

## A LOOK BACK IN HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

### Quanah Parker

Quanah Parker was one of the last great Comanche chiefs. He was the son of chief Peta Nocona (of the Nokona band) and Cynthia Ann Parker, a white woman who was kidnapped at the age of 9. She was assimilated into the tribe and lived with the Comanche Indians for most of the rest of her life.

Quanah displayed leadership abilities as a young man when he persuaded the Kiowa, Arapaho and Cheyenne to join the Comanche to attack buffalo hunters in what is now Hutchinson County at Adobe Walls in 1874 and raid settlements and travelers on the vast Great Plains of what is now the Texas Panhandle. He was an astute observer and learner. He understood the white man's ways better than other chiefs and used this knowledge effectively.

Quanah emerged as a leader after the Comanches' final defeat when they were sent to reservations in Indian Territory in Oklahoma. The U.S. government appointed Parker as the principal chief of the Indian nation. Quanah led his people while on the reservation and became a wealthy rancher and businessman. He shared his wealth with his people and was their principal overseer and guide as they transitioned from their nomadic life on the plains to the sedentary lifestyle of the reservation. ■



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