

was struggling to build its own villages. From Ft. Smith to the Missouri line some of those little Arkansas towns that served as trade centers for the Cherokees, were Southwest City, Beaty, Maysville, Cherokee City, Gentry, Cincinnati, Cane Hill, Dutch Mills, Evansville, and Uniontown, Siloam Springs was most prominent, but in its early day it was Hi-go, a name taken from the Cherokee. On the Arkansas side, old burial ground attest to some record of the Indians who lived in that area.

Dr. Gunter tells that two of his ancestors, James and George Ward, both Cherokee emigrants left their homes at Chicamauga, Tennessee, to try for a better life in the west. Because of the harrassment of invading white settlers and the attitude of the Federal Government toward the Indians, they could see there was to be no future for Indians in the east. The two brothers arrived by boat at the mouth of Sallisaw Creek on April 6, 1832. They brought with them their families, slaves, and considerable possessions. They immediately set out for the Beaty Prairie country (southeast Delaware County, Oklahoma northeast into Arkansas) where they reestablished homes and farms. He tells that the Wards were powder makers by profession, and were also successful farmers in their Tennessee homeland. Along with the Wards as early settlers to the Beaty (or Beatie) Prairie were the Parks, Thompsons, and Fields.

In tracing his paternal ancestors, Dr. Gunter tells that Guntersville, Alabama, was named for his great-grandfather. 'Old Man Gunter' left Alabama in 1839 and came west and settled at Hi-go, Arkansas Territory (later to become Siloam Springs). Hi-go village was located at the east edge of what is now Siloam Springs, and Dr. Gunter tells some things about this early day settlement. The Gunter home was a large structure that stood on a hill above what was known as Seven Springs. The house