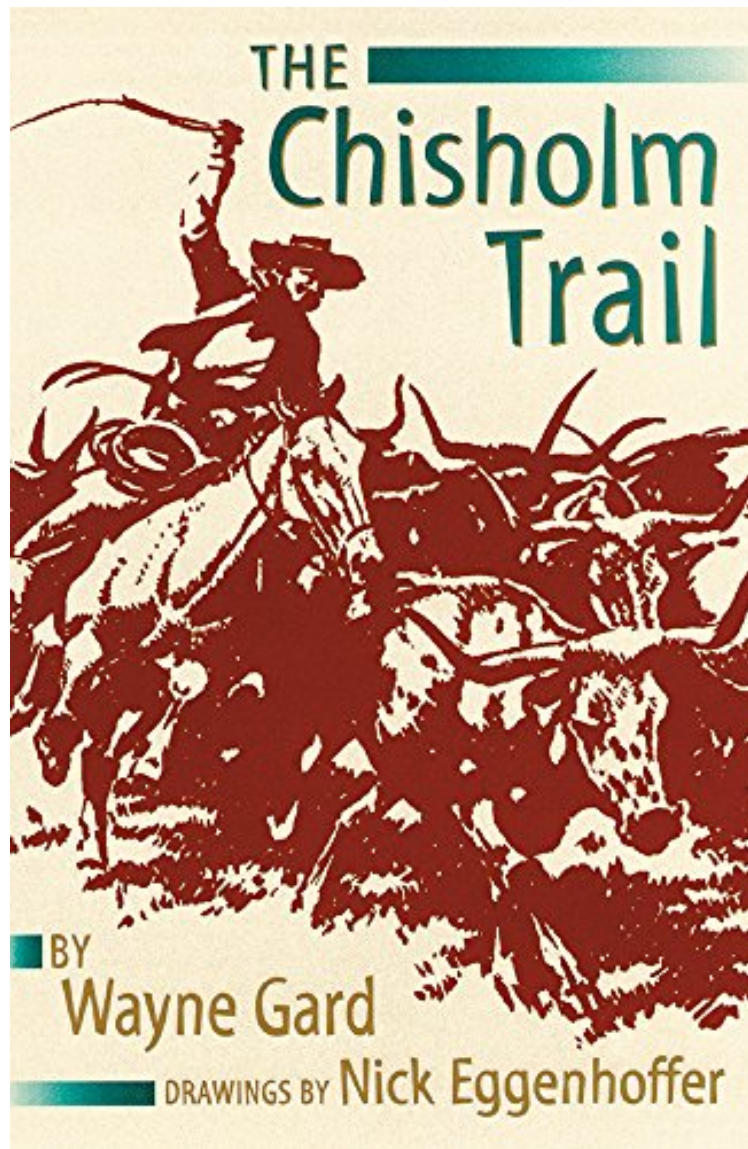


[Download pdf] The Chisholm Trail

The Chisholm Trail

Wayne Gard

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Wayne Gard : The Chisholm Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Chisholm Trail:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. As Good as It GetsBy Michael E. FitzgeraldThis is the story of one of the largest mass animal migrations in history. From 1867 until 1890 roughly 10 million Longhorn cattle and one million horses would be moved from Southern and Central Texas to the Kansas rail head at Abilene, Kansas. It was hard, hazardous work that required hard men immune to the danger the work provided. Trail herding offered low

pay, heat, thick dust, drought, poor food, stampedes, hail storms, treacherous river crossings, rustlers and occasional scrapes with Indians. Above all else it was a very long ride, over a thousand miles requiring four to six months of dedication. Some men only made the ride once. Some men knew only this work. But when it was over, when the trail had been fenced off, plowed under and passed into history, 35,000 men and some women would have made the trek, delivering beef, leather and tallow on the hoof to Northern markets. Texas had beef. Millions and millions of Longhorn cattle, descendants of herds brought 400 years earlier by the initial Spanish settlers and explorers, roamed the vast plains and river bottoms. The Chisholm Trail was the thoroughfare through which these cattle were converted into dollars. The trail started at the Rio Grande, headed North through Gonzales, Lockhart and Austin, passed through Fort Worth and crossed the Red River into Indian Territory at, naturally enough, Red River Crossing. From there it continued north to Caldwell, Kansas, Wichita and finally, 1,000 miles later, the Abilene rail head for shipment to eastern markets. It was a huge vacuum sucking cows from as far east as Houston and as far west as Del Rio and all points in between. Later, as the railroads pushed west and settlers closed the range, other towns such as Ellsworth and Dodge City would replace Abilene as the terminus. This book is not a romantic novel where Hollywood's leading man gets the girl at the end of the movie. This is a serious history that preserves the courage, daring and business enterprise of the cattle owners and their cowboys, establishing them as key participants in the Nation's settlement and westward expansion. It details the importance of the Chisholm Trail, the role it played in the development of the American West and the conduit it was for delivering animals to a hungry east and a developing upper Midwest. It established, among many other things, the meat packing business in the United States, ranching in the upper Great Plains and the rail and highway transportation corridors that still serve the nation today. It is a fascinating story well told about depressed times well handled by focused men, who coped magnificently with life as they found it. Finishing this fine work I finally understood why the University of Texas chose the Longhorn as its mascot. Chisholm's Trail runs right through Austin, Texas. Interstate 35, the old trail itself, borders the campus. What a wonderful honor to the men and women who seriously changed life for the better, not just in Texas but throughout the United States. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you expect Western Lore or if you have a ... By Gil If you expect Western Lore or if you have a short attention span, don't get this book. It is history in the sense of a detailed reconstruction of actual events based on written records. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Max E. Brown book was not as pictured

For more than a dozen tempestuous years, beginning in 1867, the Chisholm Trail was the Texas cowhands road to high adventure. It offered the excitement of sudden stampedes, hazardous river crossings, and brushes with Indian marauders. It promised, at the end of the drive, hilarious celebrations in the saloons, gambling parlors, and dance halls of frontier Kansas towns. The account that appears on these pages reveals the courage, daring, and enterprise of the cattle owners and their cowboys, establishing them firmly as heroes in the westward expansion.

About the Author Wayne Gard (1899-1986) was a longtime editorial writer for the Dallas Morning News and President of the Texas State Historical Association. He was the author of seven volumes of Texana and southwestern history, including *Frontier Justice* and *The Chisholm Trail*, both published by the University of Oklahoma Press.