

Native Leaders During the Spanish Mission Period

Some individual Natives rose to positions of leadership and attempted to resolve cultural differences with Europeans in order to survive as a tribe. All are mentioned by their Spanish names (their Native names are unknown) and are from different tribal groups. These individuals were never photographed or painted. Their life histories are still poorly known.

Juan Sabeata, a Jumano leader and Spanish appointed Native governor in the 1680's and 1690's.

He lived in La Junta, along the lower Rio Grande, and established early alliances with the Spanish before and during their expansion into South Texas. He was a legendary regional figure who led annual trading expeditions and established alliances with Caddo and some Coahuiltecan tribes in the late 17th century.

Sabeata spoke many languages including Spanish which enabled him to act on behalf of Natives and Spanish. In 1685, he informed the Spanish in Mexico about La Salle's French settlement. Several years later, he aided Spanish contact with the Caddo of east Texas and the establishment of their missions. He waged a war with the encroaching Apache who moving into the territory and disrupting trade. Little is known of his activities after 1692.

El Mocho A Lipan Apache who was appointed Captain General of the Tonkawa by the Spanish in 1779. The Tonkawa was formed from a merger of Native groups displaced in the 1600s who lived along the Red and Brazos Rivers in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the late 1770s, the Tonkawa were involved in changing alliances with the Spanish, Apache, Caddo and other regional groups.

Under El Mocho's leadership, the Tonkawa organized a trade fair on the Guadalupe River in 1782 to establish an alliance with the Apache, The Tonkawa leader was killed at Espiritu Santo Mission in 1784 by the commander of Presidio La Bahia., who considered his alliance with the hated Apache as treason. Despite this action, the Tonkawa continued to

develop strong alliances in the 1800s with the neighboring Atakapa and Lipan Apache, to provide hides and pelts to trading centers in Louisiana.

Fesada Pinta Leader of a Karankawa band, that resided in the area around Garcitas Creek in 1791. He and another Karankawa band chief or headman, **Llano Grande** were instrumental in the original location of Mission Refugio near Matagorda Bay. Shortly thereafter, disagreements occurred between these two leaders and the Franciscan Friars. In 1794, Pinta and his band raided Refugio Mission, resulting in its relocation to Mission Creek. Little else is known about this individual except that he died before 1810, the year his daughter, Maria Feliciana was baptized at Refugio Mission.

Llano Grande A Karankawa band chief or headman, who inhabited the area below the confluence of the San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers. He and **Fesada Pinta** invited Franciscan priests to their village to try and decide the location of Refugio Mission on Garcitas Creek. Llano Grande and his band were original members of this mission in 1793.

Chepillo An Aranama who changed from a resident at Mission Rosario in the 1790s to a warrior who fought the Spanish occupation of his lands. In 1796 he terrorized the Mission residents, killing cattle and threatening the lives of the Franciscan Friars. In 1801 he was arrested and killed by Spanish authorities for treason and wounding two mission soldiers.

Pedro Jose A Karankawa band leader who brought his group and other bands to Espiritu Santo Mission in 1797. He and his people were moved to Mission Refugio where in 1802 he lived in the “chiefdoms camp.”

Canoso A Lipan Apache chief who was leader of a band near La Bahia in 1802.

Malla A Comanche chief who was leader of a band in the area surrounding La Bahia in 1802.