Tribal Names Live On in SW Louisiana

There have been various Indian tribes in Louisiana. Many have become extinct but their names have remained to form an important part of the folklore of Southwest Louisiana.

The following tribes have been selected for their importance in the history of Louisiana and their contribution to the lore of our particular area. The information is taken from John R. Swanton's "The Indian Tribes of North America." The Choctaw, Caddo, and Chitimacha are included because they are closely related to the other peoples of the Southwest.

CHOCTAW — Meaning an "East river." Live in the Choctaw Post, a section of southern Louisiana known as the Atakapa Pecan. They are said by some to mean "white people." The term is derived from the Choctaw word for "white." The name Choctaw is also the name of a tribe in the southeastern United States.

Caddo — A large tribe of the Southern Plains. They are said by some to mean "redhead." The name is derived from the Caddo word for "redhead." The name Caddo is also the name of a tribe in the southeastern United States.

CHITIMACHA — Perhaps derived from the name of Grand River, the southern part of which was Cchita, or from the Choctaw language word for "head." The name is derived from the Caddo word for "head." The name Chitimacha is also the name of a tribe in the southeastern United States.

The Choctaw, Caddo, and Chitimacha are the most powerful tribes of the Gulf coast. Their history is closely linked with that of the Choctaw and Caddo tribes. They are the most important part of the folklore of Southwest Louisiana. The following are the names of the Choctaw, Caddo, and Chitimacha tribes.

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