

Historic Natchitoches

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Butte Tribe Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

Belinda Brooks

Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux, located on Hwy 1226 in Natchitoches Parish, remembers their ancestors in honor of Native American Heritage Month. Chief Rodger Collum was given the oral history of his tribe beginning at the early age of five. Then, his elders sat him at their feet to prepare him for the responsibilities of caring for his family in future years.

Butte Tribe invites the public to join them in remembering the indigenous people of Natchitoches Parish.

Their rich, mixed Native American Heritage includes the bloodlines of the Chitimacha, Caddo, and Texas Mission Indians.

Chitimacha branches stem from their ancestors, Marie Anne Theresa and Marie Jeannie De La Grande Terre, who were taken as captives during St. Denis' raid on the Chitimacha village in Mobile, Ala., in the early 1700s. Both ancestors married men who were in the service of France. Butte Tribe's main bloodline within the Chitimacha is through Alexis Grappe and Marie Margarite Louise Guedon, daughter of Marie Theresa De La Grande Terre.



Chief Rodger Collum of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux traveled back in time as he led his people to two historical landmarks in Butte oral history. In the background, Chief Collum tells the story of the old farm plow. Close to 130 years ago, the fourth tribal chief, Chief Shquarehead, Adolph Felix Desadier, placed it in its final resting place. This is just one of many historical items Chief Collum has protected for over 60 years. The plow sits on tribal land owned and operated by Collum.

ter of Marie Theresa De La Grande Terre.

Their Texas Spanish Mission Indian bloodline is derived from several ancestors. Butte Tribe chiefs' line emerged from White Smoke and Two Moons. These and other documented Texas Indians were in the Los Adaes Mission near Robeline and the San Fernando Mission in San Antonio, Texas. Both missions were the capital of Texas at the time of occupation. Other Texas Indian ancestors of the Butte Tribe were Angelique, who married Charles Dumont, a Frenchman in the service of St. Denis, and Jose Matheo Perez, identified as a "lovo" in his Texas Mission baptismal records.

Documented Caddo ancestors were Marie Jeanie of the Caddos, Anne of the Caddos and Marie Ursule of the Caddos. It has not been determined if these ancestors were actually of the Caddo Nation bloodline located in the Texas/Arkansas/Oklahoma area or if they were from the Natchitoches Nation and were called Caddo due to the linguistic traits of the site.

Modern-day historians mistakenly represent the indigenous people of the Texas and Natchitoches Nations to be of the Caddo bloodline. However, "Caddoian" refers to the linguistic stock of those and other surrounding nations. In other words, the common language of the area was Caddo.

To learn more about the oral history of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux in Natchitoches Parish, visit BUTTETRIBE.ORG and click on the CHIEF'S HISTORY link.



A tour of the Butte Tribe's historical landmarks took members to the gravesite of their second chief, Chief Powder Face. Powder Face was born in 1798 in the Texas San Fernando Mission. He was given the baptismal name of Joseph Pereda Desaderio. Vice Chief Belinda Brooks repeats oral history handed down to Chief Rodger Collum (Thunderstick) as well as documented evidence of the life of Chief Powder Face. She points to the two stones that mark the graves of Powder Face and his wife, Maria Luiza Perez. The graves are located on land owned and operated by Collum.

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