

The Siren's Song of the West







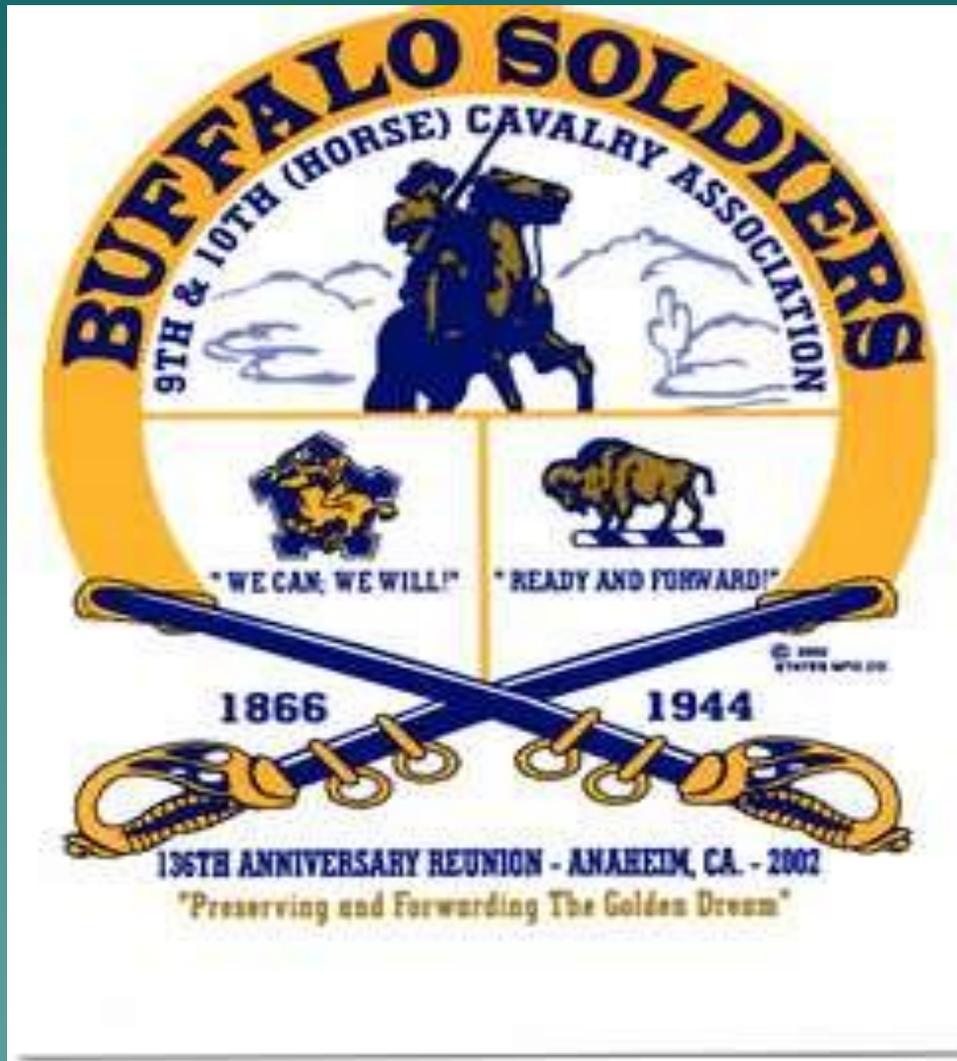




Pioneer family in their dugout house









INDIAN BATTLES (1521-1890)



Indian Battles (1521-1890)

- 1521 - 1700
- 1701 - 1800
- 1801 - 1845
- 1846 - 1890

Original Colonies
States (current)

Map: 2000-0000
Data Source: Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States, Prepared for the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C., 1908
Map 1-2-1-1000

Who went out West?

- Gold & Silver Speculators
 - Cattlemen
 - Farmers
 - Adventure Seekers
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Why did they go?

- Homestead Act
 - 160 Acres for 5 years, farm it
 - many abandon land before 5 years is up....WHY?
 - many bought their own land in spite of Homestead Act....WHY?
 - Timber Culture Act (160 Acres More if planted 40 acres of trees (Johnny Appleseed))
 - Desert Land Act (640 Acres, irrigate, \$1.25/acre)
 - Timber & Stone Act (\$2.50/acre for "personal use")
 - Lots of Fraud

Why did they go?

- Geographic mobility, but limited social mobility
- Very “single” population
- Minorities did most of lower and manual labor (genetic argument). Gives hope to Irish, southern whites, & others to move up social ladder
- Lack of Women (Prostitution)
- Romance of the West
 - Rocky Mountain School of Art
 - The Cowboy Life (Wild West Show, Annie Oakley, Buffalo Bill)
 - Mark Twain
- Turner’s Frontier Thesis
 - Era of American History
 - Social Leveler
 - Spawn of invention and American character

Farmers in the West

- “Seemingly” easier to do than Ranching & Mining
 - Promotion of Land by Government and RR
 - Boomers and Sooners
 - Good Rainfall in 1870’s destroys Great American Desert “Myth”
 - Fencing Problems
 - Why need them?
 - What to make them out of?
 - Joseph Glidden
 - Dry Farming & Irrigation
 - Sod Houses
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Farmers in the West

- Easy Credit vs. Lean Years (\$1.60 to \$0.49 for bushel of wheat)
- Commercialized farming
 - reliant on market, railroad, bank, tariffs, and foreign markets
 - good for standard of living of farmers who could make it work
- Inventions – Tractors (Deere), Reaper/Binder (McCormick), Iron encased wells
- Eventual creation of dams and irrigation techniques
- Mail Order Catalogs (Montgomery Ward, Sears & Roebuck) Who needed them and why?

Mining

- 49'ers and Gold (Chinese immigration, Six Companies, Tong Wars)
 - "Coolies"
 - Chinese Immigration Act 1882
 - Pikes Peak Bonanza (59'ers)
 - Comstock Lode - \$340 million in Gold and mostly Silver
 - Ghost Towns and Anarchy (Vigilantes, Bandits)
 - Technological Advances
 - Women and Rights
 - Statehood
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Ranching

- Long Drive
 - Dime Store Novels (Cowboy Myth & Stereotype)
 - Railroad creates a “Meatmarket” & “Beef Baron’s (Armour & Swift)
 - Growth of Midwestern Cities
 - Cattle towns and Cattle Kingdom (Branding & Mavericks)
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Ranching

- Railroad brings sheep (Range Wars)
 - Mexicans (vaqueros), Blacks, and Chinese in the West
 - Weather
 - Organization of Cattle Industry
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Slaughter House Cases - 1873

- ◆ In 1869, the Louisiana legislature passed a law that allowed the city of New Orleans to create a corporation that centralized all slaughterhouse operations in the city. The stated purpose of the new arrangement was to restrict the dumping of remains and waste in waterways and provide a single place for animals to be kept and slaughtered; critics called it a legal monopoly based on political patronage designed to shut down independent butchers. There were a number of provisions in the act creating the corporation, the pertinent being:
 - ◆ fixed prices for the offloading and maintenance of livestock
 - ◆ fixed prices for butchers who want to use the facilities
 - ◆ a clause describing the process of collecting unpaid money
 - ◆ a provision for a livestock inspector to ascertain animal health and fitness

Slaughter House Cases - 1873

- ◆ Twenty-five butchers and those involved in the unloading, feeding, slaughtering, and other activities associated with converting livestock into food filed various actions attempting to halt the creation of the new corporation and any contemplated changes to the slaughtering business in New Orleans.

The Plight of the Native Americans



Treaties

- Poor management on both sides
- U.S. would break based on need (gold, railroad, etc...)
- Indians would not recognize treaty if not from family



Indian Wars & Massacres

- Sand Creek – 450 women & children killed
- Black Hills
- Little Big Horn – 264 troops killed
- Nez Perce & Chief Joseph – 1,300 mile chase
- Apache & Geronimo
- Buffalo Soldiers

Impact of the Railroad

- Cut off hunting trails
- Kill off Buffalo
 - kill for fun, sport, boredom, pay, feed RR workers
 - Indians need Buffalo....WHY?



Sympathy

- Helen Hunt Jackson – *A Century of Dishonor*
- Convert – Outlaw Sundance (Wounded Knee Massacre)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Boomers & Sooners
 - Corruption (Indian Ring)
- Teach Indians way of White Man
 - Carlisle Indian School
 - Americanization

Dawes Act

- Gives Indians 160 acres for 25 years.
- Must farm it
- Become citizens after 25 years is up
- All other land is being allotted for RR

