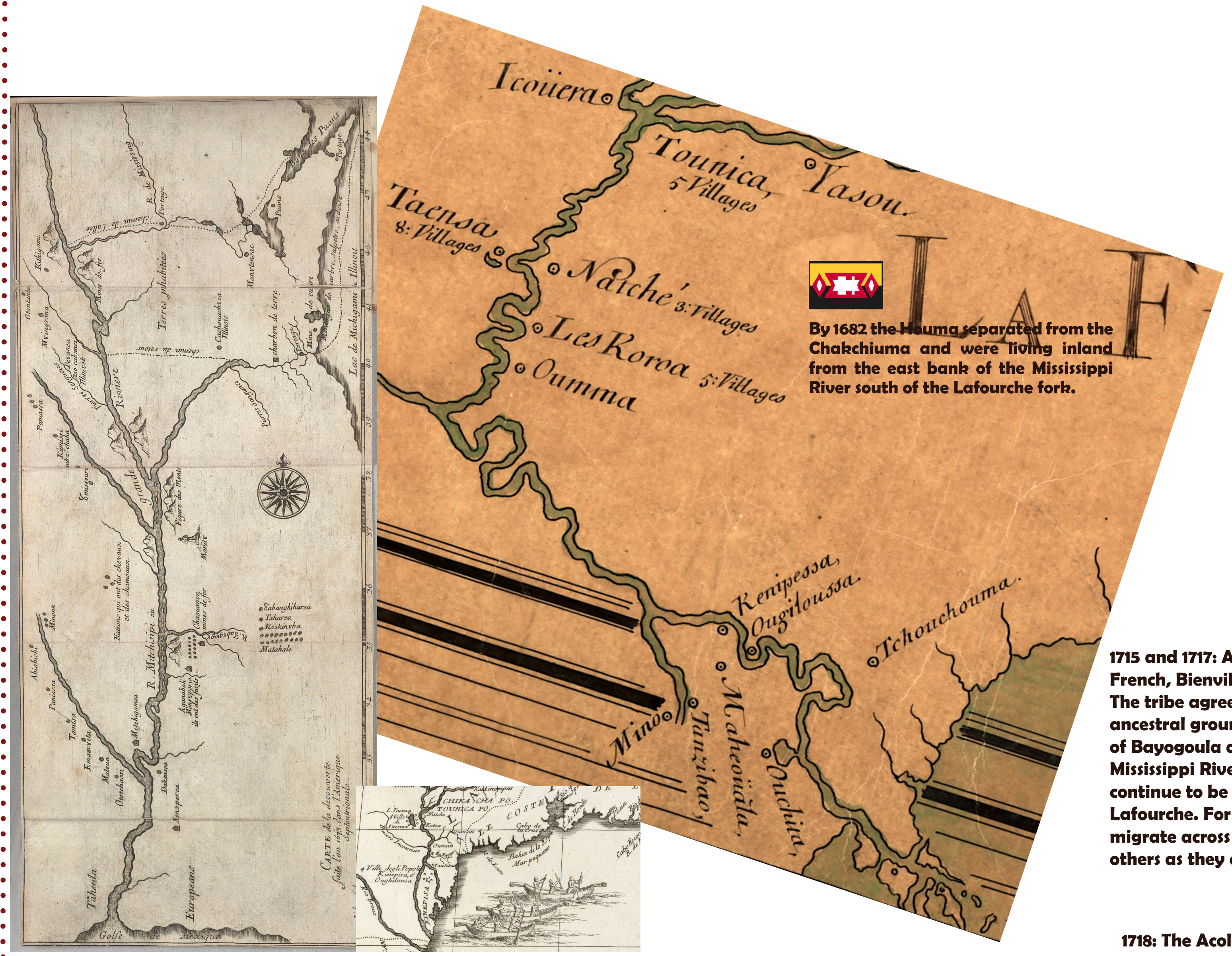
# Mapping the history of the Pointe-au-Chien

1584 Abraham Ortelius (Latin)

SEPTEMTRIO.
Cum Privilegio.
LA FLORIDA. Auctore Hieron. Chiaues
OCCIDENS.
ORIENS.
Circulus
Cancri

1572, 1584: The earliest European maps of the Gulf Coast focused more on inlets and the discovery of bays and rivers than other features of the landscape. Although the maps began with distorted-looking features, many were representing the landscape through the eyes of Native peoples, advising the Europeans. Edges, paths and bays were estimated by their angularity or shape, and the lengths of rivers often depicted by the time it took to transverse them.



By 1682 the Houma separated from the Chakchiuma and were living inland from the east bank of the Mississippi River south of the Lafourche fork.

1681, 1685, 1688: Although Bayou Lafourche would not show up by name on a map for years to come, the river itself was one of the first mapped by Europeans, and may have been one of the first explored. As Spain and France began to fight over the rights to the land, detailed documentation of the area's inhabitants became a necessity.

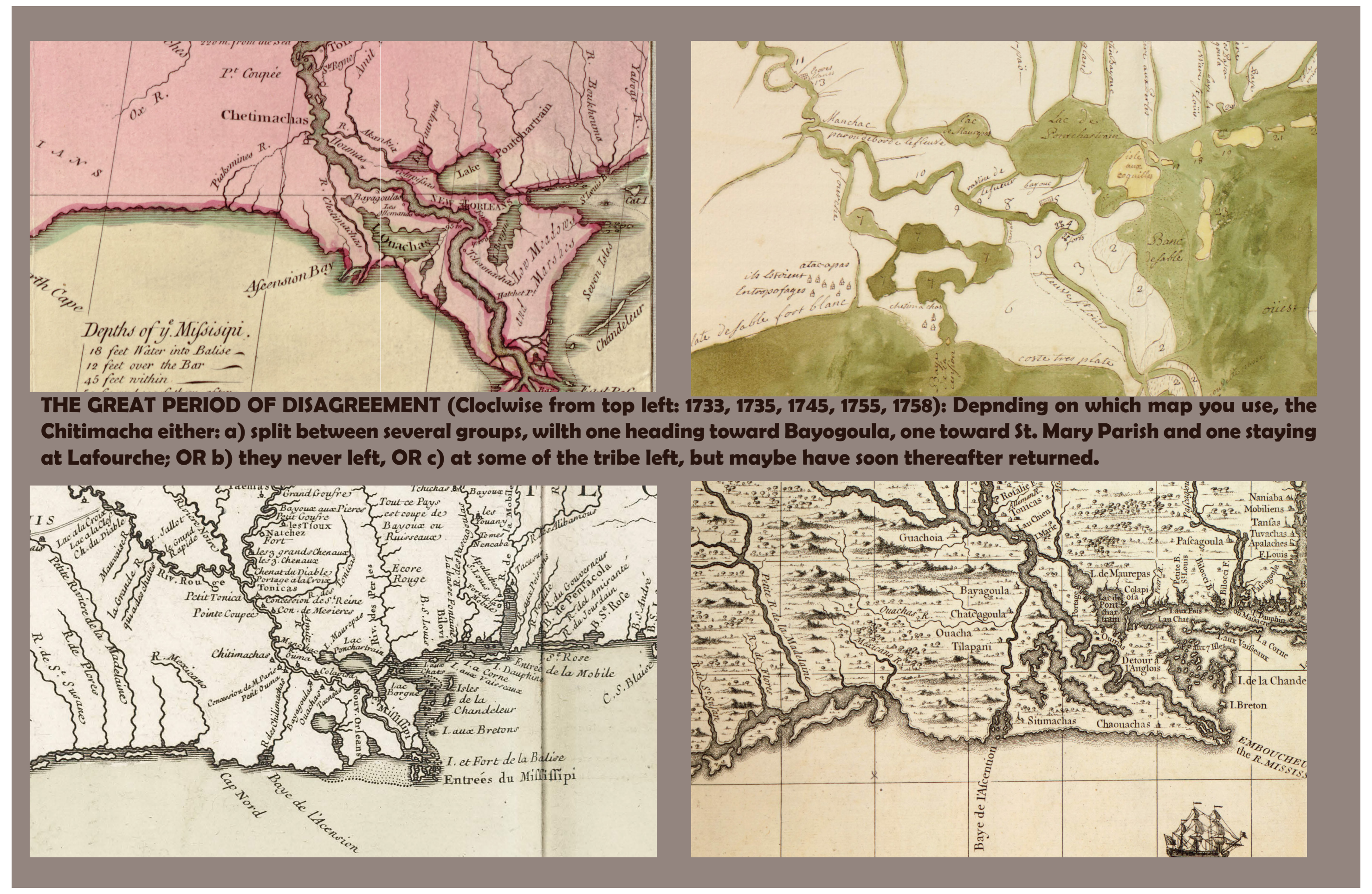
Although the names of the Nations varied by the language of the map-maker, the characteristics always remained the same. The first tribes documented in Interior Lafourche were named in Latin, then Spanish, French, Castilian, Italian, German and so on. While some movement occurs in this period of time, the only noticeable change in tribal location is the upward migration of the Taensa.

1705: The Teansas massacre the Bayougoula as they expand eastward. The Chitimacha anticipate an attack and evade, drawing the Teansas west and north.

1706: French begin raids on Chitimacha villages, initiating two decades of war. The French enlist members of the Natchigoges, Bayougoula, Biloxi and Acolapissa tribes.

1708: The Houma abandon their ancestral grounds during war with Tunica. The Houma relocate to south of the Mississippi-Lafourche River split. The Tunica take over the Houma's previous village and lands.

1674: France sells all the land West of the Mississippi River to Spain.



THE GREAT PERIOD OF DISAGREEMENT (Cloclwise from top left: 1733, 1735, 1745, 1755, 1758): Depnding on which map you use, the Chitimacha either: a) split between several groups, wilth one heading toward Bayogoula, one toward St. Mary Parish and one staying at Lafourche; OR b) they never left, OR c) at some of the tribe left, but maybe have soon thereafter returned.

1715 and 1717: After nearly two decades of war with the French, Bienville offers a peace treaty to the Chitimacha. The tribe agrees, and Bienville orders them off their ancestral grounds in Interior Lafourche to the village of Bayogoula on the Lafourche side of the fork at the Mississippi River. Although they agree to the move, they continue to be documented in history as occupying Interior Lafourche. For the next 60 years, many Indian tribes migrate across the coast, some splitting up and joining others as they crossed the landscape.

1718: The Acolapissa settle south of the Houma tribe on the east banks of the Mississippi River.

1720: Although the Chitimacha were directed to move to the Bayogoula village, no record of their occupation there has been discovered. The remnants of the original four bands of the Chetimacha continued to occupy the area around Baye de L'Ascension.

The Great Hurricane of 1722. First well-documented hurricane to strike the Gulf Coast since European Exploration. Storm hit either Barataria or Timbalier Bay.

1722: Part of the Houma tribe relocates southward as settlers move into the area.

1729: Natchez revolt against French occupation.

1730: Disease kills a large population of Indians.

1730: Gov. Perrier instructed armed black slaves to destroy the village of the Chawasha near Lake Salavador and Larose.

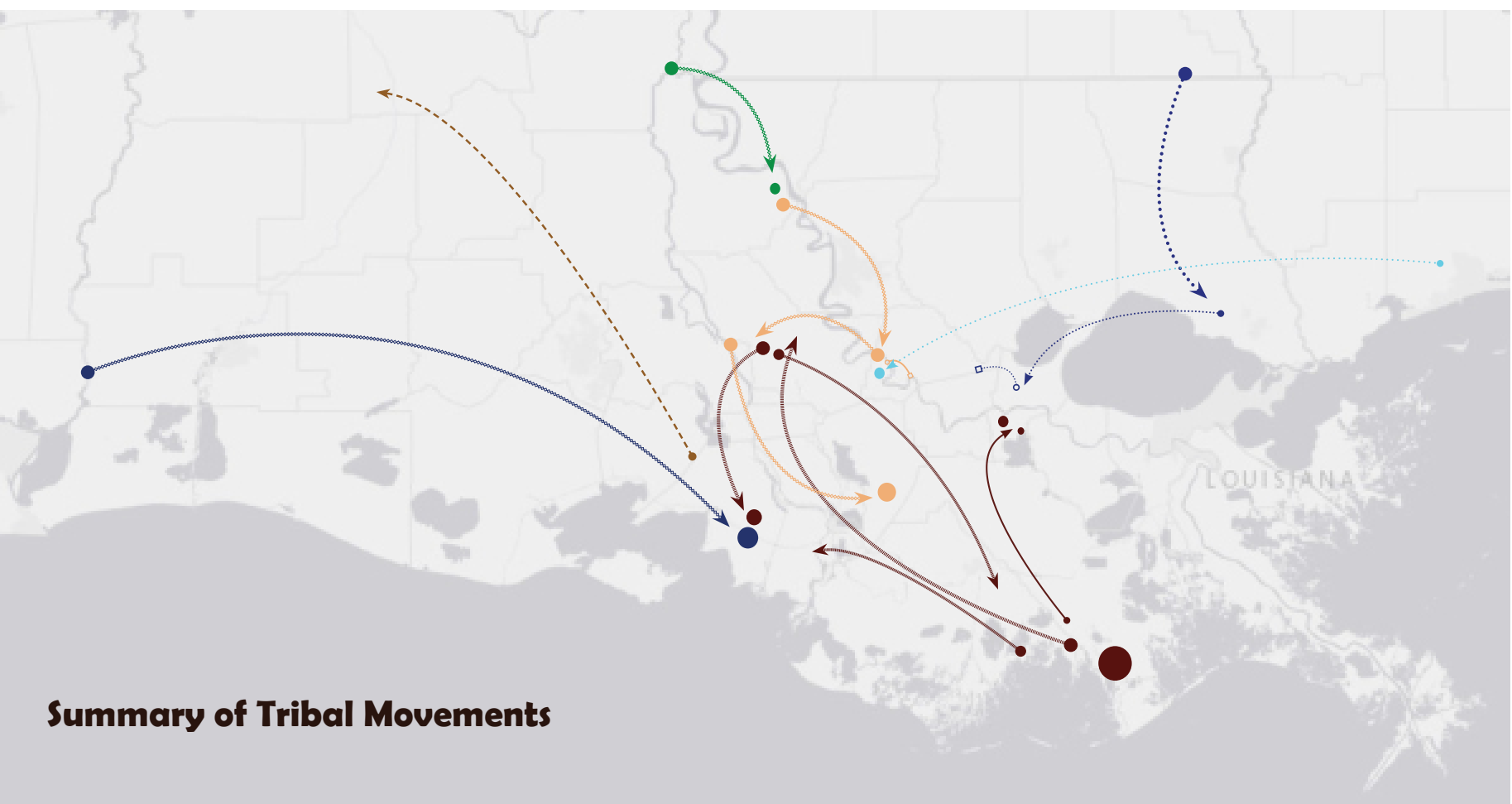
1762: Treaty of Fountainebleua; the French had lost their northern colony of Canada to Great Britain, so as partial compensation to Spain for its losses, France ceded the rest of its Louisiana territory to Spain with the 1762 Treaty of Fontainebleau, which was kept secret until France could negotiate peace with the British. The French preferred Louisiana to be under Spanish control than in the hands of Great Britain.

1763: In 1763 France, Spain, and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the French and Indian War.

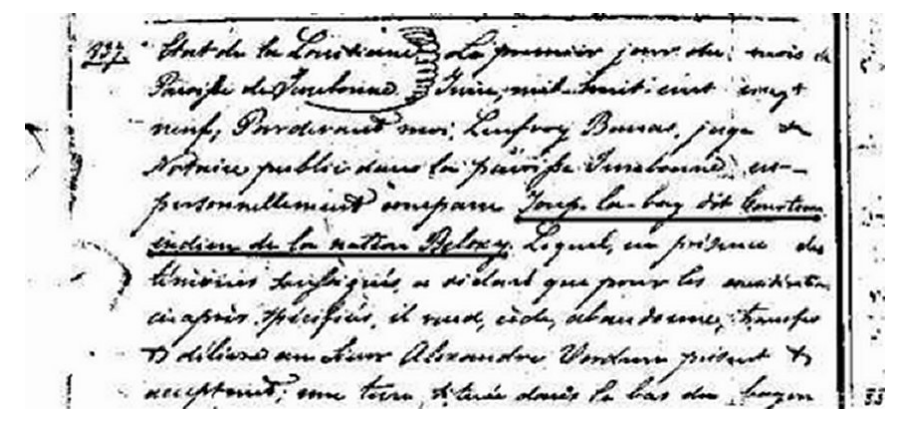
1770: Chitimacha still occupying Lafourche six leagues from the Mississippi River-Lafourche split. Two more Chitimacha tribes are located farther south off Bayou Teche, and a fourth Chitimacha village is said to be on Bayou Plaquemines.

1779: New Orleans is hit hard by a hurricane that also destroys crops throughout coastal Louisiana.

1780: Hurricane destroys Fort Balize, Bayou St. John, and levels many low-lying communities.



Summary of Tribal Movements



1790: The first evidence of occupation in Interior Lafourche comes from court documents in New Orleans.
1810 First public mention of the name Courteau in Terrebonne parish, in a note for money owed to Solomon Lamb, and on the census of Lafourche Interior Parish.

1812 hurricane strikes Barataria and kills hundreds, submurging parts of fourche in Plaquemine pparishes in as much as 15 feet of water.

1831 Major hurricane wipes out an entire village at Grand Isle. Strongest hurricane since 1812 and killed at least 1200 people.

1834

at Racer Storm.

1855 Another big hurricane.

1857 Another big hurricane.

1866

1875

1886

1887

1888

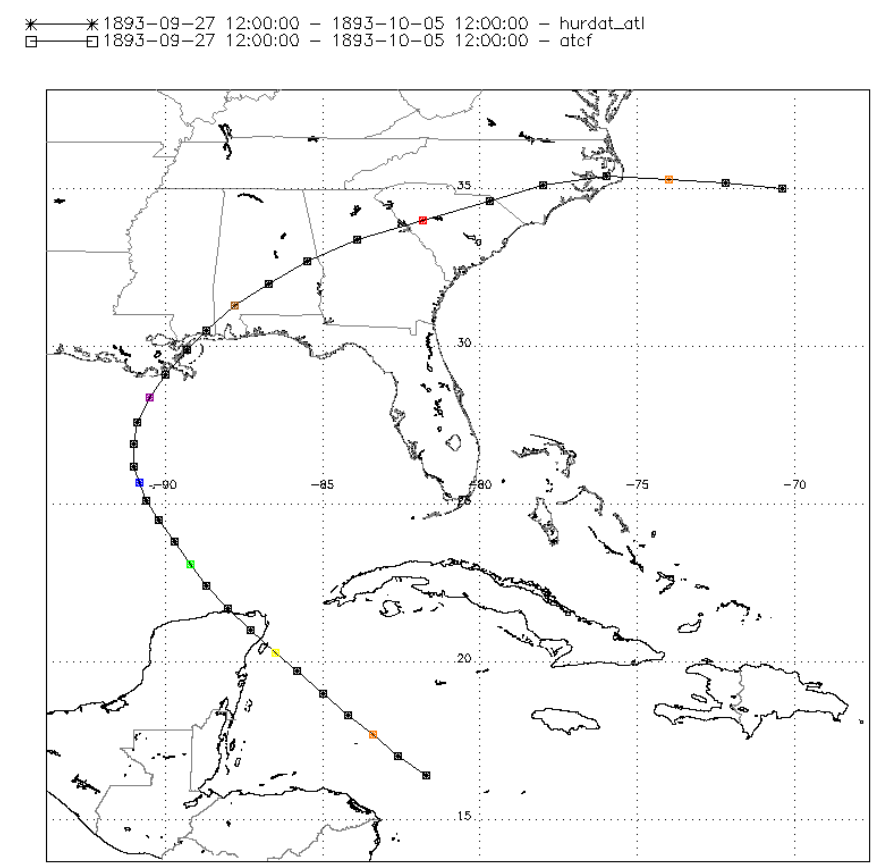
1893

1909

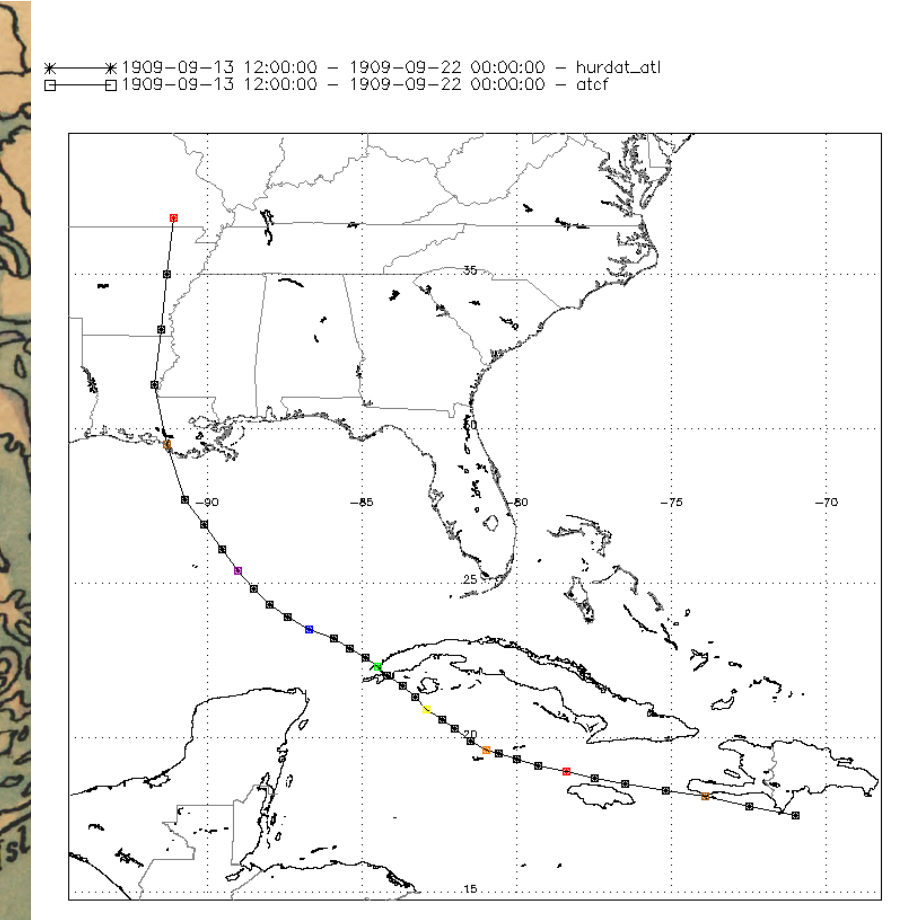
1915

1920 Another big hurricane.

1926 Another big hurricane.

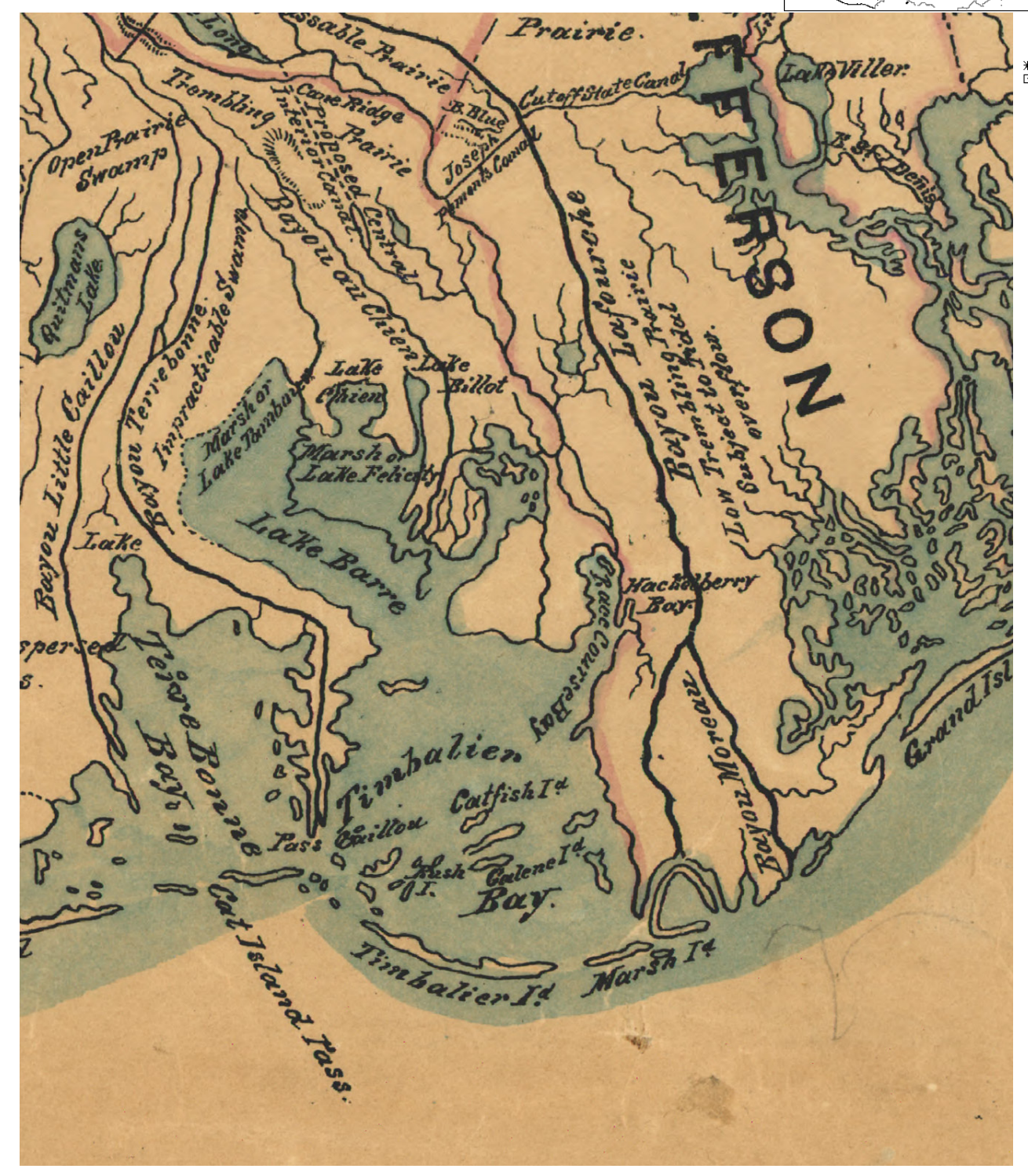


1893-09-27 12:00:00 – 1893-10-05 12:00:00 – hurdat_atl
1893-09-27 12:00:00 – 1893-10-05 12:00:00 – atcf



1909-09-13 12:00:00 – 1909-09-22 00:00:00 – hurdat_atl
1909-09-13 12:00:00 – 1909-09-22 00:00:00 – atcf

A major hurricane strikes Louisiana, killing hundreds and leveling much of the low-lying marsh. Pointe-au-Chien loses more than 100 people, who were buried at Cemetery Oban.



1864: By the mid-nineteenth century, much of the present-day tribal locations are already in place. Bayou au Chien shows up on the first map by 1860, with Lake Billiot, Chien, Felicity and Barre clearly visible. Not much changes betweeen the Civil War era and the era of Technology in terms of mapping.

1850: Pointe-aux-Chien first listed in records, Alexandre Billiot listed as "Chief of the Chitimachas"

1850 Census shows Alexandre Verdin living at Bayou Chene

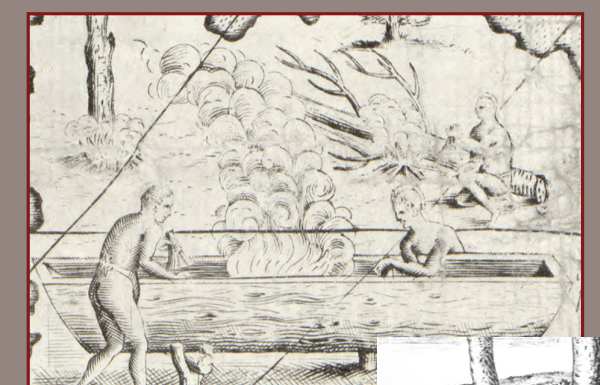
WAR WAR WAR WAR

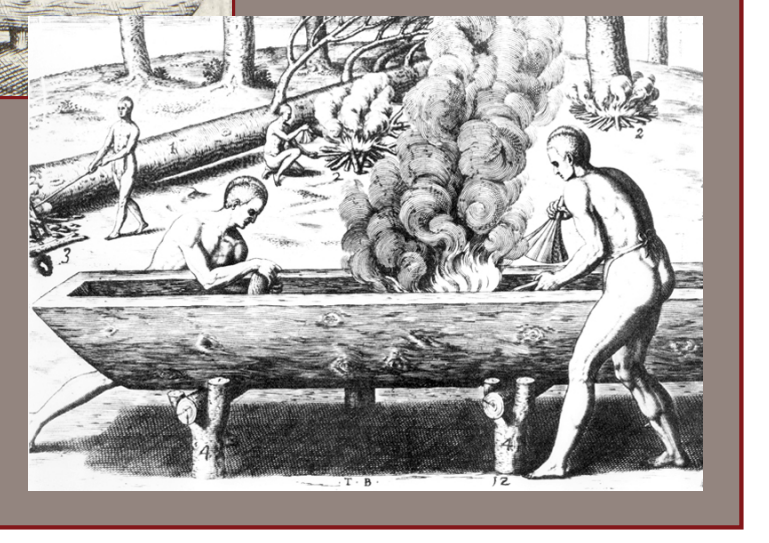
1580 1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910

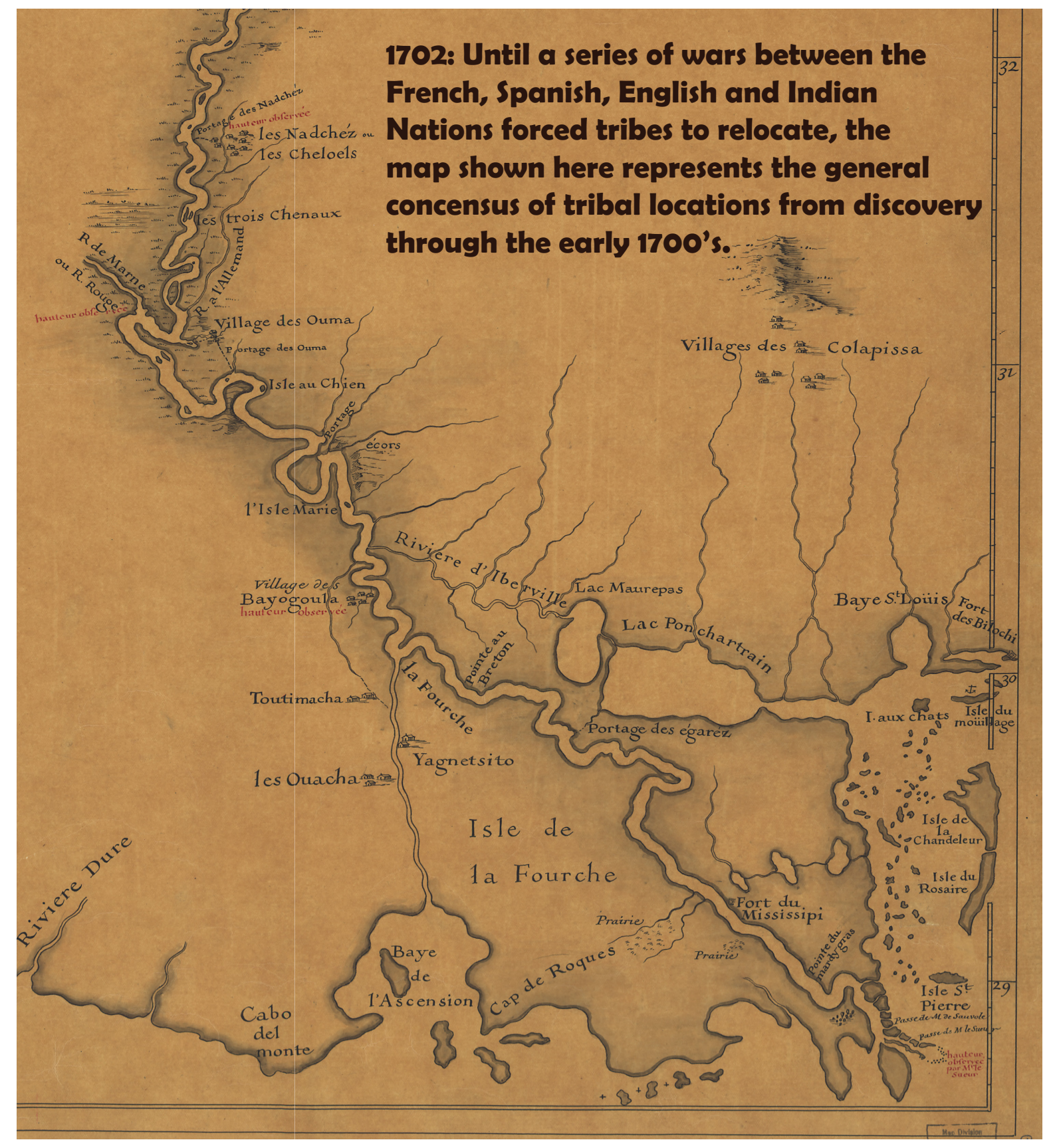
1643: While mapping provided critical information to European settlers, often the drawings, paintings and descriptions that accompanied the maps were even more telling.

Early exploreres like Le Page Du Pratz (Spanish) produced hundreds of pieces of artwork depicting Native cultures in Interior Lafourche. Some of these pieces name the tribes they encountered, like the Atakapa, Tounica and Natchez. Others gave detailed descriptions of the people and their culture, including the languages they spoke, clothes they wore, food they ate, and the religion they practiced.

One of the earliest references to the Chitimacha culture comes in 1643, when [NAME] carefully depicts a coastal tribe set away from the Mississippi River to the East as they prepared alligator for meals, harvested sugarcane and other crops, developed a unique method for the design of perogues. [NAME] included other parts of the culture that closely align with the history of the Chitimacha - including how they wore mohawks, covered much of their bodies in tattos, and donned red and black face paint.





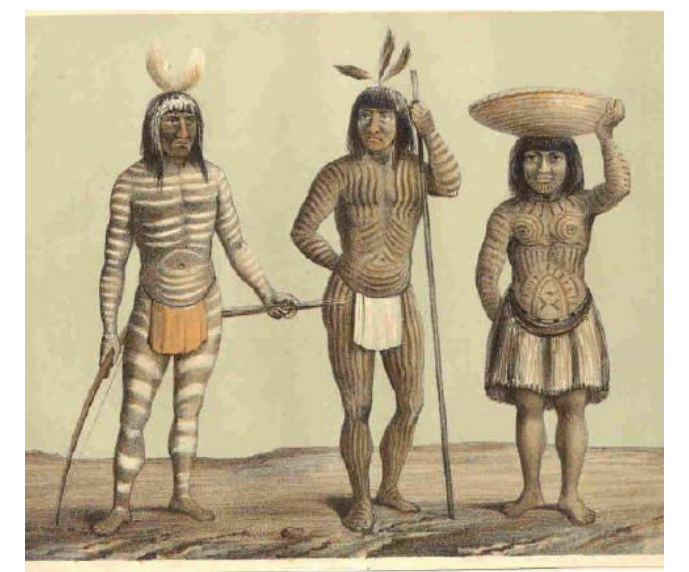


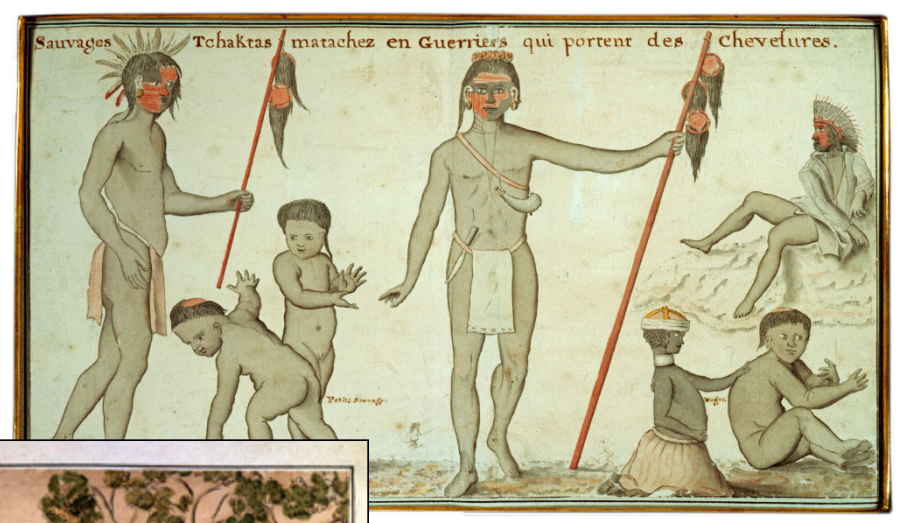
1702: Until a series of wars between the French, Spanish, English and Indian Nations forced tribes to relocate, the map shown here represents the general concensus of tribal locations from discovery through the early 1700's.

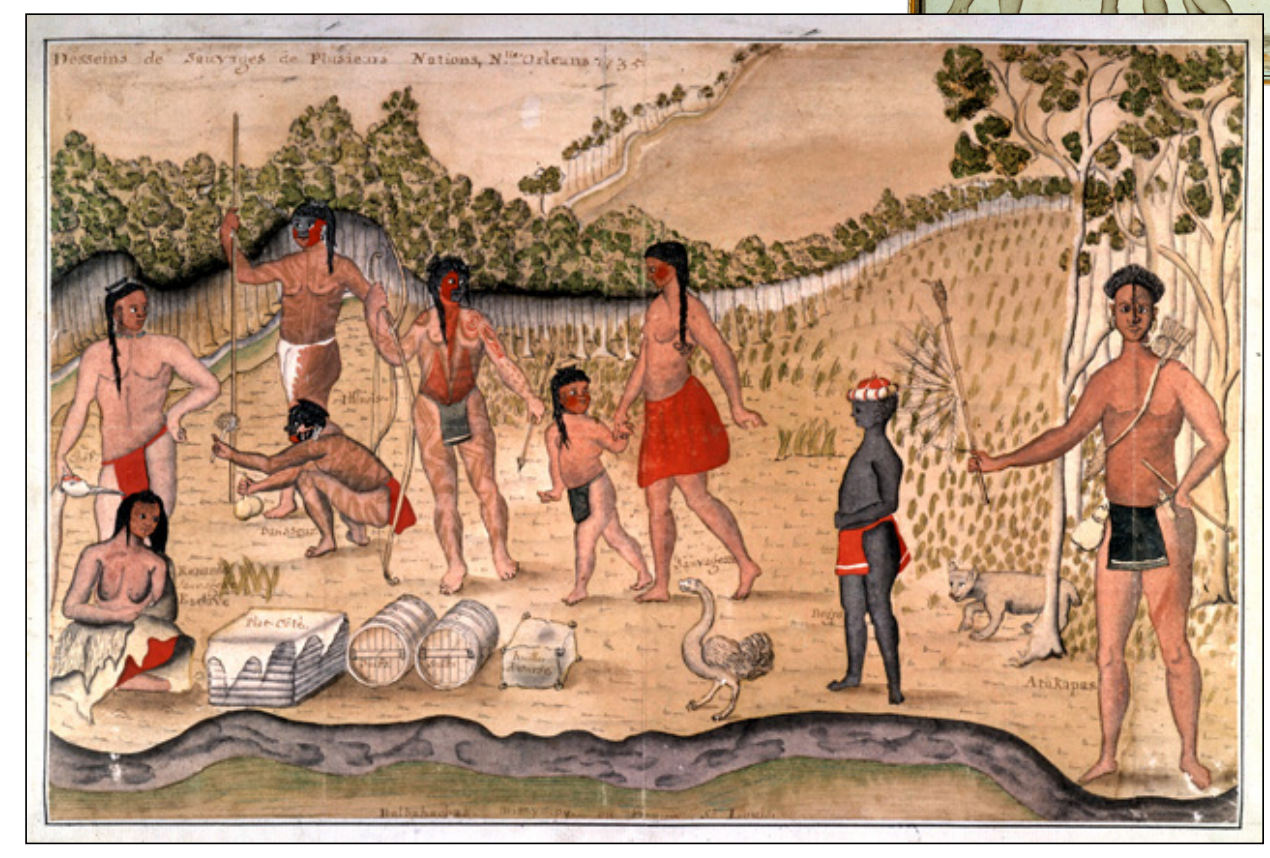
1720s A large group of Germans, later knows as l'Allemonds, settle along the Mississippi River.

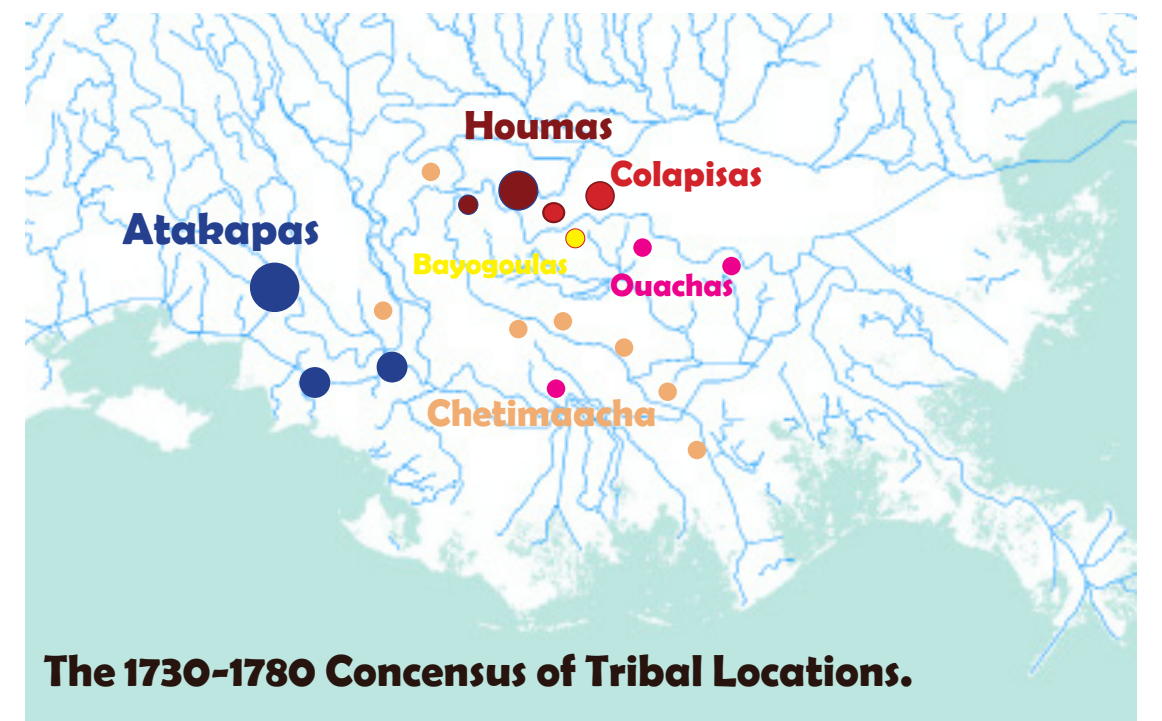
1735: Alexandre de Batz travels to the Lafourche/Terrebonne area and writes "Desseins de Sauvages de Plusieurs Nations" ("Drawings of Several Native Americans of Various Nations").

He documents the Chitimacha far south of their assigned land near Donaldsville. He also claims some of the Chitimacha near St. Mary have allied with and partially merged with the Attakapa.









The 1730-1780 Concensus of Tribal Locations.

1767: The Chitimacha tribe near Bayou Teche is officially recognized by Spanish and French governors of Louisiana and its territorial integrity guarenteed.

1769: Acadians begin arriving from Nova Scotia after France yields the land to Britain

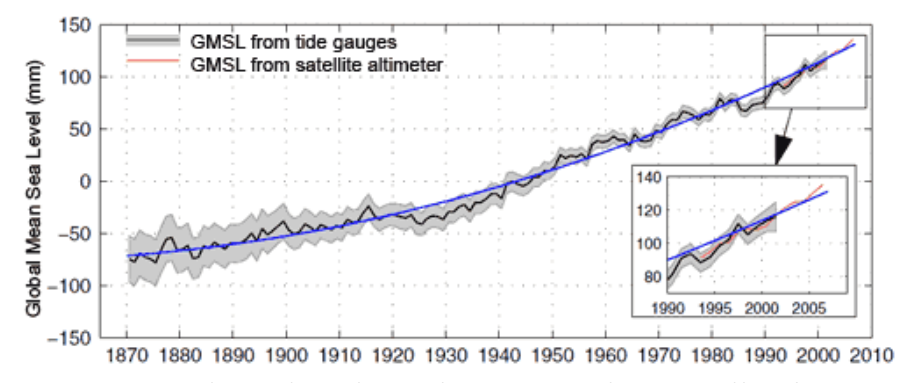
1794: Secession of hurricanes devistates coastal areas. Acadians get permission to relocate from Bayou des Ecors to Felicianas. Many lives were lost.

1784: A village of 27 Chitimachas was found on Bayou Lafourche, and two on Bayou Teche.

1790: Houma begin moving south along Bayou Lafourche. The first village established was called "Chufahouma."

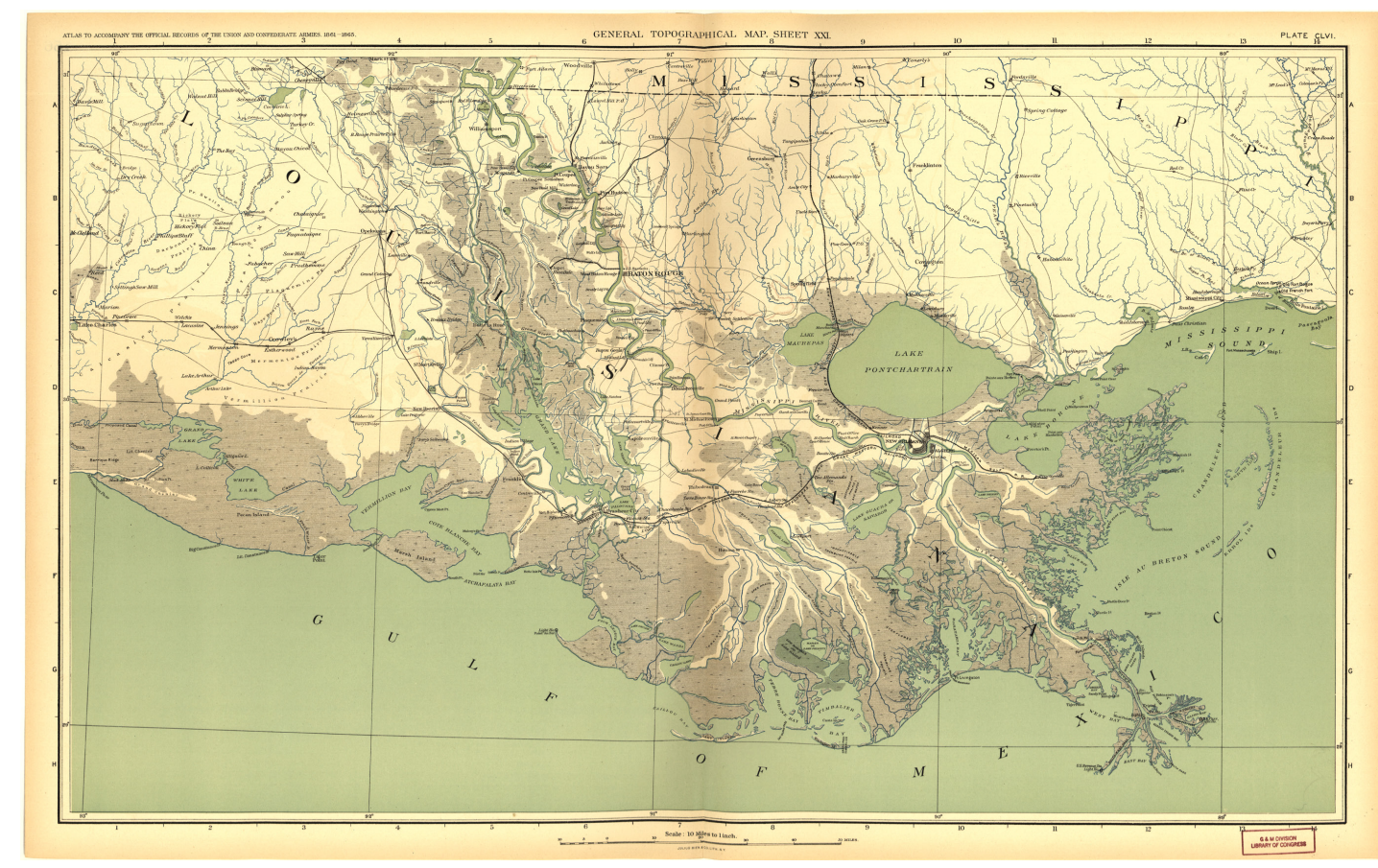
1811: New Madrid Earthquake causes mass destruction; The Mississippi River flows backwards

Map by American Mathew 1814 Carey titled "Louisiana" shows the first high-resolution detail of Timbalier Bay, outlining R. La Fourche, Pointe-au-Chien, Bayou Terrebonne and Grand Calloui. Also possibly Grand Bayou Blue.



1870: Rapid sea level rise begins to drastically change the coast of Louisiana, and continues to do so for more than 150 years.

1911: The Chitimacha Tribe of St. Mary parish gains federal recognition.



1915: 300 People drown below Motegut during a major hurricane; Four are identified as white, the rest presumed to be Indian. The settlement was called Taire-Bonne and was located about 10 miles south of Montegut.