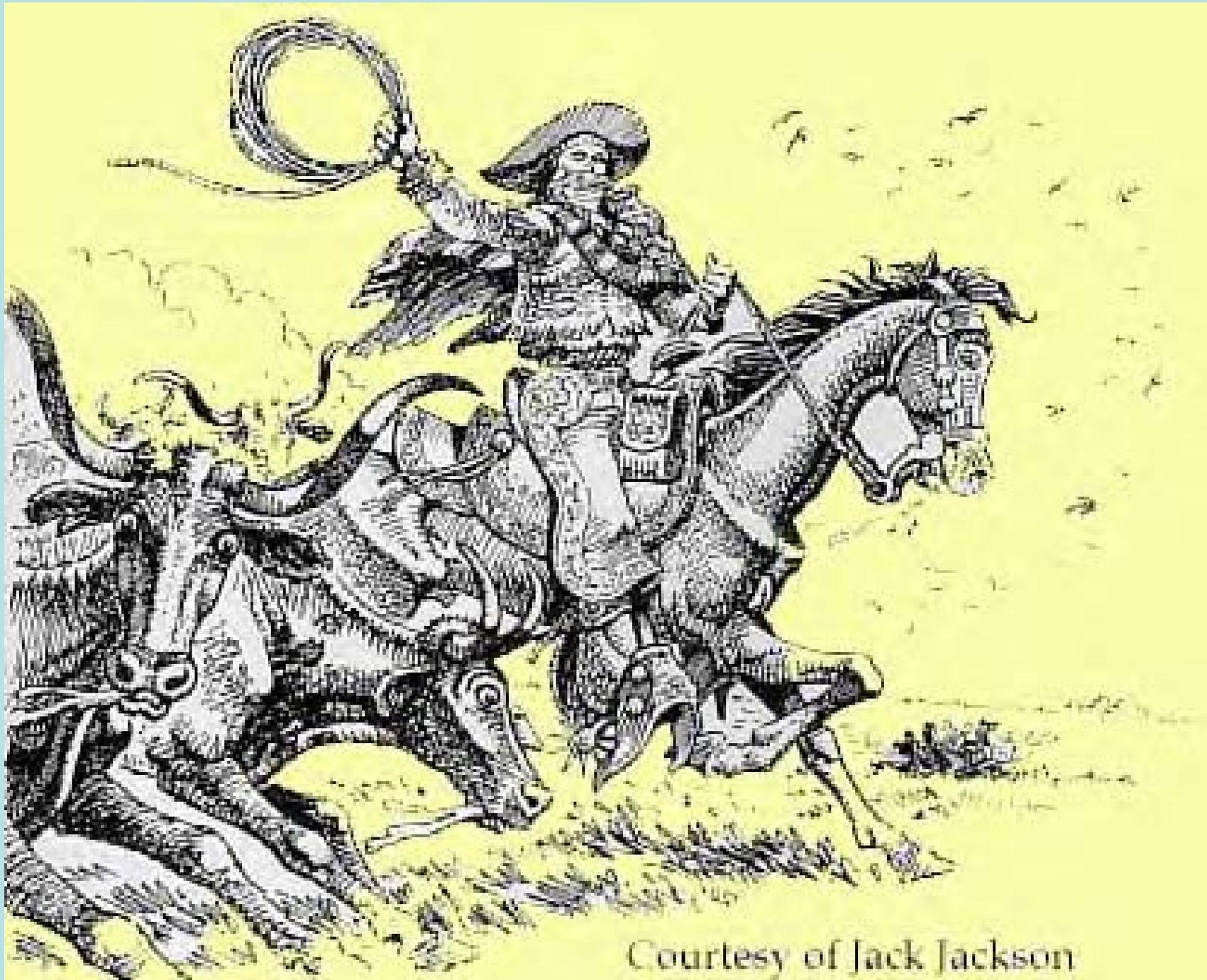


The Cattle Kingdom

BACKGROUND

- The origin of the American cowboy can be traced to the *vaqueros*.
- *Vaqueros* were Mexican cowboys who had been herding cattle for years in the southwest.
- American cowhands copied their equipment and methods. Lariat (lasso), chaps. Etc.



Courtesy of Jack Jackson

Why did the Cattle Kingdom grow?

- Demand for beef:
 - Large populations in cities.
 - Soldiers fighting in the war.
 - Less people farming, needed their food provided for them.

- Wild Cattle

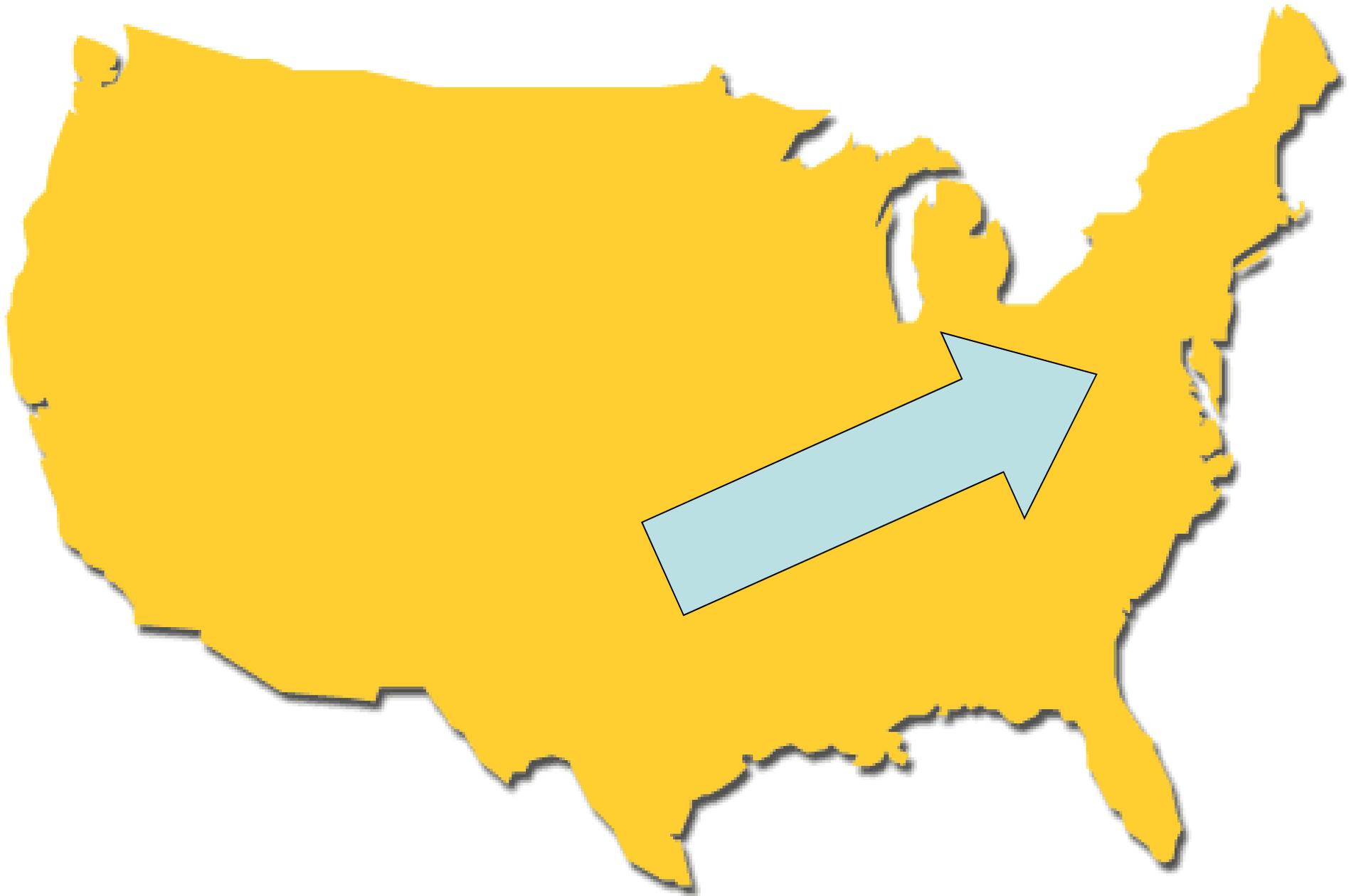
- Mexican cattle had escaped and grown into huge wild herds throughout Texas and the Southwest.

- All you had to do was round them up.



Problems

- Getting the product to the consumer
 - Cattle were in Texas, most of the people who wanted the beef were on the east coast.



Solution

- Railroads
 - Another Problem
 - No railroads extended into Texas
 - How do you get the cattle hundreds of miles to the nearest railroad?

Cattle Drives

- Cowboys would lead the cattle hundreds of miles to the nearest RR.
- Most famous – Chisolm Trail
- Dangerous, difficult process
 - Thieves, rivers, predators, weather, and stampedes.
 - \$1 a day!





Cow Towns

- Cow towns were the towns where the cattle drive ended.
- Thousands of head of cattle were corralled so they could be shipped east.
- Many of these towns grew into large cities.

The Cattle Boom

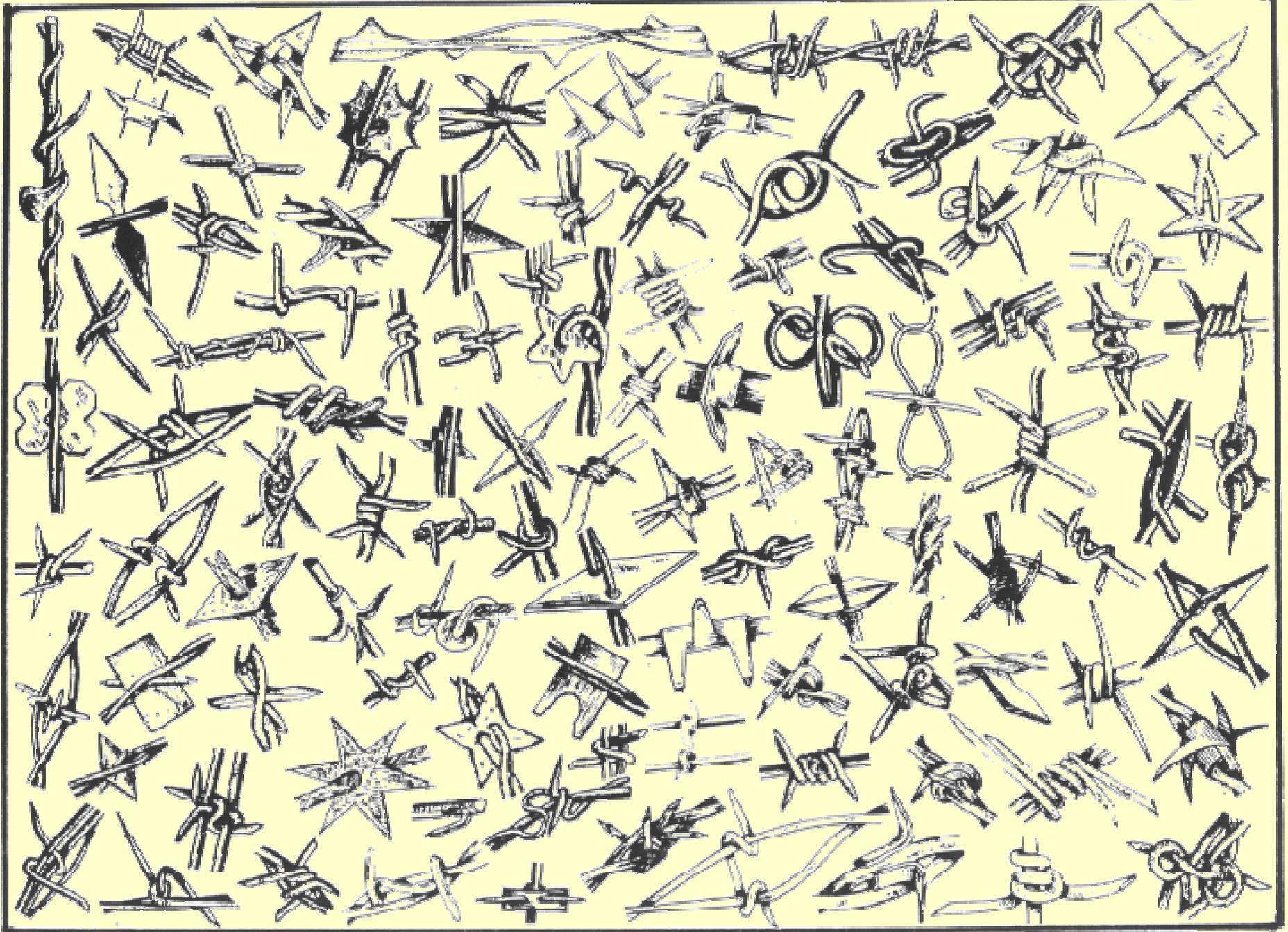
- 1870's – Cattle Kingdom stretches from Texas all the way to Montana
- Cattle run wild on the open range.
- Cattle are branded in order to tell ownership.





The End of the Cattle Kingdom

- Farmers move onto the Great Plains
 - Use barbed wire to fence the land
 - No more wide open range.



- Cold Winters

- Winters of 1886 and 1887 killed off 90% of the wild cattle. They froze or starved to death.