

TIMELINE

JULY 1838

Bass Reeves is born into slavery in Arkansas but grows up in Texas.

EARLY 1860s

During the Civil War, Bass escapes to Indian Territory.

APRIL 1865

The Civil War ends. Slavery is outlawed. Bass becomes a free man.

MAY 1875

Judge Isaac C. Parker hires Bass as a deputy U.S. marshal.

JUNE 1884

Bass kills Jim Webb in the line of duty.

JANUARY 1886

Belle Starr surrenders after Bass gets her warrant.

APRIL 1889

The Indian Territory is opened to white settlement.

NOVEMBER 1896

Judge Parker dies in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

JUNE 1902

Bass arrests his son Benjamin.

NOVEMBER 1907

Oklahoma earns statehood. Bass's career as deputy U.S. marshal ends. He accepts a job on the Muskogee police force.

JANUARY 1910

Bass dies of Bright's disease.

MARCH 1992

Bass Reeves is inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITES

Fort Smith National Historic Site
<http://www.nps.gov/fosm/index.htm>

Located in Fort Smith, Arkansas, near the Oklahoma border, this park maintains the courthouse and other buildings from the time of Judge Parker. Starting in 2011, the park will host the U.S. Marshals Museum.

Kent, Deborah. *The Trail of Tears*. Danbury, CT: Children's Press, 2007. This book describes the forced march of Native Americans into Indian Territory.

Markel, Rita J. *Your Travel Guide to America's Old West*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2004. This book gives readers an idea of what to eat, what to wear, and what life was like in the American West.

Oklahoma Historical Society
<http://www.okhistory.org/kidssiteindex.html>
The kids section of this website has information, games, and photos about Oklahoma's history.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Legend of Bass Reeves*. New York: Laurel-Leaf, 2008. This book contains an imagined tale of Bass Reeves's boyhood and a fictionalized account of his later life.

Underwood, Deborah. *Nat Love*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 2008. This story of Nat Love, an African American cowboy, is based largely on his autobiography.

U.S. Marshal Service
<http://www.usmarshals.gov/usmsforkids/index.htm>
This site gives an overview of the long history of U.S. marshals.