

On the wide prairie between the Grand and the Verdigris Rivers is the little frontier town of Inola. Older Indians tell that the name comes from the Cherokee, meaning "black fox", and was probably given in memory of an ancient Chief Black Fox. A wooded hill about a mile north of Inola and covering about a section of land breaks the monotony of the wide prairie and makes one wonder for what purpose Nature had in mind. But in the early days of settlement of the Indian Nations this woodland hill did have a purpose, for many Indians lived within its protection. Some of those living there today tell of old Indian graves, homes, and other evidences of a community long gone.

The Indian family of Lowther, descendants of early settlers, still live on Inola hill. A few Indians still live in and around Inola, but for the most part it is no longer Indian country. White people have taken it over and in this present day it is hailed as "The Hay Capital of the World".

About half a mile north of Inola town there still stands an Indian Nation boundary marker. This heavy tapering steel post marked, at this spot, the line between the Creek Nation and the Cherokee Nation. The marker is at the south edge of the Sweeten Cemetery, which is still in use. The north side of the burial grounds borders on Highway No. 33. The Indian family started this cemetery long before statehood, and it has become one of general use. The Sweeten family were Texas Cherokees who settled in the Inola country before the Civil War, but none of the family is known to be living.

Even before there was a town of Inola, some of the Indian families living in the area were the Lowthers, Sweeten, Crutchfield, Walker, Duncan, Horner, Hendricks, Fields, Hornbuckle, Button, Quinton, Fugate, Woods, and West.