

could have easily migrated to North America by Mexico. Crossing the Mississippi, they could have traveled northward until they encountered the Iroquois and the Great Lakes. After settling amongst the tribe, ancient Cherokees could have adopted the Iroquian language in part. Of course, it doesn't say here, but somebody could have also imported baskets probably from the Amazon basin.

Another eminent authority, W.H. Holmes, also saw the similarity in the art of the Cherokees and that of the Caribbeans. But in this case, pottery, instead of basketry provided the clues. According to Holmes, ancient Cherokees using primitive wooden panels stamped their pottery while damp, with curves and scrolls, of Indian Caribbeans who reported once that Iowa kinsmen could have resembled the Cherokees. Also, attempting to learn about the mysterious origin of the Cherokee was James Adair, an eighteenth century trader and historian who lived among the tribe for forty years. After completing a study of their customs and rituals, Adair advanced the theory that the Cherokees were one of the ten lost tribes of Israel. But Adair's theory is not accepted by today's historians who state conclusively that the Cherokees were once a powerful detached tribe of the Iroquoian family. And that they both originated in the north. They were found in the possession of the southern Allegheny region when first encountered by De Soto in 1540. I read that detail because it covers pretty much the principal theories about the origin of the Cherokees. Incidentally, there's a modern religion which holds to this last theory. The Mormon Church holds to the theory that the Cherokees or all Indians could well be one of the lost tribes of Israel. Most of the records of the Cherokees stopped after De Soto in 1540 and Del Pardo came into the same general area about 25 years later.