



Charles Goodnight

Charles Goodnight was born in Illinois just as Texas won its independence -- 1836. His family moved to Texas just as Texas became a state -- 1845.

By the time he was 20 years old, he got into the cattle business and went on to become the most revered cattleman in Texas history. After being a Texas Ranger during the Civil War, he and his partner, Oliver Loving, blazed new cattle trails such as the Goodnight-Loving Trail that went through New Mexico and into Colorado. Later, Goodnight and his new partner, John Adair, founded one of the most important cattle ranches in American history -- the *JA Ranch* in the Palo Duro Canyon.

It was at the *JA Ranch* that Goodnight improved his herd of Texas longhorns by crossing them with Herefords. He also had a herd of buffalo that he crossed with his longhorns....he called the offspring cattleo.

Goodnight left his impact on the Panhandle of Texas, on the Texas cattle industry, and on the minds of men.

A TEKS supportive *Curriculum Guide* for pre-and post-performance studies and activities is provided to teachers for visits from Charles Goodnight.

Portrayed by Bob Heinonen