

SOUTHERN, JOE

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Joe Southern,
Interviewer.
October 12, 1937.

This is a brief write-up on United States Indian Police and United States Marshals of the Southeastern District with United States Commissioners Court located at Atoka.

After the United States Commissioners Court was established in what is now Oklahoma, Sam B. Scratch, a sawmill man and a lumber dealer, built a two story frame building to be leased to the United States Government, to be used as a court-house.

A brick jail was built 40x60 feet, two stories high and with three apartments on the ground floor; one apartment was for the jailer and the guards; one, for white prisoners, and the third for colored prisoners.

The upper story had four apartments for women; one for colored women, one for white women and two rest rooms.

The court house was burned in 1903 but this jail served to hold prisoners until 1912 when the present court house and jail were built by Atoka County.

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The following are the names of Indian Police and United States Marshals who brought in prisoners for this court and also the jail-list of United States Marshals.

W. I. Kilgore, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Charles Maudree, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Jimmie Lee, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Charles LeFlore, United States Marshal and Indian Police-
man.

Joe Ward, United States Marshal and Indian Police, living
one mile west of Limestone Gap.

Edmond Wilson, Indian Police, Deceased.

A. M. York, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Bill Colbert, United States Marshal, Deceased.

John Surrell, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Bill Little, United States Marshal, Deceased.

Frank Ford, United States Marshal, Deceased.

A. W. Chitwood, United States Marshal, living one and ^ahalf
miles north of Lane, Oklahoma.

John McMurtry, Jailer, Deceased.

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Bill Chaffin, Jailer, Deceased.

Campbell Le-Flore, Jailer, Deceased.

Ruff Brown, Turnkey, Deceased.

Charles Wesson, Turnkey, lives at Muskogee.

Earl York, Guard, living at Atoka, Oklahoma.

I. T. Milore, Guard, living at Atoka, Oklahoma.

Joe Southern, Guard living at Atoka, Oklahoma.

This jail at Atoka housed some of the worst criminals that Indian Territory and Oklahoma ever had, without a single jail break.

Note: (A kodak picture of this brick jail is attached to original manuscript.)