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The Caddo Nation Begins to Reassemble, 1840-1851

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Abstract

In July 1835 the Caddo Nation, which at the time was comprised of approximately 500 individuals, sold their Louisiana homeland to the United States and returned to their villages in eastern Harrison County, Texas where they remained until the opening of the Republic of Texas Land Offices in February 1838. At that point, deluged by squatters and Republic surveyors, the Caddo abandoned their villages and migrated to the prairies of frontier Texas. Approximately one-third of the tribe (some 165 individuals) under Chief Tsauninot returned to Shreveport in late September 1838 to collect the annuity for that year as called for in the land cession. Due to Indian wars then raging in Texas

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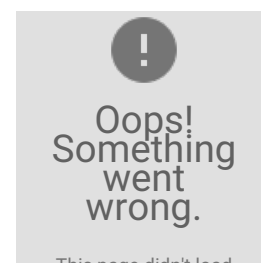
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So begins the history of relations between Europeans and Arkansas Indians. When they crossed over to the western bank of the Mississippi, the Spaniards described the lands they observed as among the most agriculturally productive of any they had seen. The Caddo also experienced difficulties as increasing numbers of Alabama, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coushatta, Delaware, Osage, Shawnee, and white settlers invaded their lands. Under pressure from U.S. Indian agents, the Caddo sold their Arkansas lands in 1835 with the intention of moving to Texas. The revolution for Texas independence from Mexico delayed this move until 1840, when the Caddo relocated to sites along the Upper Trinity and Brazos rivers. The Caddo are a Native American tribe that resides in the Mississippi area, in the Arkansas region. Historically, this tribe was peaceful with European settlers until the United States' hostility towards Indians meant that they relocated to an area of Mexico, now Texas, where a reservation for the tribe still exists. In the game, the tribe is situated just West of the more powerful Muskogean tribes and Cherokee, and to the East of the other multi-province tribes of Pueblo and Navajo. Nearer Caddo is