

## Caddoan Cultural Chronology

Historically, the Caddoan peoples were a loose confederation of numerous groups united by a common language and lifestyle. The three dominant groups were the Kaddohadacho (from which the terms Caddo and Caddoan are derived), located around the Great Bend region of the Red River, the Hasinai located around and between the Upper Neches and Angelina River basins, and the Natchidoches living lower on the Red River from the Kaddohadacho, in present day Louisiana. The many smaller Caddoan groups living in the region (e.g., the Adai and Kichai), joined one or another large group as circumstances dictated. Related linguistically to these groups were the Wichita, Pawnee, and Arikara of the Prairie-Plains.

Caddoan cultural tradition appears to have developed around A.D. 800-900 in portions of four present day states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana.. They were sedentary farmers who grew corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, watermelons, sunflowers, and tobacco. Shellfish, nuts, berries, seeds, and roots were also a part of their diet. They hunted bear, deer, and other animals, using bows made of bois d' arc wood. These were widely traded to other groups.

Both men and women decorated their bodies with painting and tattooing. Women especially tattooed their faces, arms, and torsos with elaborate designs. Households consisted of residences and work areas for one or more related families. Some houses were circular and conical, covered with thatch. Each community also had at least one temple or religious building, originally on an earthen platform mound.

American westward expansion after 1700 into the eastern Caddoan areas forced communities there to move. By the early 1800's most had migrated into independent Texas. From there they were moved into Indian Territory. Today, the majority of their descendants, identified as Caddo, live near Binger, Oklahoma, where their tribal center is located.

### Archaeologically Defined Caddoan Cultural Sequences: Red River and Adjacent Basins

Archaeologists trace the prehistory of the Caddoan people using a variety of different methods. One of these methods is the analysis of ceramics through time and space. Ceramics help in the definition of phases, which are time/space units that aid archaeologists in reconstructing the cultural chronologies of different areas. The presence or absence, percentage of designs, and temper of ceramics provide markers for the definition of archaeological phases.

|                                     | Trinity      | Red River  | Neches             | Sabine                     | Ouachita     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Historic Caddoan<br>ca. 1600 - 1850 | Norteno      | Chakanina<br>Norteno<br>Titus<br>Belcher<br>Little River                   | Allen<br>Frankston | Kinsloe<br>Whelan<br>Titus | Glendora     |
| Late Caddoan<br>ca. 1400 to 1600    |              | Texarkana<br>Bossier<br>McCurtain<br>Titus                                 | Frankston          | Titus                      | Mid-Ouachita |
| Middle Caddoan<br>ca. 1200 to 1400  | St. Elmo     | McCurtain<br>Mtn. Fork Complex<br>Graves Chapel                            |                    | Forest Hill                |              |
| Early Caddoan<br>ca. 900 to 1100    | Richland Cr. | Millers Crossing<br>Mineral Springs<br>Haley<br>Cryer Complex<br>Hochatown |                    | Pecan Grove                | East         |
| Formative Caddoan<br>ca. 700 to 900 |              | Apple<br>Alto<br>Sanders   |                    | Alto                       | Alto         |
| PreCaddoan<br>ca. 1- 700            |              | Crenshaw<br>Hutt   |                    |                            |              |

Fourche Maline

Archaeologically Defined Caddoan Cultural Units - Red River and Adjacent Basins

| Cultural Unit/Major References  | Distribution  | Comments  |
|---|---|---|
| Allen phase<br>Suhm et al. 1954; Williams 1961, 1964; Wyckoff 1974; Cole 1975; Story and Creel 1982   | Upper Neches River Basin eastward into Nacogdoches Co., Texas   | Best known of the historic Caddoan cultural units; thought to be the archaeological remains of the Hasinai Caddo groups.  |
| Alto phase<br>Newell and Krieger 1949; Suhm et al. 1954; Wyckoff 1974; Webb and McKinney 1975; Story and Valastro 1977; Thomas et al. 1980                      | Central part of east Texas into Red River Valley, north-west Louisiana  | Initially defined primarily on the basis of the Caddoan component at the George C. Davis site, Cherokee Co., Tx (C14 Dated to A.D. 800-1300); subsequently expanded to include a number of sites in NW LA.  |
| Apple phase<br>Rohrbaugh 1973a, 1973b, 1973c; 1974  | Lower stretches of the Kiamichi River and nearby Red River valley, southeast Oklahoma; may extend south of the river into Texas | An early Caddoan cultural unit (C14 dated to A.D. 1000-1150); defined mostly on the basis of the Payne (Hugo Reservoir) and Cook (Red River) sites.   |
| Belcher phase<br>Webb and Dodd 1941; Webb 1955, 1956, 1959; Wyckoff 1974; Webb and Gregory 1978; Schambach and Rackerby 1982; Schambach and Early 1982          | Lower Great Bend Region of the Red River between Fulton AR and Shreveport LA  | One of the better known late prehistoric Caddoan cultural units; while may date as early as A.D. 1500, most components date to the seventeenth century.   |
| Chakanina phase<br>Schambach 1981, 1982b; Schambach et al. 1982a; Schambach and Rackerby 1982; Schambach and Miller 1984; Trubowitz 1984a-h                     | Great Bend region of the Red River, southwest AR  | Probably represents the latest remains of one of the Kadohadacho Caddo groups in the Great Bend region, but not all tribes of the Kadohadacho confederacy.  |
| Crenshaw phase<br>Hoffman 1969, 1970a; Schambach 1982a; Schambach and Early 1982  | Great Bend region of the Red River, southwest AR  | Represents terminal Fourche Maline culture in the Great Bend region; estimated to date A.D. 700-900.  |
| East Phase<br>Early 1993, Hoffman 1967, Newell and Krieger 1949, Weber 1972   | Ouachita River Basin  | First recognized expression of the Caddoan tradition in the Ouachita River Basin. Some components are mound groups located along the Little Missouri and Antoine River valleys. Key sites are the East site (3CL21), Hayes Mound (3CL6), and the Ross Mounds (3CL401). Archeomagnetic dates of 1270 +/-20 and 1375 +/-20 from Mound B at the East site. |
| Glendora phase<br>Krieger 1944a, 1946; Orr 1952; Williams 1961, 1964  | Ouachita valley, northern   | LA First defined to encompass historic Caddoan remains in N LA, NE TX, small part of E AR. A more restricted definition has been offered by Williams based on ethnohistoric data pertaining to the Ouachitas. The concept of the Glendora phase remains to be archaeologically tested.  |
| Graves Chapel phase<br>Hoffman 1969, 1970a, 1971, 1983; Schambach and Early 1982  | Little River region of southwest AR   | Follows the Miller's Crossing phase in the sequence developed for the Little River region; estimated to date between A.D. 1100-1300.  |
| Haley phase<br>Krieger 1946; Newell and Krieger 1949; Suhm et al. 1954; Webb 1959; Hoffman 1969, 1970a; E.M. Davis 1970; Wyckoff 1974; Schambach and Early 1982 | Great Bend region of the Red River into extreme NE Texas and adjacent LA.   | A Caddoan cultural unit defined primarily on the basis of excavations at mound centers and cemeteries. Dates between A.D. 1150 or 1200 and 1400.  |
| Little River phase<br>Williams 1961, 1964; Hoffman 1970a; Schambach and Early 1982  | Great Bend region of the Red River, NE Texas and NW Oklahoma  | Proposed for all the historic groups of the Kadohadacho confederacy, pending identification of the archaeological remains.  |
| McCurtain phase<br>Bell and Baerreis 1951; Suhm et al. 1954; Wyckoff 1970a, 1974; Skinner et al. 1969;  | Southern margins of the Ouachita Mountains, SE  | A late Caddoan unit based on a number of excavated sites believed to date between A.D. 1150-1660.   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Perino 1981, 1983  | Oklahoma, extending south into the Red River valley   |   |
| Mid-Ouachita phase<br>Early 1988, 1993; Hodges 1964; Schambach 1998; Wood 1963   | Ouachita River valley, Little Missouri River valley   | Dates between 1400 and 1500 based on uncorrected dates of 480 +/- 80, 585 +/-80, and 465 +/-80 BP. Key sites: Denham Mound, Watermelon Island, and Means.   |
| Miller Crossing phase<br>Hoffman 1970a, 1971, 1983; Schambach and Early 1982   | Little River region of southwest AR   | Earliest Caddoan cultural unit recognized in the Little River region; estimated to date between A.D. 900 and 1100.  |
| Mineral Springs phase<br>Hoffman 1970a, 1971, 1983; Schambach and Early 1982   | Little River region of southwest AR   | Follows the late Graves Chapel phase in the Little River region and closely resembles the Haley phase in the Great Bend region; estimated to date between A.D. 1300-1400.                                     |
| Pecan Grove phase<br>Bruseth and Perttula 1981; Johnson 1987   | Upper Sabine River basin, NE Texas  | Recognized in the Lake Fork reservoir area; estimated dates from A.D. 850 to 1350.  |
| Richland Creek phase<br>Bruseth, McGregor, and Martin 1987; Bruseth and Martin 1987c   | Richland and Chambers Creek, middle Trinity River basin, north-central Texas  | C14 dated between A.D. 900 and 1300.  |
| Sanders phase<br>Krieger 1946; Suhm et al. 1954; E.M. Davis 1970; Wyckoff 1974   | Red River valley of NE Texas and SE Oklahoma above the Great Bend and below Lake Texoma; and south into upper Sulpher, Cypress, Sabine, and Trinity River drainages | Early Caddoan complex; estimated dates of A.D. 1000 and 1300.   |
| St. Elmo phase<br>Bruseth and Martin 1987b; Martin 1987a; Bruseth, McGregor, and Martin 1987                                 | Richland and Chambers Creek, middle Trinity River drainage, north-central TX  | Late Prehistoric regional phase represented by five components in the Richland/Chambers Reservoir; Dated to between A.D. 1300 and 1650.   |
| Texarkana phase<br>Krieger 1946; Suhm et al. 1954; E.M. Davis 1970; Wyckoff 1974; Schambach 1982b; Schambach and Early 1982  | Upper part of the Great Bend of the Red River, especially north and NW of Texarkana, TX   | Caddoan cultural unit that may postdate A.D. 1500 and extend into protohistoric times.  |
| Titus phase<br>Krieger 1946; Suhm et al. 1954; E.M. Davis 1970; Wyckoff 1974; Turner 1978; Thurmond 1981, 1985; Johnson 1987 | Upper Cypress Creek, White Oak Bayou, and Lake Fork Creek basins of NE TX   | A late Caddoan unit estimated to date between A.D. 1600 1700. Thurmond's studies have refined earlier definitions, and propose four areal subdivisions that appear to represent a related group or subgroups. |

The western Caddoan subarea includes archaeological sites in the Ouachita Mountains, in northeastern Texas, and in southeastern Oklahoma outside the Red River Valley. Archaeological phases identified for this area include: McCurtain, Titus, Frankston, and Angelina. Avery Engraved, Simms Engraved, Hudson Engraved, and Keno Trailed are important ceramic types for the Late McCurtain phase.

For the central Caddoan subarea (southwest Arkansas, northwest Louisiana, and southeast Oklahoma), archaeologists have defined the phases of : Belcher, Texarkana, Saratoga, McCurtain, Mid-Ouachita, and Social Hill. Ceramics important to the definition of these phases include: Karnack Brushed-Incised, Foster Trailed-Incised, Keno Trailed, Hodges Engraved, and Glassell Engraved. Specifically, for the Texarkana phase, Barkman Engraved, Avery Engraved, Simms Engraved, Hatchel Engraved, Bowie Engraved, McKinney Plain, Nash Neck Banded, and Foster Trailed-Incised are important ceramic markers.

The middle Red River region is known for the McCurtain phase, which is dominated by red-slipped ceramics. Types such as Clement Redware or Roden ware, Avery Engraved, Simms Engraved, and coarse tempered utility jar forms such as Nash Neck Banded and Emory Punctated-Incised are typical McCurtain phase markers. The Bob Williams/Sam Kaufman site indicates that there are differences in ceramic body form and design element variability through time.

Three periods, or subphases have been recognized in the McCurtain phase. Period III (A.D. 1250-1500) includes the ceramic types red Avery Engraved with the chevron and semicircular motifs, black Avery Engraved bottles, the carinated form of Simms Engraved, Nash Neck Banded, and Emory Punctated-Incised. Period II (A.D. 1500-1700) sees red Avery Engraved vessels with the scroll curvilinear motif, the hubcap form Simms Engraved, Hudson Engraved, and Keno Trailed. Period I (after A.D. 1700) has a minimal amount of red Avery Engraved, more Hudson Engraved, Nash Neck Banded, and Emory Punctated-Incised vessels with distinctive incised scrolls on the body of the vessel. The McCurtain phase settlement pattern includes large villages with substructural mounds, household cemeteries, shaft tombs for multiple burials, and house sites scattered along major and minor drainages.

## References

Early, A.M.

1993 Caddoan Saltmakers in the Ouachita Valley: The Hardman Site. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series 43. Fayetteville.

Perttula, T.K.

1992 "The Caddo Nation": Archaeological and Ethnohistoric Perspectives. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Schambach, F.

1982 An Outline of Fourche Maline Culture in Southwest Arkansas. In Arkansas Archaeology in Review, edited by N.L. Trubowitz and M.D. Jeter, pp. 132-197. Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series 12, Fayetteville.

Wyckoff, D.G.

1974 The Caddoan Cultural Area: An Archaeological Perspective. Garland Publishing, New York.