

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

197

Field worker's name Joe Southern

This report made on (date) September 20 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mcgee Woods.

Address Lane, Oklahoma.

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

If Indian, give tribe Chocaw

2. Origin and history of legend or story General D. Cooper

~~was of the Confederate army in Atoka County in winter of 1862~~

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

An Interview with McGee Woods, fullblood Choctaw.
By - Joe Southern - Field Worker.
September 20, 1937.

CAMPS OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATE ARMY IN ATOKA
IN 1862

When I was a boy, my father, Abner Woods, now deceased, would tell us children about General Cooper and his army of mixed Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Cherokee Indians, about one thousand in number.

1861
In December, January and February, 1862, there were three camps of Indians near Atoka. One on the southwest, on a hill where West View Cemetery is now located, one east of Atoka where the negro cemetery is now located, and one north of Atoka where the old Confederate Cemetery is located. All three camps were on hills overlooking the military and stage route through Atoka and to Boggy Depot, so the Northern Army could not pass without coming in contact with some one of these camps. Captain J. B. Hester was stationed at Boggy Depot with something near fifteen hundred soldiers, women and children. Most of their supplies were stored here.

-2-

General Cooper had all roads leading into the southern and southwestern part of the Choctaw and Chickasha Territory well guarded by these three camps stationed near Atoka. These camps were well watered and timbered with heavy native oak timber which was used for fuel. Being well supplied by springs located at the foot of these hills near these camps made these locations for observations and camp ground ideal.