Mr. White reflects on the many Indians he has known, and says that the Indians of those days was always thankful to his Creator, and so proclaimed his feelings in word, thought and way of life.

In the late 1880s Downingville was renamed. Elias C. Boudinot, a prominent Cherokee lawyer and Indian leader, suggested the name Vinita, a name somewhat different from the more common designations. Miss Vinnie Ream, a noted sculpturess of that day had residence in the town for a while and as an honor to her the leaders of the community decided to use a part of her first name - to become Vinita, Indian Territory.

It was the desire of the early pioneer families that their children have as good an education as possible. Country schools were built as the need came. Some of these early schools in the area were Pheasant Hill, Estella, Dupree, Ironside, Carsolowrey, Shanahan, and Long Prairie.

Quite some time before the turn of the century Vinita had a College and an Academy. Many Indian students attended these institutions.

Worcester Academy was built in 1882 to further the education of Indian children. It was named in memory of Rev. Samuel Worcester, the well known missionary among the Cherokees in Georgia in the 1820s. It was operated by its church sponsor as well as by tuition. According to old records and pictures, the famous Will Rogers attended the Acedemy. Worcester was held in high esteem in the Indian Territory, far from his Georgia home. The Reverend shared the Cherokees' trials, persecution, and bitter times. Even before the tragic removal of the Cherokees in 1839, Rev. Worcester served three years in prison in defiance of the administration of Pres. Andrew Jackson, who demanded that he stop helping the Indians.

Mr. White's father helped in the construction of the Acedemy, and later was a teacher there. It is interesting to hear Mr. White tell that when laying the cornerstone of the building, his father made a copper box and in it placed artifacts of the year 1882. Some of these were two copies of church bulletins, 6¢ in money, a catalog of the Acedemy, and some pictures of that time. The school was closed in 1902 and the Town of Vinita took over the building for their public school, and remained in use for many years. In 1953 the old building was demolished to make way for newer construction. Mr. White had attended school there in a much earlier time, and was present when the cornerstone was pushed over, and saw the copper box that his father had placed there some 70 years before. He retrieved the box, which eventually ended up [illegible] of Oklahoma.

W. B. Halsell was a very rich whiteman living in Vinita, and in 1888 he built Willie Halsell College in memory of his son who died at age 11. In looking at old class pictures of the College, many Indians were in attendance to further their education. Will Rogers also attended this place of education, before going on to Missouri Military Academy. Many senior citizens of the area now recall their days at the College with fond memories. The College closed in 1908, and was later torn down to make way for new houses in the northern part of Vinita.

The Nighthawks and Keetoowahs have long been known for their secret and fraternal organizations. Little known however was the fraternal Order of Redmen, whose membership was composed of men of Indian blood. Many Chapters