

JOHNSON, JOHN

INTERVIEW

#12275

308

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

Field worker's name

Joe Southern

This report made on (date)

November 23,1937Atoka, Atoka County, Oklahoma.

1. This legend was

secured from (name)

John Johnson

Address

General Delivery, Atoka, OklahomaThis person is (male or female) White, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe

Comanche mixed.

2. Origin and history of legend or story

His life among theComanche Tribe of Indians.

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

JOHNSON, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

12275

Joe Southern, Investigator
November 23, 1937

Interview with John Johnson
Atoka, Oklahoma

I, John Johnson, am a mixed-breed Indian of Cherokee-Comanche blood. I am seventy-three years old and I live at Atoka.

In 1863 my mother, Mary Johnson and her five children, and a widow with three children who in later years married Judge Clifton were captured by the Comanche Indians, near Lawton and held in captivity for more than a year by these Indians.

I was born December 25, 1864, while my mother was in captivity; two of the widow's children died in captivity.

In 1865 my father, Britt Johnson, through a Mexican boy, an interpreter and guide, was able to locate his family with this tribe of Indians and to redeem them and also the widow and her child, by trading the Indians corn, ponies, blankets and calico, as a price for ransom.

JOHNSON, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

12275.

- 2 -

My mother has related to me that in this trade, I was not included as Father was unaware of my presence in this world.

When the exchange was being made, an old Indian squaw who was my mother's guard wanted to keep me because I was born under her care, but mother refused to go without me, so I was bought from the Indians for twelve ears of corn.

This widow took me in charge and kept me until I was eight years old. Then she returned me to my mother.

My mother and her family are deceased all but myself. This widow's child who was redeemed was a girl, but I do not know her name. I do not remember her mother's name. My mother has told me that this widow who was captured with mother was married to Judge Clifton.

Later, I was married to Fannie Harling and moved to Lehigh, Indian Territory, to this union three children were born. All are now deceased.

JOHNSON, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

18275.

- 3 -

Later I was married to Julie Fields, a Choctaw Freedman, and to this union there are no children.

She is living with me now.

She is something about my age.