Bass Reeves (1838—1910) was born into slavery in Crawford County. During the Civil War, Bass became a fugitive slave and found refuge in Indian Territory (modern-day Oklahoma) amongst the Creek and Seminole Indians. Reeves was one of the first African American lawmen west of the Mississippi River. As one of the most respected lawmen working in Indian Territory, he achieved legendary status for capturing more than 3,000 felons. To learn more about Bass Reeves or to find more examples of black excellence, visit the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.