

CEMETERY PRESERVATION AT ELLA ALLEN CEMETERY

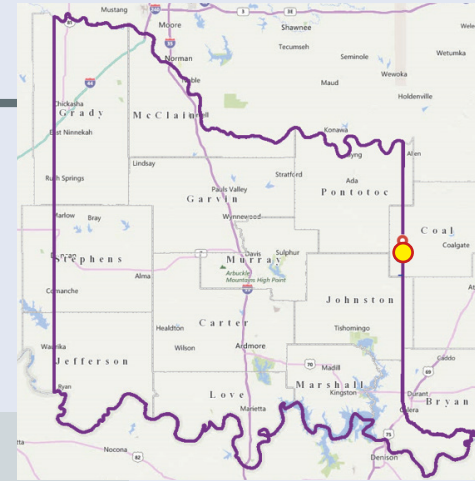
The Ella Allen Cemetery is located 200 feet inside the eastern border of the Chickasaw Nation's jurisdiction northwest of Clarita, Oklahoma, in southwest Coal County (figures 1 and 2). No information about this abandoned Chickasaw cemetery was available until a family member stopped by the Cemetery Preservation Program (CPP) booth at the Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival on Oct. 7, 2017. Chance meetings like this one demonstrate the impact of the CPP mission and the Chickasaw Nation. This storyboard highlights cemetery preservation and headstone restoration in this isolated family cemetery.



Bill Anoatubby, Governor

FIGURE 1

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



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

FIGURE 2

Aerial photography of the fence boundary (red rectangle), the Ella Allen Cemetery (visible headstones and shadow) and the eastern boundary of the Chickasaw Nation (purple line).



Map layers provided by Google Earth Pro 2012 aerial photography.

FIGURE 3

When cemeteries are approved to be maintained, an initial cleanup date and work plan is developed with the landowner. Sometimes the CPP's preservation specialists are tasked to build fences and gates and clean trees and thick underbrush at the landowner's request. Initial cleanups are usually performed in the winter and regular maintenance follows on a scheduled rotation.



FIGURE 4

These before and after photographs of cemetery and headstone cleaning show the work of CPP preservation specialists. The view is taken from the east.

