

BAND DIVISIONS OF THE WICHITAS:

(I thought to get started you might tell us something about the background of the Wichitas, where they came from, how they were divided into bands, etc.)

You mean the whole Wichita and the affiliated bands? Well, I think the Wichita and affiliated bands did live around Waco, Texas, many years ago. Because I have known people, older people, that were born there and raised there for so long, and they came to this part of what is now Oklahoma. But they lived as Wichitas, Wacoos, Tawakonies, and I want to say the Kichais, but somewhere down the history of our people Kichais, migrated somewhere and we all together, we wouldn't say the Kichais have a different dialect. Altogether from the Wichitas but, Wichitas, Towakonies, and Wacoos well spoke the same language, I would say. Perhaps might be some words just spoken differently, but generally speaking they spoke the same language. But prior, we would say to a definite history of the Wichitas it goes, well I would say from time immemorial, we don't know. But we do know they resided in Texas, in that part where the present city of Waco is, in that vicinity. And I think too, also, they lived west of Fort Worth, Texas where the, near Weatherford, Texas. As we know, but as far as we can, the background we were told by our older people that that's where they lived. I guess they went here and there in that part of the country, had established permanent villages and well in other words, they had things like they believed in. They had villages they raised gardens and did other things which they believed was in their way of living. But we can't say just when or the year, that they came to this part of Oklahoma, or this part of the country. But we can't say just when or the year that they came to this part of the country, but we do know according to history that Coronado when coming through here met this Wichita..in this part of Oklahoma now. And it's always been in that manner that they had villages, like when Coronado found them here. They had raised good sized gardens for food, and they were always trying to provide for themselves. Well, like they do now. That they learned to preserve what they raised.