

Comanches and other tribes, began to be somewhat augmented about the time of Texan independence, by increased depredations on the part of tribes living in stationary villages. Instigated, it was believed, by emissaries from Mexico, which country still hoped to recover her lost province, these Indians vied with the Comanches in outrages upon the Texas frontier; ~~addititonal~~ killing the men, killing or taking captive women and children, ~~and~~ stealing ~~the~~ horses and other property, and burning the homes of the settlers. The village Indians concerned in these outrages, were not only the Kechies, Northern Wacoos, and Southern Wichitas, or Towyash, ~~but also the Comanches~~ who had always lived either in or near Texas, but also the more properly so called "intrusive" tribes — Cherokees, Kickapoos, etc., of remoter origin —, which in the general western and southwestern shifting of white men and red men on the frontier, as the ^{population} ~~population~~ to the eastward expanded, has recently begun to locate colonies and villages in Texas.

Whether rightly or wrongly, a part of these depredations were attributed to the Caddoes, and in the campaigns which the now thoroughly aroused and determined Texans waged against the hostiles in 1838 and immediately following years in defense of their frontier hearths and homes, the Caddoes suffered with the other tribes.

Brown's "Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas" tells us that "in November, 1838, Gen. Rusk captured and disarmed a portion of the tribe and delivered them to their American agent in Shreveport, where they made a treaty, promising pacific behavior until peace should be made between Texas and the remainder of their people." The Caddoes, of course, were not under the authority of an agent at Shreveport nor of any other United States official, having in accordance with their treaty of 1835 surrendered all their rights in Louisiana and withdrawn from United States territory and jurisdiction; and the agent referred to was doubtless the fiscal agent, or attorney, provided for in the treaty of '35 to receive and disburse the payments which, by the terms of that treaty, were to be paid to them annually by the United States in the years 1836 to 1840 inclusive. Whatever pacific pledges may have been made by these particular Caddoes, ~~desirous~~ when at Shreveport ~~in 1838~~ with General Rusk, some of the Caddoes, at least, were ~~still~~ engaged, or believed to be engaged, in ~~further~~ depredations soon afterward, if we may judge by the subsequent operations of the Texans against the Caddo villages.

The Tarrant County village of the Caddoes was in the Lower Cross Timbers, on a creek that was sometimes subsequently called Caddo,*

Footnote

^{The State of}
"De Cordoba's Map of Texas, Compiled....by Robert Creuzbaur, Houston.
1849. (Copyrighted 1848.)

but more commonly Village Creek, which is a right-hand branch of the West Fork of Trinity River. In January, 1839, this village was burned by General Rusk, who in the previous summer and fall had waged a vigorous and devastating war against the Kickapoos and some other tribes at their villages and settlements farther eastward in Texas; these Indians having joined the Mexican cause in what was known as "Cordova's Rebellion." The ruins of this village were passed July 26th, 1841, by the Texan Santa Fe expedition, ~~and~~ Kendall's Narrative of which, notes them as "the ruins of a large Indian village, many of the wigwams being still in a partial state of preservation."

The Caddoes, however, seem to have rebuilt on another site on the same creek, above where that creek is now crossed by the Texas and Pacific Railway; for, in the summer of 1841, a joint campaign was made against such a village of Caddoes by a force of volunteers from Red River under Gen. Edward H. Tarrant, moving southwesterly from Fort English, and one of militia and volunteers moving toward the village from the southeast under Gen. James Smith of Nacogdoches. General Smith's force reached the village (in early August?) only to find that the inhabitants, having discovered the approach of General Tarrant's force, had fled. Accounts of these wars and expeditions are given in Brown's work, above cited.

The Hill County village of the Caddoes, was that which, for more than a decade, was well known as "José Maria's Village"; so called ~~and~~ from its principal chief, who was an Anadarko; the village being composed of Caddoes, Anadarkoes and Ionies, though usually spoken of as a Caddo village. In the first (1858) edition of Cordoba's "Texas", we have the following account of an early engagement at this village:

"In the fall of 1839, at an election for officers of the region of ~~the~~ country then known as Milam county, comprising an area of about one-sixth of the State of Texas, there were only forty-nine votes polled, — thus showing the sparseness of the population of that region of country. About this time the gallant Colonel Neal was fitting out an expedition of 300 men to attack the Indians at a point on the upper waters of the Brazos known then as José Maria's Village, named after the chief of the tribe. This village is situated on the Brazos, opposite Steele's Creek, and is the spot occupied by the United States Government as Fort Graham. From the beauty of the scenery,

the pure water, and the rich lands, so easily cultivated with the rude implements of Indian husbandry, this was ever the favorite abode of that portion of the band who acknowledged José María as their head; and to this day does that gallant Indian regret the loss of his favorite village. But the inroads of the savages on the whites had been too often repeated and too keenly felt by the whites to be borne patiently; so this expedition was fitted out, and on the 25th October, 1838 [1839], José María Village was the scene of deadly strife. Gallantly did the Indians contend for their homes; feats of valor and determined courage were displayed by them worthy of record. But it was of no avail to them: they had to contend against the choicest spirits to be found on the Texian frontier, led by the invincible Col. Neal. Soon, despite the skill and courage of the red men, they had to give way to superior military discipline. Flight to them was inevitable; they gave way and were pursued; and many a spot can now be shown which was dyed with the red man's blood on that memorable occasion".

Whether the Caddoes ^{retired temporarily} ~~retired~~ to a point higher on the Brazos and established there ^a ~~a~~ village, after their defeat of October 25th, 1839, or whether there were in those years two contemporaneous Caddo villages on the Brazos, the writer has not learned; but, ~~the expedition seems the more probable~~ ^{a year or two} later, we see another defeat of Caddoes ^{higher up on that} ~~on that~~ river, also related by Cordova, as follows:

"Notwithstanding all the chastisement the Indians had received, it was found absolutely necessary, early in 1841, that another expedition should be fitted out. This expedition was confided to General Edwin Moorehouse. After proceeding up the Brazos as far as the Caddo Village, 12 miles above Comanche Peak, he struck across the country to the Trinity, burning their villages, but killing very few of the Indian warriors, and always sparing the women and children. The labors of this expedition closed about the end of February".

On the 29th of September, 1843, the Caddoes were parties to a treaty of peace made between the Republic of Texas and the Indian tribes of that region. On the 15th of May, 1846, they were also parties to a treaty which these tribes made with the United States at Council Springs near the Brazos river, in then Robertson County, Texas.

The José María Village was about 45 miles above Torrey's Trading Post*, and ~~was~~ ^{was} visited from that post by the

*This ~~was~~ ^{well-known} establishment of the southern Indian trade ^{east side of} ~~was~~ ^{was} on the ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ a branch of the ~~the~~ ^{the} San Saba creek, ~~which~~ ^{was} a situation in present McLean County, not far southeast of the present city of Waco, which was then a ~~small~~ ^{small} village of the Waco Indians, and itself a point of more or less trading with the Indians. It was established in 1843 as a ~~result~~ ^{result} of the treaty in that year. German scientist, Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, who has given us an interesting account of it in his work of 1849, entitled "Texas". Having previ-

ously described a considerable part of his journey up the Brazos from that trading post, he continues (here translated from the German) as follows:

"After a ride of some 30 English miles, we saw,

toward sundown, from the height of a hill, the object of our excursion lying before us, the village of the Caddo Indians. No more suitable and delightful spot could the red sons of the wilderness have chosen for their settlement. The village lies in the midst of a small prairie, about 2 English miles in length, which is bounded on one side by the marginal forest of the Brazos, and on all the rest by steeply declivous hills. Across this prairie flows, over a smooth bed of calcareous rock, a beautiful clear brook, along whose banks stand a few old live-oaks. On both sides of this latter are scattered over the prairie in picturesque disorder, the lodges of the Indians, and near every one, its own cornfield.

"Between the hill from which we were looking down, and the village itself, were grazing on the prairie well toward a thousand head of horses, among whom a few naked, long-haired Indian boys rode yelling about. We now went down thence into the village itself. At the different lodges which we came past, we were everywhere welcomed in a friendly manner by the inhabitants, to all of whom my guide was well known. The repeated invitations to take up our quarters for the night in one of the lodges, however, we parried; for, as interesting as it would have been ~~possible~~ for me to ~~become~~ become acquainted with an Indian household thus by most direct inspection, we equally shunned close contact with the troublesome little insect-world which enlivens every Indian dwelling. We preferred to spread out our coverings under a solitary live-oak on the bank of the above-mentioned brook. Before we laid ourselves down to sleep, we received a visit from some Indian women, who brought us watermelons as a present, and

received ~~therefor~~ from us glass beads as a return gift.

"On the following morning, immediately after sunrise, we took a walk through the village. The habitation of each family consists of several lodges of different form. First, ~~small~~ is always a larger ^{provided} ~~large~~ ^{lodge}, about 15 feet high, ~~minimally~~ cone-shaped, and closed all round as far as to a narrow opening at the ground; which [lodge], as it is entirely covered with long grass on the outside, from afar resembles a hay-rick of moderate size. It is the customary abode in wet and cold weather. Near this principal ~~minimum~~ building stand one or several lodges open at the sides, and which really form only a grass-covered shed on four posts, between which latter, at a height of about 2 feet above the ground, is fixed a horizontal wicker-work consisting of strong rods. On this wicker, during the warm hours of the day, sit men and women in squatted-down position. The roof affords protection against the sun's rays, and at the same time the air has access from all sides, even from below, so that thereby a cool and agreeable retreat is formed. Finally, still a third sort of lodges, ~~is~~ ^{there is provided} ~~small~~, which serve for the storing of provisions, and which are nothing else than bake-oven-shaped and again grass-covered receptacles on four ~~high~~ ^{tall} posts.

~~Names of Indians~~

"To the dwellings, each, are annexed, as already observed, the ~~small~~ ^{small} patches ~~size~~ of corn and watermelons. These appear irregular and confused enough, and no fence bars the horses or other live-stock admission. The corn which they cultivate belongs to a quickly ripening variety with small kernels.

"Notwithstanding the early morning hour, we directly found in the first lodge which we visited, all the inmates already very zealously engaged in the consumption of watermelons (*Cucumis citrullus* L.), which had evidently not been given time to perfectly ripen. In all the following lodges we found the same, and indeed it appears that at this season of the year scarcely any other food than these watery fruits, and truly in incredible quantity, is ~~minimally~~ tasted by the Indians, a mode of living which would be unerringly fatal to any white person in the country. We everywhere found the Indians in the most happy humor and, as my guide assured me, these ~~small~~ ^{children} of nature live continually in the best harmony with one another, and quarreling and disputing are almost unknown among them.

"In the different dwellings which we entered, information was wanted from us, where we had met with buffalo, and how many, on our way. In consequence of our testimony, several bands, yet in the course of the day, departed for the buffalo hunt. Women and children, ~~small~~ ^{small},

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all in joyful motion, in anticipation of the spoils to be taken, besides a number of pack-horses for carrying off the meat and the hides, were taken along on these hunting excursions. As for the rest, our arrival aroused no great stir, which is explained indeed by the fact that these Indians are in rather frequent intercourse with the border settlers. Their connection with the civilized world is betrayed moreover in their clothing, by the manifold elements of the same of evident European origin, and especially cotton shirts, with which most were provided."

Touching his return journey from the Caddo village to Terrey's Trading Post, Doctor Roemer wrote, "When, on the following morning, from the height of the hill whence we had first caught sight of the village, we looked back ~~upon~~ upon the pleasant little prairie, the question involuntarily occurred to me, how long ~~will~~ indeed the same will ^{yet} remain in the peaceable possession of those apparently so harmless ~~children~~ of nature, and whether already perhaps some land-covetous Yankee has not cast longing eyes upon it. My guide ~~soon~~ speedily enlightened me concerning my doubt, by assuring me that not merely this land, ^{which is laid out} still several days' travel ~~away~~ above all present settlements, ~~is~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ but also many other tracts still higher up on the Brazos, had already for some time been surveyed and become the property of private persons; that also the latter already had the ~~unwary~~ design, of introducing a resolution in Congress, that the Indians should be ~~entirely~~ removed from there, under assignment to other, more distant, dwelling-places".

~~The village visited by Doctor Roemer was that shown on some of the early maps of Texas as "José Maria Village" and was opposite Steele's crook. It was in reality a combined village of Caddoos, Iowies and Anadakoes, the name being derived from its principal~~

~~The José Maria~~ Village was ~~twice~~ visited, in the summer of 1847, by Major Robert S. Neighbors, the then recently appointed United States Special Agent for the Indian tribes of Texas, who, in a letter dated "Terrey's Trading House, June 22, 1847,"

~~spoke of it as follows:~~

~~*Doc. 22, accompanying
Rep. Comr Ind. Aff. for 1847.~~

wrote of it as follows:

"On the 30th of May, I arrived at the village of the Caddoos, Iowies and Anadakoes, situated on the Brazos river, 45 miles from Terrey's trading house. I found everything perfectly quiet in their village, and the Indians well satisfied and friendly. They are cultivating large fields of corn, and appear to be in a prosperous condition.

The village consists of about 150 houses, built of wood and covered with grass."

Desiring to proceed from the Caddo village to a ~~Village~~^{settlement} of ~~main~~^A predatory and rather hostile ~~enemies~~ Keeches ~~near~~^{130 miles} and one of Wacoos, Tawacaroes and Wichitas (136 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) further up the Brazos, a ~~dangerous~~ trip regarded as attended with personal danger, and one for which he was unable to obtain from the frontier commandant, Captain Howe, an escort of Rangers, he engaged the noted Delaware guide, John Conner and ~~five~~^{five} other Delawares to go with him, and applied to chief José Maria for additional escort from ^{letter's} the village. Neighbors wrote, in the letter already cited, "On application to the chief of the Anadarkoes, he sent Tow-iash, second chief,* with six of his warriors,

Footnote
*On the Brazos, a short distance below the site of the José Maria Village, recent maps show a place called "Towash", which presumably commemorates the name of this second chief.

with me; José Maria, the principal chief, having been thrown from his horse and badly injured, was unable to accompany me in person". And again in the same letter he says, "The friendly Indians that accompanied me (Towash, Ione, and John Conner) gave me great assistance, and by their untiring exertions to effect a friendly arrangement with these [Waco, etc.] bands, gave evidence of the friendly disposition of the people and their attachment to the United States."

Again in the same letter he says, "I find, during the time there was no resident agent among the Indians, many vexatious disputes have arisen among the different bands — one between the Caddoes and Wacoos on account of the Wacoos having stolen some horses from the Caddoes. The result was that the Caddoes killed two Wacoos, one of them a chief that visited Washington last summer. After much discussion I have settled the matter to the satisfaction of both parties".

In August of the same year, Major Neighbors again journeyed northward from his agency headquarters at Torrey's Trading Post, being bound for the Comanche country. Making another stop at the village of the Caddoes, Iones and Anadarkoes, he later wrote of it, "I had a talk with the chiefs and found them all perfectly peaceable and friendly. The drought has been excessive during the whole summer; and although the crops were very promising in the early part of the season, there was a perfect failure in the corn crop. They complain of great scarcity of provisions, and their chief, José Maria, said that it was with much difficulty their people were able to subsist; the tribes were necessarily much scattered in pursuit of game and other means of subsistence. I found also that large quantities of whiskey had been introduced among them since my former visit, which has in some degree disorganized them. These Indians are very fond of spirits, and it is with much difficulty that I can get sufficient in-