

PERRY, JAMES.

INTERVIEW

7621

70

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

PERRY, JAMES

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Field worker's name Joe Southern

This report made on (date) September 24, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) James Perry

Address c/o General Delivery, Atoka, Oklahoma

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

If Indian, give tribe Chester Freedman

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

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

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Joe Southern
Interviewer
September 24, 1937

Interview With James Perry,
Atoka, Oklahoma.

I was born June 10, 1862, at Armstrong school.
I am a Choctaw Freedman.

I moved to Old Boggy Depot in 1868 and worked
for Reverend Allen Wright who was then Governor of
the Choctaw Nation. I then moved to Atoka in 1875
and have resided here since before the Civil War.

The political party among the Choctaws and
Chickasaws was known as the Klan or Independent
party and when two men were in the race for the
same office the citizens of the county would meet
at the different voting places and vote in Klan
numbers. They would vote by a rising vote. Each
man in the race would appoint a judge or man for
counting votes. This method of voting was carried
on until after the War ended, in 1867, when two
political parties were formed. One was the Eagles,
the other the Buzzards. In 1885 two other parties

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spring up, one Progressive, the other Non-Progressive. These parties existed until 1896, when the two present parties were named, one the Republican Party, the other the Democratic Party, the last being the greater in number in Atoka and surrounding counties.

In 1907 the present system to vote by a printed ballot came into effect in Atoka and surrounding counties.