



The American West, 1865-1900

Topics of Discussion

I. Interpretations of the West

Frederick Jackson Turner
Buffalo Bill Cody
The New Western Historians

II. Native Americans

On the Plains
Concentration Policy (1860s)
Little Big Horn (1876)
Dawes Act (1887)

III. Contested Views of the West

Manifest Destiny
Miners in the West
1862 Homestead Act
The Transcontinental Railroads
Cowboys and Cattle Trails
Farmers and Ranchers





I. Interpretations of the West



I. Interpretations of the West: Frederick Jackson Turner

“Significance of the Frontier in American History,”
Chicago, Illinois, AHA, 1893

Primary thesis?

Central characters?

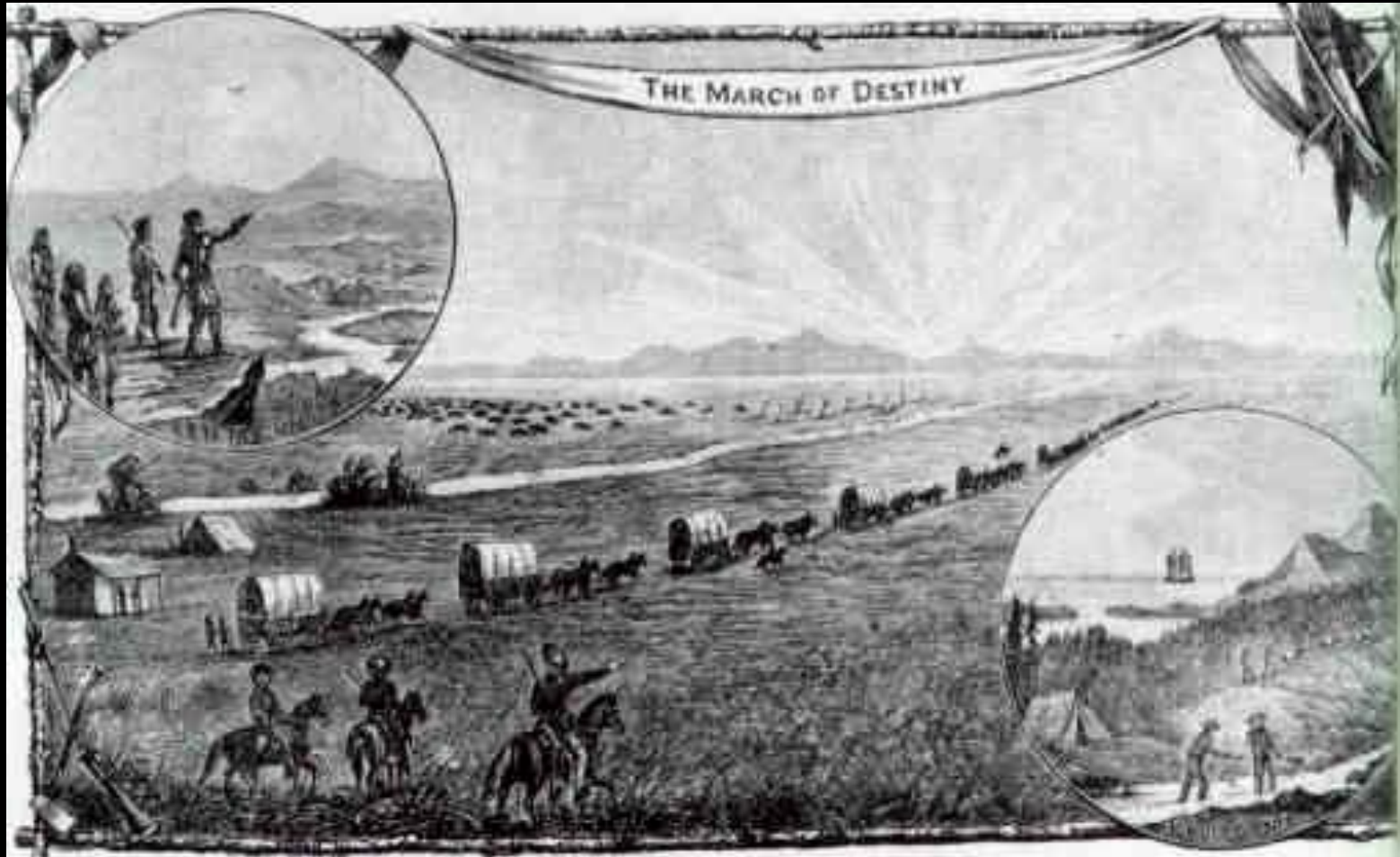
The Frontier was a

Images





George Caleb Bingham, Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers through the Cumberland Gap. Oil on canvas, 1851–52. Courtesy Washington University Gallery of Art, Saint Louis. Gift of Nathaniel Phillips, 1890.



"The March of Destiny," from Colonel Frank Triplet, *Conquering the Wilderness; or, New Pictorial History of the Heroes and Heroines of America . . .* (New York, 1883).

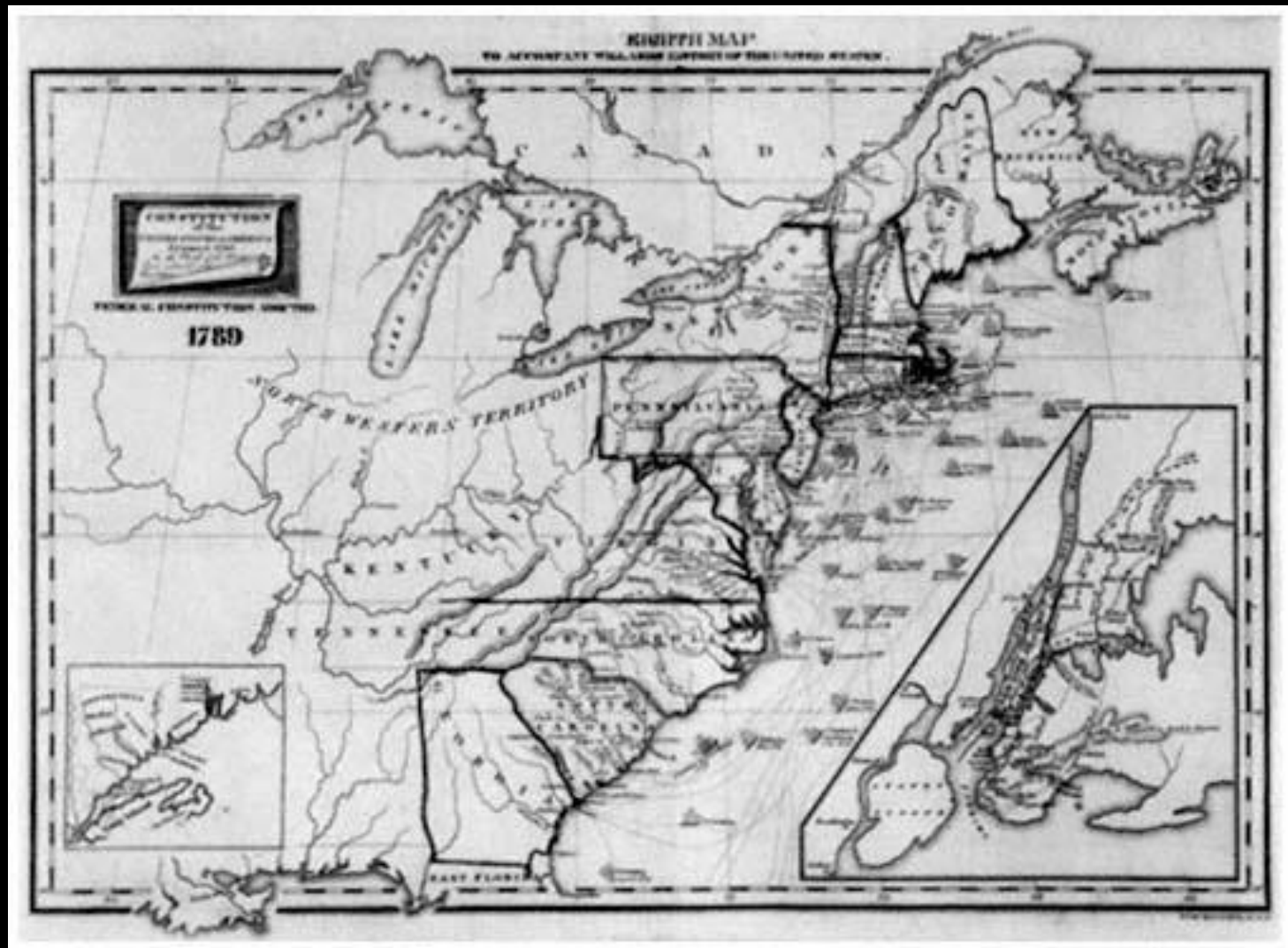


ACROSS THE CONTINENT.
"WESTWARD THE COURSE OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

Across the Continent: "Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way," 1868.



Guillaume de Lisle, Carte de la Louisiane et du Cours du Mississipi, 1718.

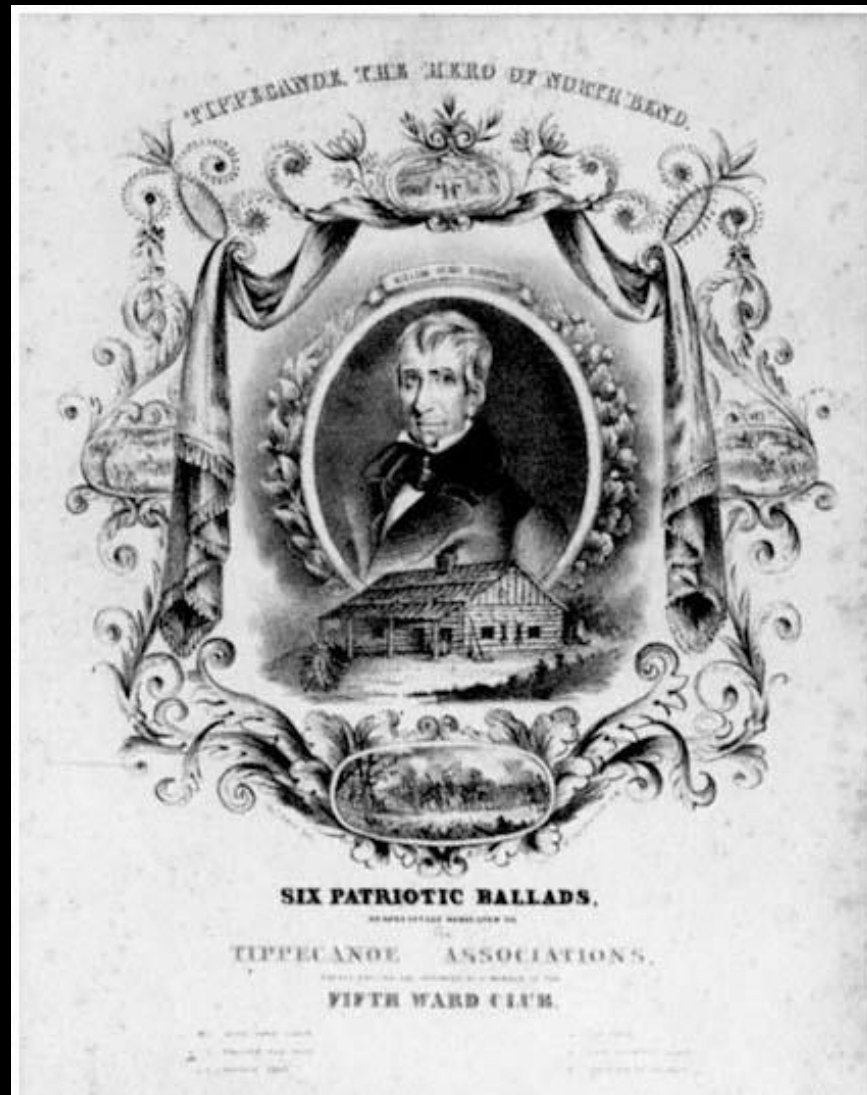


Eighth map in the bound series of maps that accompanies Emma Willard's *History of the United States, or Republic of America* . . . (New York, 1828).



An American Log-house.

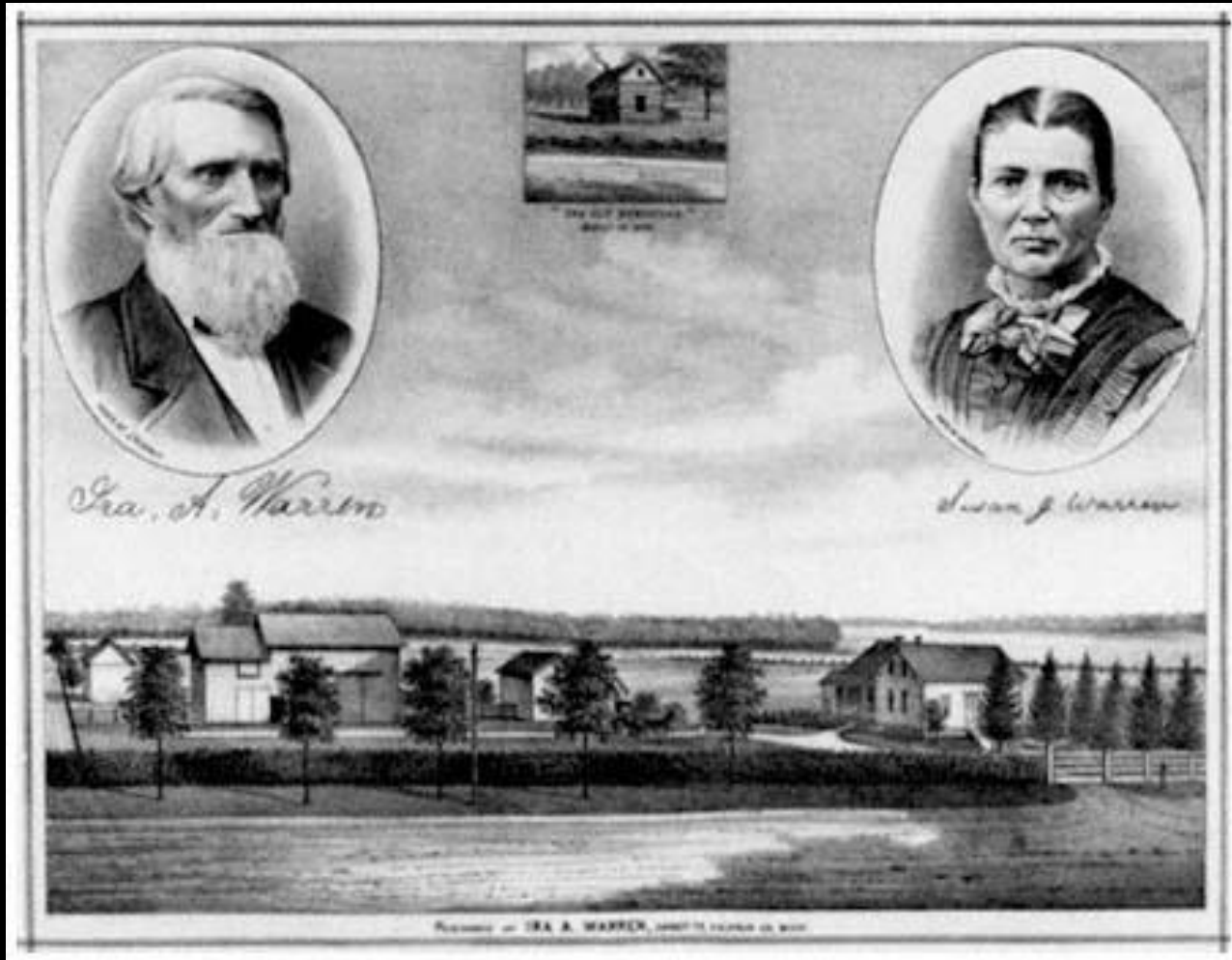
"An American Log-house," from Georges Henri Victor Collot, Voyage dans l'Amérique septentrionale . . . (Paris, 1826).



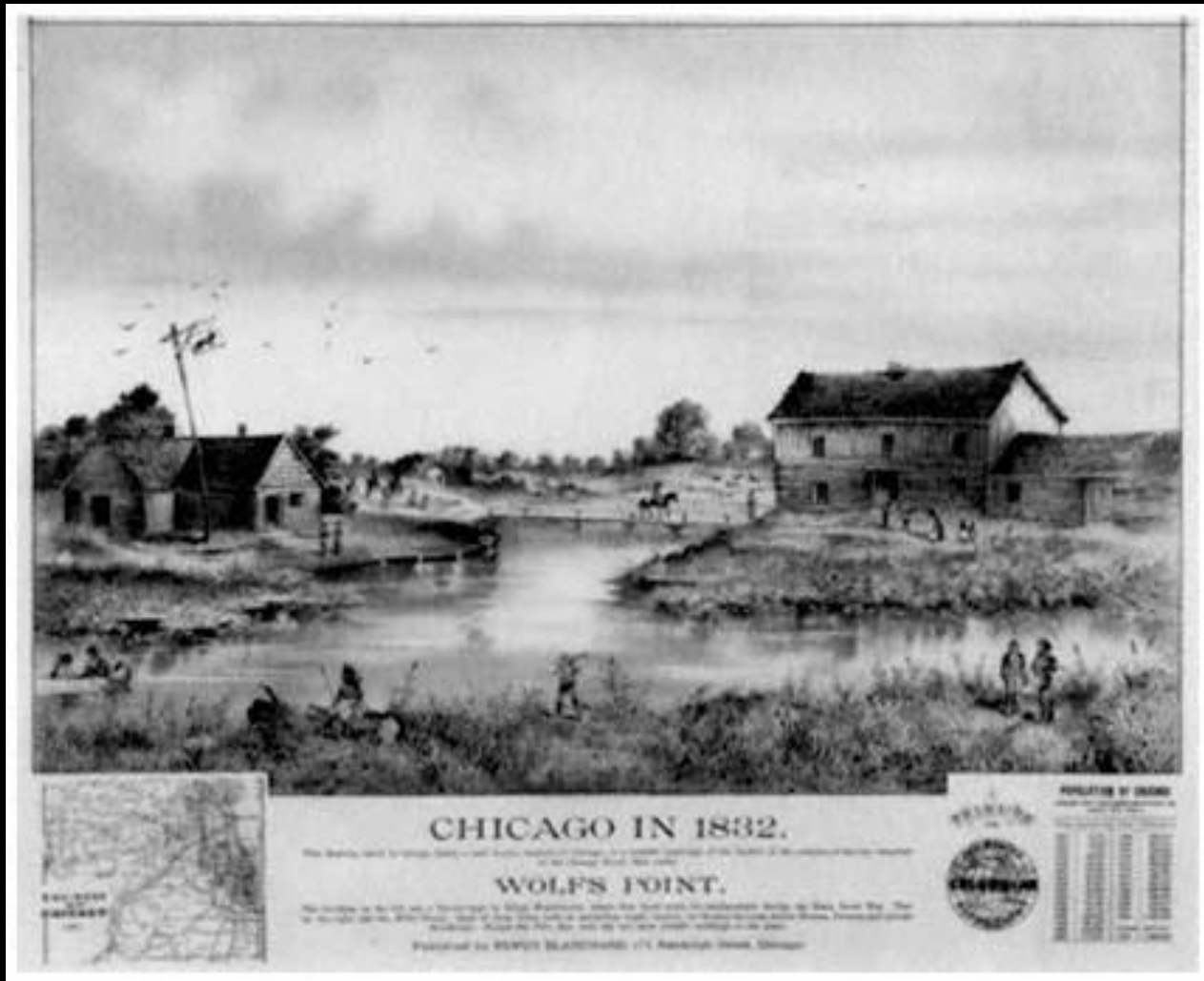
Tippecanoe, the Hero of North Bend: Six Patriotic Ballads . . . (New York, 1840).



Illustration from Joseph Smith, *Old Redstone; or, Historical Sketches of Western Presbyterianism: Its Early Ministers, Its Perilous Times, and Its First Records.*



Residence of Ira A. Warren, from H. B. Pierce, History of Calhoun County, Michigan (Philadelphia, 1877).



George Davis, Chicago in 1832. A later version (1893) of progressive imagery in Chicago maps.

I. Interpretations of the West: Buffalo Bill Cody

“Buffalo Bill’s Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World” – traveling show

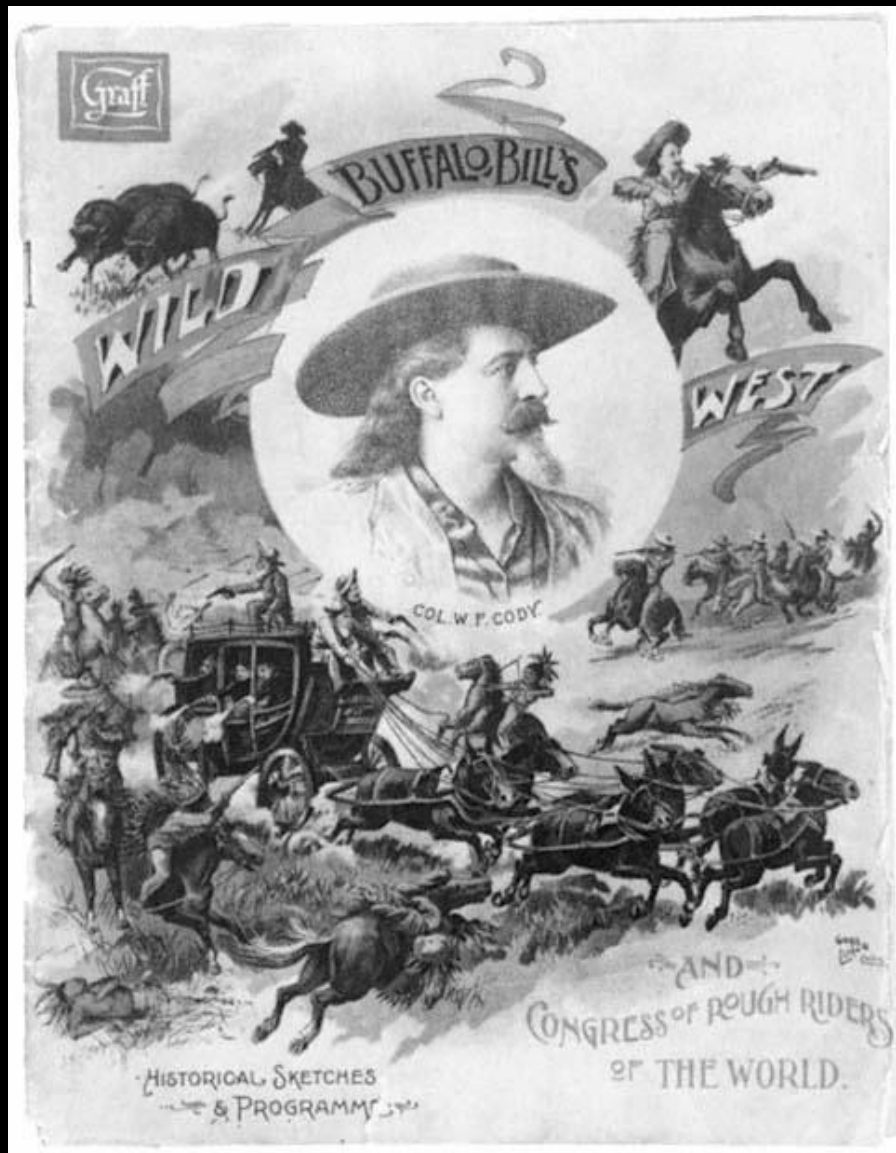
Primary meaning of show?

“Odd story of conquest: everything is inverted”

Central characters?

Images





Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World:
Historical Sketches and Programme, Chicago, 1893.



"Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill." Postcard (no date).



HEROISM OF A PIONEER WOMAN.

"In the meantime his heroic wife was busily engaged in defending the door against the efforts of the only remaining Indian, whom she so severely wounded with the ax, that he was soon glad to retire."

"Heroism of a Pioneer Woman," from Henry Howe, *The Great West: The Vast, Illimitable, Changing West* (New York, 1860). Not all women were portrayed as helpless victims.



"Custer's Last Fight." Poster advertisement, first edition. Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association, St. Louis, Mo., 1896. Photograph courtesy of the Anheuser-Busch Corporate Archives, St. Louis.

The Newberry Library
The Everett D. Graff Collection
of Western Americana

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ATZ OPERA HOUSE, OAKLAND,
NIGHTLY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13th, 1877.
50 Cts. & \$1.00. No extra charge for Reserved Seats.—At usual places.

THE RENOWNED HISTORICAL CELEBRITIES.

BUFFALO BILL AND CAPTAIN JACK

(Hon. W. F. CODY.)

(J. W. CRAWFORD.)

Chief Scout for Genl's TERRY and CROOK.

The "Poet Scout" of the Black Hills, direct from
GENL. CROOK'S command.



Hon. W. F. CODY — (Buffalo Bill.)

In the realistic Western Drama, written especially for BUFFALO BILL, by J. A. COOK, author

LIFE ON THE BORDER

Supported by a Powerful Dramatic Organization.

CHANCE OF PROGRAMME NIGHTLY.

The Scalp and War Paraphernalia of YELLOW HAND, Chief of 800 Cheyenne
Warriors, KILLED BY BUFFALO BILL, at the Battle of Indian Creek, Black
Hills, July 26th, 1876, are on Free Exhibition in the most prominent
Show Window in this City on the advertised dates.

Printed & Published by J. W. CRAWFORD, 27 The Block, San Francisco.



San Francisco, June 13th 1877
J. W. Crawford

THE POET SCOUT.

A BOOK OF SONG AND STORY.

BY
CAPTAIN JACK CRAWFORD.
(Late Chief of Scouts, U. S. Army.)

FUNK & WAGNALLS:

NEW YORK: 150 N. 2ND ST. LONDON: 44 FLEET STREET.
1886.

The Poet Scout, by Captain
Jack Crawford (New York, 1886).

Back and front cover of the program for
Buffalo Bill and Captain Jack in
Life on the Border; with "Custer's
Death," a poem by Captain
Jack Crawford (Oakland, Calif., 1877).



Figure 18.
Profile of George Armstrong
Custer from his book *Wild Life on
the Plains* (St. Louis, Mo., 1891).



Figure 24.

To the Rescue. Poster advertising Buffalo Bill's Wild West (Baltimore, 1894).
Photograph courtesy of the Buffalo Bill Museum, Cody, Wyoming.



Figure 25.
Eduard Holst, The Charge of the Rough Riders:
Grand Galop Militaire, 1898.

I. Interpretations of the West: The New Western History

“Western History, New and Not So New,”
Walter Nugent, *OAH Magazine* 9 (Fall 1994).

Primary historians?

Four principal points?





II. Native Americans in the West

II. Native Americans: On the Plains

- A. 1492 - 7-10 million Indians in North America
- B. 1860 - 350,000 Indians in West
- C. By 1870s - Comanche, Sioux, Kiowa
Great Plains, last independent tribes in U.S.
- D. Plains tribes gain Spanish horses/guns in 1600s.
- E. Most Plains Indians are hunters and farmers.
- F. Buffaloes provide most meat and supplies.



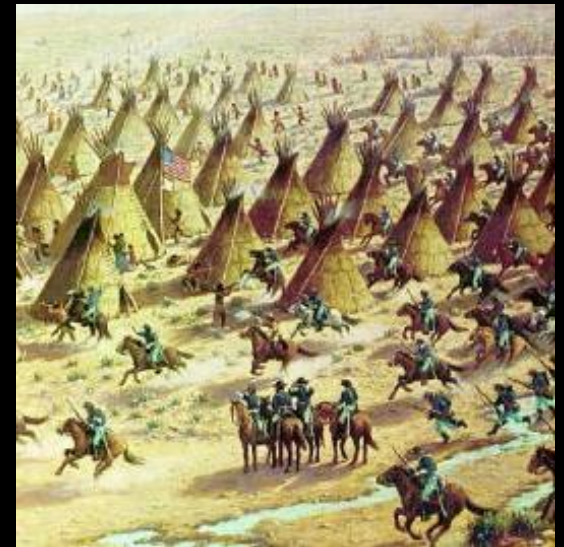


II. Native Americans: Controversy in the 1860s

A. 1860s settler-native tensions increases.

B. Nov. 1864 Col. John Chivington and the Colorado militia kill 150-500 Cheyenne at Sand Creek Massacre.

C. Congress creates “concentration policy” to put natives on small reservations and make them farmers.



II. Native Americans: Concentration Policy

- A. 1867 Peace Commission - federal effort to "civilize" and "pacify" western Indians on reservations.
- B. Concentration policy opens land for whites
- C. Major reservations established in SD, OK, AZ
- D. Tribal leaders agreed to reservations to preserve their way of life and ensure peace.
- E. However, white settlers continued to encroach on Indian lands in direct violation of the treaties.
- F. Reservation Indians suffer from poor soil, scarce supplies, corrupt Indian agents.
- G. Many natives flee reservations to hunt buffalo.



II. Native Americans: Little Big Horn

- A. 1874 Lakota Sioux refuse to sell Black Hills.
- B. Indian agents recall natives to local reservations.
- C. When Sioux cannot move their winter camps, Indian agents demand army round them up.
- D. 1876 Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse resist Army.
- E. Army attacks: Battle of the Little Big Horn - Sioux kill Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and 263 soldiers.
- F. But Sioux cannot sustain forces, soon surrender.



II. Native Americans: Nez Perce War

A. 1877—Settlers and Nez Perce fight
Chief Joseph leads 800 Indians towards Canada.

B. Fights cavalry in running battles over 1,400 miles,
surrenders in Bear Paw Mountains.

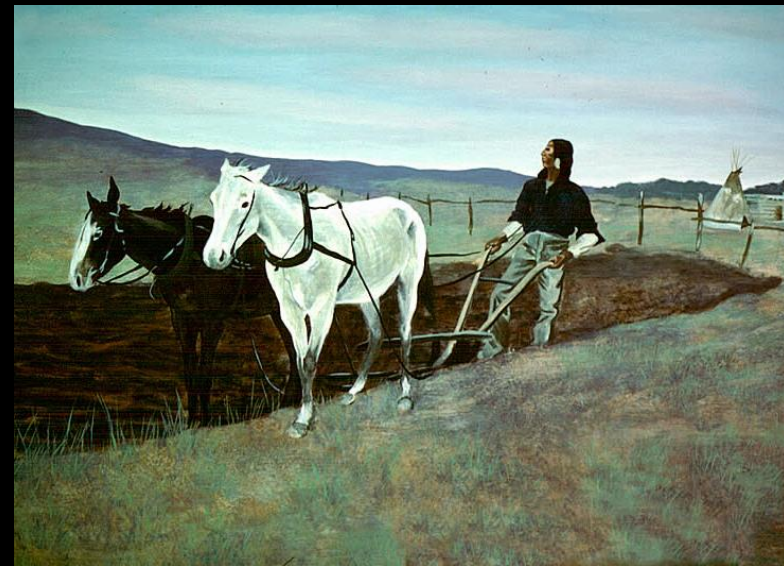
C. Chief Joseph tells his captors *“I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed . . . I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.”*

D. Ironically, Chief Joseph becomes a celebrity among whites, seen as symbol of vanishing frontier.



II. Native Americans: Dawes Act

- A. 1887 Congress passes the Dawes Act.
- B. Reservations broken into 160-acre parcels, given to Indian families or sold to white settlers.
- C. Congress wants natives to become capitalistic
- E. Dawes Act is a disaster. Poor soil forces many natives to sell land.
- F. Whites and natives often fight, police and military support whites.
- G. 1887 Indians control 130 million acres.
- H. By 1934 they possess 43 million acres.



INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME

OF
YOUR OWN

EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE

POSSESSION

WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **350,000** ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA:
Bakers
Colorado
Imperial
Imperial
Laguna
KANGAS:
Tustin
Sedona

MISSISSIPPI:
Gaines
MONTANA:
Crow Agency
BERKMAN:
Hay
Tustin
Winnipeg

NORTH DAKOTA:
Fort Totten
Fort Yates
SOUTH DAKOTA:
Aberdeen
Fort Smith
Guthrie
Hankston, S.D.
Pawnee

OKLAHOMA—Gen.
Sac and Fox Agency
Wagon
Wendell
OREGON:
Elmer Agency
Pendleton
Knoxburg
Scott

SOUTH DAKOTA:
Chapman Agency
Crow Creek
Glenwood
Lower Brule
Pine Ridge
Sioux
Sioux

WASHINGTON:
Fort Simons
Fort Spokane
Tulsa
Tulsa
WISCONSIN:
Oconto

WALTER L. FISHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

ROBERT G. VALENTINE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.



III. Contested Views of the West

III. Contested Views of the West: From 1819 to 1881

I. **“Great American Desert”** - Stephen H. Long, surveyed Louisiana Territory in 1819, "Great American Desert."

In maps, portrayed plains as "wholly unfit for cultivation and uninhabitable for those dependent on agriculture."

II. **The Myth of the Garden** - Charles Dana Wilber in *The Great Valley, and Prairies of the Northeast and Northwest* (1881), described Plains as a paradise.

He based this claim on "scientific" evidence that purportedly proved that "rain follows the plow."



III. Contesting Views of the West: Manifest Destiny

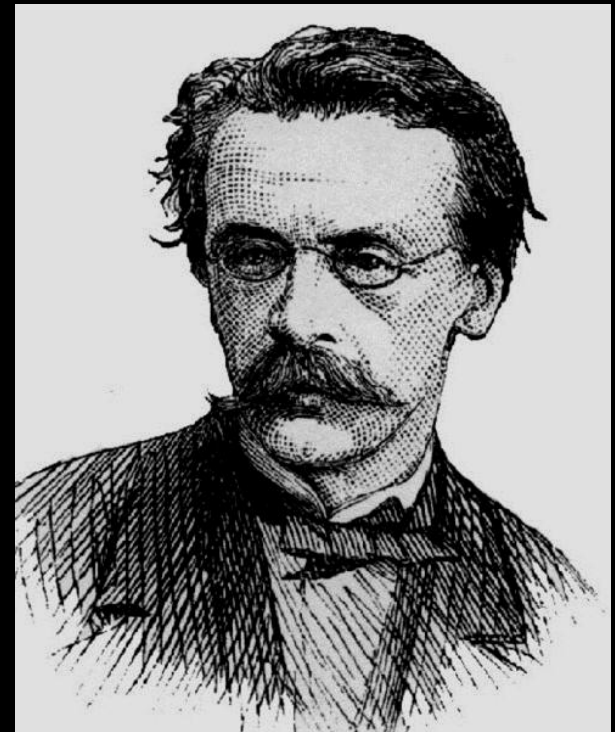
Term coined in 1845 by journalist John L. O'Sullivan in an essay entitled "Annexation" – on annexation of Texas.

America's "manifest destiny to overspread the continent."

O'Sullivan's second use 1845 on the boundary dispute with Great Britain in the Oregon Country.

US had the right to claim "the whole of Oregon":

"And that claim is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us."





John Gast, "American Progress," 1872

III. Contesting Views of the West: Miners in the West

U.S. gains Mexican frontier in U.S.-Mexican War (1846-48)

Californios promised U.S. citizenship and rights.

But white settlers take best land, jobs, and political power.

First mass movement West began 1849 Gold Rush.

Mining became central to the development of the west.

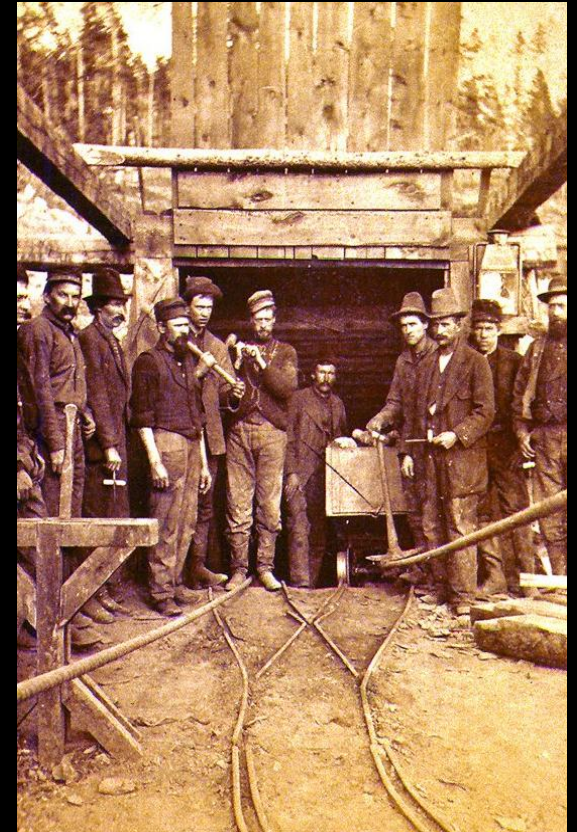
Gold, silver, copper, iron ore.

Many early settlers hoped to make a fortune from mining.

Prospectors search for gold in Colorado, Nevada, and California.

Settle mining towns where crime and violence are frequent.

Large companies buy mines, play them out, and move on.



III. Contesting Views of the West: Anti-Chinese Sentiment

1840s-1890s Chinese settle on west coast.

Work as laborers and small businessmen.

Anti-Chinese riots occur across west.

1882 Congress passes the “Chinese Exclusion Act”

Yick Wo v. Hopkins (1886)

United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1896)



AT FRISCO.

“See here, me Chinee Haythun, I’m wan of the Committee of National Safety; and bringing to me moind the words of George O’Washington and Dan’l O’Webster in regardd to Furrin Infloince, ye must go. D’ye understand? Ye must go!”



Driving the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah, 1869.
Celebrating the Completion of the First Continental Railroad. Who's missing?

III. Contesting Views of the West: Greenhorns and Exodusters

1862: Homestead Act - each settler can buy 160 acres of land if he or she develops it.

1870s: millions of settlers - Northern factory workers, Midwestern farmers, defeated southerners—move west.

2 million are European—Irish, German, Czech, Russian.

1870s: 20,000 freedmen move west to Kansas.
Want to create free black communities on the frontier.
Take name of “exodusters” from the Bible.

16

All Colored People
THAT WANT TO
GO TO KANSAS,
On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for \$5.00

IMMIGRATION.

WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky. knowing that there is an abundance of choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

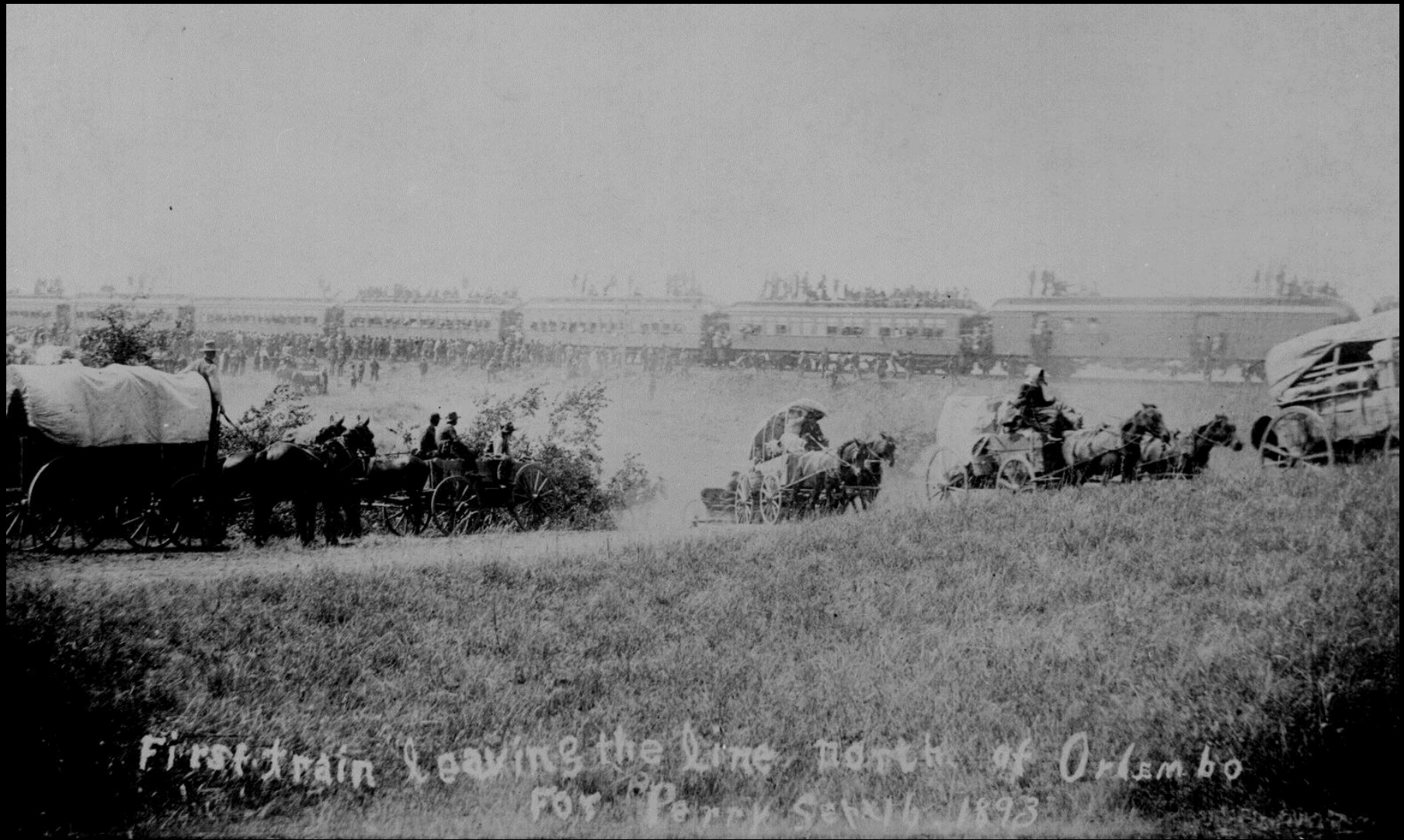
BE IT RESOLVED, That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:—
Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in instalments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

RESOLVED, That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Nicodemus Towns, Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant lands now in their midst, which costs \$5.00.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President—Isaac Talbott; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webster.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, and any member failing to pay in his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



First train leaving the line north of Orlando
For Perry Sept 16 1893

First train leaving the line north of Orlando For Perry [Okla. Terr.], Sept. 16, 1893.



R. G. Carr, proud founder of West Union, Nebraska, named fro West Union, Iowa, stands by the windmill on his Lake Downs fall. West Union, founded in 1879, reached its peak population of 90 by the turn of the century.

III. Contesting Views of the West: Cattle Drives

Texas and New Mexico settlers start cattle drives.




Herd cattle to “trailheads” like Abilene and Kansas City.

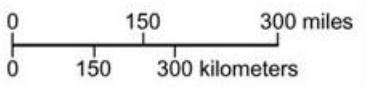
Beef is sold to processing plants and sent to east coast.

“Cattle barons” like Charles Goodnight make a fortune





-  Cattle trails
-  Railheads
-  Major railroads





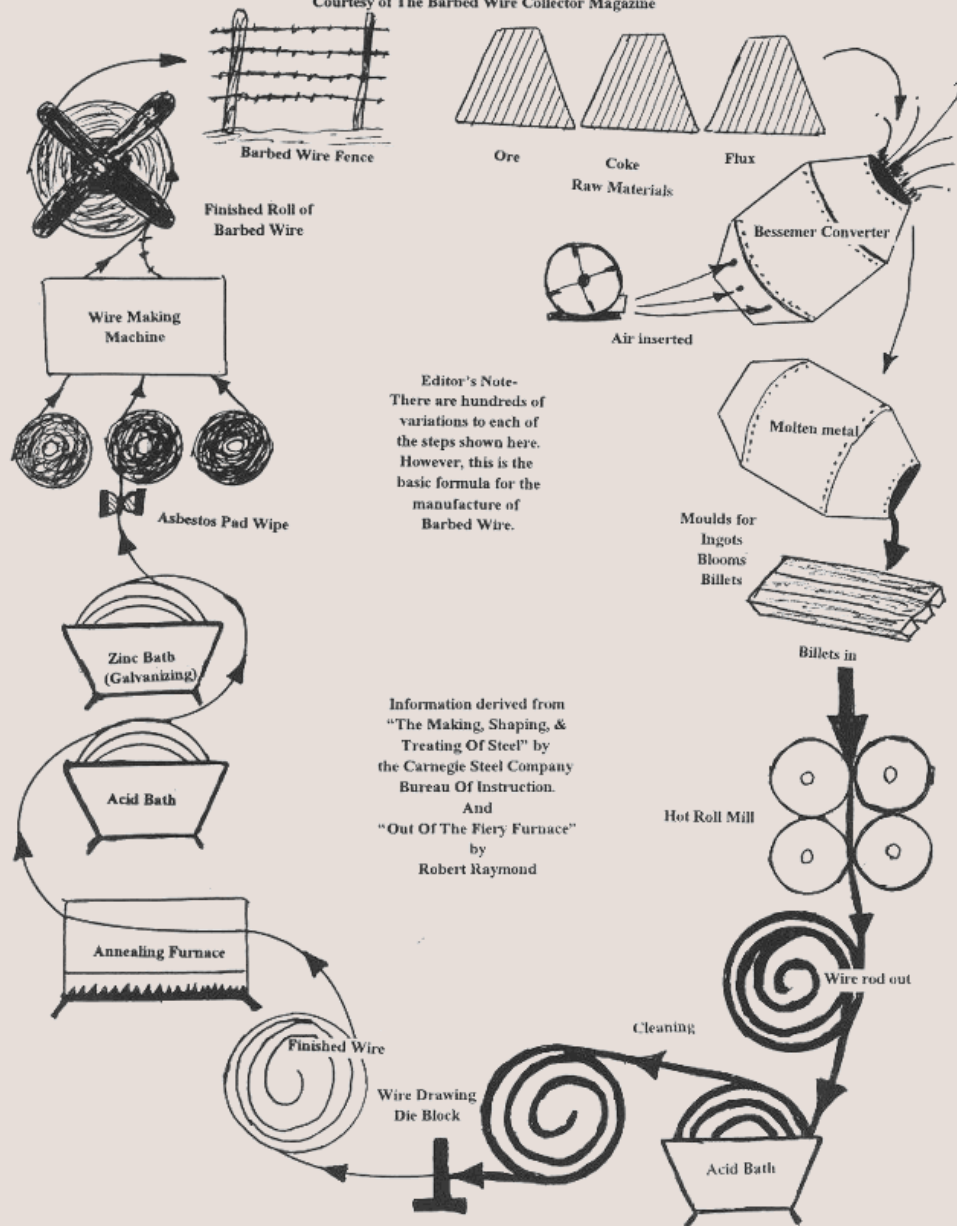


"Settlers Taking the Law in Their Own Hands." Illustrates the tensions between farmers and ranchers created by the appearance of homesteads on the range

THE MAKING OF WIRE

By Delbert Trew

Courtesy of The Barbed Wire Collector Magazine





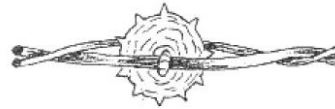
691B. C-543, G-127, B-77, A-559, J46, ()
Scutt Single Clip "H" Plate

Two twisted strand wire with four point "H" barb. Barb is fastened to one strand with a metal clip. Patent #205,000, June 18, 1878 by Hiram B Scutt of Joliet, Ill.



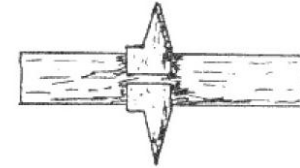
204B. C-235, G-340, B141, A-180, ()
Dodge Six Point Star Barb

Single strand wire with six point sheet metal star barb. Strand is enlarged on each side of barb to prevent movement. Barbs may or may not rotate. Patent #250,219, Nov. 29, 1881 by Thomas H. Dodge of Worcester, Mass.



730B. G-818, A-414, ()
Hodge Spur Rowel on Large & Small Strands

Twisted large and small strands with ten point sheet metal spur rowel barb. Variation of Patent #367,398, Aug 2, 1887 by Chester A. Hodge of Beloit, Wisc.



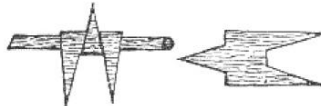
920B. C-811, G-236, B-123, A-78, J-126, ()
Brinkerhoff Face Clamp Barb

Flat sheet metal ribbon with two point sheet metal clamp-on barb. Barb plate is cut so that barb can be bent around ribbon. Patent #241,601, May 17, 1881 by Jacob & Warren M. Brinkerhoff of Auburn, N. Y.



693B. C-573, G-129, A-562, ()
Scutt Arrow Plate

Two twisted strand wire with four point sheet metal arrow plate barb. Barb is split and shaped like an arrowhead. Variation of Patent #205,000 as per wire #691B



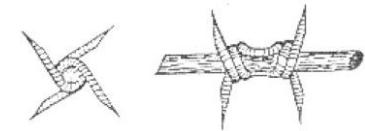
194B. C-213, G-140, B-49, A-442, J-50, ()
Knickerbocker Applied Three Point Barb

Single strand wire with a three point hand applied barb. Barbs could be bought by the pound and hand applied. Patent #185,333, Dec. 12 1876 by Millis Knickerbocker of New Lenox, Ill.



860B. C-704*, ()
Cady Barbed Link, Double Wrap

Folded single strand link with ends joined in center of link by double wrap to form two point barb. Variation of Machine Patent #292,408, Jan. 22, 1884 by Frank P. Cady of Chicago, Ill.



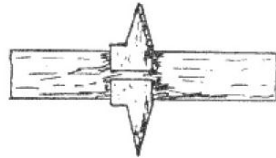
155B. C-148, G-110, B-50, A-464, J-51, ()
Merrill Four Point Twirl

Single strand wire with four point barb. Patent #185,688, Dec. 26, 1876 by John C. Merrill of Turkey River Station, Iowa



730B. G-818, A-414, ()
Hodge Spur Rowel on Large & Small Strands

Twisted large and small strands with ten point sheet metal spur rowel barb. Variation of Patent #367,398, Aug 2, 1887 by Chester A. Hodge of Beloit, Wisc.



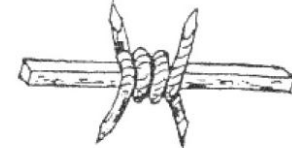
920B. C-811, G-236, B-123, A-78, J-126, ()
Brinkerhoff Face Clamp Barb

Flat sheet metal ribbon with two point sheet metal clamp-on barb. Barb plate is cut so that barb can be bent around ribbon. Patent #241,601, May 17, 1881 by Jacob & Warren M. Brinkerhoff of Auburn, N. Y.



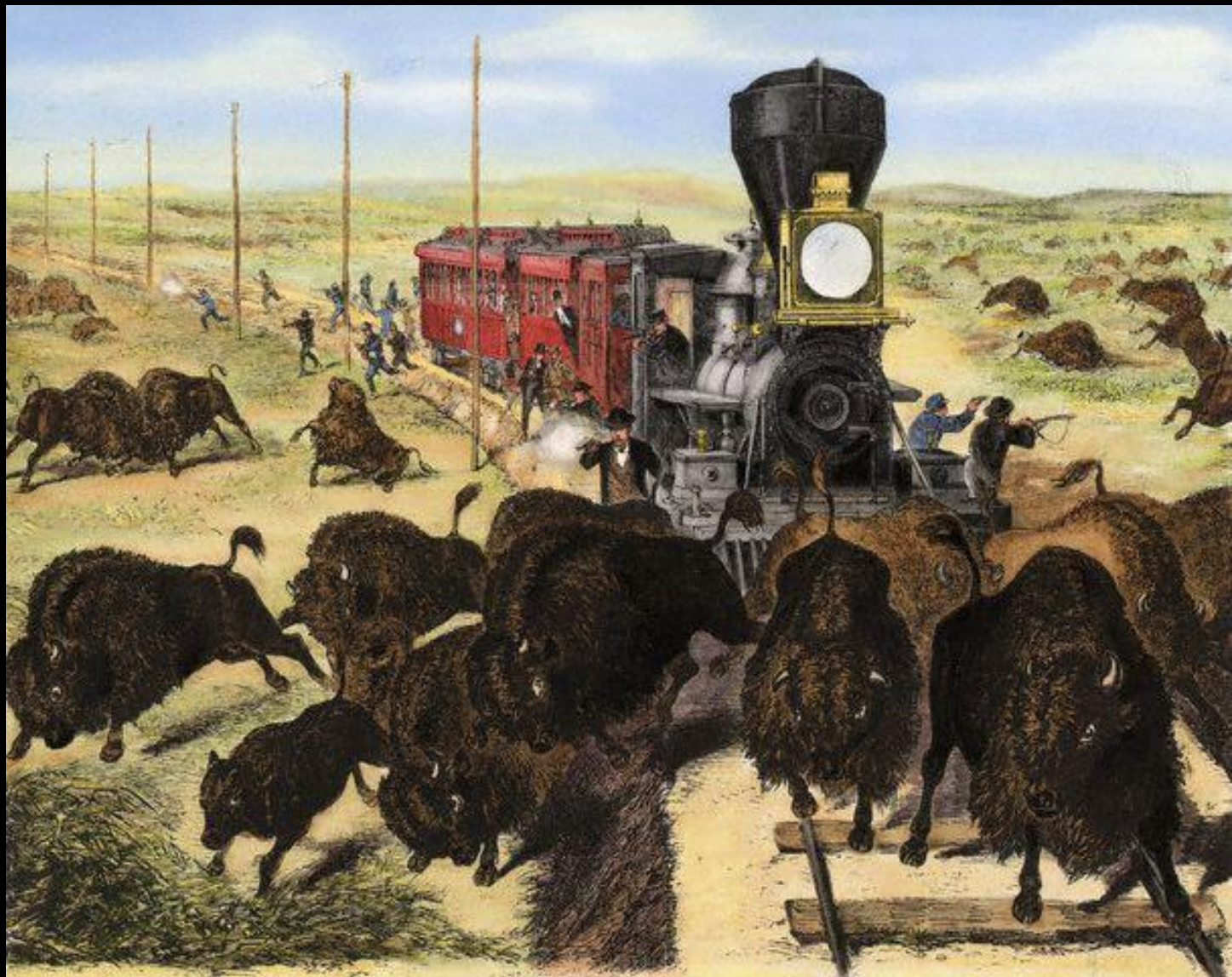
34B. C-72, A-355, ()
Glidden Hanging Barb

Single strand wire with two point hanging barb. Variation of Patent #RE 6913, Feb. 18, 1876 by Joseph F. Glidden of De Kalb, Ill.



138B. C-144, G-7, A-367, ()
Glidden Square Strand

Single square strand wire with four point coil barb. Patent #RE 6914, Feb. 18, 1876 by Joseph F. Glidden of De Kalb, Ill.



Shooting Buffalo on the Kansas-Pacific Railroad, 1871



Pile of Buffalo Skulls, c. 1870s