

Henrietta Vann and Wilson N. Jones

1. Read and discuss the stories of Henrietta Vann and Wilson N. Jones below. Both of them farmed in Indian Territory before statehood.
 - Discuss vocabulary words. Students will use contextual clues to guess the meaning and use dictionaries or the definitions included.
 - Students will locate the places in Oklahoma where Henrietta Vann and Wilson N. Jones lived on a map of Oklahoma. Students will identify nearby rivers and identify and compare the two vegetation zones.
 - Students will compare and contrast the lives of Vann and Jones in writing.
 - Students will use online or library resources to find more information about a topic of their choosing related to the lives of one or both of the people described (Cherokees, Choctaws, cattle barons, tribal land allotment, Indian Territory during the Civil War, etc.) Students will write short papers based on their research.

Vocabulary

allotment— an amount of something that is given out as a share or portion

baron— a man who possesses great power or influence in some field of activity

butchered— to kill (an animal) and prepare its meat for sale

carded— cleansed, disentangled, and collected together (as fibers) by the use of cards preparatory to spinning

chatelaine— the mistress of a household or of a large establishment

communal— shared or used by members of a group or community

consumption— the act of eating or drinking something

continent— one of the great divisions of land (such as North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, or Antarctica) of the Earth

cultivated— raised or grown on a farm or under other controlled conditions

encountered— to come upon face-to-face

Five Civilized Tribes— the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek (Muscogee), and Seminole tribes—the first five tribes that Anglo-European settlers generally considered to be “civilized” according to their own world view, because these five tribes adopted attributes of the colonists’ culture, for example, Christianity, centralized governments, literacy, market participation, written constitutions, intermarriage with white Americans, and plantation slavery practices. The Five Civilized Tribes tended to maintain stable political relations with the Europeans.

gin— to separate (cotton fiber) from seeds and waste material

glimpse— a brief or quick view or look

manage— to have control of (something, such as a business, household,

Oklahoma Academic Standards

GRADE 3

Economics: 2.3. Geography: 1CE, 2A. History: 3,6,10,11

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.2. Critical Reading and Writing: R.7; W.2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2,3

HIGH SCHOOL

Geography: 1,4. Oklahoma History (pre-statehood): 3,4,7

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Critical Reading and Writing: W.2. Vocabulary: R.1,3,5. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3

sports team, etc.)

mercantile— of or relating to the business of buying and selling products to earn money

merchandise— goods that are bought and sold

millet— a type of grass that is grown for its seeds which are used as food

neutral

operations— activities of a business or organization

ox cart— a heavy 2-wheeled vehicle pulled by a domestic bovine mammal

palatable— having a pleasant or agreeable taste

preserve— to prevent (food) from decaying

prominent— important and well-known

quantities— an amount or number of something

range— an open region over which animals (as livestock) may roam and feed

retaliation— to repay (as an injury) in kind

retinue— a group of helpers, supporters, or followers

slave— someone who is legally owned by another person and is forced to work for that person without pay

spin— to draw out and twist fibers of cotton, wool, silk, etc., into yarn or thread

status— the position or rank of someone or something when compared to others in a society, organization, group, etc.

utilized—made use of

virtually—almost entirely

Henrietta Vann and Wilson N. Jones

HENRIETTA VANN: A CHEROKEE CHATELAINE

When the Europeans first **encountered** the **Five Civilized Tribes** in the eastern part of the **continent**, they were living in **agricultural villages**. Men were hunters and warriors, and they cleared land. Women **cultivated** fields and raised children. Women held very high **status** in these communities. They owned **virtually** all of the family possessions, including the home, the fields, and the crops.

Women continued to play an important role in **managing** farm **operations** after the tribes came to Indian Territory. They brought their knowledge to start farms in the new land.

Henrietta Vann was the wife of a **prominent** Cherokee, Judge John Vann. In the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* Carolyn Thomas Foreman provides a **glimpse** into her life on her farm near Muskogee.

*In a big house built of oak logs this Cherokee woman ruled her household like a real **chateleine**. On the rich land were grown corn, oats, **millet** and some wheat, tobacco in a limited quantity, and cotton. There being no **gins** the cotton seeds had to be removed by hand before the lint could be **carded** and spun. There were peaches, apples, pears, plums, berries, grapes and melons grown on this farm.... Many vegetables were grown and while some of them were stored in the cellar, many were dried for winter **consumption**. Fruits were **preserved** with sugar and **quantities** were dried but no fruits or vegetables were canned.... Sheep were raised on the farm and their wool was **utilized** to **spin** cloth and for yarn from which socks and stockings were **knit**.... In winter... hogs were **butchered** for making sausage, hams and bacon.... When cattle were butchered parts of the animal were dried and proved very **palatable** when fresh meat was not available.*

Henrietta managed the farm, but much of the work was done by **slaves**. The Cherokees held slaves and fought with the Confederacy during the Civil War. In **retaliation**, the Union troops burned the farms of many Cherokees, including that of Henrietta Vann. Hundreds of Cherokees headed south by wagon and **ox cart** to wait out the war in Texas. After the war they returned to their farms in Indian Territory.

WILSON N. JONES: CHOCTAW CATTLE BARON

Although some members of the Choctaw tribe held slaves and sided with the South, Wilson N. Jones, remained **neutral** during the Civil War. At that time, Choctaw land was **communal**, which meant it belonged to all the Choctaws. Any member of the tribe could use it. Jones worked hard during the war and saved \$500, enough to set himself up with a farm on Shawnee Creek in Blue County (now Bryan County). Later he opened a **mercantile** business and got his start in the cattle business by accepting **livestock** in exchange for **merchandise**. By 1890 Jones was one of the wealthiest men in the Territory. He held 17,000 acres of Choctaw land. He farmed 550 acres and grazed cattle on the rest. He was known as the “Indian Cattle King of the Territory.” In addition to his cattle business and store, Jones had a cotton gin and investments in the coal business. The employees on Jones’ ranch were mostly full blood Indians. He was very popular with his employees.

Because individual tribal members could not hold title to tribal land, much of Indian Territory was a vast open **range** under constant dispute by armed competitors. Jones was one of a handful of “cattle **barons**” in Indian Territory who made and enforced his own regulations, surrounded by an “armed **retinue**,” much like the characters in a western movie.

In 1892, Wilson N. Jones was elected principal chief of the Choctaw Nation. He fought to oppose the **allotment** of tribal land to individual tribal members because it would destroy the open range that had contributed to his success. Jones lost the fight in 1897 when the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations signed an agreement with the federal government to divide their land among all tribal members.