

Where Are They Now? Karankawa, French, Spanish

Karankawa

After the 1830s, the Karankawa disappeared as a tribe. When the Anglo land grant colonies, such as the Austin colony, moved into Coastal Texas areas, the remaining Karankawa were killed or forced out. By 1850, only a few scattered missionized family groups remained. All that is left of this once powerful tribe are coastal and inland archaeological sites. Over the past 30 years, archaeologists have been studying these locations to learn more about the history and lifestyle of this coastal tribe.

French

After the 1687 massacre of LaSalle's French Colony on Garcitas Creek, there was no further attempt at French settlements in South Texas. France explored and settled the Louisiana territory, where the French heritage is still strong today. During their short stay in South Texas, some of the French from LaSalle's colony lived with Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, and Caddo Indians. A few married into these groups and had children. Unfortunately, little is known about the descendants of these French.

Spanish

The 18th and 19th Century Spanish Mission period in South Texas created a Hispanic tradition in the region that is still very strong. During this time many family groups from Saltillo, Monterey, and Monclova moved to the Region. They received land grants from the government and established ranches and farms. After independence from Spain, Mexican colonists continued to migrate to the area. Numerous Hispanic families living here now can trace their genealogy back to the time of the Spanish Missions, and there is a strong bilingual and bicultural society.

