

LUCAS, JOHNSON,)
GARVIN, LOUIS)
HARRIS, ANNA, see WILSON)

INTERVIEW 6645

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Choctaw Nation
Totapo Creek
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William Atoka

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INTERVIEW.

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Joe Southern
Field Worker
July 13, 1937

Interviews with the following persons.
Mr. Johnson Lucas, Choctaw Indian, age 50.
Route #3. Caddo, Oklahoma.
Mr. Louis Garvin, Choctaw Indian, age 90.
Anna Harris, nee Wilson, Choctaw freedman.
On Potapo Creek, east of Atoka, Oklahoma.

The following facts were learned. From 1845 to 1861, these different settlements had different names. Choctaw Indians had moved into what is now Atoka County, Oklahoma, and settled and accumulated plenty of hogs, cattle, and ponies. An Indian named Potapo settled on this Potapo Creek so it was named after him. An Indian named William McGee lived on McGee Creek so it was named after him. August Fisher was another, and August Creek was named after him. Another Indian was called Hiwana,* and Hiwana Creek and prairie were so named for him. Wilson settlement was named after John Wilson, and Campbell Creek was named after Andrew Campbell.

Lucy Hebert, a white woman who lived with Hiwana, carried mail from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to this settlement where they lived, and distributed mail from the settlement where she and Hiwana lived.

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It was located in Sec.1, T.2 S, Range 12E. Mail was carried horseback. In later years this settlement was named Hebert. These settlements were located in Townships 1 and 2 South and ranges 12, 13, and 14 East, north of Middle Boggy River, and east of Atoka City, Atoka County, Oklahoma. These settlements were along mountain streams with some prairie valleys between and were good stock range. The range was full of hogs, cattle, ponies, wild game, such as deer, turkey, some bear, squirrels and fur bearing animals. Also there was plenty of fish in the streams.

These Indians had small farms for corn and gardens, and also small orchards. Their houses were built of logs, cut from native timber. In the year 1861, William Atoka, their chief and advisor, called a meeting at Hebert for the purpose of organizing the group, and make laws. During the Civil War the decision was to remain with their homes and live stock as they were located in a mountainous country and they could

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be self sustaining. There were no roads leading into these settlements, nothing but pony trails. Some time between 1865 and 1875, there was a band of Creek Indians from Brush hill located north of Eufaula, Indian Territory, fifteen miles, who came into this settlement and camped in Sec. 13, T 2 S., Range 13 E., for the purpose of hunting wild game for winter use. Ill feeling arose between the Creeks and the Choctaws at that time on account of the Civil War. After hunting, killing, and drying meats for thirty days, the Choctaws decided that they (the Creeks) were intruding on them and their hunting grounds. The Choctaws notified the Creeks to take their meats and leave, but the Creeks did not heed, and continued to stay. The Choctaws of this settlement armed themselves and visited the Creeks' camp and there they fought a battle. In this battle three Choctaws were killed and four Creeks. Then the flag of peace was raised and an agreement made, so they buried their

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dead there. The Creeks took their meats and left for their homes. This battle ground is also a burial ground, and is located in Sec. 13, Township 2 S., Range 13 E.

Mr. Louis Garvin, above, who lived two miles south of Caney, Oklahoma, died two weeks after this interview was written.

*(The original spelling of this name was Hyah-wah-nah. - Ed.)