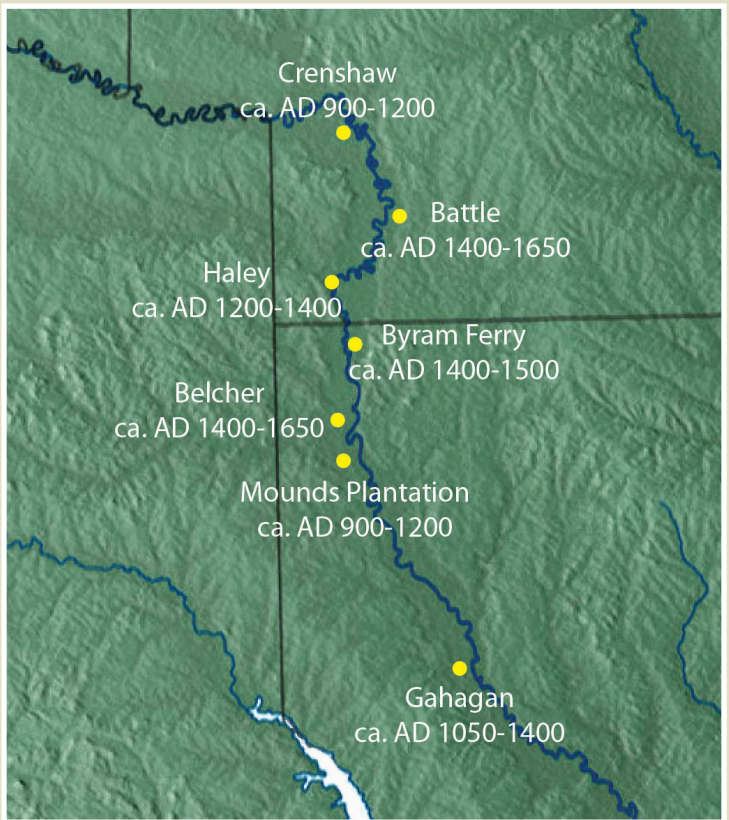


Clarence H. Webb & Dorothy Dodd Webb

GALLERY OF THE CADDO NATION

CADDO CULTURE can be traced back to the 10th century AD with the appearance of distinctive pottery, house forms, ceremonial centers, and burial practices. Caddo mounds covered, or served as platforms for buildings, while some mounds contain burials of community leaders. Along with the human remains, the Caddo people buried ceremonial and everyday objects. Ceremonial pottery was ornately decorated and highly polished, and usually tempered with finely crushed fired clay or bone.



Early Caddo peoples constructed several major ceremonial sites along the Red River - including Gahagan in Red River Parish, Mounds Plantation in Caddo parish, and Crenshaw in Miller County, Arkansas. (Map Jeff Girard)

GAHAGAN CEREMONIAL SITE, located south of Shreveport, was on the west side of the River. It consisted of a large conical burial mound and possibly two other small mounds. C.B. Moore discovered the site in 1912. Clarence H. Webb and his brother-in-law Monroe Dodd, Jr. excavated two burial pits containing multiple individuals from one mound in 1936 before it caved into the river.

MOUNDS PLANTATION CEREMONIAL SITE is located about 10 miles north of Shreveport near Dixie. Travelling up Red River in 1912, Clarence B. Moore also visited this site which consists of a large oval plaza encompassing about 25 acres. Seven mounds surround the plaza, with smaller mounds farther away. Ralph R. McKinney, Robert Plants, and Clarence H. Webb studied surface collections and excavated two of the mounds during the 1960s.

Mounds Plantation AD 1000 Mural by Don Alexander 2012



HALEY SITE is located at the mouth of the Sulphur River, a few miles north of the Louisiana Arkansas state line. The site appears to date between AD 1200 and 1400; slightly later than Mounds Plantation and Gahagan and before Belcher. In 1912 C.B. Moore excavated 9 burials from one of the three identified mounds. Recovered grave goods included pottery, shell beads, a stone effigy pipe, and copper covered ear spools. Since then, most of the mounds have been destroyed. Two cemeteries containing more than 80 burials were partially excavated by Ralph McKinney and others in late 1960s.

BELCHER is a small ceremonial site that consists of a dual mound that functioned as a ceremonial center and cemetery between AD 1100 - 1700. The site is located in the Red River Valley 20 miles north of Shreveport, just north of Mounds Plantation. Clarence H. Webb excavated the site between the 1930s and early 1950s. There were four stages of occupation and burials. The Caddos constructed buildings, burned them, capped the remains with new layers of earth, and constructed additional buildings at higher levels.

Red River Caddo Mounds Site Map of Louisiana and Arkansas.
JEFF GIRARD - 2012

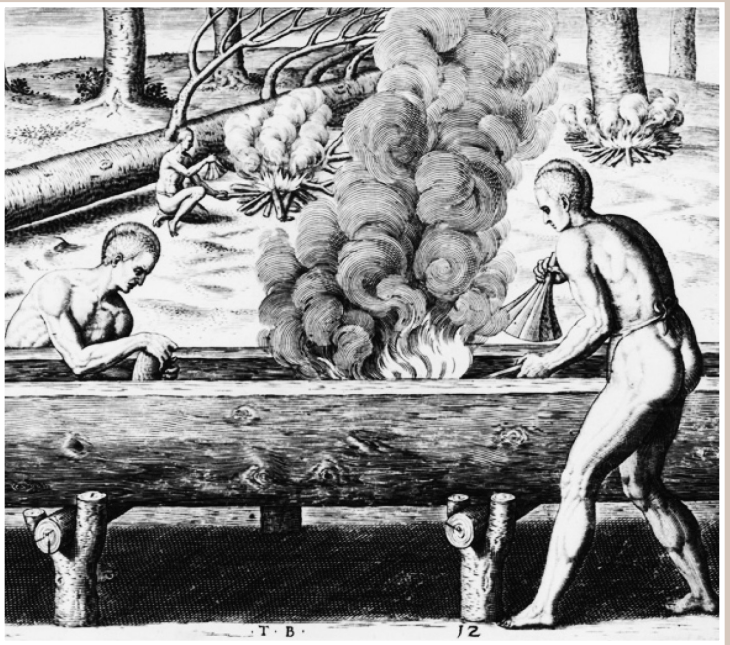
Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
3015 Greenwood Road Shreveport, LA 71109
318.632.2020 www.friendsoflsem.org

Clarence H. Webb
& Dorothy Dodd Webb

GALLERY OF THE CADDO NATION

Caddo Cypress Dugout, AD 1000

North Americans used dugouts for transport, and as platforms for hunting and fishing. From AD 900 - 1200 the early Caddo people lived in villages and hamlets along streams near the Red River. They travelled to ceremonial sites for ritual and burial of their leaders.



An early published woodcut by Theodor DeBry in the 1500s shows the method of constructing boats. Native Americans used controlled fire to hollow out a log. They would extinguish the fire at intervals to scrape out burned wood with stone adzes (or hoes). This method created a flat bottom vessel with straight sides. A true "canoe" has rounded ends. A log boat or dugout was constructed using only hand tools, or a combination of fire and hand tools. The hull shape can either be flat or "C" shaped.

The museum's Bald Cypress dugout from the Red River in Louisiana carbon dates to AD 1005 - 1065 and measures 30 ft. 8 inches, or just under 10 meters. It is the longest excavated dugout west of the Mississippi River.

In 1983, a fisherman, John Paul Hobbs, along with Rose Mary, Kendall and Kevin Kelly, noticed the bow end of a cypress log protruding from the banks of the Red River near Dixie, Louisiana. It was about four miles north of Mounds Plantation Ceremonial Site. The log turned out to be a true double-ended vessel with **both ends carved to form seats or pedestals**.

Historic documents depict **Caciques (or leaders)** seated under awnings and issuing orders from their dugouts. The Caddo dugout has a "C" shaped hull, with a pedestal seat at each end. It would have made an impressive sight moving along the river, with someone sitting at a different level above the rowers.

According to Dr. Webb, "All early Caddo centers show evidence of considerable long distance trade in copper, stone tools and ceremonial objects, an excellent tie-in with river traffic." The system of developing trade helped establish political rank and control. Larger boats could carry more valued items and accomplished navigators developed as leaders.

Cross, Phil. "The Caddo Dugout Canoe,"
Posted 2009. *Caddo Legacy from Caddo People*.
<http://www.caddolegacy.com/Pages/CaddoCanoe.aspx>.
Accessed 2012.

Webb, Clarence H. and Hiram F. Gregory.
The Caddo Indians of Louisiana. Baton Rouge,
Louisiana: Department of Culture, Recreation and
Tourism, Louisiana Archaeological Survey and
Antiquities Commission, 1978.

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum

3015 Greenwood Road

Shreveport, LA 71109

318.632.2020

www.friendsoflsem.org



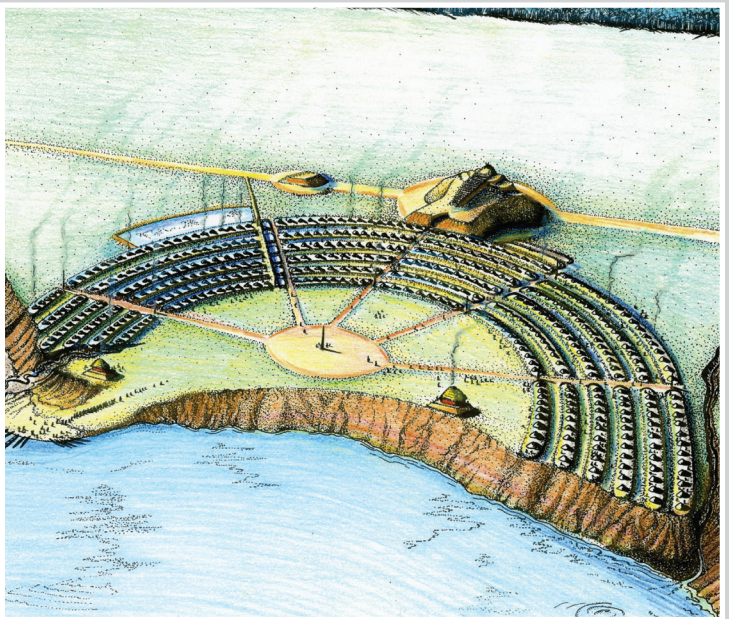
Clarence H. Webb
& Dorothy Dodd Webb

POVERTY POINT GALLERY

Poverty Point in northeast Louisiana habitation dates from 2040 BC - 865 BC. It is one of the earliest earthworks constructed in the New World, and covers over one square mile. More than 100 smaller sites affiliated with Poverty Point culture are spread throughout the lower Mississippi Valley to the Gulf Coast.

By 1500 BC, the people of Poverty Point produced an abundant and surplus food supply sufficient to support their large community. It is possible that they developed a chiefdom organization and were influenced by Meso-American cultures. The construction of massive earthworks was based on geometry and possibly astronomy.

Poverty Point by Jon L. Gibson



LSU archaeologist William Haag stated that the **Bird Mound** at Poverty Point closely resembles the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) a graceful, long winged raptor, common to the lower Mississippi Delta. It is the only fan-tailed hawk seen in the area, a difference which may have distinguished it from other birds and thus was of importance to the Poverty Point people.

Noted archaeologists James Ford and Clarence Webb conducted investigations and published their findings in 1956. They concluded that the people lived on ridges, built structures, dug fire pits and left trash. The staff of the museum constructed the diorama in 1958, based on the research of Ford and Webb.

The most abundant artifacts were **baked clay objects**, known as Poverty Point Objects (PPO).



Other artifacts were made of **stone or local chert**, a sedimentary rock composed of silica that can be broken to form sharp edges. Some of the chert came from Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Arkansas. The people made projectile points, tubular pipes, pendants, beads and plummets. Villagers used plummets as weights for fish nets, or as weights for weaving looms.

Dr. Webb stated that the culture developed a strong **microflint industry** using local gravels as cores to make tools for scraping, cutting, sawing, engraving and polishing.

The **lapidary industry**, the art of cutting and polishing precious stones, was very fine and parallels that of the Olmec culture near Veracruz in southern Mexico.

Ford, James A. and Clarence H. Webb. *Poverty Point, a Late Archaic site in Louisiana*. American Museum of Natural History Anthropological Papers, no. 45(1). New York, 1956.

Gibson, Jon L. *Poverty Point: A Terminal Archaic Culture of the Lower Mississippi Valley*. Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. Second Edition May 1996.

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
3015 Greenwood Road Shreveport, LA 71109
318.632.2020 www.friendsoflsem.org