Grinter Cemetery Policies & Procedures

Introduction

On May 24, 1877, the Grinters Chapel Cemetery Association purchased one acre of land from Moses and Annie Grinter, located on the west side of the Grinter Chapel, for $40 to be used as a cemetery.

On July 30, 1907, the executor of Annie Grinter's estate sold one rectangular acre from her estate to the Grinter Chapel of the Methodist Episcopal Church South for $80 to be used as a cemetery.

On January 5, 2026, The Great Plains United Methodist Church transferred ownership of the Grinter Chapel Cemetery to the Kansas Delaware Tribe of Indians.

The administration and maintenance of the Cemetery grounds is the responsibility of the Kansas Delaware Tribe. The maintenance is perpetual in nature. This means the Tribe will always be responsible for the mowing and trimming of the grass and other duties required to maintain a pleasing appearance.

This policies and procedures manual was formulated to help explain the operations of the cemetery. The Tribe will attempt to accommodate the needs of its Tribal Members and others, while preserving those rules and regulations necessary to maintain a high standard of beauty and efficiency at the Cemetery.

Rules and Regulations

The rules and regulations governing the Cemetery are intended to provide for an orderly, well groomed and quiet sanctuary. To achieve and maintain this status, requires a joint effort between the Tribe and cemetery patrons. Those persons owning rights to burial and those having deceased loved ones interred within the Cemetery need to be aware of the policies that regulate the Cemetery.

The following decorations will *not* be permitted:

Solar lights

Figurines

Mulch

Pinwheels

Balloons

Concrete figurines

Hanging decorations

Lawn furniture

Fencing (plastic, wood, metal, etc.)

Hardscapes (block, rock, brick, etc.)

Vases (glass and plastic)

Glass objects

Urns

Trinkets

Rocks, gravel, landscape pebbles

Benches are no longer allowed except for those already placed.

Any other items interfering with the safe and efficient maintenance of the Cemetery.

Purchase and Sale of Grave Plots

Grave plots will only be sold to members of the Kansas Delaware Tribe of Indians. Please send an email to info@kansasdelaware.org.

When the owner of a grave plot desires to sell a lot or grave site, the transaction must take place through the Tribe. Upon verification of ownership and other required information, the Tribe will prepare a deed that conveys the plot from the grantor to the Tribe. No cemetery lots or grave sites can be sold between individuals. Owners of cemetery lots of grave sites, who wish to sell their grave spaces, must sell them back to the Tribe. The sale of cemetery lots to a corporation, business concern, partnership, or association is forbidden.

No one person shall be entitled to purchase more than 4 grave spaces except where there are unusual and extraordinary circumstances surrounding the individual's particular situation. In such a case, the individual must apply for and receive specific approval from the Tribe.

Single grave spaces will only be sold at a "time of need", unless approved by the Tribe.

Transfer of Lots or Grave Spaces Between Family Members

When the owner(s) of a lot or grave space in the Grinter Cemetery desires to transfer a lot or grave space to an immediate family member, a notarized statement from the owner(s) acknowledging the transfer to the designated family member should be provided to the Tribe. Immediate family includes parents, children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters, spouses, and nephews or nieces.

In an instance where the owner(s) of a lot or grave space are deceased and did not transfer ownership of their unused grave site(s) to immediate

family member(s), by providing the documentation of original ownership, the family members will be permitted to use the unused grave site(s).

Burial Restrictions

The Tribe allows for multiple burials in a single grave space only in the following configurations:

1. One (1) cremation burial and one (1) casket/vault burial (casket/vault must be buried first)
2. Two (2) cremation burials with no casket/vault burial
3. One casket/vault burial
4. One cremation burial

No grave shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.

The grave digger is responsible for removing all excess dirt from the Cemetery.

No internment of a body may be made unless the remains are contained in a casket and vault.

The inurnment or burial of a set of cremated remains must be contained in a suitable container.

No internment or inurnment will be made in a grave not fully paid for.

Monuments and Markers

The Tribe does not sell, install, or maintain any monuments or markers for the Grinter Cemetery. The owner of a grave space, or lot, should contact a monument company for those needs.

At each grave, one single wide marker is permitted or on two adjacent graves, a double wide maker is permitted.

A single wide marker shall be 24 inches long, 12 inches wide and not less than 4 inches in thickness.

A double wide marker shall be 42 inches long, 12 inches wide and not less than 6 inches in thickness.

Upright monuments are only permitted for four (4) grave lots. They must be set upon a foundation that is flush with the ground, designed such that it can properly support the structural load of the monument, and placed as nearly as possible in the center of the lot. The installation of a monument must be approved by the tribe prior to being constructed.

The Tribe is not responsible for any damage(s) to a grave monument or marker due to any outside influence beyond the normal grounds maintenance. For example, should a vault or monument company damage a grave monument or marker while performing their services, that company is responsible for the damage. Should an individual accidentally or intentionally cause damage to a grave monument or marker, that individual is responsible for the damage. If no party can be found to be responsible, the space or lot owner, or their designee, is responsible for any cost associated with correction or replacement. The Tribe will not be responsible for any damage due to Acts of God or any other natural disasters.

All graves must have a marker within 6 (six) months of the burial.

<u>Opening and Closing of Graves</u>

All graves within Grinter Cemetery will be opened only with the approval of the Tribe. No graves will be opened until a written request has been made to the Tribe.

The Tribe requires a minimum of 48-hours notice for the opening of a grave. This ensures the Tribe has time to verify, locate and mark the grave space.

Any funeral home, or individual, will be subject to a $200 fee for a grave space opening request with less than a 48-hour notice.

The Tribe will not be responsible for coordinating the open and closing of a grave. This must be the responsibility of a designated funeral home.

Within 90 days after a grave is closed, the owner of the grave space must level the space, sow grass and place straw or other proper materials over the grave to enhance reestablishment of grass.

Cemetery Maintenance

No more than 3 sets of flower arrangements can be placed on a burial site after a funeral. This includes a casket spray, stands, pots, vases, etc. All cut flowers from a gravesite must be removed no later than five (5) days after a funeral service is held. Artificial flower must be removed by the owner when they appear deteriorated in appearance.

Planting tree or shrubbery in the Cemetery is strictly prohibited.

A hired maintenance contractor will generally mow and trim the lawns every other week. Factors such as funerals and inclement weather may affect this schedule.

Sink holes and grave settling are a common occurrence on a grace space after a funeral service. They are caused by several factors including heavy rainfall, snow and other inclement weather and soil settling. Please report all settling issues to the Tribe at www.info@kansasdelaware.org.

Please see the following “Grinter Chapel Cemetery Rules and Etiquette” for additional information.