The Coushatta Indians who live in the Elton area are technically known as Koasati and are a branch of the Muskogean family.

They are not natives of southwest Louisiana, but came here because they had been allied with the French in Alabama.

Their known history goes back to 1540, when Hernando DeSoto found a confederacy of Indian tribes known as the Upper Creeks, living near the headwaters of the Tombigbee, Alabama, and Chattahoochee rivers.

France gave up the Mobile area under the Treaty of Paris of 1763 and this presented a large problem for the Coushatta. They and other tribes, like many French families such as the Fontenots, Deshotels, LaGranges and others, who did not want to live under British rule, began to look for new homes to the west.

It appears that the Coushatta under a leader named Red Shoes first moved to Bayou Chicot in the Opelousas district and a short time later located about 80 miles farther west on the east bank of the Sabine River near the present-day town of Merryville.

The modern history of the Coushatta tribe begins about 1850 with the establishment of Indian Village on the Calcasieu River near Kinder. By the beginning of the Civil War, some 250 Coushatta had settled there.

In the early 1850s, when homesteaders began taking up Coushatta lands at Indian Village the Coushatta found vacant land 15 miles east of Bayou Blue, which they purchased.

In 1854, most of the tribe moved to this site a few miles from Elton.