

HENDERSON, HENRY.

SECOND INTERVIEW

#12313

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Carl R. Sherwood,
Investigator,
November 23, 1937.

An interview with Mr. Henry Henderson,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

John T. Gunter.

John T. Gunter was born October 8, 1855, at Hico,
Benton County, Arkansas, the oldest son of C. D. Gunter,
a Tennessean.

His mother was Miss Ward, a one-eighth Cherokee, from
Georgia, her father, James Ward, having come to this na-
tion with the first Cherokee settlers. After attending
school until he was seventeen years of age, John entered
the Cincinnati Academy in Arkansas, and there remained
until he was twenty years of age.

Returning home, he went into the live stock business
in which he was successful for many years. In 1879 John
moved to the Sequoyah District and opened a general mer-
chandise store, but six months later traded it for cattle.
In 1880 he moved his cattle up on Bird Creek, Cooweescoo-
wee District, and started a ranch and remained there for
five years. In 1885 he sold his ranch and bought some good
bottom land up on Grand River and there continued stock

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raising and farming until 1888, when he moved to the town of Vinita, and established a livery stable.

In December, 1880, he was married to Miss Alice Heath, daughter of John Heath, of Benton County, Arkansas. By this union they had one child named Abel, born October 13, 1888. Mr. Gunter had a Grand River bottom farm of three hundred acres in cultivation, and had cattle, horses and mules on the range.

His livery stable in Vinita consisted of eighteen horses, seven buggies and hacks. This livery stable was in a good building and besides this he had a nice residence which was on a lot of twenty acres.

Mrs. Gunter was a lady of refinement and culture, yet few cow punchers could surpass her in handling the "ribbons" on a bow horse.

At one time when her husband was absent she took charge of one hundred and fifty head of Longhorn Texas cattle which she herded on the range by herself for about three months.