

# Economic Development of the West in the Late Nineteenth Century

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## An Online Professional Development Seminar



**Sponsored by the Library of Congress  
Teaching with Primary Sources  
Eastern Region Program,  
coordinated by Waynesburg University.**

**AMERICA *in* CLASS<sup>®</sup>**

*from the* National Humanities Center

## GOALS

- To explore the forces behind the settlement and integration of the West after the Civil War.
- To consider in turn how the West influenced the nation and reflected the forces creating modern America.

## GOALS

To provide background and context for material from three  
Library of Congress Collections

### **American Memory Timeline:**

- **The American West, 1865-1900**
- **Railroads in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

### **Primary Resource Set**

### **Westward Expansion:**

### **Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads**

(Links on seminar webpage)

- What role did railroads play in the development of the West?
- Which force motivated western expansion more, the nation's desire for resources or the cultural and civilizing imperatives of Manifest Destiny?
- What forces inhibited western expansion in the 1850s?
- Was Congress able to pass the Homestead Act in 1862 only because the South was not represented?

- What role did the influx of immigrants after the Civil War play on western settlement?
- What impact did the advent of cattle production have on the West and on cities to the east?
- How accurate were Turner's ideas about the closing of the frontier and the West's role as a "safety valve" for the eastern half of the U.S.?
- Did many Freeman/African Americans move West after the Civil War?

## Elliott West



Alumni Distinguished Professor of History  
University of Arkansas

Research focuses on the American West  
and the American Indian

*The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story* (2009)

*The Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the  
Rush to Colorado* (1994)

[Winner of five awards including the  
Francis Parkman Prize and PEN Center Award]

*The Way to the West: Essays on the Central Plains* (1995)  
[Winner of the Western Heritage Award]

*Growing Up With the Country: Childhood on the  
Far-Western Frontier* (1989)

Expansion to the Pacific (1845-1848) played as significant a role as the Civil War in transforming America. Following the Civil War, the new West was integrated into the nation with remarkable speed.

Especially important were three factors—

- the encouragement of an expanded and more powerful federal government,
- the role of new powerful and wealthy corporations, and
- the advantages of a technological revolution in transportation and communication.

Many of the romanticized episodes of western history, such as the cattle kingdom and the mining frontier, in fact are best understood as Gilded Age businesses and examples of industrialization.

As it was being settled and integrated into the nation, the West was also becoming part of a distinctive American myth reflecting prominent values of the day.

**“An Act to secure Homesteads to  
actual Settlers on the Public Domain”**

# Economic Development of the West

Application } Homestead  
No. 1. } Land Office  
Brownville, N.D. January 1<sup>st</sup> 1888

I Daniel Freeman of Yago County, Nebraska Territory do hereby apply to enter under the provisions of the act of Congress approved May 20<sup>th</sup> 1862 entitled, an act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain the South half of N. 26 1/4 & S. 26 1/4 of W. 1/4 & S. 1/4 of W. 1/4 Sec. 26 in Township 4<sup>th</sup> N. in Range 5<sup>th</sup> E. East containing 160 acres Having filed my Declaration Reclamation thereon on the Eighth day of September 1882

Daniel Freeman

Land office at:  
Brownville, N.D. January 1<sup>st</sup> 1888

I Richard F. Barrett, Register of the Land office do hereby certify that the above application is for land of the Class which the applicant is legally entitled to enter under the Homestead act of May 20<sup>th</sup> 1862 and that there is no prior valid adverse right to the same

Richard F. Barrett,  
Register



PROOF REQUIRED UNDER HOMESTEAD ACTS MAY 20, 1862, AND JUNE 21, 1860.

WE, Joseph Grafton Samuel Kitzpatrick do solemnly swear that we have known Daniel Freeman for ten years last past; that he is the head of a family consisting of one wife and two children and is a citizen of the United States; that he is an inhabitant of the W. 1/4 of N. 26 1/4 of S. 26 1/4 of W. 1/4 of section No. 26 in Township No. 4 N. of Range No. 5 E. and that no other person resided upon the said land entitled to the right of Homestead or Pre-emption.

That the said Daniel Freeman entered upon and made settlement on said land on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1882, and has built a house thereon four feet high, four feet wide, 12 feet long, with two doors, 12 feet wide, three feet high, roof board floor and 50 comfortable beds to live in.

and has lived in the said house and made it his exclusive home from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1882 to the present time, and that he has since said settlement ploughed, fenced, and cultivated about 35 acres of said land, and has made the following improvements thereon, to wit: built a stable, a sheep shed, 100 feet long, corn crib, and has 40 apple and about 400 peach trees set out.

Witness my hand and seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1888.

Joseph Grafton Samuel Kitzpatrick

I, Henry M. Atkinson, do hereby certify that the above affidavit was taken and subscribed before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1888.

Henry M. Atkinson  
Register

We certify that Joseph Grafton Samuel Kitzpatrick whose name are subscribed to the foregoing affidavit, are persons of respectability.

Henry M. Atkinson, Register  
John Carson, Notary

“We moved into a dugout. It is a nasty, dark place...I am awful homesick.” [March 15, 1871]

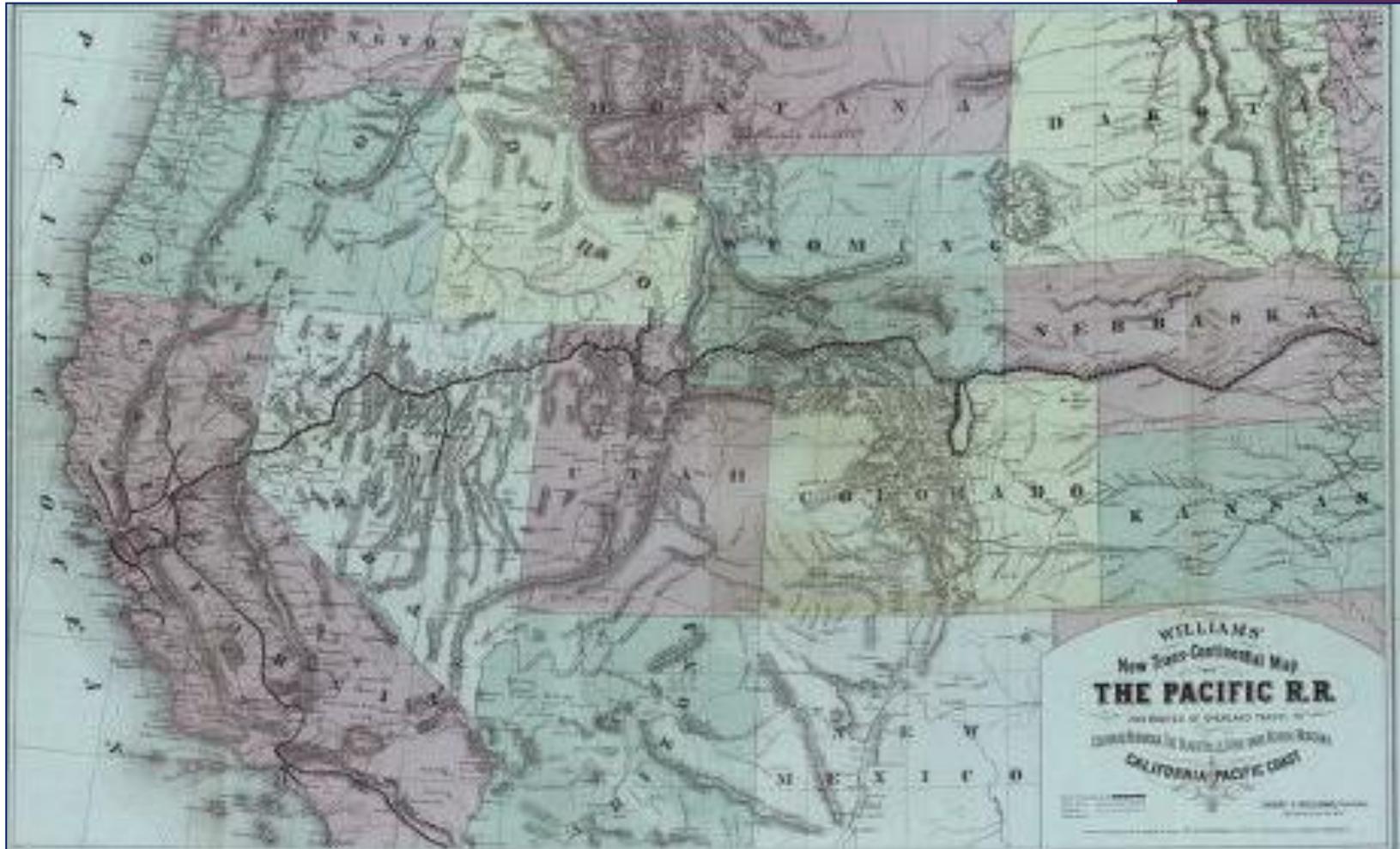
“This morning we saw 6 buffaloes coming down to the river.... Louie shot 5 times. How they did run!” [April 9, 1871]

“Louie and I went to water his horses. I rode one and he the other. Then Gena rode one back. It was fun.” [July 1, 1871]

“Standing, as I do to-day, in the centre of the great Republic of North America, and by consequence in the centre of the world, it were no great stretch of fancy to imagine that we feel the eternal currents of the trade winds; that we hear the restless roar of the Ocean tides; or, that we can behold the grand procession of the centuries. We do behold, in reality, the progression of the noblest and the grandest work mankind has ever seen—the Union Pacific Railway—a work of untold benefit to our country and the world.”

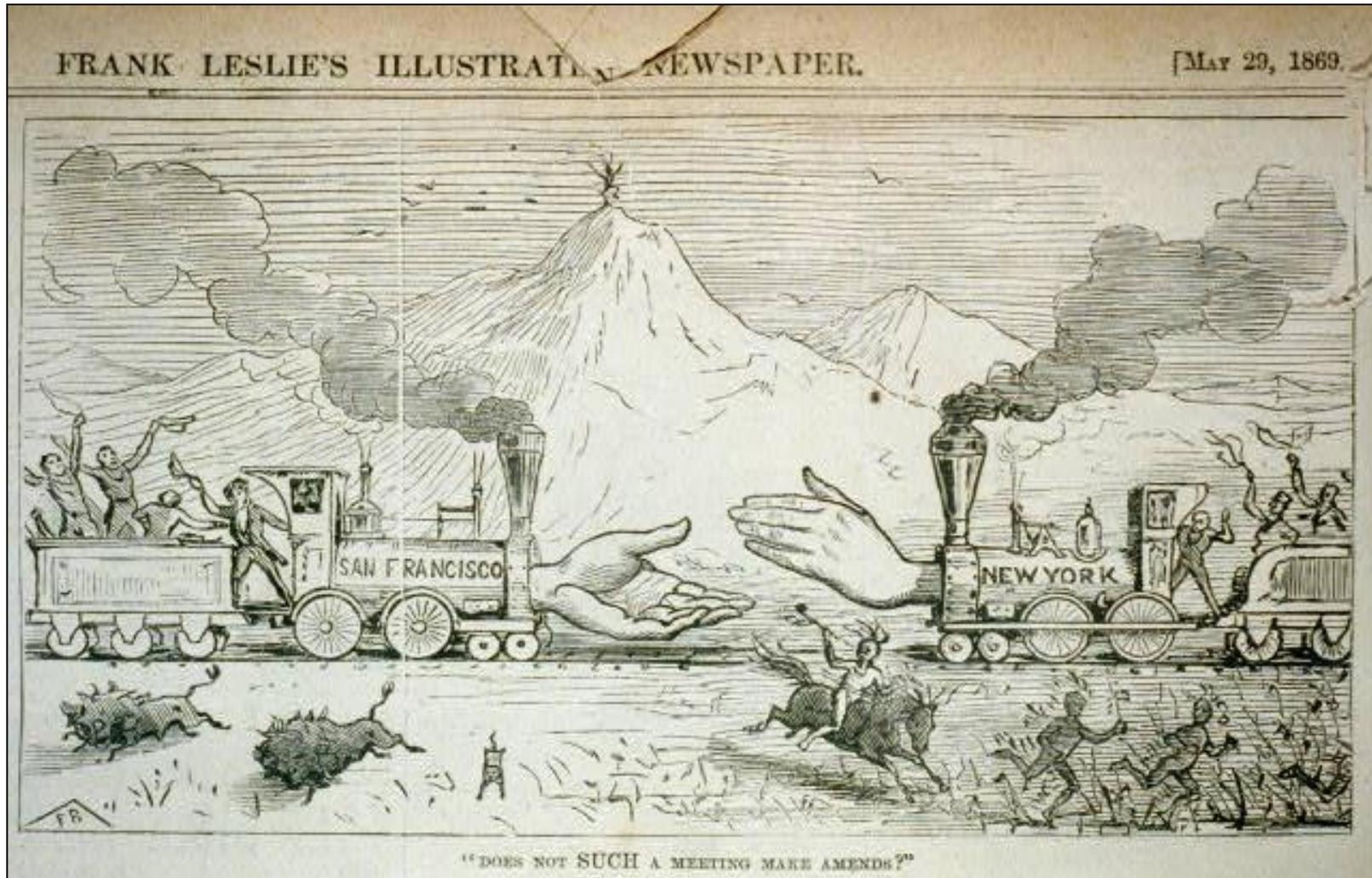
—Speech of Honorary C. D. Hubbard, West Virginia

New trans-continental map of the Pacific R.R. and routes of overland travel to Colorado, Nebraska, the Black Hills, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, California and the Pacific Coast.



Map of the western United States showing relief by hachures, drainage, cities and towns, stage routes, railroads completed and projected. Main lines in heavy black.  
From the Library of Congress, Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads

# Economic Development of the West



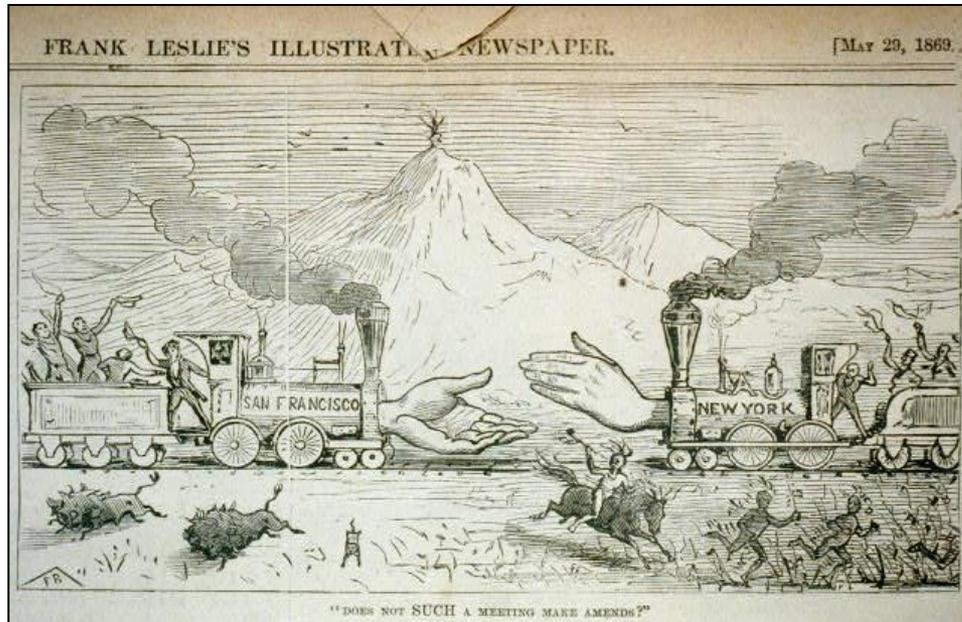
“Does not SUCH a meeting make amends?” May 29, 1869

**“American Progress” by George A. Crofutt, c. 1873.  
After 1872 painting of the same title by John Gast.**



From the Library of Congress, Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads

# Economic Development of the West

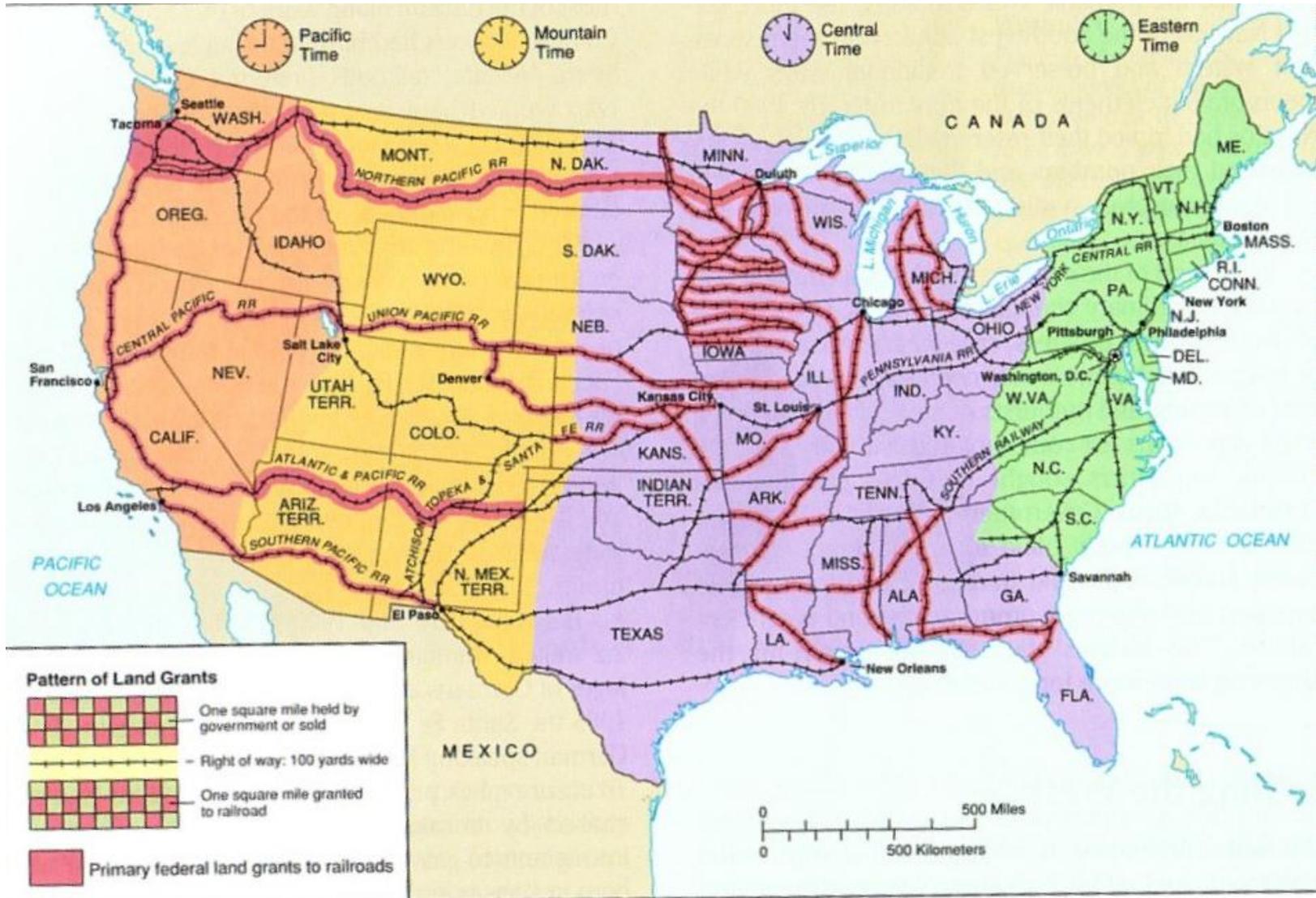


“Does not SUCH a meeting make amends?”  
May 29, 1869



“American Progress”

# Pattern of Land Grants



## Land Distribution: Homesteads v. Railroads

Land “proved up” under Homestead Act, 1862-1880:  
19,265,000 acres

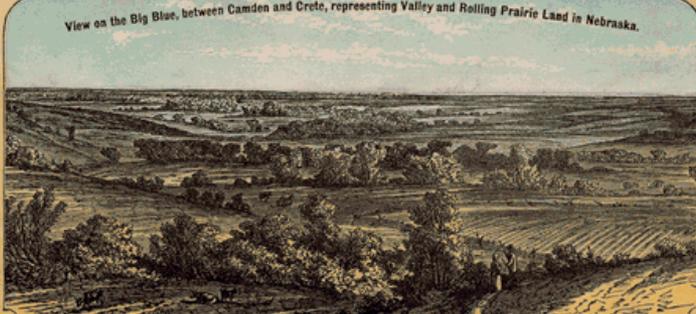
Land granted to railroads, 1862-1880:  
127,000,000 acres

# Economic Development of the West

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

**MILLIONS OF ACRES**

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



**IOWA AND NEBRASKA**

**LANDS**

FOR SALE ON **10 YEARS CREDIT**

BY THE **Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.**

**AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.**

Only One-Seventh of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.  
20 PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRICE, FOR CASH.

**LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD**  
and Cost allowed in First Interest paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.  
Thus our Land Buyers GET A FREE PASS in the State where the Land bought is located.  
These TERMS are BETTER at \$5. than to pre-empt United States Land at \$2.50 per Acre.  
EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS on FREIGHT and PASSAGE are AFFORDED TO PURCHASERS and THEIR FAMILIES.

Address **GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,**  
or **T. H. LEAVITT, Ass't Land Comm'r, Burlington, Iowa.**

Or apply to

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

CIRCULARS are supplied GRATIS for distribution in ORGANIZING COLONIES and to induce individuals to emigrate WEST.

A SECTIONAL MAP, showing exact location of our IOWA LANDS is sold for 30 Cents, and of NEBRASKA LANDS for 30 Cents.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER PRINTING HOUSE, BUFFALO, N. Y.

Millions of acres. Iowa and Nebraska. Land for sale on 10 years credit by the Burlington & Missouri River R. R. Co. at 6 per ct interest and low prices ... Buffalo. N. Y. Commercial advertiser printing house [n. d.].

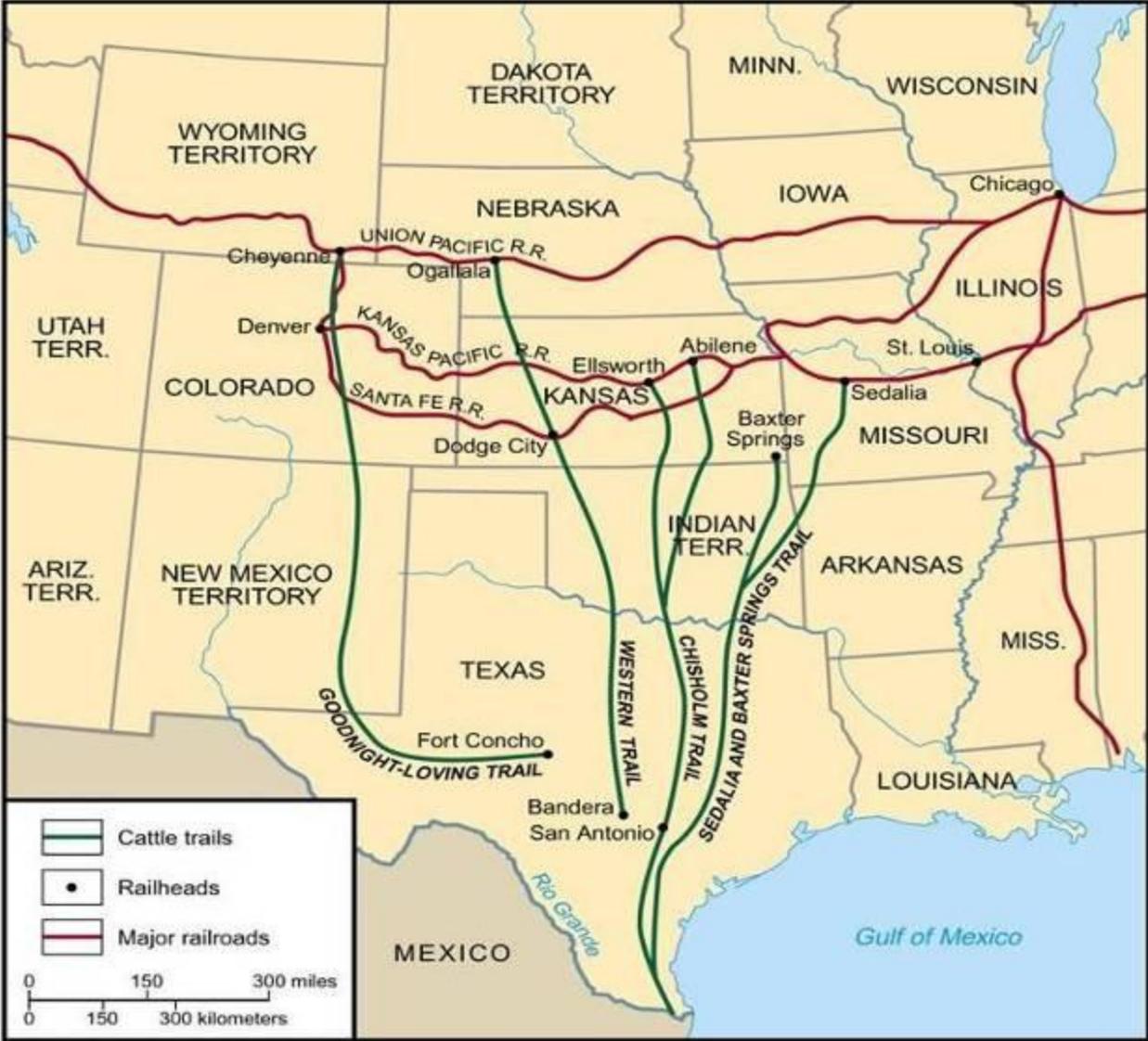
View on the Big Blue, between Camden and Crete, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.

From the Library of Congress, American Memory Timeline, Railroads in the Late 19th Century.

“This young man conceived the idea of opening up an outlet for Texan cattle....Realizing the great disparity of Texas values and Northern prices of cattle, he set himself to thinking and studying to hit upon some plan whereby these great extremes would be equalized.”

—Joseph G. McCoy

# Cattle Trails

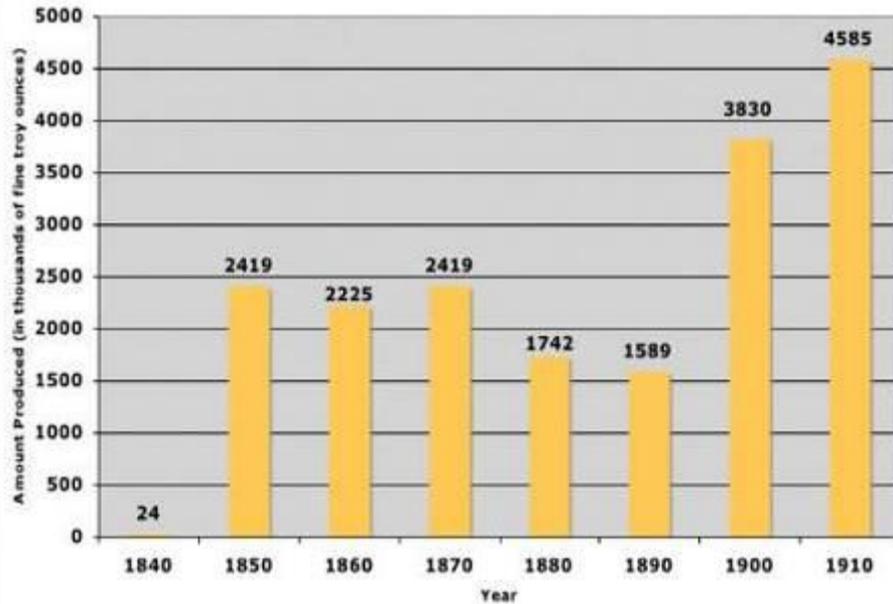


“The range life didn’t stack up to home life, with a good bed to bunk in and a mother to fuss over fixing the chuck...but the work got into my blood and I couldn’t leave it. I stayed with the cattle and hoss business so long as I was able to work.”

—George Martin

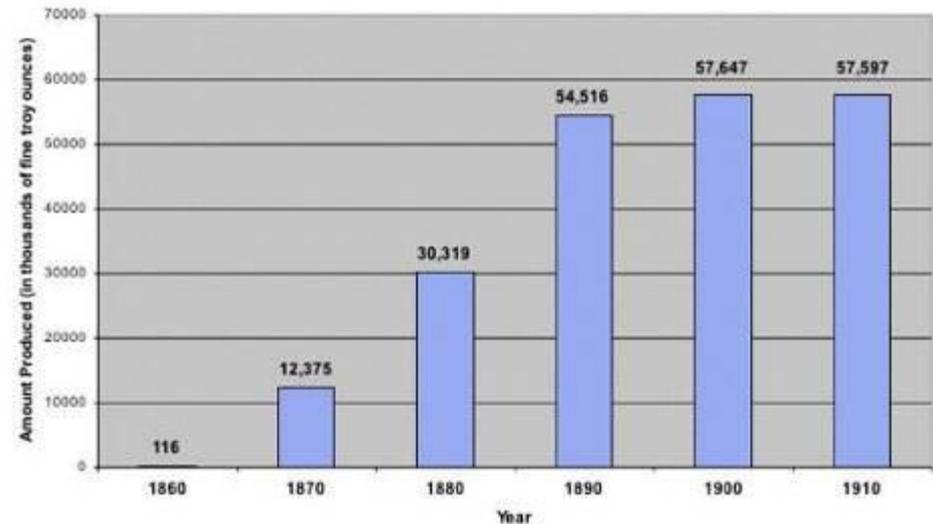
# U.S. Gold and Silver Production

### U.S. Gold Production, 1840-1910

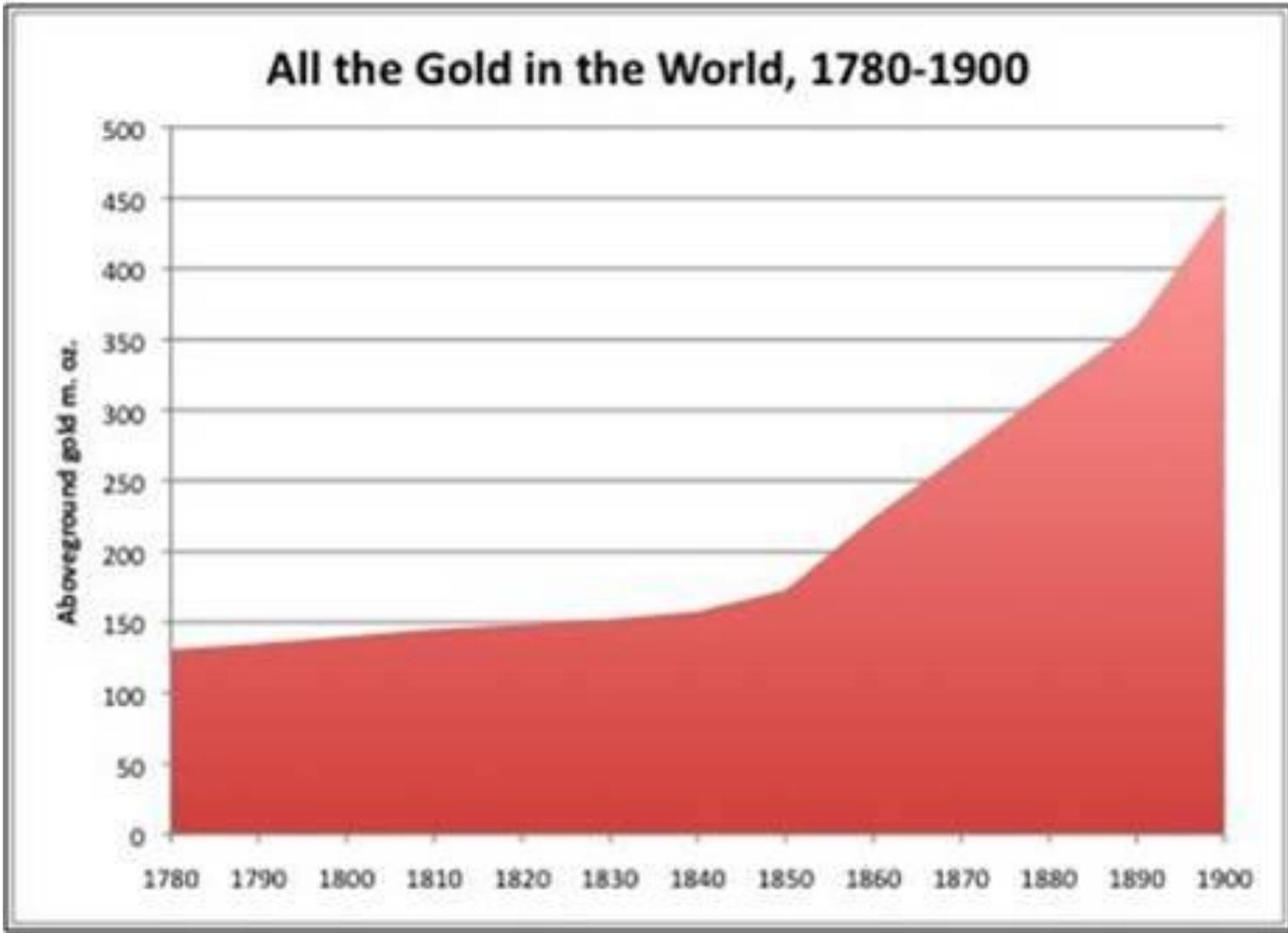


### U.S. Silver Production, 1860-1910

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States



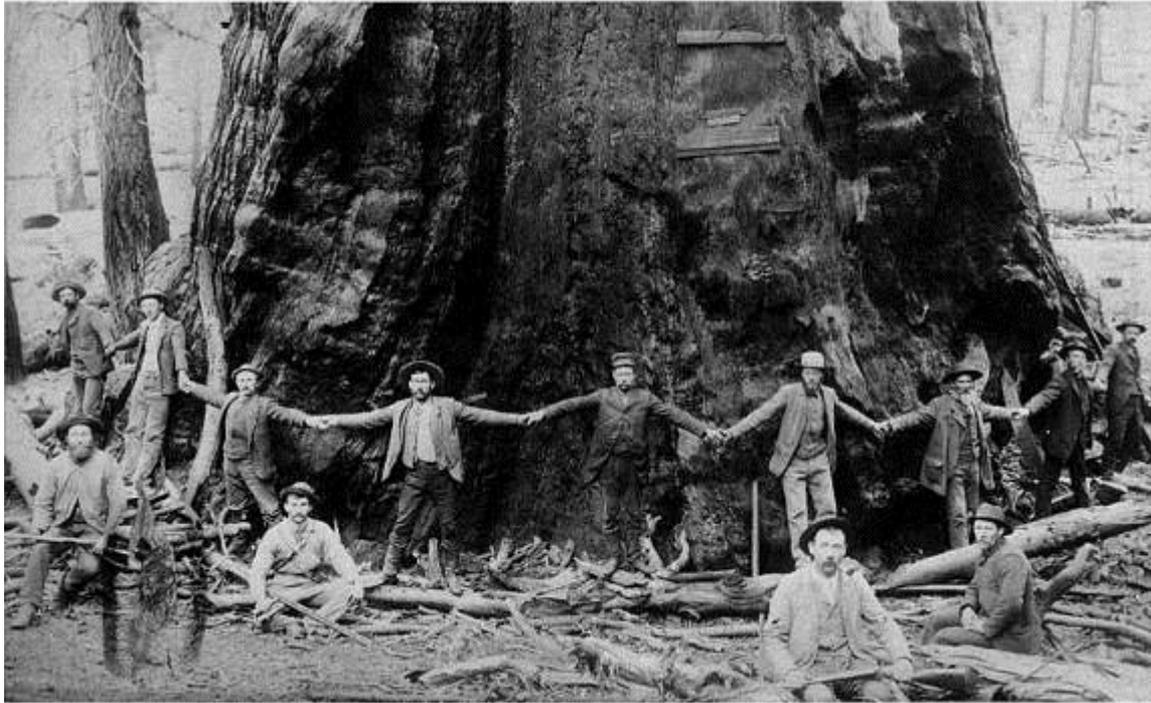
# All the Gold in the World, 1780-1900

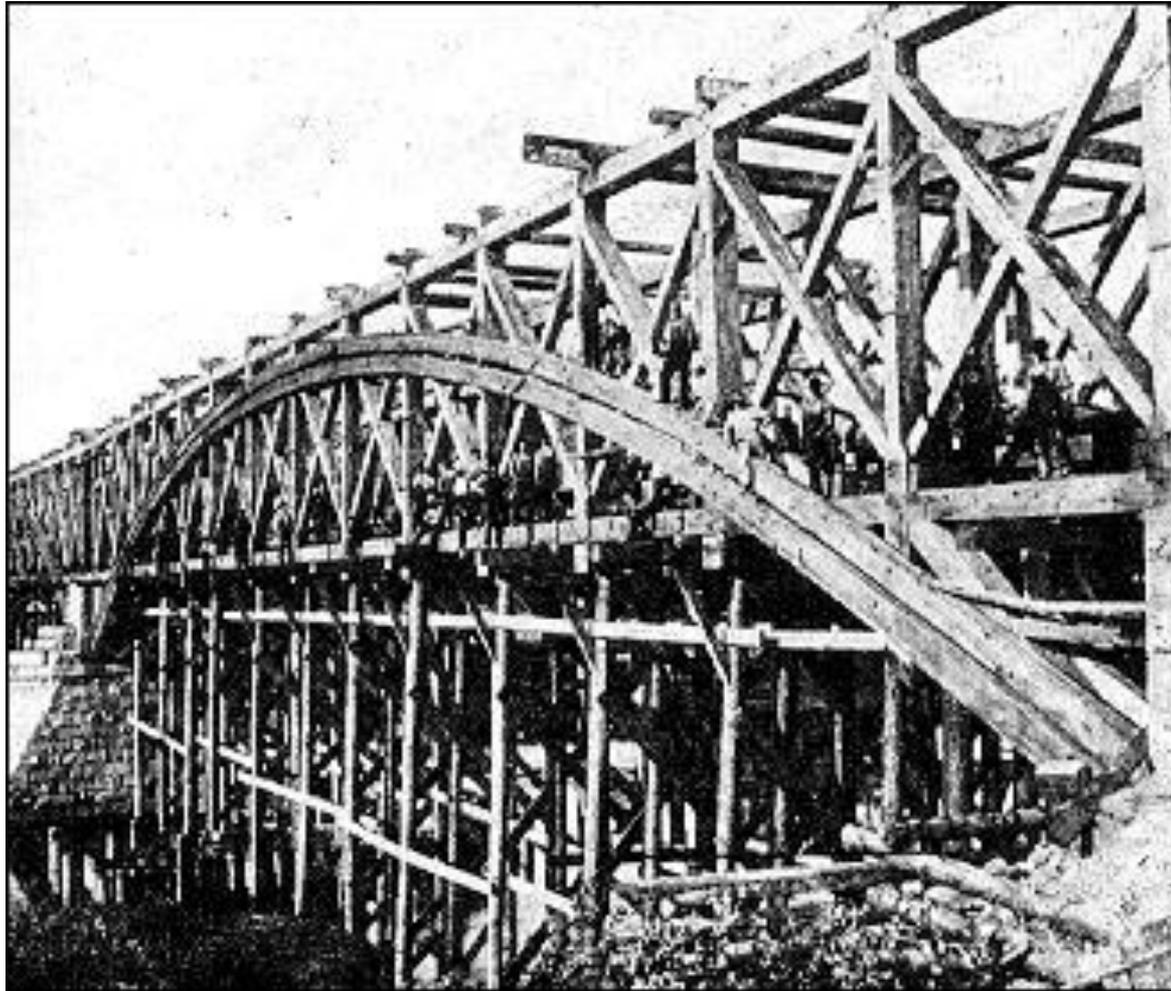


# World Copper Deposits



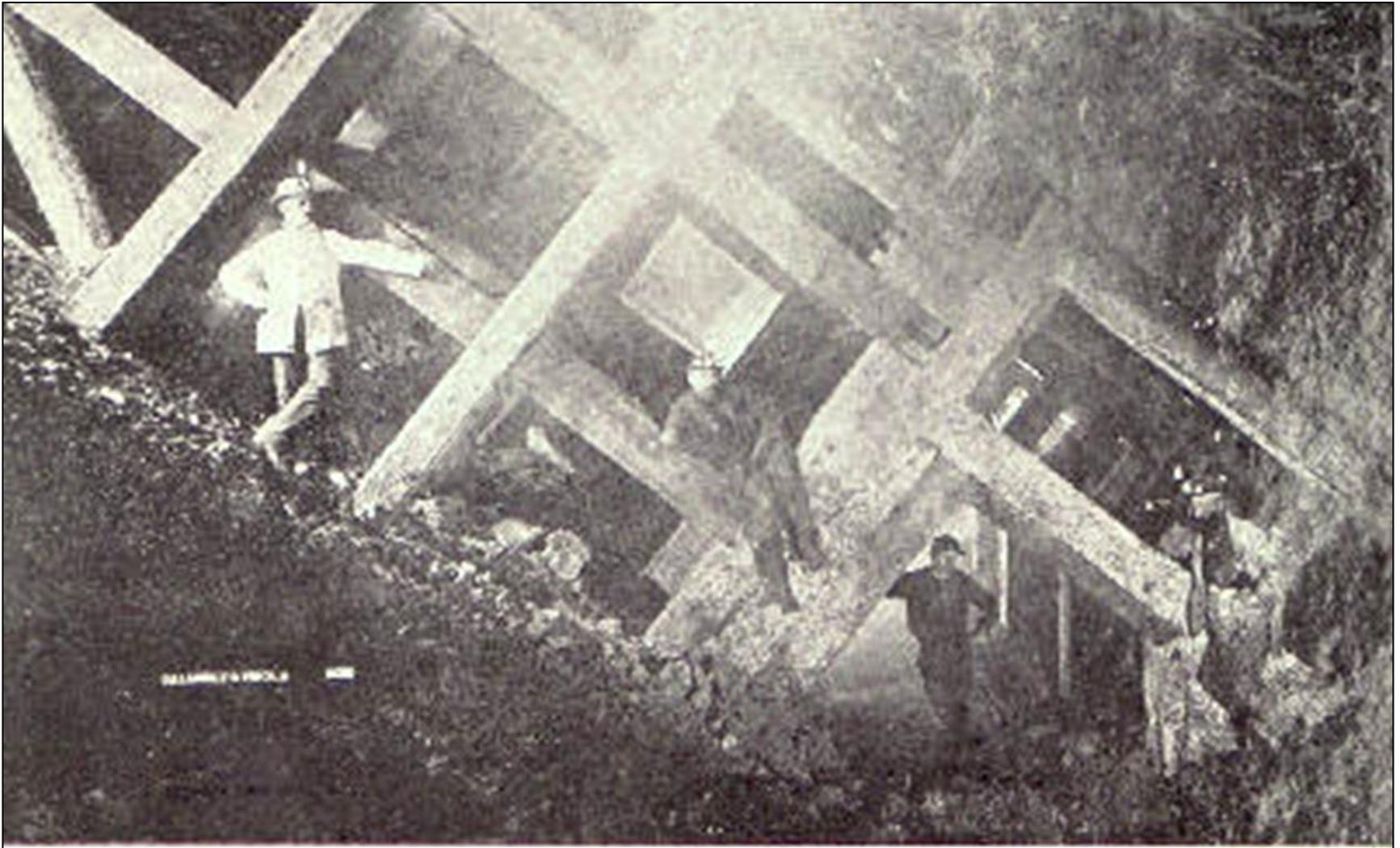
# Economic Development of the West



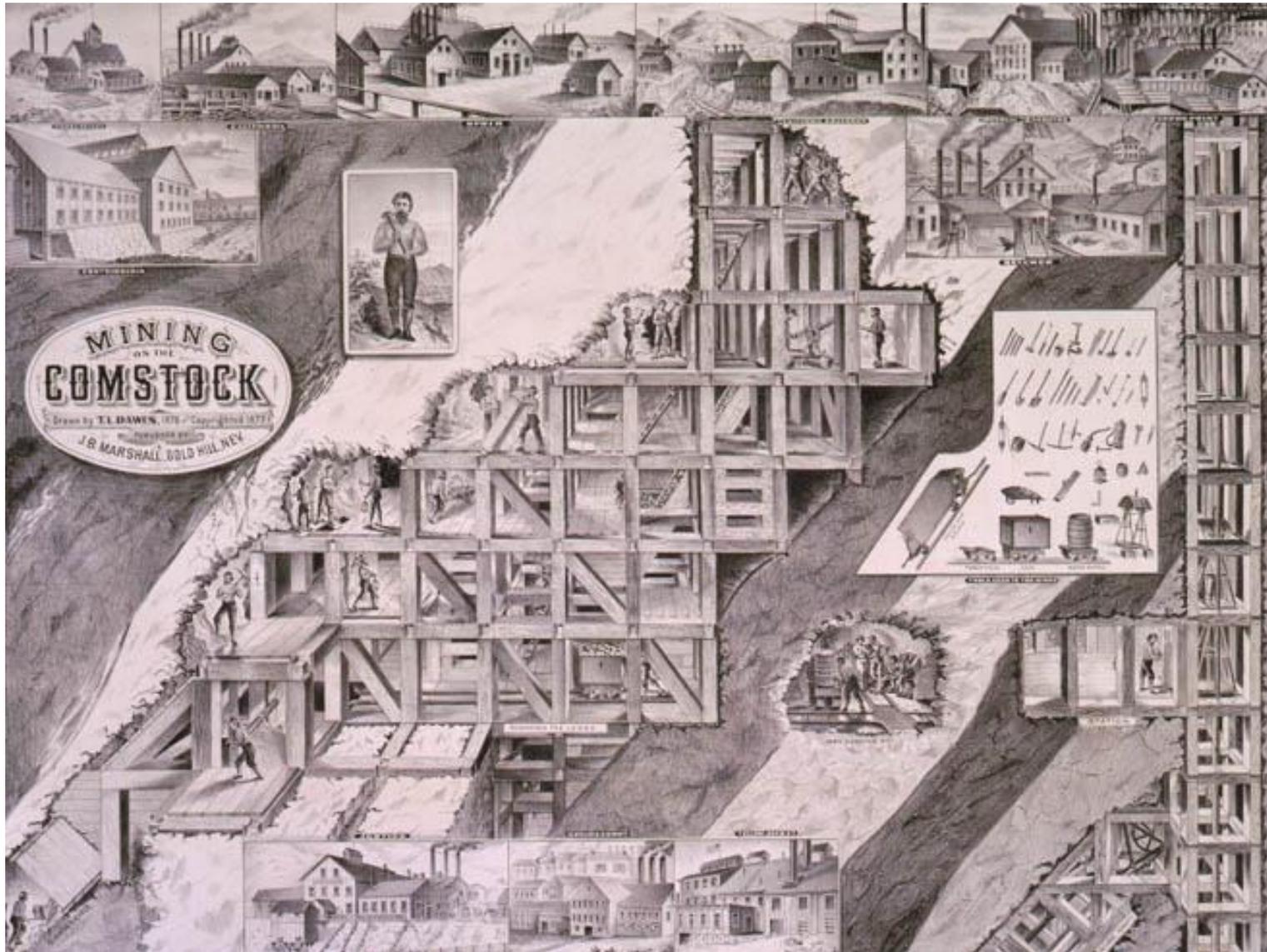


Railroad bridge over the White River in Vermont, 1848.

# Economic Development of the West



# Square-set timbering



# Hydraulic Mining



# Economic Development of the West



# Water Cannon

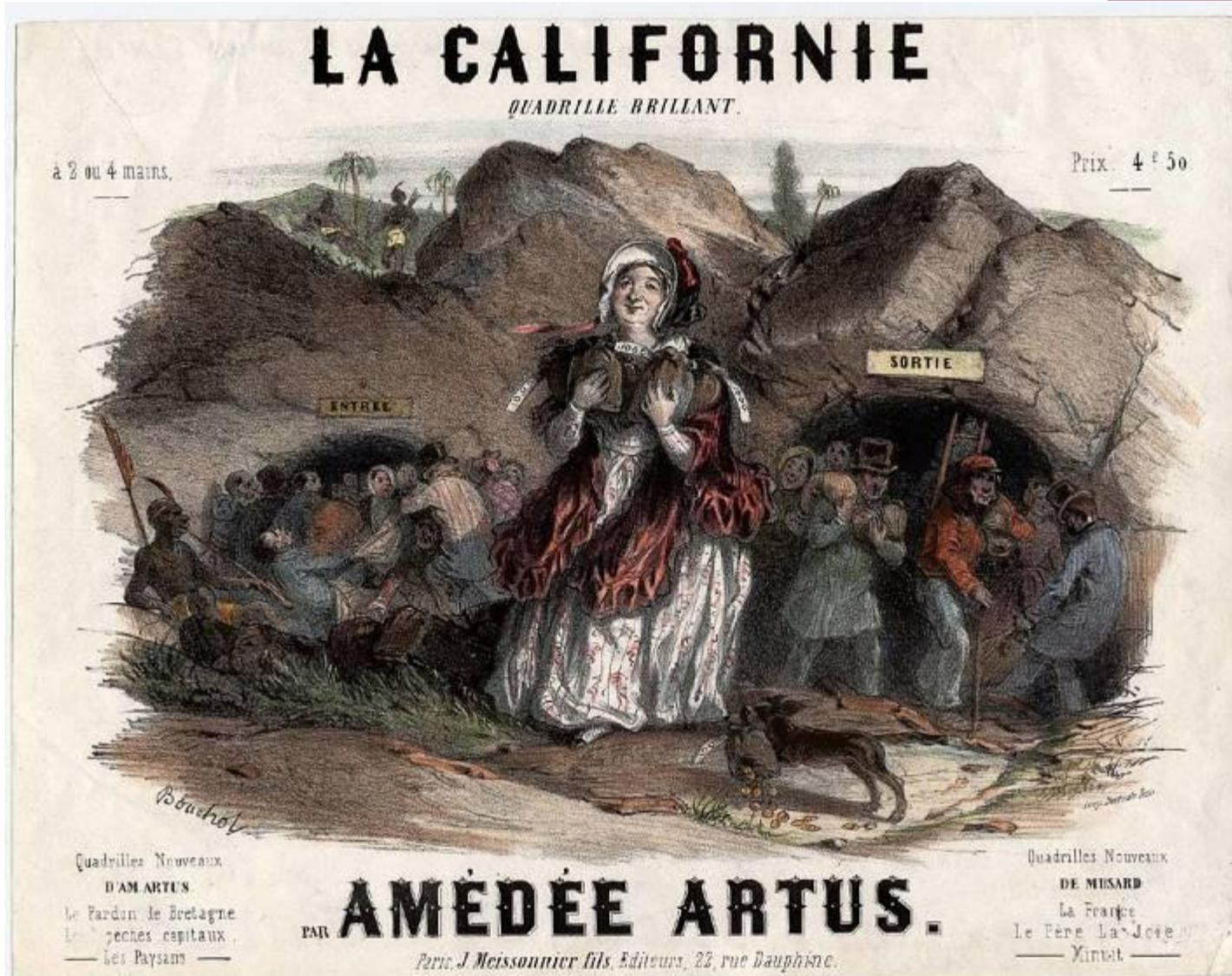


“Lofty hills, broad plains, and long cliffs are washed away, and their ruin completed by nothing else than a shaft of water a few inches in diameter....There is no more spirit in the work here than there is in the work of a granite quarry.”

— Albert F. Webster, “A Day at Dutch Flat”

“I fancy [the California miners] a living polyglot of the languages, a perambulating picture-gallery illustrative of national variety in form and feature.”

—Dame Shirley



# Chinese Miners. October 3, 1857.



From the Library of Congress, Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads

## States with the Highest Percentage of Foreign-born in 1870

Arizona	60 percent
Idaho	53 percent
Nevada	44 percent
Wyoming	39 percent
Montana	39 percent
California	37 percent
Utah	35 percent
Dakota	34 percent
New York	26 percent

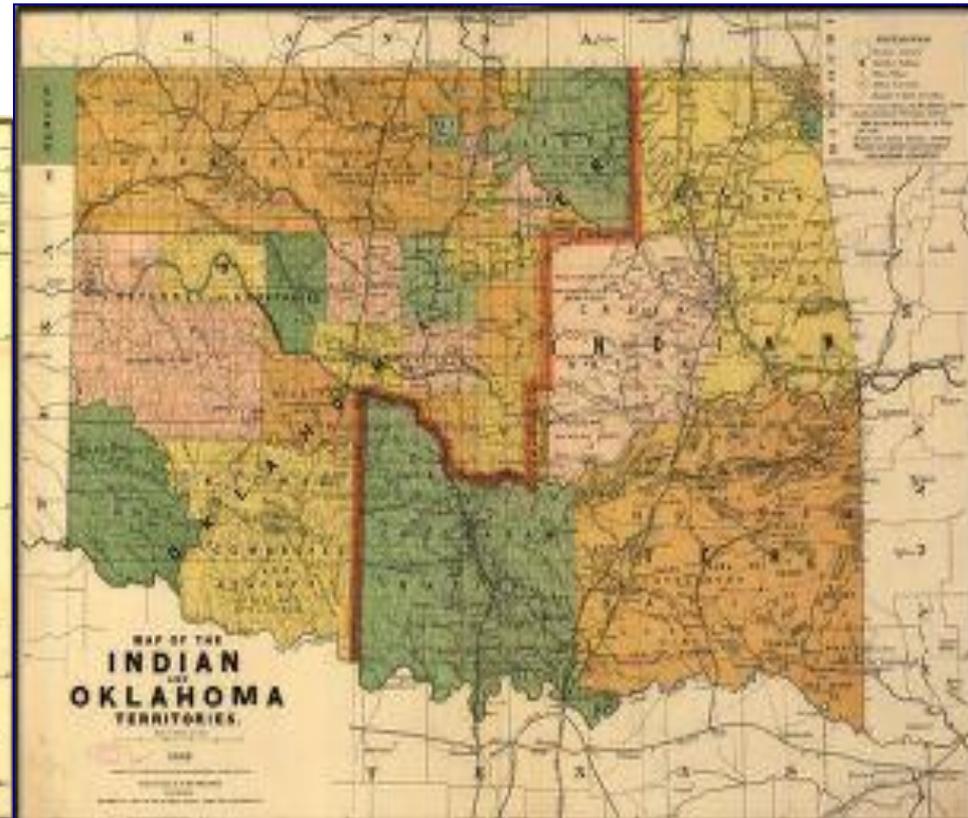
“It is useless any longer to attempt the occupation of these plains in common with these tribes....The hungry Indian, ...deprived of his accustomed subsistence, will steal rather than starve, and will kill in order to steal. With such opposing interests, the races cannot live together, and it is the Indian who must yield....[The government should adopt a] double policy, of peace within their reservations and war without....”

—Report of the Secretary of War, 1868

# American Indian and Oklahoma Territories.



**Indian Territory, 1889.**



**Indian and Oklahoma territories, 1892.**

From the Library of Congress, American Memory Timeline, The American West: 1865-1900.

# Custer's Last Fight



1889 Lithograph based on painting by F. Otto Becker, based on 1884 painting by Cassilly Adams

# Kicking Bear's Depiction of the Battle of the Little Big Horn



# Economic Development of the West



# Economic Development of the West

## Tribes take up fight to retain sovereignty

By Timothy Egan  
*The New York Times*

**SKULL VALLEY, Utah** — Not long after the Goshute Indians stopped resisting the Mormons who had poured into the sun-cracked bowl of the Great Basin, the tribe seemed to disappear — gone like most natives into sepia tones of the past.

But then, nearly a century and a half after the first state lines were stamped on an area once known as the Great American Desert, the Goshutes reappeared.

Suddenly, last year, the most powerful politicians in the West became deeply concerned about the actions of a tiny tribe that had been left in the alkaline dust of central Utah.

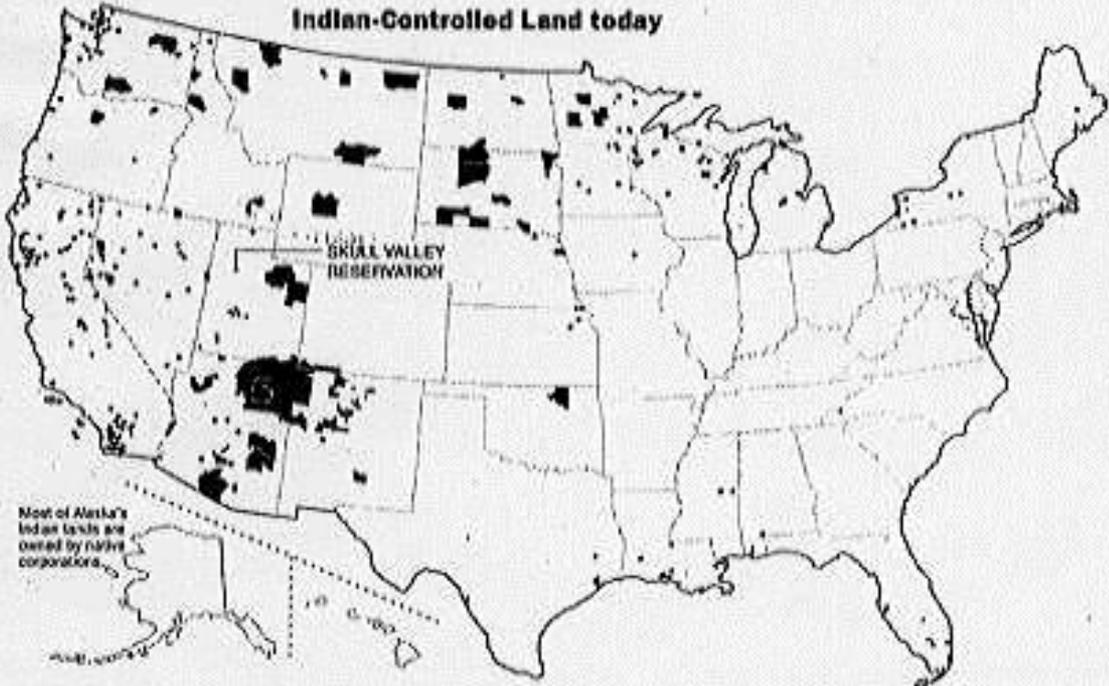
With barely 100 members, the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes declared what few people outside the reservation had taken seriously: that they were a sovereign nation.

As such, the Goshutes — looking for a multimillion-dollar infusion — have offered to lease part of their reservation as the temporary storage ground for high-level civilian nuclear waste. Utah's governor and congressional representatives are outraged, vowing to block the border of Indian country to any shipments.

The Goshute proposal is a very un-Indian-like thing to do, critics

## INDIAN COUNTRY

Two centuries ago, Indians controlled three-quarters of the United States eventual land mass. That has shrunk to just 2 percent, on 314 scattered reservations. But now, on reservations like Skull Valley in Utah, Indians are reasserting their sovereignty.



Map by Frankfort/The New York Times

# Oglala war party. Edward Curtis, c. 1907.



OGLALA WAR PARTY

From the Library of Congress, Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads

# The Idaho Indian War.



Chas. W. Phillips, photographer.  
Walla Walla, c. 1877.

From the Library of Congress, *Westward Expansion: Encounters at a Cultural Crossroads*

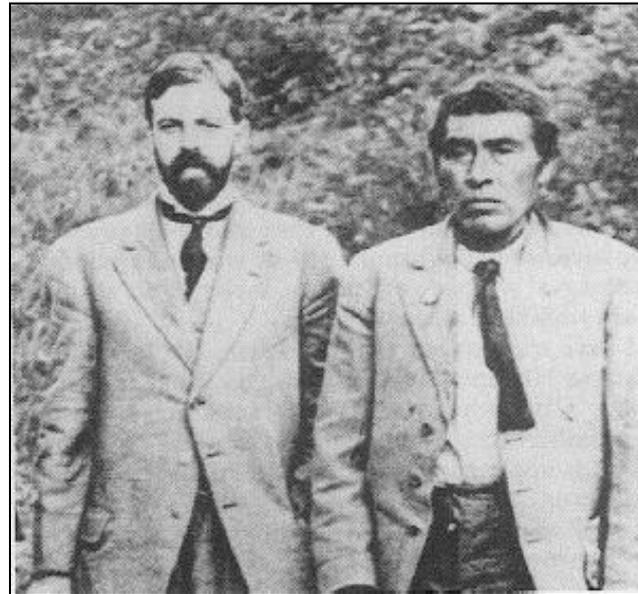
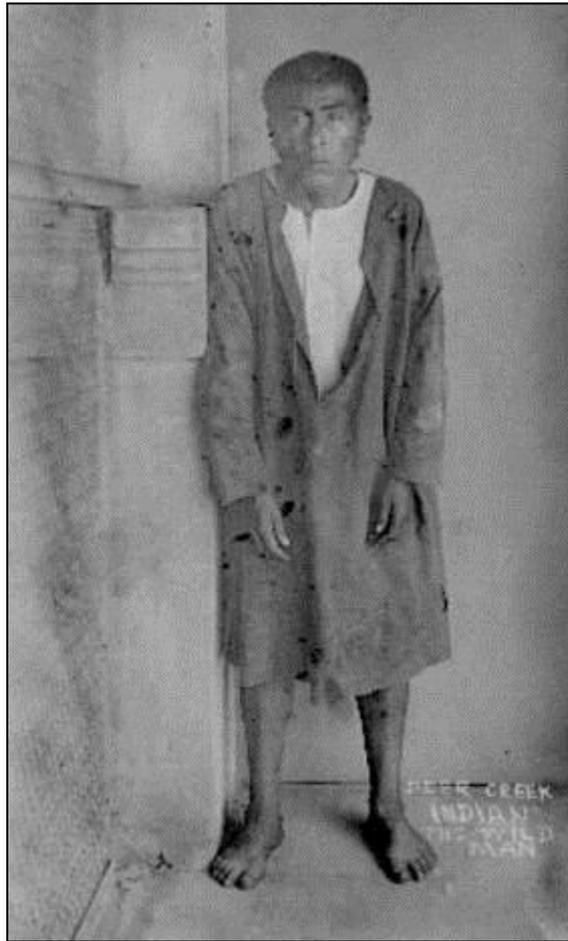
“The Indian school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, has done wonders in showing what can be effected for the education of our children. The test there made is a reliable one, inasmuch as that school is made up of pupils from more than sixty different tribes, from all parts of the United States....As to the future of our race, it seems to me almost certain that in time it will lose its identity by amalgamation with the dominant race. No matter how distasteful it may seem to us, we are compelled to consider it as a probable result.”

—Simon Pokagon, “The Future of the Red Man”

# Apache Children at Carlisle, Before and After



# Images of Ishi



# Video of and about Ishi

<http://www.travelchannel.com/video/ishi-man-from-the-wild>

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/lecturer-creates-history-of-ishi-video-74832>

[http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/ishi the last yahi#](http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/ishi_the_last_yahi#)

“Up to our own day American history has been in a large degree the history of the colonization of the Great West. The existence of an area of free land, its continuous recession, and the advance of American settlement westward, explain American development.”

—Frederick Jackson Turner

“The Significance of the Frontier in American History”

“‘What world am I in?’ I said aloud. ‘Does this same planet hold Fifth Avenue?’ And I went to sleep, pondering over my native land.”

—Owen Wister, *The Virginian*



**Final slide.**

**Thank You**

This seminar is sponsored in part by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region Program, coordinated by Waynesburg University.