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December 15, 2023

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
ATTN: Office of Federal Acknowledgment, Mail Stop 4071 MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Responses to Comments for Petition #402

In response to your letter dated October 18, 2023, which transmitted comments related to our tribe's documented petition (Petition #402), we have reviewed the comments submitted by Stevenson et al. and Fred Simon. Our responses to those comments are enclosed, along with supporting documentation.

Please contact me at (702) 985-7722 or Belinda Brooks at (318) 282-3559 if you need further information.

Sincerely,



Belinda Haag
Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux
1162 W. Grayson Dr
Saint George, UT 84790

Enclosures:
Comment Responses
USB Flash Drive

cc: Rodger Collum, Chief
Belinda Brooks, Vice-Chief

**Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux
Responses to Comments for Petition 402**

11/28/2023

**Responses to comments from David Stevenson, Shirley Barr-May, and
Cletties Pardee Self**

Note from Petitioner: Our responses are provided by Belinda Brooks, Vice Chief of Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux (BTBB). Responses are listed below after each page number and comment. Response evidence is included as attachments.

Page 1, Comment A: We request that you deny Federal status due to the facts and evidence presented herein.

Response: No comment.

Page 1, Comment B: They are a splinter group of the State recognized Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana. At a membership meeting in Natchitoches, La. on 6 April 2019 member Rodger Collum and several family members threw their membership cards on the table and walked out. They all immediately met, a waiting, at the time, the Vice-Chief of the Natchitoches Tribe, Belinda Brooks, and started signing membership forms for the creation of the Butte Tribe. See attachments.

Response: See attached statement. #1

Page 1, Comment C: We believe Section A's "Procedures for Federal Acknowledgment of Indian Tribes 25 CFR Part 83" otherwise exemption cannot be valid with this submittal.

Response: No comment. Beliefs and opinions are not facts. The BIA determines the submission validity of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux petition.

Page 1, Comment D: We believe they have fabricated, embellished and exaggerated historical facts. See attachments.

Response: No comment. Beliefs and opinions are not facts. (See attachment #5)

Page 1, Comment E: The Butte submission is primary based on an oral history told by Rodger Collum. The details within his story are hard to believe since he was only 16 years old when his grandfather, the last Chief, Clarence Desadier – 189901969 died. See F-5 below.

Response: Yes, the oral history of BTBB was given to Rodger Collum by his great-grandmother, Victoria "Fee" Flores Desadier, aka Grandma Fee; grandfather, Chief Clarence Desadier; and, grandmother, Louella Waters Desadier. All of these named people carried the BTBB Native American bloodlines. Grandma Fee was a primary source during the life of Chief Joseph Desadier Jr. She died at the age of 108. She was also used as a primary source in the book the Nightriders by Jack Peebles to tell the story of the West Kimbrell Clan, a murderous family who lived in Montgomery, Louisiana, during the Civil War era. Fee was 12 years old during the clan's killing spree and baby sat for the family. BTBB's oral history was told and retold to Chief Rodger Collum beginning at the age of 5 until the death of his ancestors which included Grandma Fee. (See attachments 3, 5, 15)

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Page 1, Comment F.1: In their Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux, Item 3.1.5, Identification as an Indian entity in newspapers and books (25 CFR 83.11(a)(5)). We contend that all of these noted entries, within the submission, were written and produced by Rodger Collum and Belinda Brooks. We also believe they paid for the articles to appear in the paper further paid for the oral history video. It is our opinion that this is self-recognition and does not meet the requirement of 25 CFR 83.11(a)(5).

Response: Again, beliefs and opinions are not facts. Factually incorrect and misleading. Of course, BTBB's oral history was told by Chief Rodger Collum and written by Belinda Brooks. Oral history is passed down from one generation to the next. But, posted articles on buttetribe.org are dated beginning in January 1897. Evidently, the articles dated before the births of Collum and Brooks were "not" written or submitted by either person to the Natchitoches newspapers. Reference tribal website (articles) at ButteTribe.org, articles date back to January 1897, which was 126 years ago. See attached document from Natchitoches Times newspaper. (See attachments 5, 6, 7)

Page 1, Comment F.2: Item 3.1.6, Identification as an Indian entity in relationships with Indian tribes or with national, regional, or state Indian organizations (25 CFR 83.11(a)(6)). "In February 2022, BTBB was approached by the Governor's Office of Louisiana as an indigenous tribe within the state to participate in a federal funded emergency preparedness project". We believe this to be false. It is our opinion that the Butte Tribe obtained this as a 501c(3) organization not as a Native American Tribe. They are not a State or Federally recognized tribe.

Response: Again, beliefs and opinions are not facts. Factually incorrect and misleading. Of course, we are not a federally recognized tribe. Obviously, BTBB's petition has been submitted and is in the review process. See attached document and response letter from Rudy Macklin, Director of the Governor's Fitness and the Bureau of Minority Health Access of Louisiana. It should be noted that the state offices mentioned above could have contacted the non-profit organization NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, but the Louisiana Governor's Office had no interest in doing so. Macklin was only interested in tribes within the State of Louisiana who work together for their family/tribe/community to make the environment a better place to live. BTBB has a reputation of doing so. NTL does not. (See attachment #8)

Page 1, Comment F.3: Item 3.1.7, Identification as an Indian entity by the petitioner itself (25 CFR 83.11(a)(7)) and 3.2 Criterion #2: Community (25 CFR 83.11(b)). Again 99.9 per cent the information given is based on a story recalled by a 16 year old Rodger Collum. He is now recalling, in detail, facts known only to him.

Response: Native American oral history is passed down from one generation to the next. BTBB's history was told and retold to Chief Rodger Collum beginning at the age of 5 until the death of his ancestors. (See attachments 3 & 5)

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Page 2, Comment F.4: Item 3.6, Criterion #6: Unique Membership (25 CFR 83.112(f)). "The membership of BTBB are not members of any federally recognized Indian tribe. BTBB is petitioning for federal recognition with the submission of this petition document. In accordance with the documentation for 25 CFR 83.11(b) and (c) above, BTBB has functioned as a separate, politically autonomous community. This is discussed in more detail in the following section." Again, we submit the facts that show they are in fact members of our family and our community. They were members of our State Recognized Natchitoches Tribe before leaving and forming the Butte Tribe in 2019. They were not separate and autonomous.

Response: Correct, BTBB has applied to the BIA for federal recognition, unlike NTL. Formerly Lac Noir Tribe of Black. We are not members of NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe. We are not on NTL's tribal roll. If we are, NTL is factiously enrolled our people who are not aware of it. BTBB has submitted its federal petition and it has been accepted for review by the BIA. BTBB does function as a separate, politically autonomous community. We are not funded and never have been funded by NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, or any other tribe within the boundaries of the United States. (See attachment #1 & #8)

Page 2, Comment F.5: Section 2.1 Oral History of Rodger Collum "The chief has lived his entire 67 years on the same land his ancestors lived and died on. Raised and mentored by his elders". Records found do not support this claim. Further the "67 years" would make Rodger Collum birth year 1956 and make him 13 when his grandfather died in 1969. Page 9, of the submission, shows Rodger Collum was born in 1953 therefore 16.

Response: Not factual and meant to be misleading. Rodger Collum has lived his entire life on the family land where all the Butte Tribe chiefs lived, raised their families, died, and were buried on. Collum went to school, graduated, married (3 times), and raised his family on the same land. He is a well-known commercial contractor in the Natchitoches area. He has built housing divisions, doctor offices, hospitals, cancer centers, Natchitoches historical buildings, subcontracted the building of Fort St. Jean Baptist replica, and much more in the North Louisiana area. He is a highly respected man of his community and has been since a young age. He lives on the same land today. (See attachments 3 & 5)

Page 2, Comment G: Mounds and artifacts found and claimed on Rodger Collum's property are the ancestors of the NTL.

Response: Not factual and meant to be misleading. To begin with, please note the comment above, "...found and claimed on (Chief) Rodger Collum's property." NTL is acknowledging and providing written proof that there is tribal land which belongs to Chief Collum and BTBB. NTL has not presented evidence of the claims made. Additionally, the ancestors of NTL have no relevance to the BTBB federal petition.

The non-profit corporation, NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, believes state recognition gives them BTBB tribe's history and possessions. Not only has anyone in NTL ever lived on BTBB's tribal land, they have never work one day on the land or guarded family/tribe possessions, taken care of the elders, taught the children the ways of their ancestors, or spent one dollar in the care of all that makes up BTBB's existence. The ignorance of the people in management of NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is unbelievable. For some reason, NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, feels that the congressional backdoor State of Louisiana's recognition gives them prestige with the BIA. I was at those congressional meetings, and I can testify in all honesty that not one piece of paper or an electronic file of proof of ancestry nor a tribal roll was asked for or delivered to the

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2017 Regular Congressional Session in support of identifying who NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, was. The State of Louisiana does not support the Native American tribes within Louisiana with one dollar. State recognition is only bragging rights for tribes that cannot produce the requirements of the BIA for federal recognition. (See attachment 9, 12)

Page 2, Comment H: The Butte Tribe have demanded their members participate in any activities scheduled. One example is a Gun raffle in 2022 in which they demanded that all members to buy a raffle ticket. If not you would be placed on In-Active status. See Attachment D-6. We have also been told, if you were on the In-Active status your name would not be on the roll when they submitted to the BIA.

Response: Butte Tribe does not demand anything of our members. Members agree to be active as part of the registration process. (See attachments 10, 11, 17.)

Page 2, ATTACHMENT A Comment: The Road Marker for Marie Terese de la Grande Terre was designed, purchased and installed by Shirley Barr-May, Cletties Pardee Self Founding members of the Natchitoches Tribe. In submission they state the "State of Louisiana" had it installed and fails to mention Natchitoches Tribe members that founded the marker.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. This "fact" has nothing to do with the BTBB petition, nor does it have anything to do with NTL due to the fact that the non-profit NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, did not exist at the time the marker was raised. I do know that funds were raised for the sign and that I donated to the fund as did many other people. So, this claim is factually untrue because May and Pardee did not completely fund the project on their own without the assistance of others.

Page 2, ATTACHMENT B Comment: Examples of what we believe are fabrications.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. Again, beliefs and opinions are not facts.

Page 2, ATTACHMENT C Comment: Showing in 2017 Belinda Brooks, our Vice-Chief, now the Butte Tribe Vice-Chief, submitted and swore that our people and history was true and correct to obtain our State Recognition. Now they are claiming our documented history and ancestry.

Response: I did not swear to anything. I was not asked to swear to anything. I acknowledged that the bill submitted to Congress was true when stating that there was once a historical tribe called "Natchitoches Tribe." I claimed that I was the Vice Chief of the NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, which is "not" the historical Natchitoches Indians. We were not asked to produce documents of proof of any type. I am not sure what other Native American bloodlines NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, claims currently. I do know that NTL has fabricated and mislead comments to the BIA on having blood ties to the historical Natchitoches Indians.

Factual and misleading comments by NTL's Chief Simon have been made to the BIA. I do know without a doubt that members of NTL are not of the historical "Natchitoches Tribe" bloodline. When I make this statement, it angers them. There is no documentation that I have ever seen, nor has anyone else, that verifies that statement. The ancestor that the NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is attempting to identify as a Natchitoches Indian is Angelique, the

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wife/concubine of Charles Dumont who is also my ancestor. History books state that Dumont brought her from Texas with two or three children. She died in Natchitoches and was documented as a Native American. Therefore, they call her a Natchitoches blooded Indian even though that statement is false. (See Attachment #13)

Simply stated, BTBB's history belongs to BTBB. Obviously! BTBB rightfully claims its ancestors, only.

Page 2, ATTACHMENT D Comment: Facebook evidence from the Butte Tribe web site page – General subjects.

Response: No comment. Beliefs and opinions are not facts. The BIA determines the submission validity of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux petition. (See attachment #5)

Page 2, ATTACHMENT RC Comment: Showing evidence about Rodger Collum's family and records that do not support. "The chief has lived his entire 67 years on the same land his ancestors lived and died on. Raised and mentored by his elders."

Response: Beliefs and opinions are not facts. The BIA determines the submission validity of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux petition (See Attachment #5.)

Page 2, Comment 7: We invite BIA, at any time, to come to Campti, Louisiana to investigate and interview us.

Response: No comment, although that would be very interesting. BTBB is anticipating a visit from the BIA. Our tribe will gladly share our historical sites, mounds, and artifacts. Numerous businesses, Congressmen, parish/community leaders, churches, family members, and others would be happy to welcome you on behalf of BTBB. Please come.

Attachment A, Page A1: Magazine from the Chitimacha Tribe with Historical Marker Dedication.

Response: No comment. This has nothing to do with BTBB's petition.

Attachment A, Page A2: Magazine from the Chitimacha Tribe with Historical Marker Dedication for Marie Theresa de la Grande Terre.

Response: No comment. This has nothing to do with BTBB's petition.

Attachment A, Page A3: Magazine from the Chitimacha Tribe with Historical Marker Dedication. Cletties Pardee Self and Shirley Barr-May, both Council Chiefs of the Natchitoches Tribe did all the paperwork and funds to make and display.

Response: No comment. This has nothing to do with BTBB's petition..

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Attachment A, Page A4: Page from the Historical Marker Database for Marie Theresa de la Grande Terre.

Response: No comment. This has nothing to do with BTBB's petition.

Attachment B, Page B1: Photo of spearhead from Butte Tribe Facebook page. Why is this item so smooth?

Response: Ridiculous! No comment. This statement alone would tell any Native American tribe with mounds and artifacts how stupid this comment is.

Attachment B, Page B2: Rodger's Grandpa picture appears to have been photo cropped from a Cherokee Website photo.

Response: Yes, that is true. I was playing around with my computer and wondered what the modern-day ancestors who had passed away would look like in Native American regalia. They should not have to have feared retribution for claiming their Native American heritage and should have been given the opportunity to wear feathers with pride. It was done in fun, and I told the people that I shared it with what I was doing.

Attachment B, Page B3: Facebook postings of the Butte Tribe. Here Rodger is saying mounds found in our area are CHITIMACHA. Below is another Facebook posting by the Butte Tribe that contradicts this. The CHITIMACHA Tribe website does not support Rodger's story.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. Again, beliefs and opinions are not facts. The Butte Tribe mounds have not been identified as being one tribe's mounds. A lot of assumptions have been made, but it is not known for sure. What we do know is that our Native American bloodlines are mixed: Chitimacha, Texas, and Caddo. The mounds are probably pre-history due to their size. Butte Hill is our historical burial mound, Collum's Temple Mound, Frederick Mound, and Yamak Mound have all been guarded by the chief's family through the years since 1800. We do know that the mounds were used by post European explorers because of the artifacts that have been found: European pipes, Spanish armor, and pottery found in the temple mound with European-introduced handle grips.

Attachment B, Page B4: Charlia Collum's second kaolin clay pipe artifact find. The hole, the pipe stem sticking out of loose soil. THE PIPE REMOVED – Note, no soil on the inside of the pipe. Also notice the dirt in the hole is not solid. Is this another fabrication?

Response: Ridiculous! No comment. That statement alone would tell any Native American tribe with mounds and artifacts how ridiculous and ignorant this comment is.

Attachment C, Page C1: In 2017 Belinda Brooks, our Vice-Chief, now the Butte Tribe Vice-Chief, submitted documents. Now they are claiming our documented history and ancestry.

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Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. Again, beliefs and opinions are not facts. BTBB claims its own history. Should other people share one or more of our ancestors is their business, not ours. I am not a member or on the roll of NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe. When I resigned from that tribe in March, 2019, and took my ancestors with me.

The issue with NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is that no one is working or has worked to put their family lines together in petition form. Why? Because it takes thousands and thousands of hours to do the work correctly. I have done that work without the support of NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe. NTL wants my work.

Attachment C, Page C2: Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana Historical Timeline, Post European Exploration.

Response: No comment. Not relevant to BIA petition.

Attachment C, Page C3: Founders Online. To Thomas Jefferson from John Sibley, 14 December 1805.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is not of the "historical" Natchitoches Indian bloodline as explained in attachment. They totally lie when they make that claim. BTBB challenges NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, to produce the name of the "Historical" Natchitoches Indian that traveled with St. Denis who they claim to be their ancestor. (See Attachment #1)

Attachment C, Page C4: Trail of Ancestors – Black Lake/Clear Lake Community.

Not relevant to BTBB petition.

Attachment D, Page D1: Facebook evidence from the Butte Tribe web site page – General subjects. Another piece of evidence showing the Butte Tribe is a splitter [sic] group once members of our Natchitoches Tribe.

Response: See Page 1, Comment C.

Attachment D, Page D2: The following came from the Butte Tribe's Facebook page downloaded on 23 June 2023. Close attention to dates. When our Vice-Chief left to form the Butte Tribe the Butte Tribe was formed April 2019. Picture of Belinda Brooks as Vice Chief of the Natchitoches Tribe before coup in 2019.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. NTL dug up this posting from February, 2018. This has nothing to do with BTBB's petition. Brooks resigned from NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, as of March, 2019.

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Attachment D, Page D3, Comment 1: The Natchitoches Tribe does not charge our members any dues or require them to donate. The Butte Tribe does and has informed its members if they don't, they will be removed from the rolls. We don't do the type of actions as described above.

Response: Comments are above. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, does charge for membership registration unless their policies have changed since I resigned and removed from their tribal rolls. Maybe, the non-profit NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, needs to have better business practices. No business or organization can survive without funds and dedicated members to help their tribe and community. Actually, it is none of NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, business on how BTBB runs their tribe. (See Attachment 10, 11, 17)

Attachment D, Page D3, Comment 2: A posting by Belinda Brooks, our Vice-Chief, before deserting about our Tribe. Note the creation of the Bayou Bourbeaux Communities.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. "Deserting" their tribe? What is not said here is that I did all the work. A lot of people talked about what they wanted to see and how I needed to do it.

One day the chief began to feel threatened because of the working tribal/family (Desadiers) that I wanted to bring into the tribe. He feared a "hostile" takeover was in the air. Comical! Any group of people that would choose such a weak and spineless person's fear over the betterment of their tribe, did not need me to hold their tribe together.

Not sure what NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is referring to. I am sure that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is not the historical Natchitoches Indians.

But to comment about the writing, please notice the date (1/6/2019). This was during the time that I first found the mounds. I was excited because I was working so hard to get the Desadier family into the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, and the NTL families were rejecting the Desadier families who were willing to share their history.

You must understand the context of what was being said to get the full meaning of what I was trying to put it together. I wanted the two tribes to join. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, feared that eventually the Desadier family would take over.denied Brooks' request. This was a deal breaker with the Desadier family. If Collum was not accepted as NTL Council Member for his family, he would not be part of the tribe. This was the beginning of the end of my association with NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe. I resigned a few short weeks later.

Attachment D, Page D4, Comment 1: This marker has been purchased and installed by the Butte Tribe on the side of a public roadway showing the story of their chief. We do not agree with this history and its display to the public.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading.The marker in question is a Louisiana Historical Highway Marker that was granted to Butte Tribe by the State of Louisiana, LSU Historical Department, and the Louisiana Highway Department. Opinions and beliefs are not facts. The NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, insists on slandering the Butte Tribe. Ridiculous! (See Attachment 12.)

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Attachment D, Page D4, Comment 2: A posting by Rodger Collum – a direct reference to our tribe, however not putting in our name.

Response: Ridiculous! **Factually incorrect and misleading.**

Attachment D, Page D5: Desadier16 – a Butte member added a comment in Ancestry that Philoseme was banned from the tribe. This is the reason – our chief and Rodger ancestry side by side – false information – Joseph Earl and Philoseme are laying together in the graveyard at Campiti, Louisiana.

Response: BTBB's oral history was handed down to Collum as a young child. The stories were told and retold to him for over ten years. Collum's great grand-mother, Victoria "Fee" Flores Desadier, was a primary source for the story of Philoseme. She was alive and lived through the events told in BTBB's oral history. The story involved her father-in-law and his brother. Collum heard the same story over and over told from his ancestors. BTBB's oral history stands!

Attachment D, Page D6: Butte Tribe Notice – to be considered an "active" member, you must take an active part in tribal activities and projects. If not, please remove yourself from tribal member list or you will be put on the Butte Tribe "In-Active" list. Current project, raffle of a 300 Winn Beretta Bolt-Action Rifle. Ticket will be drawn at the 2022 Fall Tribe Gathering. \$10 per ticket. All "Active Members" must contact Butte Tribe's Chief Rodger Collum or Vice-Chief Belinda Brooks to request raffle tickets. No Exceptions. Any member who does not make contact will be put on "In-Active" status.

Response: (See Attachments 10,11,17)

RC-00

Response: **Factually incorrect and misleading.** Who is the world is Joseph Earl Desadier? Not Joseph Desadier Jr.! Note: NTL is falsely commenting about ancestors that have been correctly documented through the BTBB petition and are direct ancestors of the family of Chief Rodger Collum. NTL is not part of the immediate ancestral line of the chiefs of BTBB. They are researching random Desadier people on genealogical databases, people search databases and other online websites attempting to cause havoc with unsubstantiated BTBB information. (See Attachment #14.)

Attachment RC, Page 1: Here is what we have found showing the locations his Grandparents lived and place buried.

Response:

Factually incorrect and misleading. (See attachment #14 on all chiefs' communities according to newspaper articles.)

Bayou Bourbeaux runs through Campiti and Black Lake in Ward 4. These communities in Natchitoches Parish are the same Census areas, Ward 4. St. Maurice was the community where Louella Waters Desadier was born and raised. Louella was the wife of Clarence Desadier. One will find different members of the family moving back and forth from small communities in that area which is also considered by Butte Tribe as being part of their territory.

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NTL's, formerly Lac Noir's, charts are incorrect! They do not know enough about BTBB to be commenting on BTBB's ancestors. Again, Joseph Earl Desadier was not Joseph Desadier Jr. (Chief Hawkeye). BTBB will not comment on the family charts of the NTL who are not familiar with the lives of the BTBB's families and who make undocumented comments on people that they do not know. Thousands and thousands of hours have gone into documenting our family trees and history with accuracy for the BIA. Those documents can be found in our petition submissions.

BTBB's submitted charts with verifications which are accurate to the BIA have been submitted. NTL, formerly Lac Noir, has no direct connection to BTBB ancestors. Accuracy of homeplaces of these ancestors is best found through BTBB's documents. NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, historians know little about the land, area and ancestors of BTBB.

The Act of April 10, 1805 divided the Territory of Orleans into 12 Parishes. The parish boundaries were considerably larger than now defined which included Natchitoches County. Later, Natchitoches County was divided into parishes: Natchitoches, Caddo, Claiborne, Bossier, Webster, DeSoto, Bienville, Jackson, Sabine, Red River, Winn, and Grant.

BTBB claimed its surrounding communities which include lands in Winn Parish that border Bayou Bourbeaux area. Chief Collum's great-grandmother and grandmother, Victoria Fee Flores Desadier (wife of Adolph Felix Desadier) and Louella Waters Desadier (wife of Clarence Desadier) were from this area. The communities of Montgomery, St. Maurice, and Louella are only a short distance from Trichell/Pace Communities. Louella Waters as a child attended the same school as her future husband, Clarence Desadier. (See Attachment #14)

Regarding census reports, the Bayou Bourbeaux area that the Desadiers live and lived on is located in Ward 4 district of Natchitoches Parish. The remains of Clarence and Louella Desadiers home is still standing in that census report location. All census reports were taken in and around the Bayou Bourbeaux area. Additionally, Joseph Jr. and Josephine Desadier had more than one home in Natchitoches Parish. Josephine enjoyed living in the city. Joseph Jr. worked on his farmland and had a lumber business. (See Attachment #14)

Regardless where the census report was taken, the family lived in and around Bayou Bourbeaux on Butte land. All chiefs lived on the same piece of land, raised their families and died there. White Smoke was buried on Butte Hill. Powder Face is buried in a small Native American family cemetery on Chief Collum's Land. The cemetery is in walking distance of Chief Collum's home. Hawkeye is buried in the Campiti Catholic Cemetery by his 4th wife. Squarehead and Parrian are buried in the St. Maurice Cemetery. There is no way that NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, knows the innermost family business of the Desadier family. NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, does not even know their own oral history to even begin to discredit BTBB's oral history.

Attachment RC, Page 2: Rodger Collum's Oral History – Petition for Federal Acknowledgment of Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux, Section 2.3 Oral History. Locations of Rodger Collum's ancestors. Places lived and buried according to Census and Graveyard Records.

Response: See above response.

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Attachment RC, Page 3: List of Roger Collum's ancestors from Jose Franco Pereda Montano also known as (aka) Chief White Smoke to Rodger Collum aka Chief Thunderstick.

Response: Information submitted to BIA.

Attachment RC, Page RC-01: Jose Desidorio Pereda aka Chief Powder Face Joseph Sr.

Response: Documented information submitted to BIA by BTBB. BTBB does not verify or acknowledge charts or documents produced by NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe. Too many errors to count!

Attachment RC, Pages RC-02 and RC-03: Joseph Earl Desadier aka Chief Hawkeye Jr.

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. BTBB has never heard of a Joseph Earl Desadier. He was not part of BTBB family. NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, does not take enough pride in their information to research properly before commenting.

Attachment RC, Page RC-04: Joseph Discedah in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-05: Joseph Disadier in the 1870 United States Federal Census.

Response: Joseph Discedah in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-06: Joseph Desadan in the 1880 United States Federal Census.

Response: Joseph Discedah in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

Response: (See attachment #14)

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Attachment RC, Page RC-07: Jos Dezidere in the 1900 United States Federal Census.

Response: Joseph Discedah in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

Response: (See attachment #14)

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Attachment RC, Page RC-08: Joseph Earl Desadier Sr. [Find a Grave.com page]

Response: Factually incorrect and misleading. BTBB does not know this person. No comment.

Attachment RC, Pages RC-09 and RC-10: Adolf Felix Desadier aka Chief Squarehead.

Response: Joseph Discedah in the 1860 United States Federal Census.

Response: (See attachment #14)

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Attachment RC, Page RC-11: Felix Desadier. [Find a Grave.com page]
Response: (See attachment #14) .

Attachment RC, Page RC-12: Felix Desadan in the 1880 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14) .

Attachment RC, Page RC-13: Felix Desedere in the 1900 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-14: Felix Desadier in the 1910 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-15: Felix Desadier in the 1920 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14) .

Attachment RC, Pages RC-16 and RC-17: Clarence Desadier aka Chief Parrain.
Response: No comment required. Documents provided in BTBB petition.

Attachment RC, Page RC-18: Clarence Desadier in the U.S. Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800-Current.
Response: (See attachment #14) .

Attachment RC, Page RC-19: Clarence Desadier [Find a Grave.com page]
Response: (See attachment #14) .

Attachment RC, Page RC-20: Clarence Desedere in the 1900 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-21: Clarence Desadier in the 1910 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-22: Clarence Desadier in the 1930 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-23: Clarence Desadier in the 1940 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-24: Clarence Desadier in the 1950 United States Federal Census.
Response: (See attachment #14)

**Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux
Responses to Comments for Petition 402**

Attachment RC, Page RC-25: Ola Mae Desadier Rodger's Mother, 1930-2003.

Response: (See attachment #14)

Attachment RC, Page RC-26: Rodger Lee Collum aka Chief Thunderstick.

Response:

BTBB's submitted charts to BIA with verifications which are accurate. NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, has no direct connection to BTBB ancestors. Accuracy of homeplaces of these ancestors is best found through BTBB's documents. (See attachment #14)

BTBB homeplaces within the Parish of Natchitoches. (See Attachment#14.)

The Act of April 10, 1805 divided the Territory of Orleans into 12 Parishes. The parish boundaries were considerably larger than now defined which included Natchitoches County. Later, Natchitoches County was divided into parishes: Natchitoches, Caddo, Claiborne, Bossier, Webster, DeSoto, Bienville, Jackson, Sabine, Red River, Winn, and Grant.

BTBB claimed its surrounding communities which include lands in Winn Parish of the border of the Natchitoches and Winn Parish border lines. Chief Collum's great-grandmother and grandmother, Victoria Fee Flores Desadier ((wife of Adolph Felix Desadier) and Louella Waters Desadier (wife of Clarence Desadier) were from this area. The communities of Montgomery, St. Maurice, and Louella are only a short distance from Trichell/Pace Communities. Louella Waters as a child attended the same school as her future husband, Clarence Desadier. (See news article.)

Regarding census reports, the Bayou Bourbeaux area that the Desadiers live and lived on is located in Ward 4 district of Natchitoches Parish. The remains of Clarence and Louella Desadiers home is still standing in that census report location. All census reports were taken in and around the Bayou Bourbeaux area. Additionally, Joseph Jr. and Josephine Desadier owned multiple properties Natchitoches Parish. Josephine enjoyed living in the city. Joseph Jr. worked on his farm and had a lumber business.

Regardless where the census report was taken, the family lived in and around Bayou Bourbeaux on Butte land. All chiefs lived on the same land, raised their families and died there. White Smoke was buried on Butte Hill. Powder Face is buried in a small Native American family cemetery. Hawkeye is buried in the Campti Catholic Cemetery by his 4th wife. Squarehead and Parrian are buried in the St. Maurice Cemetery.

To address this comment, the petitioner must explain the circumstances of the comment.

Statement by Belinda Brooks, former Vice Chief of NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe:

**Factually Incorrect and Deceptive Statements of Bloodline Connections to the
"Historical" Natchitoches Indians made by
NTL, Former Lac Noir Tribe of Black Lake**

NTL, AKA FORMERLY LAC NOIR TRIBE, is a tribe of Natchitoches in name only. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is a non-profit organization within the State of Louisiana. It is not a federally recognized tribe. Originally, the tribe's first name was Lac Noir Tribe. Next, the name was changed to Lac Noir Black Lake American Indians because a council member did not like the first name. Finally, the tribe renamed itself for the last time, Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana. This is significant because NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is falsely claiming to be the "historical" Natchitoches Indians. While making this claim, NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, hypocritically mocks BTBB for not being in the same historical texts that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is not in.

It should be noted that the State of Louisiana falsely believes that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is descendants of the HISTORICAL Natchitoches Indians who traveled and fought with St. Denis, founder of the City of Natchitoches. That is not true. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, cannot produce any document that proves that claim because they have no historical Natchitoches Indian bloodlines. Additionally, BTBB challenges NTL, formerly Lac Noir Tribe, to produce the documented evidence of the "Historical" Natchitoches Indian that traveled with St. Denis who NTL claims to be their ancestor.

NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, council and their chief misleadingly states that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, is the historical Natchitoches Indians mentioned by President Thomas Jefferson, Orleans Territorial Indian Agent John Sibley, Source Material on the History and Ethnology of the Caddo Indians author John Swanton, and other historical documents.

The only Native American named by NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, as a Natchitoches Indian is a Teja/Texas Indian who traveled with her husband, Charles Dumont, to Natchitoches with their two daughters. Historical documents report that Dumont traveled with St. Denis, the founder of Natchitoches, on various trade expeditions among the Texas tribes. Somewhere on those travels Dumont found Angelique. (E.S. Mills, Bits of Evidence, No. 492. ANGELIQUE, Tribe Unknown: Mother of Mystery.) (See Attachment #13)

**2017 Louisiana State recognition required no documentation of ancestors or
member registration data!**

No documented requirements for NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, to received Louisiana State recognition! NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, was not asked to produce one piece of evidence to prove that any person in the tribe had Native American bloodlines, not one piece of ancestral evidence, not

one of piece of demographic evidence... nothing. The BIA understands the importance of awarding any type of recognition to a tribe who has not produced evidence in any form of who the members of the tribe are or evidence of their Native American ancestors.

As the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe's, Vice-Chief, I served the tribe at the time of NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe's, Louisiana State recognition. Although the recognition was signed into law in June of 2017, the tribe was not informed of the passing of the law through the backdoor of the 2017 Regular Congressional Session. House of Representative Kenny Cox did not inform the tribe of his backdoor procedures until I called him in January 2018 to advise him that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, would like to resubmit our petition. My thoughts at the time were that I could not believe that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, gained recognition without producing evidence.

Knowing that NTL, AKA FORMERLY LAC NOIR TRIBE, did not have a chance of providing the BIA with the required evidence, it made me happy to know that, at least, the tribe would have bragging rights about state recognition. In my heart, I knew bragging rights would be all NTL, AKA FORMERLY LAC NOIR TRIBE, would ever have.

Splinter Tribe

A splinter group is one that separates from the main body of a currently recognized federal tribe. BTBB does not claim the bloodline of any federally recognized tribe. Rather, BTBB is documented as an American Indian entity on a substantially continuous basis since before 1900. A predominant portion of BTBB comprises a distinct community and has existed as a community from historical times until present.

BTBB has been recognized as a Louisiana State Tribe by the Louisiana Bureau of Minority Health and the Louisiana Governor's Council of Fitness and Sports. BTBB has been contracted as a tribe by the said entities at the request of the Governor's Office after having been completely researched by the State of Louisiana. Louisiana Director Rudy Macklin has visited BTBB land and viewed BTBB's records, mounds, and artifacts. (See attachment #8)

As stated below, NTL, AKA FORMERLY LAC NOIR TRIBE, knew nothing about their Native American heritage before reading the oral history of Chief Rodger Collum of Butte Tribe. The NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, has only been in existence since 2015 and knew nothing of the mounds that have been guarded by Chief Rodger Collum and his ancestors for over 200 years.

Natchitoches Tribe's chief, Fred Simon, has never lived one day of his life as a citizen of Natchitoches Parish. Simon considers himself to be a historian but continually makes unsubstantiated statements about people he has never heard of until reading Chief Collum's Butte Tribe oral history. Simon attempts to turn historical documents and BTBB's ancestors around to substantiate his unfounded statements.

On May 16, 2015 – A group of family members met in the fellowship hall of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Campti, LA. The purpose of the meeting was to choose a leadership team to begin the Lac Noir Tribe, aka NTL. The first election was cast for the primary chief of the tribe. Belinda Brooks was elected chief, unanimously. Brooks' goal for forming the tribe was focused on

petitioning the government for federal recognition of her tribe and preferred the title of Vice-Chief to accomplish this goal. At that point, she offered the position of chief to Fred Simon.

Brooks immediately began researching the requirements of the BIA petitioning process of tribal recognition. Within the next 2-3 years, Brooks realized that there were several requirements that could not be met by the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana for federal recognition. They were:

1. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, had no oral history. Although Brooks knew that there were Native American bloodlines within the tribe, the ancestors were hush-hush about their heritage due to the discrimination of People of Color in the Natchitoches area. Therefore, Brooks knew that she must find the primary Native American roots of the family with the Native American oral history.
2. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, had no physical mounds or artifacts on the Black Lake side of the community. Brooks had heard stories of the Frederick Mound on the opposite side of the lake on Bayou Bourbeaux. Therefore, she decided to contact her Desadier cousins on that side of the lake on Bayou Bourbeaux. Since the mounds were on that side of the lake, the Desadiers and Fredericks would likely have a story to tell about Native American ancestors.
3. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, had no family on the Black Lake side that could document their existence as a tribe since 1900.
4. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, had a membership of 1500+ and only a small percentage of that membership was from the Louisiana area.

Brooks discussed these issues with the NTL's, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, council, expressed her concern, and asked for assistance in helping her with her project. Brooks continuously met road blocks with the NTL Council and Chief. As for the chief, he repeatedly made claims about his lineage that were false and misleading. If he couldn't find documentation, he would deceptively turn facts around to fit his narrative of bloodline. I spoke to council members about his actions but got no response.

Finally, it was obvious that to find our Native American story I would have to visit my cousin, Rodger Collum, on Bayou Bourbeaux in the Trichell/Pace Community. When asked about oral history, Collum began to tell me about being raised at the feet of his grandparents who related the family's Native American heritage to him at an early age. Not only did Collum give me oral history, but he also advised me that he was the person in charge of guarding the tribal mounds of Bayou Bourbeaux. From that point, Collum took me to several mounds in the area that NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, had no idea existed. That day I visited the Frederick Mound, Yamak Mound, and Butte Hill which was the burial mound of Butte Tribe's Chief White Smoke and his wife, Two Moons. Of course, I was excited about finding my Native American history at Bayou Bourbeaux, not Black Lake.

I began recruiting the Desadier family to join the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, so that the tribe could seek federal recognition. The task was not an easy one because there was a family feud that took place before the turn of 1900 between two brothers: Joseph Desadier Jr. (Chief Hawk Eye) and his younger brother, Philosame Desadier. Philosame ended up on the Black Lake side of the family. Through the years, there has always been underlying friction between the two sides of the lake.

The Collum/Desadier family was the tribal leader of the Bayou Bourbeaux Native American bloodlines. The Black Lake side of the lakes had no leader, no history, no workers, no land, and no money. Collum agreed to join his family/tribe with NTL/former Lac Noir Tribe only if I remained in the tribe and if he

was the council chief for his side of the lake. NTL council would not agree to my request and Collum's terms. The Desadier family would only follow their chief and family leader. On April 6th, 2019, Collum saw the deceitfulness of NTL's chief and council at their first tribal council business meeting. Therefore, he voided the membership of his family. Chief Collum's family left NTL inactive-never active cards on the table as they walked out the door. The Desadier family never served one day as active members of NTL.

Brooks Push to Include Desadier's in NTL

Fast forward a couple of weeks to March 2019, when news of Brooks' find reached Fred Simon, NTL's, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, his insecurities set in. Not only that but council members of the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, were not happy about this family joining their tribe. Brooks' explained that the Desadier family was the key to getting federal recognition for our family and honoring our ancestors. Additionally, she told them that out of respect for who Collum was he should be placed on the tribal council. Immediately, Simon and a group of council members denied her request by saying that the tribe had too many council members. Brooks offered to resign her position as Vice-Chief and to continue working for the tribe. Not believing that Brooks would resign, her request was still denied.

In mid-March 2019, Brooks resigned her position and submitted her resignation to the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, council. (See attached #4.) Before that date, Fred Simon visited Rodger Collum offering him a position on the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, council. Simon made unkind statements about Brooks which Collum took offense to. Collum told Simon to leave his house and that Simon was not welcomed there again. Collum did not respect the fact that Simon would undermine Brooks behind her back when she worked so hard for her tribe's survival.

A tribal meeting was held on April 6, 2019, two weeks after the resignation of Brooks. Collum and his family of over 100 people attended the meeting. (See Attachment #18) Thirty to forty family members stood outside the meeting door in the rain. After the opening statements, Collum politely stood up and asked if he could speak. He said that several of his family members were standing outside in the rain. He said that he only had one question. Collum asked if someone could tell him why Brooks was not at the meeting. The only answer he received from the council was they did not know. Collum then asked his family what they wanted to do. The family told Collum they were following him. At that time, Collum's family members threw (placed) their tribal cards on the table in front of the council. A council member, Estella Almond, also, placed her card on the table resigning from the NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe. (See Estella Almond's statement below)

On April 6, 2019, before the NTL meeting, Collum met with Brooks. He asked Brooks if he decided to not join NTL would she be his Vice-Chief. Brooks agreed if Collum would agree to the tribe's petitioning for federal recognition. Brooks told Collum to not resign the tribe because of her. Collum agreed and told Brooks to wait with his wife at the gazebo on Main Street on the Cane River in Natchitoches.

On this date, April 6, 2019, Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux officially came out of hiding for over 150 years.

Not a Splinter Tribe - Revisited

Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux is not and never has been a splinter tribe. As stated below, NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, knew nothing about their Native American heritage before reading the oral history of Chief Rodger Collum of Butte Tribe. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, knew nothing of the mounds that have been guarded by Chief Rodger Collum and his ancestors for over 200 years. NTL, aka formerly Lac Noir Tribe, chief, Fred Simon, has never lived one day of his life as a citizen of Natchitoches Parish. Simon considers himself to be a historian but makes unsubstantiated statements about people he has never heard of until reading Chief Collum's Butte Tribe oral history and attempts to turn historical documents around to substantiate his unfounded statements.

The following statement is from Estella Almond, past NTL, AKA FORMERLY LAC NOIR TRIBE, Council Member:



My name is Estella Almond. I was one of the NTL council members. On the night before the big meeting, one of the NTL council members leaked that they were having a special meeting the night before. I was led to believe that it was to discuss the new members, the Desadier family, who were supposed to be at our scheduled meeting the next day. I was at that time a voting member of NTL council. I was excluded from the supposed night emergency meeting. I found out earlier in the week that our Vice Chief Belinda Brooks's name and reputation were trashed by Fred Simon and others on the council. All because she was trying to help NTL by incorporating the Desadier family into the NTL tribe. To be ousted like that was an embarrassment to her and to me as well since I worked close to her. NTL did not have the history that the Desadier family had. When I attended the meeting, I found it was a very small venue which was not large enough to accommodate the Desadier family. They had to stand outside the door. Chief Rodger asked the council why Belinda quit NTL a couple of weeks ago. No one would say even though Rodger asked several times. I knew, but I was ashamed at the way Fred Simon and NTL trashed her and her reputation to say anything. All because she was trying to help NTL join with the Desadier family. My opinion was that Fred Simon was jealous of Chief Rodger and how close he was to his family. Chief Rodger Collum was in no way after Fred Simon's job. He had no need for it. The chief job was given to Fred Simon when Belinda Brooks voluntarily stepped down from the primary chief position. She handed the position over to Fred Simon and took the Vice Chief so she could dedicate more time to work for the NTL tribe. Rodger Collum decided to ask his family to leave the meeting since no one chose to be honest with him or speak with him. Chief Rodger asked his family, and I followed because of the way Vice Chief Belinda Brooks and I were treated to exit the meeting. We threw the NTL cards on the table and walked out. Later, we were asked to all meet up to discuss what just happened.

**Attachments #2–17 to this
comment available by request
from OFA under the Freedom
of Information Act**