

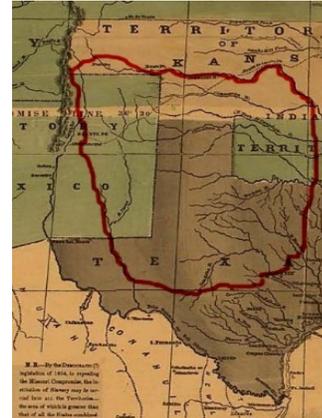
QUANAH PARKER DAY VISIT TO HEMPHILL COUNTY

“Wild and Free on 83!” was launched on August 3, 2019 by the business and civic leaders of the counties along the eastern side of the Texas Panhandle connected by US Highway 83. They wanted to invite travelers to come and experience their unique businesses and landmarks.

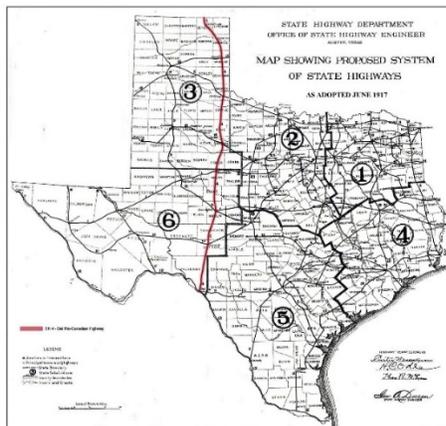
Texas Plains Trail Region directors and Quanah Parker Trail officials used this event to send a replica of Quanah Parker along the Highway 83 route and capture the places that connect to Quanah and the Comanche.

You are invited to spend Quanah Parker Day, September 11, 2021, or any day, discovering the history and beauty of the Plains Trail Region that corresponds to the majestic Comanchería.

Here are highlights of the journey through Hemphill County. Quanah stakes a place beside the “Wild and Free on 83!” sign posted at the Canadian Visitors Center at 119 North 2nd Street in Canadian, Texas.



Indian and Buffalo Trails were often engineering markers for later Texas Highways. West of McLean, not too far from US 83, is a historic buffalo trail of the Llano Estacado that descends to the rivers below. Was US 83 a prehistoric trail cut by the hooves of migrating bison and the nomadic Indians who followed them? The Texas Historical Commission regards US 83 as “historic,” however, only parts of the highway followed older trails of the mid-19th century Comanchería.



When the Texas Highway Commission created the state highway (SH) system in 1917, it gave the name “Del Rio-Canadian Highway, SH4” to US 83. It was considered one of the most significant highways because it served West Texas and the Texas Panhandle. It extended from Ochiltree and Canadian, Texas, in the north near the Oklahoma border, to Del Rio, Texas, in the south, near the Mexico border (red line).

Later, it became incorporated into the U.S. Numbered Highway System and was re-designated as U.S. 83 (US 83). Today, extending all the way south to Brownsville, Texas, its total distance of 895 miles makes it the longest highway in the state.



Quanah's journey began in Canadian, Texas, standing in front of the city mural at the River Valley Pioneer Museum that pays tribute to the city of Canadian. This area was a favorite hunting area for the Comanche. The mural was painted by artist Tom Gibson, 2011, on the outside south wall of the Museum located at 118 N 2nd St., Canadian, Texas.



The city was named for the Canadian River flowing just north of town on US 60/83. There, you will experience the amazing river crossing and the roadside city park located by the Canadian River's Historic Wagon Bridge. The Canadian River once ran so wide and fierce here, altering the course of its channel over time, that in the modern era, the bridge had to be extended to 21 spans.

In the 19th century, Quanah's fellow Comanche and Kiowa camped at the springs which fed the Canadian, and its tributary, Red Deer Creek, which flowed into the river from the north.



The Historical Wagon Bridge roadside park on US 83 at 800 N 2nd Street in Canadian, has this nearby 1966 THC marker, "Canadian River Trails." It reads "Trade, exploration and hunting trails along the Canadian are older than recorded history – old when used 1541 by Spaniard Coronado hunting golden cities of Cibola. Route in 1840 for Josiah Gregg and 34 Missouri men with goods worth \$25,000 headed for trade in Santa Fe. Used by 1849 parties escorted by U.S. Army Captain R. B. Marcy on way to California Gold Rush. Hunters, cattlemen, settlers used Canadian River Trails in 1870s and 80s as Panhandle was opened to civilization. River's name, 'Canadian,' came from Spanish for 'boxed in.'" (1966)

<https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/Details/5211000697/print>

This Quanah Parker Trail Arrow and granite marker is located in Historical Wagon Bridge road-side park, off US 60/83, north of Canadian. This QPT granite marker acknowledges Quanah's father, Peta Nocona. After Quanah's mother and Peta Nocona's wife, Cynthia Ann Parker, had been captured in 1860 by the U.S. Cavalry and Texas Rangers during their raid on a Comanche hunting camp by Mule Creek in Foard County, Texas, his father, Peta Nocona, sought word of her whereabouts.



Horace P. Jones, a scout and translator for the U.S. Army, reported that he met with Peta Nocona outside of Fort Cobb, Oklahoma, in 1861 or 1862, to share what little info was known. Cynthia Ann Parker by then was unreachable, under the custodial care of her Uncle Isaac Parker, far away in North Central Texas.

After waging battles of reprisal for a year after his wife's capture, Peta Nocona eventually made his way back to the Antelope Hills. There, while picking plums along the Canadian River, he succumbed to an infection caused by a war wound, and died. By 1878, Quanah revealed to his own daughter, Laura Neda Parker, and to his friend Charles Goodnight, who had been involved in Cynthia Ann's 1860 capture, that his father was buried in the Antelope Hills.



Departing from Canadian, and heading south on US 60/83, is the whimsical statue of "Aud," the 25' high, 50' long Brontosaurus-like dinosaur, standing watch as a sentinel overlooking the city, from atop her mesa on private ranchland. "Aud," fabricated by local artist Bobby Gene Cockrell (1927-2013) from a welded steel armature covered with concrete mesh cladding, was named for the artist's wife, Audrey Miller Cockrell (1933-2019).

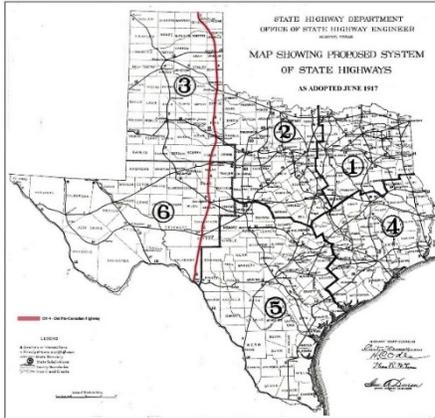


This QPT arrow stands beneath the mesa land overseen by "Aud," located 3.5 miles south of Canadian on US 83. From the vantage points afforded by the high elevation, Quanah seeks and eventually finds a vista that permits him a view of the Antelope Hills.

To see the Antelope Hills, travel east out of Canadian on SR 60, to the town of Glazier. Take FM 2758 to the east, then FM 1453 to the state line. From here, the Antelope Hills appear along the Canadian River in present-day Ellis County, Oklahoma. In the mid-19th century, this area was roamed by the Nokoni Comanche, his father's band. This is where Quanah's father, Peta Nocona, lived out his final days.

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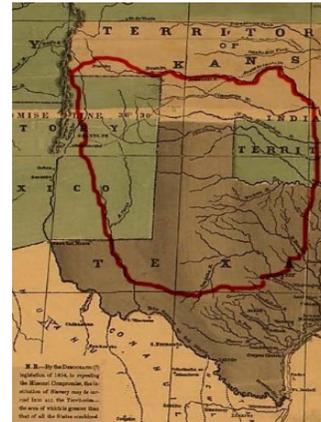


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Here are highlights of the journey through Wheeler County. Follow Quanah along US 83 to Wheeler and Shamrock with the first stop at the Wheeler Historical Museum at 105 South Alan L Bean Boulevard/US 83, Wheeler, Texas.



Wheeler is the birthplace of Apollo 12 astronaut Alan Bean (1932-2018), the 4th man to walk on the moon. Museum exhibits highlight the Apollo space program sponsored by NASA from 1967 to 1972. Apollo moon missions were launched five decades after Quanah Parker departed from his Earthly existence in 1911.

The Moon was very important to the Comanche. In the fall, the full moon, or the “Comanche Moon” was significant for lighting the way along the Comanche Trail for stealthy raids into Mexico.



Quanah poses by a sculpture of Alan Bean with Ada Lester, of the Wheeler County Historical Commission. On this day, Ada is costumed as a Fort Elliot laundress. Along with other re-enactors, she dramatized for US 83 travelers the story of Fort Elliott.

The nearby fort, in operation from 1875-1890, was built and outfitted with Buffalo Soldiers to protect the boundaries and travelers of the Texas Panhandle and Indian Territory.

In 1878, at the request of Charles Goodnight, soldiers from Ft. Elliot escorted Quanah and a hunting party of Comanche and Kiowa safely out of Palo Duro Canyon and back to their reservation at Fort Sill. The Indians had obtained a pass to depart the reservation and hunt for



buffalo that they had hoped still roamed in areas they once frequented, in order to supplement their meager government food rations. But they found none. The Buffalo Hunters they had waged war against during the Red River War of 1874, had slaughtered nearly all of them, almost nearly to extinction.

The Wheeler County Historical Commission designed the granite marker foundation to mirror the red bluffs along the region's main waterways, exposed through erosion by wind, snow and rain. The granite marker notes that Quanah's fellow Comanche, Kiowa and Southern Cheyenne allies, hunted bison and camped along the Sweetwater Creek to the north, and North Fork Red River to the south. Arrow and granite marker installed on SH 152, west of/behind the Wheeler Public Library, on US 83 at 306 S Canadian St., Wheeler, Texas



Quanah continues his journey south on US 83 to Shamrock.



Welcome signage on the south side of the City at 1000 S Main St./US 83. Across the street is the QPT Arrow and granite marker that states that this area provided ideal hunting and camping conditions for Indians of the era. The North Fork Red River courses from northwest to southeast, just 3 miles north of the city. The river and abundant springs, particularly Indian Springs, located 15 miles northwest of Shamrock, furnished water that attracted wild game.

Shamrock also is located on Historic Route 66, which traverses the entire Texas Panhandle from east to west. Before it was paved as a highway, this route was a buffalo trail that coursed along a high ridge, where water drained to the north and south, away from its path. It was easy not only for buffalo, but also Indians whose horses and mules transported supplies and pulled travois bearing teepees, to travel long distances from east to west

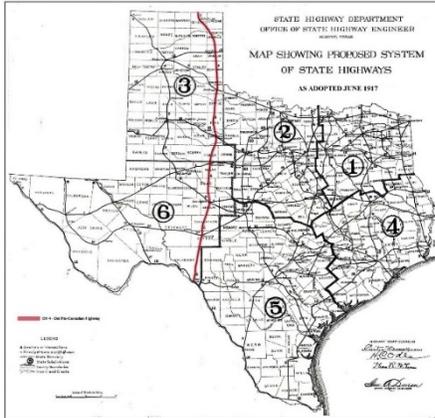


For all these reasons, Comanche, Kiowa and Southern Cheyenne warriors and their families camped here at the site where Shamrock stands today. Backtracking north into town, is Shamrock's most famous landmark, the Tower Station and U-Drop Inn, known universally the world over from being featured in Pixar's "Cars" cinematic films.

Tower Station and U-Drop Inn is located at 101 East 12th St. at the intersection of US 83 and Historic Route 66, in Shamrock, Texas.

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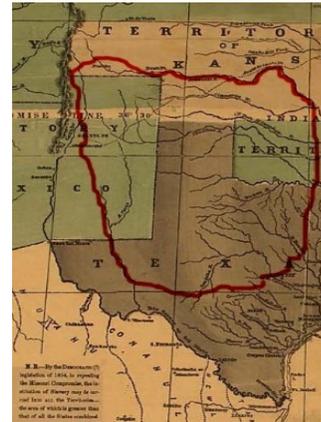


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Here are highlights from Wellington, on US 83, in Collingsworth county. The QPT Arrow in Collingsworth Pioneers' Park, is located 6 miles north of Wellington.

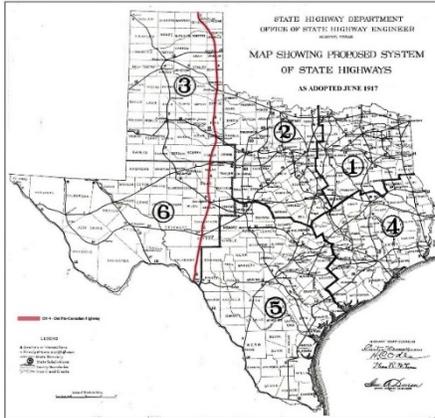


Behind Quanah is the bridge that crosses over the Salt Fork Red River. The QPT granite marker denotes that spring-fed creeks, flowing from northwest to southeast across the county and into the Salt Fork Red River, once hosted Indian camp sites, some dating to prehistoric times. The Comanche forded the Salt Fork Red River on horseback. A new bridge was constructed in 2012 that replaced the older two-span, one-lane steel truss bridge built in 1939.



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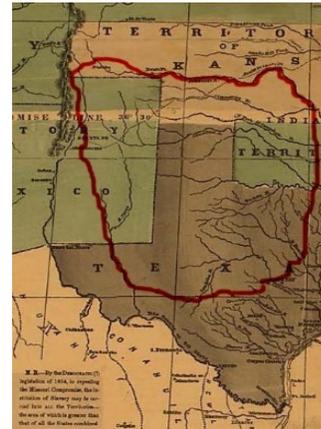


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Here are highlights from Childress, on US 83, in Childress County. The QPT Arrow in Childress is located north of the auditorium at Fair Park with Fair Park Lake nearby. Its waters originate from nearby Childress Springs. Comanches once watered their horses at the springs that flow into North Groesbeck Creek.



The importance of waterways is illustrated by Childress Springs and North Groesbeck Creek. They are tributaries of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, which forms the northern boundary of Childress County. Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River served as the river trail that led the Comanche into Palo Duro Canyon, a source of food and sanctuary. They were safe there, hidden from view, and sheltered from winds.

Many years later, North Groesbeck Creek was dammed to form this lake for the park, which first appears on an 1888 map, labeled “Groesbeck Park.”



A Texas Historical Marker posted nearby commemorates how rancher Charles Goodnight once watered cattle here.

“**Goodnight Trail** - In hostile Indian years of 1866-71, route of great cattle drives from Texas to U.S. forts in Colorado and New Mexico. Col. Charles Goodnight, trailblazer, drove thousands of cattle to water here. Site later (1886) became Childress. Cattle watering hole is now lake in Fair Park.” (1964)

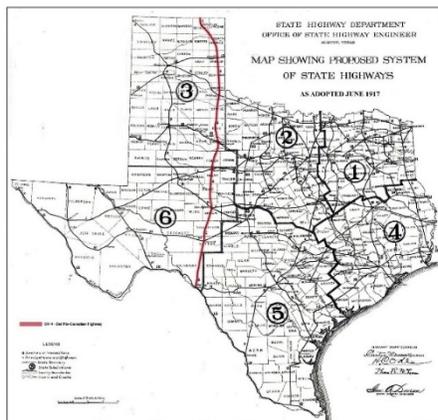
Goodnight was a longtime friend to Quanah Parker. Around 1880, Charles Goodnight gave him some of his own cattle, a Durham Bull and two cows, to help Quanah upgrade the small herd he had been able to start on the reservation with the help General Ranald A. Mackenzie, by then the commander of Ft. Sill.



This Durham Bull is named “The Duke of Cambridge,” a watercolor sketch from life painted by August Kollner in 1856 at the Agricultural Fair in Philadelphia.

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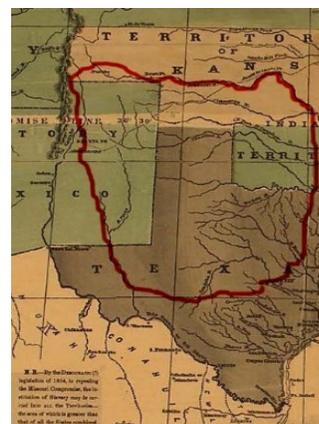


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Here are highlights from Cottle County along US 83. County.



This QPT Arrow in Cottle County is located in Paducah. “Paducah” is thought to be an Indian name, though fiercely debated as to tribal affiliation. The town was given the name by an early settler who had come from Paducah, Kentucky.

Passing through the courthouse square, travelers observe the intricate patterns formed with rust red bricks used to construct many of the downtown buildings, including the Historic Cottle County Jail, where the Arrow is located.

When the Quanah, Acme and Pacific Railroad, partially named for Quanah Parker, arrived in 1909, it may be that Paducah was able to receive all those bricks, and more, by rail to the town site. The QPT

Arrow is at the Historic Cottle Co Jail, 812 Seventh St., Paducah, Texas. The remodeled historic county jail has served as a Visitors Center and is now the Cottle County Sheriff’s Office.



Quanah Parker was a Cousin, and good friend to Cottle County resident, Charlie Hart, as noted on the granite marker.

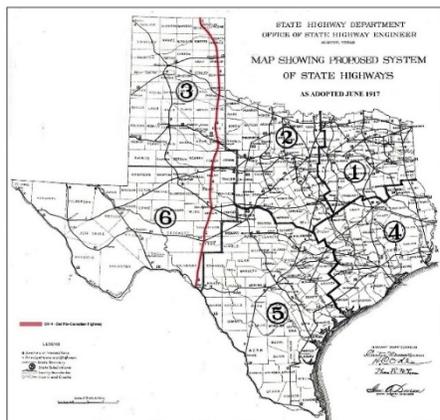
In 1886, Quanah received word that a cousin of his mother, Zack Hart, had died in Proctor, Texas, leaving a widow and six starving children. He sent for them and settled them on a farm near his home in Indian Territory. He hired the eldest, Charlie, age 10, to be his chore boy. Learning to speak Comanche fluently, and quickly acquiring horse and cattle wrangling skills, Quanah put Charlie in charge of overseeing his herd of 300 cattle that he grazed at the foot of the Wichita Mountains.

In 1895, Charlie's skills and knowledge of Comanche language and customs drew the attention of Samuel Burk Burnett, by then leasing from Quanah grassland on the Comanche reservation, and his son Tom Burnett, the wagon boss supervising the Burnett cattle. They hired Charlie to help manage their cattle from 1895 to 1905. In 1905, Burk sent Charlie to manage his cattle on the Four Sixes ranch in Guthrie. Charlie worked the North Camp which straddled King and Cottle Counties, from 1914 to 1922, long after Quanah had died in 1911. Charlie went on to manage the cattle of the Triangle Ranch acquired by Tom Burnett, which still maintains land in Paducah.

Quanah thought of Charlie, not only as a relative, but as trustworthy and loyal to him as a son. Both shared business ties and a lifelong friendship with Samuel and Tom Burnett. This QPT Arrow and granite marker are located at the Historic Cottle County Jail, 812 Seventh St., Paducah, Texas

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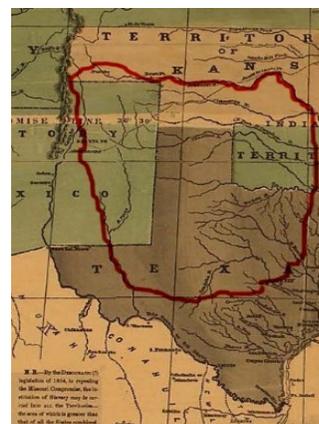


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Here are highlights from Guthrie, on US 83, in King County, the last stop on the US 83 corridor in the Texas Plains Trail Region.



The Four Sixes (6666) ranch at Guthrie was established in the early 1900's by Texas cattleman Samuel Burk Burnett.

Previously, in the 1880's Quanah helped broker leases for Burnett and his fellow Texas cattleman to permit them to graze their cattle on Comanche reservation grass lands in Oklahoma territory during times of Texas drought.

At Burnett's invitation, in 1909 Quanah also brought his Comanches to Fort Worth to parade in full regalia at the first ever indoor rodeo mounted by Burnett to promote the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, for which he served as president (1908 – 1922).

In return, Burnett reciprocated by inviting Quanah and his Comanche tribesmen to camp and hunt on Four Sixes land.



This wonderfully displayed QPT Arrow and granite marker are found at the park recently created at the foot of the Four Sixes (6666) Supply Store.

The marker summarizes recollections of Comanche elders who accompanied Quanah Parker to The Four Sixes in the early 1900's. The Comanche were invited to camp here on Samuel Burk Burnett's ranch.

Burnett made sure that the Four Sixes Supply Store was stocked with everything and anything his ranch hands and cowboys might need as provisions for their line camp sites or households.

The nearest town receiving railroad shipments of supplies, was Paducah, 70 miles away. A round trip there and back by horse-drawn wagon could take up an entire day.



The close friendship shared by the white cattle baron, Samuel Burk Burnett, and the Comanche chief was one of the rarest in its day. As a sign of their respect for Burnett, the Comanches named him "Mas-Sa-Suta," which means "Big Boss."