

It is related that an old Creek Indian woman, Martha Newberry, owned much of the land that was to become the town of Oktaha. She sold lots from her holdings where many of the first houses were built in the town.

After many, many years the scene has changed for Oktaha. When U. S. Highway 69 was built, it was routed along the west edge of town, actually isolating it from the thru trade it once enjoyed. People began moving away to larger towns, and farming dwindled to scattered cultivated patches. Eventually the business district ceased to exist. A little store over on the federal highway is the only business house of to-day. A consolidated school at the east edge of town brings its students from a wide area.

In that long ago, the Society of American Indians was an active organization in the Oktaha community, and many Creeks belonged to the local chapter. One, Charley Simmons, must have been proud of his membership, for on top of his large tombstone in Grayson Cemetery is the inscription "Member of the Society of American Indians".

Not far to the southeast of Oktaha was the scene of a decisive battle during the Civil War. That battle was known as the "Battle of Honey Springs". Mr. Grayson tells that before the war that there had been a Creek Indian village nearby.

There are a few full blood Indians still living around Oktaha, and several mixed breeds of both white and negro ancestry. The center of Indian activity now seems centered at Butler Creek Indian Church where meetings are conducted in both the Creek and English languages. Some distance to the southeast Rev. Amos Jones conducts religious services at the Pine Hollow Indian Church to the few Indians of that area. East of Oktaha New Hope Church still functions.

Of the many small Indian communities scattered throughout the country in the days of the Indian Territory, this is but one with its own story of beginning and decline.