

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

After the Civil War, Texas became a state of cowboys, cattle drives, buffalo hunters, railroads, infamous outlaws and Indian battles.

Texas was very much the Wild West. Indians and Texas settlers fought over the same land, while buffalo hunters killed the great herds that provided the Indian's food. The army returned to the old forts in west Texas. The year 1867 showed more than 2,000 soldiers, including "colored" regiments consisting of African American soldiers and white officers.

Crime and racial violence spread. Gunslingers terrorized cattle towns and frontier outposts. The Texas Rangers were brought back to fight lawlessness.

At the end of the Civil War, millions of rugged longhorns roamed Texas. Since the state did not have much damage from the war they were able to conduct cattle drives and supply beef to a rapidly growing nation.

The railroads really helped expand populations in the vast open areas of Texas. As more people moved here they wanted better schools and universities. TCU opened in 1873, Texas A&M University opened in 1876 and the University of Texas in Austin opened in 1883.

Discussion: Note the various types of maps in this section: railroad, land grants, telegraph lines, Indian battle grounds, cattle drives, promotional guide that advises anyone wanting to improve their position in life to go to Texas.