






Frequently Asked Questions


 We are a 501(c)3 Not For Profit Organization

 Drovers are volunteers. They do it to commemorate this great piece of American history.

 All drover spots have been filled by local cowboys who know the territory.

 Please feel free to contact us with questions!

 Follow us on Facebook & Twitter, for all the news and amazing updates from the trail! O-K Chisholm Trail 150 Cattle Drive

 Visit ChisholmTrail150.org for more information about all the events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail.

My name is "Caldwell."

Follow me on Twitter as we

hit the trail in September!

@longhorncaldwell



"To Educate, Commemorate, and Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail."

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**O-K Chisholm
Trail Cattle Drovers
Association**

"HEAD 'EM NORTH"

September 12th-23rd, 2017

History of the Chisholm Trail

The Chisholm Cattle Trail, the route by which hundreds of thousands of Texas longhorn cattle traveled northward across Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma to Kansas rail-heads, was named for Jesse Chisholm. Prior to being used to drive Texas cattle to market in Abilene, Kansas, the trail was used as a wagon freight trail by Jesse Chisholm, J.R. Mead and other early day traders and freight haulers. Chisholm was well familiar with the route that ran through Pond Creek, OK, Caldwell, KS, Clearwater, KS and to Wichita having been reported being in the territory as early as 1864. So successful was the route that in 1865, J. R. Mead established trading posts at Pond Creek where the trail crosses the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River, and on the Ninescah River near Clearwater. Jesse Chisholm had located his "ranch" (trading post) at Council Grove just to the west of present day Oklahoma City, on what later became known as the Chisholm Trail.

A challenge facing a young, enterprising cattle dealer by the name of Joseph McCoy was transporting cattle to markets in the North. In 1867, McCoy came from Illinois out to Missouri to explore options for driving Texas cattle to market. McCoy visited the president of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. The Kansas Pacific president finally agreed to stand by as needed if anyone chose to risk their own money but they were not willing to risk their dollars in the enterprise. McCoy visited communities along the Kansas Pacific line, again with little interest. Eventually, McCoy determined that Abilene, right on the Kansas Pacific line, was an ideal place where cattle could be bought and loaded on trains to ship back east. He immediately began building the stockyards, a hotel, an office, and a bank.

The first herd of Texas cattle arrived in Abilene in August 1867 and on September 5, 1867, the first rail shipment of cattle departed to Kansas City. The route previously called the Texas Trail was originally known by other names, however, as time went on, the Chisholm Trail came to refer to the entire cattle system from central Texas to Abilene. The rest is history!

The O-K Chisholm Trail Cattle Drovers Association will re-create a part of that history from September 12th through September 23rd, 2017.

ROUTE

Sept. 12th- Pond Creek, OK to Jefferson, OK Monuments

US Hwy 60 & Custer Rd Hwy 81 & Gavin 1/2 East

Sept. 13th- Jefferson, OK to Medford, Ok -City Wide Celebration

Hwy 11 & CR 980 1/4 East

Sept. 14th- Medford, OK to Renfrow, OK Cow Camp 1

CR 1030 & Latimer Rd 1/2 West

Sept. 15th- Renfrow, OK to Renfrow, OK Cow Camp 2

Osage Rd & CR 1030 1/4 East

Sept. 16th- Renfrow, OK Cow Camp 2 to Caldwell, KS

100 KanOkla Ave

Cow Camp at KanOkla Pasture

City of Caldwell Celebration- Parade 10 AM

Various Games & Activities to Follow

Concert

Sept. 17th- Caldwell, KS Cowboy Church

Sept. 18th- Caldwell, KS to NW Caldwell, KS -Chisholm Trail Ruts

110th St S & Springdale Rd

Sept. 19th- NW Caldwell, KS to South of Wellington Lake

60th S & SW Lake Rd

Sept. 20th- South of Wellington Lake to Mayfield, KS

Hwy 160th & Mayfield Rd 1/4 North

Sept. 21st- Mayfield, KS to Millerton, KS

Mayfield Rd & Prospect 1/4 West

Sept. 22nd- Millerton, KS to Clearwater, KS

Clearwater Saddle Club Arena 9138 S 160th St W

Sept. 23rd Clearwater, KS to South Wichita, KS

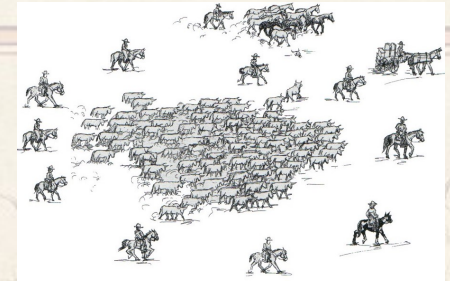
6425 W. MacArthur

Red Steagall and Drawing for 150th

Chisholm Trail Anniversary Commemorative Rifle

COW CAMP WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC APPROXIMATELY 3 P.M. TO 6 P.M. DAILY

Visitors can expect to see drovers in authentic gear, their horses, 90+ head of cattle, and cowboy campfire cooking demonstrations. Please plan to join us and get a look at one of our cow camps!



POSITIONS AROUND THE HERD

Trail Boss- This person is in charge of the entire cattle drive. This involves keeping track of the cattle, the drovers and the wagons. Also, they choose the route, cow camps and make any decisions that need to be made along the trail.

Lead Rider- Also known as the "Point Rider" this cowboy rides nearest to the front of the herd and determines the direction and speed of the herd.

Swing Riders- These riders ride closely along the sides of the herd to keep the herd together. These riders are on the lookout for any cattle that may stray from the herd and are responsible for getting them back into the herd.

Flank Riders- These riders are near the back of the herd on each side. These riders assist the Swing Riders and keep the cattle bunched together, as well as keep the herd from getting too spread out.

Drag Rider- These riders ride at the end of the herd and push the slower cattle and keep everything moving forward. This position is often the dustiest.

Chuck Wagons/ Cooks- This is most likely one of the most important positions on the cattle drive. They are up before everyone else and long after the last drover has gone to sleep. They prepare the meals along the trail, in any and all types of weather. Keeping the drovers well fed and in good spirits is a tough job. They also are responsible for their own chuck wagons and the food in them.

Supply Wagons- These wagons held all of the extra necessities of the cattle drive. Grain for the horses, food and extra goods were needed to complete the journey were the precious cargo that were stored in these wagons.

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

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