

THE COMANCHE

TRIBAL SYNONYMY

Bo'dälk'inägo—common Kiowa name, signifying “reptile people” or “snake men,” from *bo'dal*, reptile, insect, and *k'inägo*, people.

Cha'tha—(singular *Cha'*) Arapaho name, signifying “enemies.”

Comanche—popular name; of Mexican-Spanish origin and unknown meaning. It occurs as early as 1757, and in the form *Cumanche* as early as 1720.

Gyai'-ko—the common name given by the Kiowa to the Comanche, signifying “enemies.”

Iatan—the French spelling of the name applied by several of the plains tribes to the Ute Indians, and by extension to the cognate Comanche and Shoshoni. It is a derivative from the name Yuta or Ute, the final *n* representing a nasalized vowel sound. The nearest approximation is perhaps *Iätä-go*, the Kiowa (plural) name for the Ute. Variants are *L'Iatan*, *Aliatan*, *Habitane*, *Ayutan*, *Tetau* (for *Ietau* or *Ietan*), *Jetan*, *Yutan*, etc. The form *Läitanes* occurs as early as 1740 (Margry, VII, 457).

Idahi—Kiowa Apache name; meaning unknown.

Ietan—a name applied by some of the prairie tribes to several Shoshonean tribes, particularly the Shoshoni and the Comanche. It occurs in a number of forms and appears as *Läitanes* as early as 1740 (Margry, VII, 457).

La Playe—former French trader's name, perhaps a corruption of *Tête Pele'e*.

Na'lani—Navaho name, signifying “many aliens” or “many enemies,” applied collectively to the southern plains tribes, but more especially to the Comanche.

Na'nita—Kichai name.

Na'täa'—Wichita name, variously rendered “snakes,” i. e., “enemies” or “dandies.”

Nüma—proper tribal name used by themselves, and signifying “people.” The Shoshoni and Paiute designate themselves by the same name.

Pa'douca—the name given to the Comanche by the Osage, Quapaw, Kansa, Oto, and other Siouan tribes. It has several dialectic forms and is used in this form by Pénicaut as early as 1719. It may perhaps be a contraction of *Pe'nä-téka*, the name of the principal eastern division of the Comanche.

Sänko—obsolete Kiowa name; it may signify “snakes,” from *säne*, snake.

Sau'hto—Caddo name.

Shishino'wits-Itäniuw'—Cheyenne name, signifying “snake ^{men} people.”

Tete Pele'e—a name said to have been applied to the Comanche by the French traders, signifying “bald heads.” The identification seems doubtful, as the Comanche cut their hair only when mourning.

Yä'mpai-ni or *Yä'mpai-Ri'kani*—Shoshoni name, signifying “yampa people,” or “yampa eaters.” It is properly the name of only one division, but is used collectively for the whole tribe. The yampa plant is the *Cerum gairdneri*.

TRIBAL SIGN

The tribal sign for the Comanche is “snakes,” the same as that for the Shoshoni, but with the finger drawn toward the rear instead of thrust forward.

SKETCH OF THE TRIBE

The Comanche are one of the southern tribes of the great Shoshonean stock, and the only one of that group living entirely on the plains. Their language and traditions show that they are a comparatively recent offshoot from the Shoshoni of Wyoming, both tribes speaking practically the same dialect and until very recently keeping up

"Snake"

T.I.P.I