

Dr. Gunter retired several years ago from private practice as an M.D., after having served his profession for many years in both Oklahoma and Arkansas. Dr. Gunter is proud of his Indian blood and heritage and traces his ancestry to the Beloved Woman, Nancy Ward, of the Old Cherokee Country in the East. For his own edification and enjoyment Dr. Gunter has become a student of Indian history, and he is well versed on many matters pertaining to the 'First Americans'.

In Indian history, what is now the state of Arkansas, has figured much in early times as Indian lands. From the earliest records it is learned that Indians lived, hunted and traveled what was to become Arkansas. Early French explorers are credited with giving the name to this part of the New World, and believed to have been in reference to the Indians found living there. The original French designation is said to have been roughly translated as "(people) with bows (and arrows)". History records that the Osages, Quapaws, and Delawares were in this region at the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and emigrant Cherokees had settled in eastern Arkansas as early as 1815. The first Osage treaty with the U.S. government records that tribe as giving up their lands in northern Arkansas. The government in those early times were having 'a ball' moving Indian tribes here and there, taking the Indians' land by means of what they called 'treaties', and according to the white man, 'greatly benefiting the Indians'. By 1828 Eastern Arkansas began to look better to the Government, so they moved the Cherokees out and gave them the Northwest corner of Arkansas, and northeast Indian Territory. With this background northwest Arkansas has its own Indian History to tell. After the Removal of the Cherokees to Indian Territory in 1839, it was the border towns that were the trading posts while the Cherokee Nation