

In the vicinity of Noxapater, Mississippi, is a large earth mound and a nearby cave. Known as Ninah Waiya, it was reverently regarded by the early Choctaws as their legenday place of birth.

History records many Choctaws who were famous as chiefs, leaders, warriors, and statesmen. Chief Pushmataha was one of these. He was a Brigadier General in the War of 1812 leading 800 warriors and serving under General Andrew Jackson at the Battles of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans. He was buried with military honors at the National Cemetery in Washington.

Another Choctaw Chief was Colonel Greenwood LeFlore, who at one time served as a State Representative and Senator in Mississippi. A city and a county are named for him.

The history of the Choctaws reads similar to the history of other Indian tribes where tragedy and oppression walked close by them. At one time the Choctaws controlled large areas of land in Mississippi and Alabama. It only took the mechanics of whiteman's treaties just eight moves to take all those millions of acres of land from the Choctaw. The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 provided for moving the Choctaws to Indian Territory. A small remnant were missed in the forced removal from which the some 3600 Mississippi Choctaws of today descended, living on their reservation of some 17,000 acres.

In the history of the Choctaws they have seen the extremes of harsh and bitter times, of tragic and cruel events, and some good times. In just one incident of long ago when the stickball game was sometimes used as a means of settling disputes the Choctaws and Creeks in 1790 met to settle some disagreement. The stickball game between these two factions resulted in the death of 500 warriors, and even today it still remains a bonecrushing sport.