

SOUTHERN, JOE.

GHOST-TOWNS IN ATOKA COUNTY #7578
MOUNDS AND MOUNDS BUILDERS #7189

15

SOUTHERN, JOE.

GHOST TOWNS.
Atoka County

7578

Joe Southern,
Interviewer.
September 21, 1937.

"GHOST TOWNS"

A brief write up on "ghost towns" located in what is now Atoka County, Oklahoma. When they were established and when abandoned.

Herbert store was located on Kiwanne prairie and creek ten miles northeast of Atoka. This store and place was used to distribute mail and merchandise that was freighted from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Bonham, Texas, from 1847 up to and through the Civil War. It was abandoned in 1873 after the M.I. T. Railroad was built through the Indian Territory.

Old Boggy Depot was established about 1845. It was used as a trading post and stage stop from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to Ft. Washita which, in later years went on to Sherman, Texas, during the Civil War; it was occupied by Capt. G. B. Hester and others in charge of the Confederate soldiers of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. They gathered with their families household goods and live stock for protection. Boggy Depot was abandoned about 1875 to 1880.

SOUTHERN, JOE.

GHOST TOWNS.
ATOKA COUNTY

7578

- 2 -

Maytubby Springs are located southwest of Lodey Depot. It was used as a hotel and a bath house also was built there, and it was used as a health resort from 1883 up to about 1893 when it was abandoned.

Midway was located on a branch of the R. R. T. railroad just south of the Combs and Atoka Coal line in Atoka County. It was established by the Coal Company in 1897, and was abandoned about 1910 on account of the strike or labor troubles.

About 1899 a railroad spur was built from the Midway west five miles to the Her Coal Camp in Atoka County. It was named Heron Hill. In 1914 there was one of the largest steam shovels in the United States shipped to, and unloaded here. It was put together for the purpose of using in the stripping over burden from a vein of coal five to eight feet inches in thickness over burden seven to twenty five feet in thickness. This shovel had a crane with a reach length of fifty to one hundred feet. It stripped a pit three hundred feet in width and three miles long,

SOUTHERN, JOE.

GHOST TOWNS.
ATOKA COUNTY

7578

- 3 -

This coal camp and railroad spur was taken up and abandoned in 1916 on account of the World War.

This stripped pit at present is being used as a fine fishing place. It is stocked by the State Game and Fish Department.