



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

**KARN, JACKSON.**

**INTERVIEW.**

**6385.**

Field worker's name Joe Southern,

This report made on (date) June 22, 1937. 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Jackson Karn,

Address Coalgate, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe Choctaw.

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 2

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Joe Southern,  
Field Worker,  
June 22, 1937.

An Interview With Jackson Karn,  
Coalgate, Oklahoma.

I am a Choctaw Indian, born July 26, 1871, near Lukfata in the Indian Territory. Father was Solomon Karn and he moved his family to what is now Atoka County in the fall of 1871, settling near what now is Farris, Oklahoma.

Father built a log house and out buildings from logs cut from native timber, covering same with boards, rived from native timber. He cleared and fenced twenty acres for farm purposes, his crops consisting of corn, cotton, and vegetables. He planted a half acre in orchard. He raised cattle, hogs, ponies, chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, his market for all being at Paris, Texas, and Atoka. We used the feathers from the geese and ducks for making feather beds and pillows.

Our clothing and farming tools were bought at Paris, Texas, or Atoka, as were our coffee, sugar, and flour.

Father killed and cured our own meat killed from the range. Livestock did well on the open range through

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winter season without feeding; in fact, livestock was raised and marketed with little expense.

My father and William Atoka, Chief of Atoka district, consisting of Blue, Atoka, and Jackfork Counties, were very good friends. Both were Choctaw Indians and influential in Indian courts, churches, and schools.

William Atoka moved from Atoka Lake in the fall of 1875 to a place four miles west of what is now Farris, Oklahoma. There he built <sup>a</sup> log house in Section 10, Township 4 South, Range 10 East, and lived there until October, 1878, when he died and was buried there.

The Choctaws met in the fall of each year and worked and cleaned around the grave until 1900. This work was done to keep forest fires from burning the buildings off the graves and the home where he lived.