ATTACAPA. [B. A. E.]

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Attacapa, a Choc'ctaw: "hataki 'man,' apa 'eats,' hence 'cannibal': a name applied by the Choc'ctaw and their congeners to different tribes inhabiting s. w. La. and s. and e. Tex.; see Cannibalism. A tribe formed by the Attacapan linguistic family, a remnant of which early in the 19th century occupied as its chief habitat the Middle or Prien lake in Calcasieu parish, La. It is learned from Hutchins (Geog. U. S., 1784) that "the village de Skun-nemoke or Tuckapas" stood on Vermilion r., and that their church was on the w. side of the Tage (Bayou Têche). The Attacapa country extended formerly to the coast in s. w. Louisiana, and their primitive domain was outlined in the popular name of the Old Attacapa or Tuckapa country, still in use, which comprised St Landry, St Mary, Iberia, St Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion, and, later, Calcasieu and Vernon parishes; in fact all the country between Red, Sabine, and Vermilion rs. and the Gulf (Dennett, Louisiana, 1876). Charlevoix states that in 1731 some Attacapa with some Hasinai and Spaniards aided the French commander, Saint Denys, against the Natchez. Pénicaud (Marry, Déc., v, 440) says that at the close of 1703 two of the three Frenchmen whom Bienville sent by way of the Madeline r. to discover what nations dwelt in that region, returned and reported that they had been more than 100 leagues inland and had found 7 different nations, and that among the last, one of their comrades had been killed and eaten by the savages, who were anthropophagi. This nation was called Attacapa. In notes accompanying his Attacapa vocabulary Duralde says that they speak a deluge which confounded the animals, and the land, as well as only those who dwelt on a highland escaped; he also says that according to their law a man ceases to bear his own name as soon as his wife bears a child to him, after which he is called the father of such and such a child, but that if the child dies the father again assumes his own name. Duralde also asserts that the women alone were charged with the labors of the field and of the household, and that the mounds were erected by the women under the supervision of the chiefs for the purpose of giving their lodges a higher situation than those of other chiefs. Milfort (Mém., 92, 1802), who visited St Bernard bay in 1784, believed that the tribe came originally from Mexico. He was hospitably received by a band which he found bocammeating meat beside a lake, 4 days' march w. of the bay; and from the chief, who was not an Attacapa, but a Jesuit, speaking French, he learned that 150, nearly half the Attacapa tribe, were there, thus indicating that at that time the tribe numbered more than 360 persons; that they had a custom of dividing themselves into two or three bodies for the purpose of hunting buffalo, which in the spring went to the w. and in the autumn descended into these latitudes; that they killed them with bows and arrows, their youth being very skilful in this hunt; that these animals were in great numbers and as tame as domestic cattle, for "we have great care not to frighten them;" that when the buffaloes were on the prairie or in the forest the Attacapa camped near them "to accustom them to seeing us." Sibley (Hist. Sketches, 82, 1806) described their village as situated "about 20 m. w. of the Attacapa church, toward Quelque-shoe;" their men numbered about 50, but some Tonica and Huna who had intermarried with the Attacapa made them altogether about 80. Sibley adds: "They are peaceable and friendly to everybody; labor, occasionally for the white inhabitants; raise their own corn; have cattle and hogs. They were at or near where they now live, when that part of the country was first discovered by the French." In 1885 Gatschet visited the section formerly inhabited by the Attacapa, and after much search discovered one man and two women at Lake Charles, Calcasieu parish, La., and another woman living 10 m. to the s.; he also heard of 5 other women then scattered in w. Texas; these are thought to be the only survivors of the tribe. (J. N. B. H.)

1592 (Biloxi name). Yúk hiti isahk.-Gatschet, M.S., B. A. E. (own name: 'our people').

Attacapan Family. A linguistic family consisting solely of the Attacapa tribe, although there is linguistic evidence of at least two dialects. Under this name were formerly comprised several bands settled in s. La. and N. E. Tex. Although this designation was given them by their Choctaw neighbors on the e., these bands, with one or two exceptions, do not appear in history under any other general name. Formerly the Karankawa and several other tribes were included with the Attacapa, but the vocabularies of Martin Durandal and of Gatschet show that the Attacapa language is distinct from all others. Investigations by Gatschet in Calcasieu parish, La., in 1835, show that there were at least two dialects of this family spoken at the beginning of the 19th century—an eastern dialect, represented in the vocabulary of Durandal, recorded in 1802, and a western dialect, spoken on the 3 lakes forming the outlet of Calcasieu r. See Powell in 7th Rep. B. A. E., 56, 1891.

Attakullaculla (Atu'-gul'kèlu', from Atu' 'wood,' guł'kèlu' 'a verb implying that something long is leaning, without sufficient support, again some other object; hence 'leaningwood')—Mooney). A noted Cherokee chief, born about 1700, known to the whites as Little Carpenter (Little Complanter, by mistake, in Haywood). The first notice of him is as one of the delegation taken to England by Sir Alexander Cumming in 1730. It is stated that he was made second in authority under Oconostota in 1738. He was present at the conference with Gov. Glenn, of South Carolina, in July, 1753, where he was the chief speaker in behalf of the Indians, but asserted that he had not supreme authority, the consent of Oconostota, the war chief, being necessary for final action. Through his influence a treaty of peace was arranged with Gov. Glenn in 1755, by which a large cession of territory was made to the King of England; and it was also through his instrumentality that Ft Dobbs was built, in the year following, about 20 m. w. of the present Salisbury, N. C. When Ft Loudon, on Little Tennessee r., Tenn., was captured by the Indians in 1760, and most of the garrison and refugees were massacred, Capt. Stuart, who had escaped the tomahawk, was escorted safely to Virginia by Attakullaculla, who purchased him from his Indian captor, giving to the latter, as ransom, his rifle, clothes, and everything he had with him. It was again through the influence of Attakullaculla that the treaty of Charleston was signed in 1761, and that Stuart, after peace had been restored, was received by the Cherokee as the British agent for the southern tribes; yet notwithstanding his friendship for Stuart, who remained a steadfast loyalist in the Revolution, and the fact that a large majority of the Cherokee espoused the British cause, Attakullaculla raised a force of 500 native warriors which he offered to the Americans. He is described by William Bartram (Travels, 482, 1792), who visited him in 1776, as 'a man of remarkably small stature, slender and of a delicate frame, the only instance I saw in the nation, but he is a man of superior abilities.' Although he had become sedate, dignified, and somewhat taciturn in maturer years, Logan (Hist. Upper So. Car., i, 490, 515, 1859) says that in his younger days he was fond of the bottle and often inebriate. The date of his death has not been recorded, but it was probably about 1780. See Mooney in 19th Rep. B. A. E., 1900.

Attamack. A village of the Powhatan confederacy, in 1608, situated between the Chickahominy and Pamunkey rs., in New Kent co., Va.—Smith (1629), Virginia, i, map, repr. 1819.

Attamaseo. See Atamaesco.

Attaoek. A Conestoga village existing in 1608 w. of Susquehanna r., probably in what is now York co., Pa.—Smith (1608), Virginia, i, map, repr. 1819.

Attapulgas (Creek: atap'halgi, 'dogwood grove'). A former Seminole town on a branch of Oklokollee or Yellow-water r., Fla. A town of the name is now in Decatur co., Ga.


Attenmit. A division of the Malemiut Eskimo whose chief village is Attan, near the source of Buckland r., Alaska.

Attenmit.—Dall, Alaska, 284, 1876. Attenmit. —Dall in Cont. N. A. Ethnol., i, 16, 1877.


Attenokamit—11th Census, Alaska, 162, 1893.

Attignawantan (Huron: huti 'they,' annioinión 'bear': 'bear people'). One of the largest tribes of the Huron confederacy, comprising about half the Huron population, formerly living on Nottawasaga bay, Ontario. In 1638 they were settled in 14 towns and villages (Jes. Rel. 1638, 38, 1858). The Jesuit missions of St Joseph and La Conception were established among them. (J. N. B. H.)