



THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Linda D. Herndon, Chairperson of the Board
Washington County Administration Building
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DISTRICT 2 Commissioner

Jim Sheetz
DISTRICT 3 Commissioner

December 15, 2006

Annette Ketchum
1412 Hampden Road
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Dear Annette:

RE: SilverLake Cemetery

I enjoyed our recent telephone conversation and appreciate your willingness to discuss with the Delaware Tribal leaders the cemetery maintenance issue. Enclosed are some documents presented to the Board of County Commissioners concerning cemeteries. We were unable to locate, in our files, a copy of the deed to SilverLake Cemetery. We are working with our land department to locate one and we will then forward you a copy.

Please advise me of the Tribe's decision concerning cemetery maintenance. Again, thank you for your efforts. If you have questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Herndon, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Enclosures

Delaware Tribe of Indians Trust Board - Land Management Committee

OBJECTIVE: Determine ownership or control of three cemeteries maintained by the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville, OK. All three are in Washington County.

1. Busby aka Falleaf or Lenape-Copan, OK
2. Sam Williams aka Delaware Indian Cemetery-, Dewey, OK
3. Silver Lake Cemetery-Bartlesville, OK

RECORDS: Delaware Tribe of Indians files-Bartlesville, OK
Washington County Courthouse, Office of County Clerk-Bartlesville, OK

- ★ 1. Busby Cemetery-Township 28 North, Range 13 East, Section 16, 1.28 acres more or less.
Delaware Tribal Council owns this cemetery. Quitclaim Deed, filed January 20, 1988, Book 847 pages 47-48. Certified copy obtained for Delaware Tribe of Indians file January 11, 2002. This cemetery was relocated when Copan Lake was built. Corps of Engineers records on file at the Bartlesville, OK Public Library lists the names and races of all graves moved. There are no Delaware Indians listed. Cherokee Indians and white people. Most graves are unknown. Cemetery was relocated from original site. At that time no Delaware Indians were buried in it. Since relocation and after Mr. Falleaf became owner some burials of Delaware Indians. There are some vacant burial spaces. This cemetery has no historical value or early connection to the Delaware Tribe of Indians. The Land Management Chairman advised Tribal Council not to take ownership. For unknown reasons the Tribal Council did not take the Land Management Chairman's advice.

- ★ 2. Sam Williams-Township 27 North, Range 13 East, Section 7, 1.7 acres more or less. Deed Record No. 68, filed November 9, 1929, Book 68 pages 199-201. D. M. Tyler conveyed to Board of County Commissioners, Washington County, State of Oklahoma. This tract of land shall be held in trust by the Board of County Commissioners as a burial ground and cemetery of the Delaware Nation of Indians. Paragraph 4 - Board of County Commissioners, Washington County, Oklahoma, as trustees shall hold legal title and shall have management and control. TC
DE now
owns
Delaware Tribe of Indians does not own or control this cemetery. Certified copy of document obtained January 28, 2002.

- ★ 3. Silver Lake Cemetery-Township 26 North. Range 13 East, Section 30, 3 acres more or less. Cemetery Patent 126, Cherokee Nation transferred ownership to Board of County Commissioner, Washington County, OK. August 5, 1914. Cemetery Deed, Book 258 page 577, Board of County Commissioners, Washington County Oklahoma conveyed this tract of land to Silverlake Delaware Cemetery Association December 3, 1951. No record of this association found in courthouse or Delaware Tribe of Indians files. No record could be found of this association. All county and state records were checked. The only reference found was in a

Patent cemeteries by
land set aside for
ind. gov't of American
Indians

book, Chapter III The

Delawares Come to this Area, page 17, last paragraph "Rev. David Saugee acted as the associations first president. He is the son of Joel B. Suagee, a part Cherokee teacher who came

here in 1902 and bought the old John Sarcoxie home....". Marilyn Cole, Delaware Tribe of Indians Enrollment Director checked the Delaware Tribe of Indians enrollment records. There are no Suagee/Saugee listings.. A brief review reveals Delaware Indians are buried there; however, burial has not always been restricted. From 1914 to 1951 the Board of County Commissioners used this cemetery as a "potter's field".

It appears the Silverlake Delaware Cemetery Association has ceased to function. Per Oklahoma State Statutes, Title 8, Cemeteries, Paragraph 143, the Board of County Commissioners, Washington County would own and control.

Edna L. Havens

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WASHINGTON COUNTY - May 2, 2005

333-3242

Good Morning Commissioners, I am Edna Havens, Land Management Committee Chairman, Trust Board, Delaware Tribe of Indians. With me are Raymond Cline, Trust Board Chairman and Susan Cade, Land Management Committee Member. We want to discuss the maintenance of cemeteries in Washington County.

As you probably all know the Delaware Tribe of Indians was removed from the list of federally recognized tribes of Indians. All federal funds had to be returned at the end of March 2005.

We have one maintenance person and funds to pay him only a limited length of time. Most of his time will have to be spent caring for the Delaware Community Center area on Tuxedo and the Tribal Headquarters area on Virginia Avenue.

For several years the Delaware Tribe of Indians has mowed 3 cemeteries in Washington County. Tribal members have been requesting the Tribe also maintain 3 other cemeteries.

- Trust Board separate maintenance*
- Even*
1. Busby Cemetery aka Falleaf and Lenape - Copan - Twn 28N R13E S16 1.28AC
 2. Sam Williams aka Delaware - Dewey Twn 27N R13E Sec 7 1.7AC
 3. Silverlake - Bartlesville - Hillcrest Country Club Twn 26N R13E Sec 30 3 acres Pat 126
 - Sept Problem* 4. Jackson-Falleaf - Copan Cemetery Pat 124 - Sect 34 Twn 29N Range B E
 5. Lenno aka Belmire - Dewey area - no one buried in several years.
 6. Curlyhead - near Hogshooter Creek - Cemetery Patent 119 - Sect 20 Twn 26N - R14E

County records have been checked. The Board of County Commissioners owns 5 of these. The Delaware Tribe of Indians owns the Busby at Copan.

We have no funds to maintain these cemeteries. It is our request Washington County maintain these cemeteries.

If you have questions, I will try and answer them. Thank you.

Ruby Cranor - Talking Tombstones - Tribal Center
5/25/05
Still working on who does own them
and how we will be able to maintain them.