ANACODES AND ANTIDOTES

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CHITIMACHA INDIANS

In a recent lecture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Franklin Donaldson covered some of the history and customs of the Chitimacha tribe. Swanton being the most important historian such as A. S. Gatschet, Frances Densmore, Fred Kniffen, John Swanton about the Chitimacha said to me, "About the only thing that interested me were the older Indians who worked the oil fields or at the willroon plant. The one farmer still left, most of the boys and girls go to public and private schools in and around it. After a war between the above and the Chitimacha who used to worship animal spirits; they used to be great warriors; they used to live under a code system. They do not do this anymore.

About the only thing that is left of the tradition is the famed Indian basket weavers, who are made from Louisiana cane. The old oak tree with a very wonderful folklore has been bound, in some very interesting legends; some of these remedies and cures; and a lot of Chitimacha Indians who have little about their own heritage.

About the most discouraging aspect of these people is the fact that much of their land, which was originally granted to them by the French and Spanish, has gradually been taken away. Mr. Stouff, the chairman of the council, claims that Chitimacha originally started with 71,900 acres, and it has gradually decreased to around 250. To think that a people who once ruled and ran this land 250 years ago, with no one telling them what to do, now have to fight against the lives of their inheritors, is indeed disheartening.

So besides their land being taken away, so has some of their pride, by these false and fictitious reports that have been written about them. It is indeed a more realized sense of their relationships with the whites and the world. Indeed it is a much more made just as much progress.