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Interview with Dink Carr,
Stidham Community, giving the
life of Charles S. Smith, Creek
Indian.

Charles S. Smith is one of the oldest Creek Citizens of Eufaula. He was born in the Creek Nation about ten miles west of Eufaula, Oklahoma, in 1849. He is the son of John G. and Lucinda Smith. Mrs. John G. Smith's maiden name was Lucinda Yarger and she was a fullblood Creek Indian. Both John G. and Lucinda came to the Indian Territory with their parents from Alabama in 1836.

Charles Smith's grandfather, Sammie Smith, was half Creek and his grandmother was a white woman, Eliza Fryer. Sammie Smith's father was a white man, who married a fullblood Creek woman. Eliza Fryer's grandfather was known as Tustnachonugie, meaning a big warrior. He was a Chief of the Creeks; and was friendly to the whites and would not participate in the last Creek War. Captain Yarger, Charles Smith's grandfather on his mother's side, had charge of the Creek Indians when they left Alabama and held this title of captain.

The father of Charles S. Smith was a minister of the Baptist Church, and also a trader and a merchant. He had a trading post on his farm west of Eufaula, and was also a Creek interpreter for the Government and for private parties. In 1859, he was a delegate to Washington, and also served his people on the Creek Council and was Treasurer of the Nation. He served as representative of the Creek Nation in the Treaty of Peace signed by the United States Government and the Creeks at Fort Smith, Arkansas. Mr. Smith filled nearly all the important offices in the Creek Nation, and was highly respected by the Indians and whites. He died in 1870, leaving a widow and six children.

At the time Charles S. Smith began working for himself there were very few white families in that vicinity. He was more than one-half Creek but anyone would take him for a white man.

He devoted most of his life to farming and stock raising, although since Statehood he has farmed a

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different way than before. He now has only two hundred and thirty acres of land, his and his wife's allotments. He has a nice house, and the farm is equipped with modern machinery.

Mr. Smith held the office of clerk of the House of Warriors eight years under the Creek Government. He served eight years as creditor of the Nation, and was also a member of the House of Warriors, and a member of the Board of Education.

Captain Digger was a great grandfather of some of our Muskogee citizens: Miss Edith Asbal, now Spaulding, the wife of Homer Spaulding, who was on the police force in Okmulgee and was killed in a battle there; Miss Edna Asbal, now Hensley, who is the wife of Arthur Hensley now holding an office in the Muskogee County Court house; Mrs. Brina Asbal Morrow, the wife of Willie Morrow, a son of J. B. Morrow of Checotah.

Willie Morrow worked for his father in the first telephone office in Checotah which was installed in 1898. He also had the first laundry agency. The

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laundry was shipped in large baskets from Parsons, Kansas. Bread was also shipped from Parsons to Checotah, as the nearest laundry and bakery were at Parsons.

In 1898 Willie Morrow's mother died. This made Willie dissatisfied with his lot in Checotah, so he ran away from home and landed in New York City. Here he enlisted in the United States Navy, and served twenty-five years. He received an honorable discharge and was pensioned off on a good salary. He came to Muskegee and found his childhood sweetheart, Brina Asbal, who had waited all these years for him. They were married and are now living happily in California.