

BLOSSOM, L. J.)
MAHNER, JOHN)
MCBRIDE, ROE)
INGE, MRS. I. T.)

INTERVIEW--MINERAL DEVELOPMENT--CHOCTAW

66033

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Joe Southern

This report made on (date) July 10 --12 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) E.J. Blossom, John, Mahnker, Roe McBride, Mrs. I.T.

Address Atoka, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) 1 White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story As to mining and other industries.

Springs, roads, maps and locations.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT--CHOCTAW

Interviews with E. J. Blossom, aged 55 years;
John Mahner, aged 75 and Mrs. I. T. Inge, aged 89,
Roe McBride, aged 55, and others, by Joe Southern,
field worker.

The following facts have been learned: In the
year 1880, there was a prospecting and mining company
established at Atoka, I. T., consisting of the follow-
ing Choctaw Indians and white men: William H. Harrison
and Dr. E. N. Wright, all Choctaws; Hiram McBride, an
intermarried Choctaw, and W. A. McBride and B. F.
Adams white men. William Harrison was a Choctaw
Councilman and B. F. Adams was the field man for the
company.

The object of this organization was to find and
develop any deposits of metals and fuels that might be
deposited in Atoka and surrounding counties. This
prospecting was done and deposits were discovered.
There was a drift or slope worked in the side of Cheat
hill in section 14-T. 2 S- R 11 E, for gold metal, known
as the Gold mine. The assay very small, not enough to
pay.

Then in section 7, T 2 S, R. 12 E in Bald Knobs,
(some small mountains just northeast of Atoka) some

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and specimens of gold and silver were taken and assayed 2.02 per ton, not enough to pay to work it.

In section 32, T 1, S - R 12 E, there was a deposit of granite discovered, a vein 8 inches thick, 300 feet in length, with dip to southeast 45 degrees. There was a slope opened up and worked for ten years and the product was marketed at St. Louis Mo., some in Atoka and surrounding towns for blacksmithing and welding fuel. The price received was \$15.00 per ton.

In 1936 the earth surface was stripped from south a length of fifty feet to a depth of twenty feet of this deposit and forty tons of granite taken from same by Shade Ishmel, land owner, and Sam Jowl of Atoka, a retired merchant.

In digging and prospecting west and north of Atoka the Choctaw fault was discovered. (this product was composed of rock and gravel cemented together with a mineral called Ironized material). It was never found profitable and that was why it was called "Fault".

Also blue water spring was dug into and a deposit of blue lime and clay was found. This the Indians had used for medicinal purposes.

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At this place in early days William Atoka, Choctaw Indian District Chief, built and made his home, from 1861 to 1865, during the Civil War. This location is in section 35, T. S, R 11 E. In section 18, T 1 S R 12 E, red paint deposit was found, where the Choctaw Indians in early days would go and get their paints for decorating purposes.

The red line on map designates Medicine Spring road traveled by the Choctaw Indians in early days from Atoka County, I. T., to religious camp meetings place. The springs is located in section 1 T 2 N R 11 E. Cole County, Oklahoma, M. K. T.

A crusher was established between 1872 and 1885 in section 6, T 1 N R 13 E and rock was crushed from this location. There is a rock crusher located now at Stringtown, in Atoka County, at present their product is used for road top and highway concrete slabs for Oklahoma and other states. S.T.E.C. state sub-prison farm has a rock crusher located in section 15, T 1 N, R 12 E, crushing for road top and lime fertilizer for the state prison farm's use.

All three rock crushers are located near Line Stone Ridge. Atoka streets and Jefferson Highway were

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hard topped from material gotten from this ridge. The present highway No. 19 through Atoka County, was hard topped and graveled from material gotten from this ridge and near there.

Legend and location described on maps attached.