

COLE, PETE W.

GRIST MILL,--TOLL BRIDGE IN #13433
ATOKA COUNTY 67

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Pete W. Cole

This report made on (date) March 25. 1938

- 1. Name (if any) of burial ground First Crist Mill-Toll Bridge in Atoka
County.
- 2. Founded (date) 1863 by Captain Charles Bellore
- 3. Abandoned (date) 1890 why abandoned _____
- 4. Present owners of premises. Tom Rogers
Address of present owners Oklahoma City.

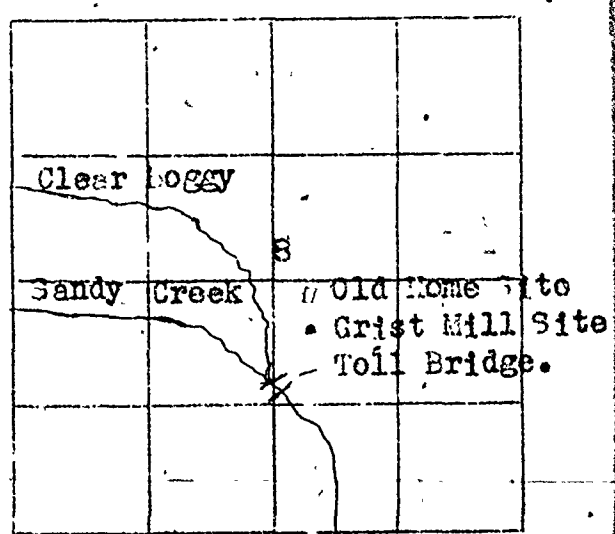
NOTE: Answer fully, if possible, questions 5 to 13 incl site, here or on sheets firmly attached to this form.

- 5. Original owners of premises.
- 6. Give names of other persons who at one time owned the premises. Jim Perkins
Allotment.
- 7. Approximate number of graves. _____
- 8. Approximate number of marked graves _____
- 9. General condition of headstones, including inscriptions.
- 10. Number of inscriptions copied and attached. _____ (Place each inscription on a separate sheet and attach all to this form).
- 11. Any other information you are able to gather about the burial ground including its history.
- 12. Condition of the premises _____
- 13. Detailed location of burial ground.

14. Level location of burial ground, County _____
 E-3 : NE NW 5.
 Section 3 Township 3 S Range 10 E
 (north)

The plat on this form represents 360 acres, one square mile, and is subdivided into 40 acre tracts. The center of the section, and burial ground should be located accordingly. If possible, make additional subdivisions on plat to give more accurate location.

Number of sheets attached to this form 2



COLE, PETE W. GRIST MILL -TOLL BRIDGE. 13433

Pete W. Cole
Investigator
March 25, 1938

HISTORICAL LOCATION OF THE FIRST TOLL BRIDGE
AND THE FIRST GRIST MILL AS OPERATED BY CHARLES
LEFLORE IN ATOKA COUNTY

Charles LeFlore established the first toll bridge and was the first man to operate a water power grist mill in what is now Atoka County.

He was born near Doakesville in what was then Towson County in the Indian Territorial days in the Choctaw Nation, in what is now Choctaw County, in the year 1841. History reveals that he attended and finished school at Armstrong Academy, attended Fort Smith school until the trouble between the North and South, when he quit and served in the war, where he was a captain. After his marriage, he contracted with the United States Government to supply meat to the Cherokees and other refugees who had sought shelter during the war in the Choctaw Nation.

He was the first man to build a toll bridge on Clear Boggy Creek which was sorely needed and on the stage line between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Texas. This was the first toll bridge that was built in this county which was

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in Section 8, Township 3 South, Range 10 East in Atoka County. He also had a grist mill a short distance from the toll bridge, in the same vicinity, which he established in the year 1863. It was located immediately on the bank of a small stream which empties into Clear Boggy, where a rock pile can be seen today where the mill stood. There has been high water on this stream which covered all over the bottom but the high water has never reached the top of the place where the grist mill once stood. It was established in the year 1863 and furnished all of the people in the surrounding vicinity but years later was abandoned. The toll bridge was in service for several years as this was the only bridge on the river, and was the best traveled road in those days. Later, Mr. LeFlore sold out and moved to Lehigh, in what is now Coal County and from there to Limestone Gap in 1867. The bridge was abandoned in 1890.