

HIDDEN IN — PLAIN VIEW: — THE GIBSON CEMETERY

The Gibson Cemetery is located along Salt Creek about 8 miles northwest of Elmore City and 3 miles northwest of the old town of Foster, Oklahoma, in western Garvin County (figure 1). Information about this abandoned Chickasaw cemetery was gathered in response to a citizen acquiring an application and mailing it to the cemetery preservation program on March 8, 2018. The original application contained minimal directions. With help from the landowner, the cemetery was found hidden in plain view on the east side of the road (figure 2) and orange flagging was placed on a tree to mark its location. Three photographs (figure 3) and the two on the side panel (figure 4) show the various stages of preservation and restoration performed by cemetery preservation specialists.



Bill Anoatubby, Governor

FIGURE 1

The Chickasaw Nation's 13 county territory (purple outline) and the location of the Gibson Cemetery.

Map layers provided by the Chickasaw Nation GeoSpatial Information (GSI) Department.



FIGURE 2

Orange flagging on a tree to mark the location of the Gibson Cemetery on the east side of the road.

Map layers provided by Google Earth Pro Street View.



FIGURE 3

- A** – Summer 2018
- B** – After preservation and restoration, Spring 2019



FIGURE 4

- A** – Site visit Summer 2018
- B** – Before initial cleanup, Fall 2018
- C** – After initial cleanup, spring restoration, Spring 2019



UNMARKED GRAVES

Not all cemeteries contain marked graves. After the initial cleanup, seven embedded surface rocks (shown below) were revealed and believed to be burial markers. This information is gathered and stored on a map for future research.

