

To the best of her knowledge at one time there was an Indian family that lived on the creek that runs by her home, and the Hogshooter Creek was named for this family. She does not remember where the family lived or anything about them, or what became of them, although her father had mentioned them when she was a child.

At some time in the early days of the Indian Territory, Mrs. Redman relates that on a high bluff not far from her home, the early Indians of that area had a meeting ground. There, they held their stamp dances, ceremonies, tribal rituals, and other activities of Indian community life.

Most of Washington and Nowata Counties is prairie country, and perhaps has changed little from the olden days. She remembers hearing her grandfather talk about hunting buffalo and antelope on that prairie when she was a little girl. Hunting parties in her grandfather's day went to the Caney River bottoms to get deer and wild turkey. Her father had related to her how plentiful all kinds of wild game was in his day. He used to be gone for a week at a time during the season when fur bearing animals were taken, and she recalls he would load up a pack horse with furs and take them to Kansas to sell or trade. Seen no more are the great flocks of grouse and waterfowl that came into the prairies when her father was a young man.

About four miles to the east of her home is the old abandoned Adair School. That school was named for a family of Cherokees that were in the country long ago. She remembers the family, but they have long since left that lonely prairie country. After state and other schools came were built in that region were Steel's Camp, Oglesby, Hilldale, and Blue Mound. All of them are gone now, and only the old timers remember them.

To understand the reason for the location of Indian settlements in the early days, one would also have to be somewhat familiar with the country. In the case of the Delawares of this region, it would seem they made settlement in three or four different places. One band made their homes in the northern part of Washington and Nowata Counties along Cotton Creek and the Little Caney River, another band had long been in the Verdigris River country or eastern Nowata County, and a small band was along Hogshooter Creek. The Delawares were primarily woodland Indians and preferred a location near streams of water. In the early days that wide expanse of barren prairie that stretched some 18 miles from Hogshooter Creek to the Verdigris River was not a place for Indian villages, and was used only for hunting grounds.

Before there were any recognized and maintained roads in the Hogshooter country, there is evidence that the Indians traveled in and out of their area over regular trails. Eroded places seem to bear out this fact, that over long periods of use in early days, the Indians had a road system of their own.

Even in this day and age there are a few people who seem to delight in digging into old Indian graves. It would seem that those of another race hold no respect for the Indian dead. Most such grave diggers, or grave robbers, hold a belief that they will find treasures in Indian jewelry, gold and silver coins, and other artifacts of great value. Stories of finding anything in a grave are usually the product of the imagination. Mrs. Redman has heard of grave diggers, and it would be dangerous for anyone to come to disturb a grave at the Curleyhead. There is no doubt that she means what she says.