



*De Witte Duncan  
Cherokee Nation  
Indian Territory*

Feb 27. 29

## DeWitte Clinton Duncan

*(Oklahoma, Native American interest): Portrait Photograph of DeWitte Clinton Duncan (1829-1909)*

Haverhill, NH: H.F. Herbert, Photographer [no date, circa 1861]

\$975

Photographic portrait. A large oval bust-length platinum image of DeWitte Clinton Duncan, a native of Dahlonega, Georgia, a graduate of Dartmouth College, and a defender of Native American rights in the Indian Territory. 6¼" x 4¾", mounted on heavy paper and framed by two gilt rules. Embossed stamp of H. F. Herbert, Photographer. Noted in ink in a contemporary hand beneath the portrait: "De Witte Duncan / Cherokee Nation / Indian Territory / Feb. 27, '29 [the subject's birth date]." A few spots of foxing, but near fine.

Duncan was born in Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1829, and moved to the Indian Territory with his parents (his father was half-Cherokee, and his mother Caucasian) in 1837. He studied at the male seminary in Tahlequah and was admitted to Dartmouth in 1857, at 28 the oldest member of his class, graduating in 1861 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After teaching in New Hampshire and the Midwest for a number of years, he read law was admitted to the bar, and practiced in Charles City, Iowa.

Eventually Duncan returned to the Indian Territory, operating a farm near Vinita, but devoted much time to the defense of the rights of the people of the Cherokee Nation "whom he believed to have suffered great wrongs from the U.S. government. He was throughout his life an earnest worker for all moral causes" (Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, December 1909). The photographer, Herbert, operated a photography studio in Haverhill, 1857-1865.

An arresting portrait of a Native-American graduate of Dartmouth and Indian rights activist. Detailed image on following page [\[BTC#425939\]](#)



