

HISTORY OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL 150TH ANNIVERSARY 1867 - 2017

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL AND KANSAS

The first herd of Texas cattle arrived at the Great Western Stock Yards in Abilene, Kansas in August of 1867. Over the next several years millions of head of cattle were driven up the Chisholm Trail from Texas through Indian Country (Oklahoma) to Kansas to be loaded onto railroad cars and shipped off to eastern markets. Kansas cattle towns owe their existence to the Chisholm Trail. The cattle trade along the trail allowed the cattle towns to spring up and encouraged settlement into the new state. The Chisholm Trail helped feed a starving nation and boosted the economy in the aftermath of the Civil War. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the trail and it's important place in American history, an entire year of activities are planned - from San Antonio, Texas all the way up through Oklahoma to Abilene, Kansas.

JESSE CHISHOLM & CHISHOLM'S TRAIL

Near the end of the Civil War, Jesse Chisholm established a trading post at the confluence of the Big and Little Arkansas Rivers and a homestead near by. He had visited the area several times with various expeditions - the first time in 1826. Being half Cherokee and speaking several Native American languages, he was in demand as a guide and interpreter. Jesse traded frequently with the Native American tribes in the area and had built up a good business. In 1865 Chisholm and James R. Mead established a trading post near Council Grove and developed a trading route from Wichita down into "Indian Territory" (present day Oklahoma). The trail became known as Chisholm's Trail. While there was an abundance of cattle in the south, there was a cattle shortage in the east. A man from Illinois, Joseph McCoy, came up with a plan. He convinced the railroad to build a spur into the new town of Abilene and extended Jesse's trail from Wichita up to Abilene. The entire route eventually came to be called The Chisholm Trail.

WICHITA & DELANO

In 1868 Wichita was founded near Chisholm's trading post at the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers. By 1870 Wichita had become an important trading center on the Chisholm Trail and was growing rapidly. In 1873, the railroad reached Wichita, making it the newest railhead for the Texas cattle. Herds were brought into the area and allowed to graze and fatten up. The cattle were then driven across the river about where the Douglas street bridge is currently. Cattle pens and loading chutes were built to hold 2,500 head of cattle by the railroad station near where US-54 is now. After a few years, as settlers moved in and the population grew, town residents would often become weary of the lawlessness. It wasn't uncommon for a town to segregate the cattlemen into an area away from the town proper to try and control some of the vices that came with the cattle trade. These districts featured saloons, brothels and hotels offering "rest and recreation" for the trail weary drover. One example of this is the settlement of Delano which sprang up across the river from the new town of Wichita. Wichita required the cattle men to check their guns with the town marshal when they entered the town, effectively keeping them west of the river. Named after Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior under President Ulysses S. Grant, Delano quickly gained a reputation as a rough and rowdy place - across the river and away from Wichita's ordinances against gambling, guns, and prostitution. Fines that were levied on the sins in Delano provided much-needed funds to help Wichita's city fathers build their new town. In the 1870s, before being incorporated into Wichita, Delano was a separate town which even had it's own U.S. Post Office. Eventually increasing conflicts with settlers and homesteaders caused the cattle trade to move farther west to Dodge City and Delano was incorporated into the city of Wichita. Wichita and Delano have seen many changes since the 1860s. Wichita is now known as the "Air Capital of the World" and Delano is a popular neighborhood that is home to dozens of unique shops, art galleries and restaurants. Old Cowtown Museum is an authentic, 17-acre, open-air living history museum, which recreates life in Delano, Wichita and Sedgwick County from 1865 to 1880.

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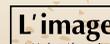
Sedgwick County...
working for you



PLATINUM



GOLD



DELANO FALL FAIR

A CHISHOLM TRAIL CELEBRATION



THREE DAYS OF FREE FAMILY FUN!
2017 EVENT MAP & SCHEDULE

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ALL DAY ENTERTAINMENT

500 BLOCK

Longhorn Cattle Corral (500 block)
 Demonstrations & Vendors (On Douglas Ave)
 Cow Chip Tossing Contest (On Sycamore north of the stage)

600 BLOCK

Main Stage Performances (The Clock Tower)
 Western Art Show (L'Image)

700 BLOCK

Junior Rodeo (Credit Union of America)
 • Hat Toss
 • Boot Toss
 • Old Fashioned Kid Games
 Story Time (Christian Science Reading Room)

Troop 733 Scouting Activities and Games
 • Bucking Bronco Rides
 • Demonstrations (Fire Building, Rope Making, etc.)

800 BLOCK

Bell Stage (Bell Carpet and Floors)
 • Roscoe & Rose Red
 • Medicine Man Show
 • Street Entertainers
 Nomads of the Old West (On Douglas Ave)

900 BLOCK

Vintage Market (On Douglas Ave)
 3-Ball Challenge (Club Billiards)

NORTH HANDLEY

Blacksmithing (On Handley Street)
 Block Party (Aero Plains Brewing)

PEARL STREET

Chuck Wagon (on Pearl Street)
 Wagon Rides (Saturday on Pearl Street)
 Horse Rides (Sunday on Pearl Street)

VISIT THE MANY DELICIOUS LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN DELANO!

SCHEDULED EVENTS

FRIDAY

6:00-9:00 PM:
 Campfire Ghost Stories (Clock Tower)

SATURDAY

HIGH NOON:
 Western Parade (see route on map)

3:00 PM:
 Wing-eating contest (Delano BBQ, 700 Block)

3:30 PM:
 Taylon Hope (Main Stage)

6:00 PM:
 Del Shields (Main Stage)

7:00-9:00 PM:
 Suzy Bogguss (Main Stage)

SUNDAY

11:00 AM:
 Cowboy Church Service (Metropolitan Baptist Church Lawn)

1:00 PM:
 Running of the Doves (Douglas, 500 block)

2:00 PM:
 Ice Cream Social (Milkfloat, 500 block)

2:00 PM:
 Beard & Mustache Competition (500 block)

2:00 PM:
 Jesse Chisholm Look-alike Contest (500 block)

3:30-5:00 PM:
 Prairie Rose Rangers (Main Stage)

MAIN STAGE CLOCK TOWER SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

6:00 - 9:00 PM
 Campfire
 Ghost Stories

SATURDAY

6:00 PM
 Del Shields
 7:00-9:00 PM
 Suzy Bogguss

SUNDAY

3:30 - 5:00 PM
 Prairie Rose Rangers



- PARKING
- STREET CLOSED
- INFORMATION / SOUVENIRS
- BATHROOMS / HANDICAPPED BATHROOMS
- WESTERN PARADE ROUTE