear or houlihan catch is a fast overhand throw with an open loop, rather than a side or spinning throw, which required more room to execute. The houlihan catch is performed quickly and in a tight area.

Qualifications

Willing to learn and work hard

Level of Experience

- **ENTRY-LEVEL POSITION**, generally a young boy who wants to be a cowboy

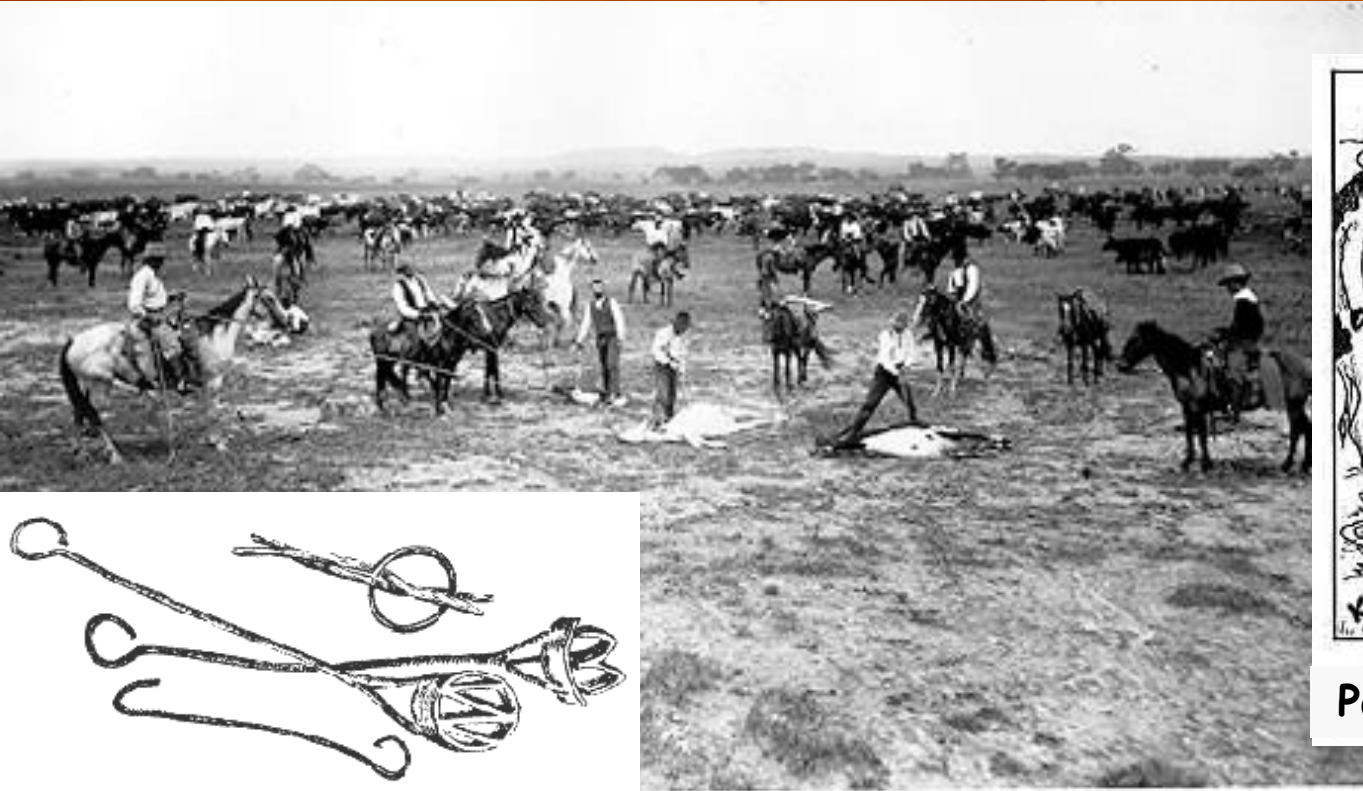
Duties

- **Drives the remuda before the wagon and ahead of the cattle**
- **Rounds the extra horses up and gets them into a rope corral several times during the day**
- **Keeps the horses together and eating grass until it is time for cowboys to change mounts**
- **Makes sure that those ridden hard are given proper food (corn and grass)**
- **Helps cook gather wood and harness the teams of horses**
- **Pay (1890s) - \$25/month**
- **Pay (2008) - \$600/month**



Cattle Branding

Cattle brands were used to mark a rancher's cattle. Each ranch had their own brand that they would register with the county. If someone else tried to sell the cattle, they would be arrested for stealing cattle or "cattle rustling".



Payback time at the ranch

Cowboys branding "mavericks" in the 1880's. This cowboy name for cattle without a brand can be traced to Texas rancher Samuel Maverick, whose habit of neglecting to brand his herd led his neighbors to call an unbranded steer "one of Maverick's."

(Photograph by F. M. Steele)



TRAILS

- Chisholm (1867-1880s)
- Cattle Procurement Area
- Railheads



THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

Cattle Drives | Resources

Cowboy Photographer: Erwin E. Smith | Teaching Guide

http://www.cartermuseum.org/edu_guides/smith/index.htm

Jobs Along the Trail Drive | Amon Carter Museum

http://www.cartermuseum.org/edu_guides/smith/resources/pdfs/activity_jobs_short.pdf

Article: Cattle Drives Started in Earnest After the Civil War

<http://texasalmanac.com/topics/agriculture/cattle-drives-started-earnest-after-civil-war>

Vaqueros and Cowboys | Keep Texas Wild (magazine)

<http://tpwmagazine.com/ktw/media/March-11-vol.3-issue7.pdf>

Videos of the American West | The Wild West (website)

<http://www.thewildwest.org/western-videos>

Article: Cattle Drives and Cowboys / What It Was Really Like

<http://tripsintohistory.com/2012/04/23/cattle-drives-and-cowboys-what-it-was-really-like/>