ORIGIN OF CADDO PARISH

The history of Caddo Parish dates back to 1540 when Hernando de Soto is reported to have explored the area. Caddo Parish was created on January 18, 1838 and was named for the Caddo Indians who sold their territory to the United States in 1835. In 1873 the Democratic convention of Texas proposed annexing Caddo and DeSoto parishes to Texas. The residents of both parishes favored the move, but the State of Louisiana would not agree.

Shreveport, the parish seat, first flourished as a gateway for emigrants to and from the independent Republic of Texas. It was started as a town in 1835, when it served as the headquarters for men working under Captain Henry Miller Shreve, a steamboat builder who was hired by Congress to remove the Red River Raft—a collection of logs and debris that obstructed navigation on the river. When these settlers organized they called themselves the “Shreve Town Company” in honor of Captain Shreve. The town of Shreveport was organized in 1838 and received its charter; it was the capital of Louisiana from 1863 to 1865 and was the last stronghold of the Confederacy.