

There was evidence of Indian scalping long before White Man came on the scene. Then the men decorated their bare bodies with tatooing and scratchings. When he was first named, he was scratched. When he became an apprentice warrior he was named and scratched again. When he had proven himself by bringing back a scalp or perhaps a whole head or an enemy's arm or leg, he received a final name and decoration on his skin. That was true of all the Cherokees and as it was with the others. Now, this brings us closer to things perhaps more unique to the Cherokee and perhaps sets the stage. Much of the material covered is based on Hartshorn, Gilbert, and numerous letters that I referred to. This old chronic is, incidentally, I'm borrowing for further research here. The Cherokees were the tallest of the Southeastern Indians, more robust than the Creeks, or the Choctaws. The Euchee, Shawnee, the Chickasaw were nearly as tall but more slender in build. The skin color of the Cherokee is slightly lighter than the Creeks, but about the same as the Euchee and the Shawnee. Cherokee women were always described as taller than other southern Indian women and their complexions lighter than them. Population in 1540 was probably about 25,000. The Cherokee language is a southern branch and the Iroquoian is a northern branch of the same great Mother Tongue. Tuscarora, in eastern Carolina and the Nottoway and Meherrin of Virginia spoke this same tongue. Cherokee had three dialects: Elati, this sometimes called a lower dialect, it was spoken in the head waters of the southern area of Savannah River; the Ketoowah and this again was called the middle dialect, because it was found in the middle area of the Cherokee Nation and this incidentally, is the dialect presently spoken in Cherokee North Carolina; and the Atali, a dialect found basically in the Northern and Western portion of the Cherokee area, is the Cherokee spoken essentially here in Oklahoma. The tribe was once originally organized in very loosely