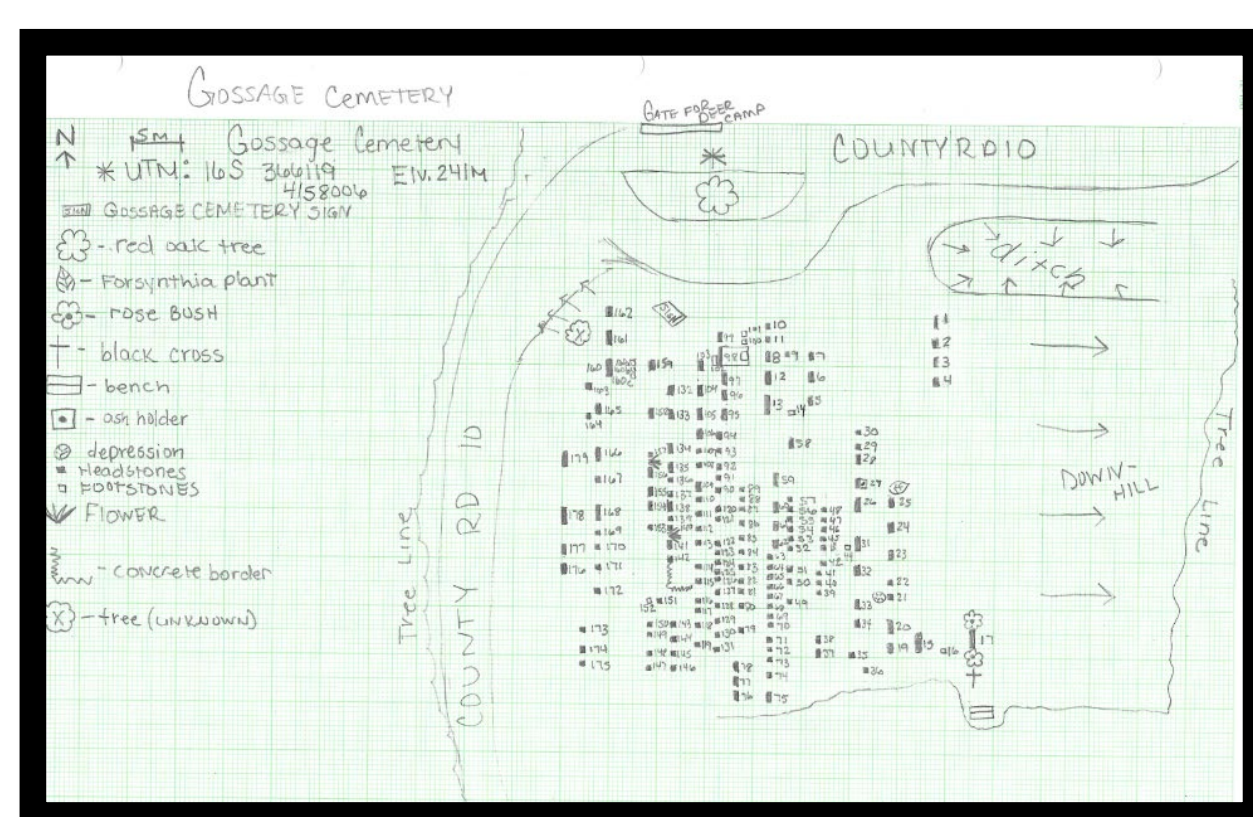


Introduction

Undocumented graveyards occur throughout the vast forest of Southern Illinois. These burial sites provide valuable historical and anthropological data regarding the people who settled in this region from the early nineteenth to twentieth centuries. The goal of the project was to gather valuable data from each undocumented site and map each site so that these areas can be better preserved. Data were collected from September 2020 to June 2021 from a series of cemeteries in the Southern Illinois area. These cemeteries are located throughout the Shawnee National Forest and were located using Universal Transverse Mercator, or UTM, coordinates. When the cemeteries were located, they were thoroughly documented, including photographs of each headstone/footstone, any plants that may have been planted there by someone, depressions throughout the site and some archival work on individuals buried there.



Example of a sketch map of Gossage Cemetery



Dutton Chapel

Results and Discussion

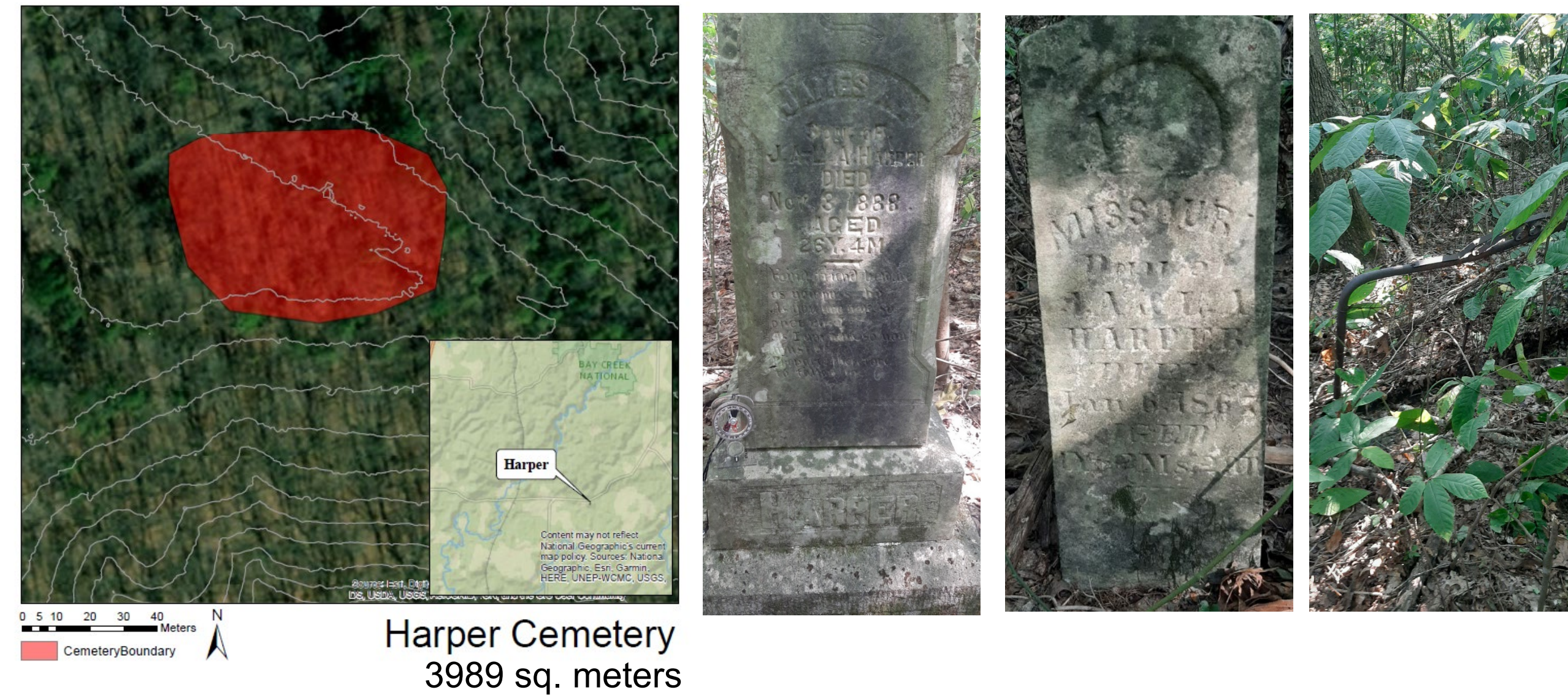
Some of these cemeteries appeared to be community cemeteries, with other leaving the impression of being a family/private cemetery. Based on their size and the names present, C.B. Cliff, Parkinson, and Baldwin appear to all be private family cemeteries. Harper, which is no longer maintained, appears to have been a community cemetery based on the size. Local community members continue to maintain Gossage and Dutton. Each of these cemeteries were established during the mid-nineteenth century. The smallest of these cemeteries have been abandoned and are overgrown with vegetation. Gossage and Baldwin surnames have a German origin, while the other cemeteries surnames were Irish, Scottish and English. Despite these differences, burial style was similar at each. Finally, maps of each cemetery were created using ArcGIS, allowing shapefiles to be shared with the Forest Service for better preservation of the cemeteries.

References

- ISM
2020. Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites. <https://dnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f62fe2ee24b844508bf4dcf563d0ba75> accessed August 2020.
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2008. Pope County, Illinois cemeteries : results of a graveyard obsession. Vol. 1 - 5. Red Derby Printing.

Harper Cemetery

Harper Cemetery was found off highway 145, located on a ridgetop. The site is overgrown with greenbriers and daylilies appeared to have been planted in the northeast corner of the cemetery. This cemetery consisted of about 30 stones without inscriptions and ten stones that had been engraved. Some burials were disturbed by fallen trees, while others were marked by only depressions. The earliest burials date to 1854. Based on size, Harper appears to be an abandoned community cemetery, with the Harper surname originating in England and Scotland.



Harper Cemetery
3989 sq. meters

Gossage Cemetery

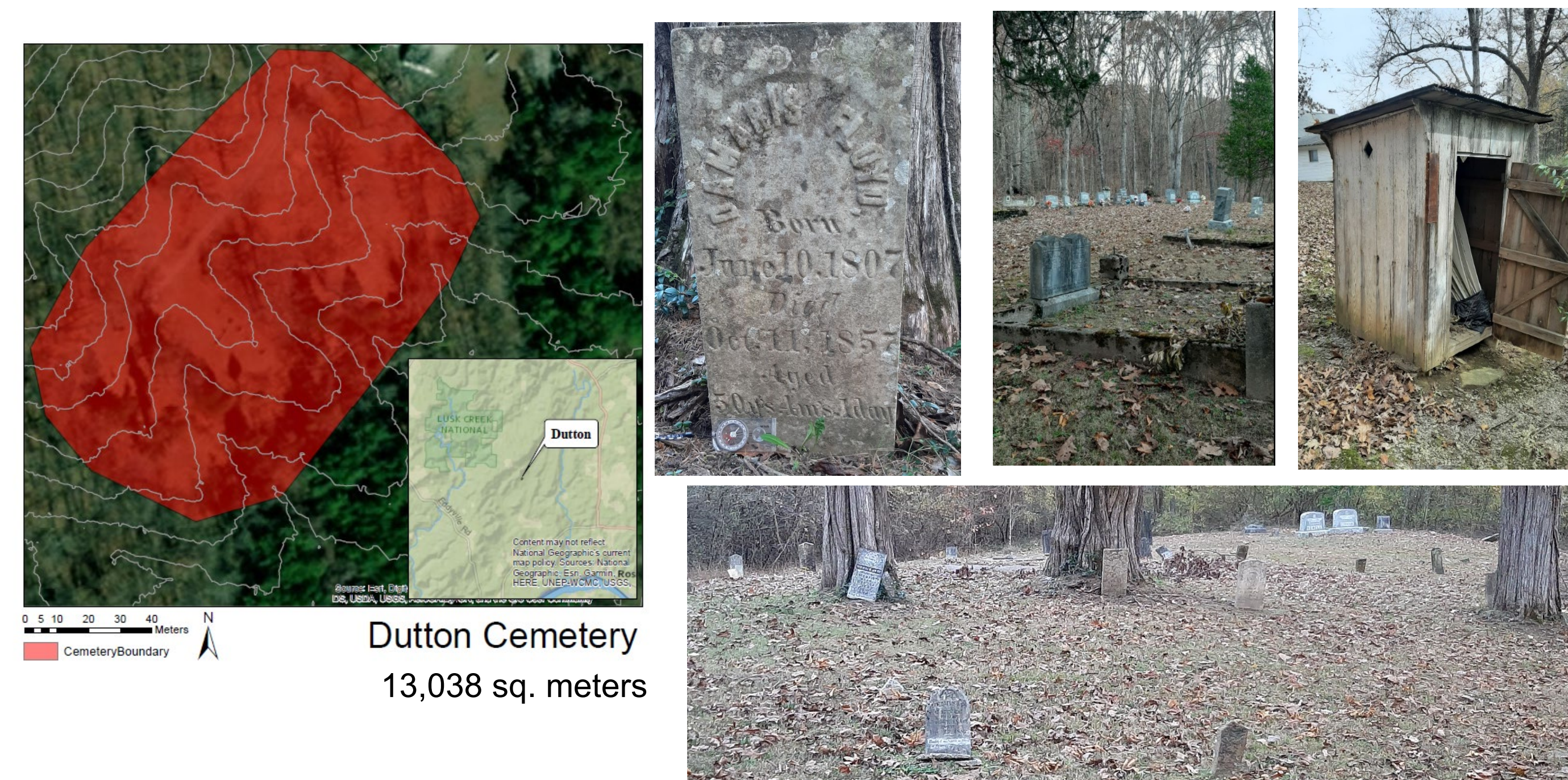
Gossage Cemetery was located right off County Road 10. A red oak was planted in the center where parking is allowed. The site is well maintained and contains 179 stones. The gravestones documented here ranged from 1855 to 2017. This location was also located on a downhill slope, located on the east side of the cemetery. The Hart surname has an English and North German. Fulkerson surname is North German.



Gossage Cemetery
5,217 sq. meters

Dutton Cemetery

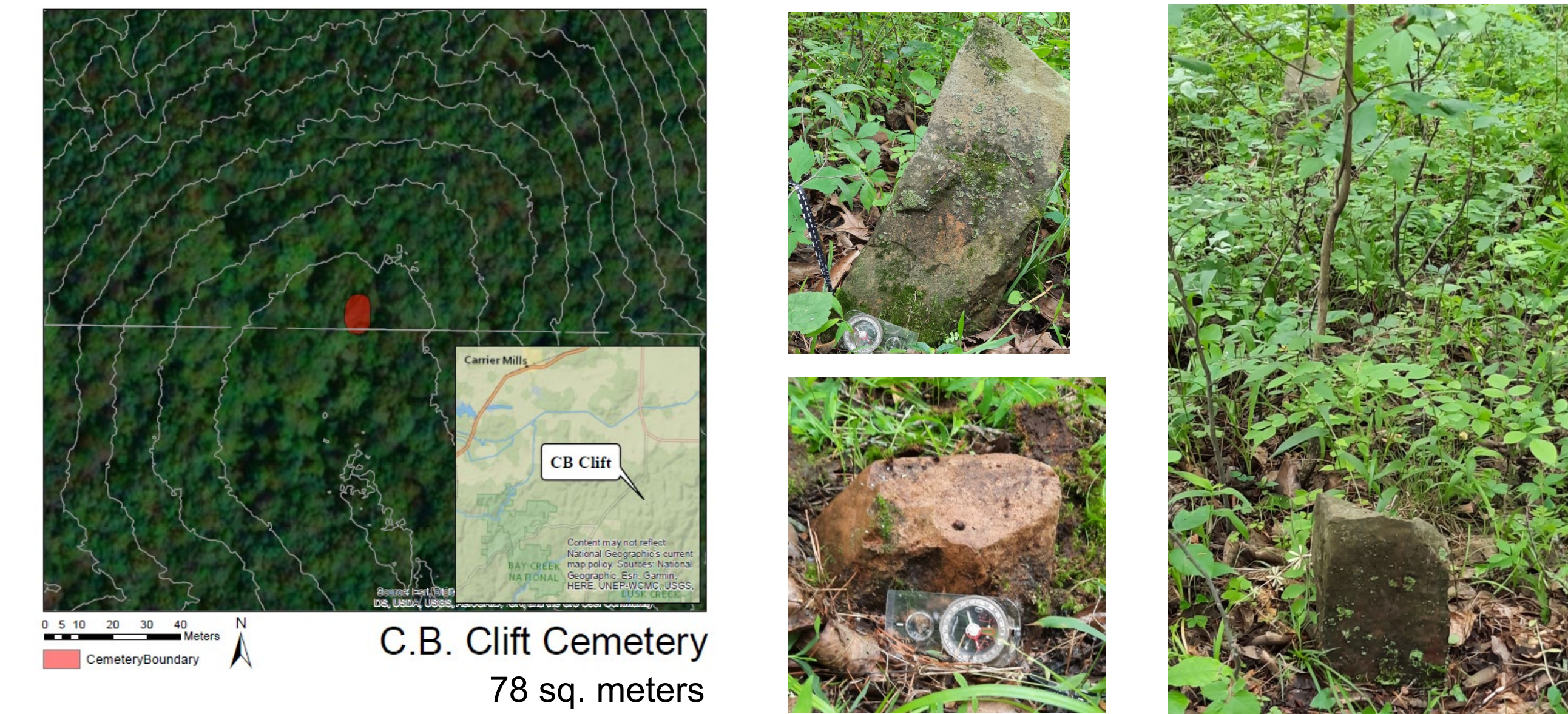
Dutton Cemetery is located behind Dutton Chapel. The cemetery starts as you begin driving down an old gravel road right past the old outhouse. There are 160 stones are documented and photographed. The oldest stone was in 1857, with the most recent being 2018. Dutton cemetery appears is more than likely a community graveyard. It appeared that the further back in the cemetery, the older the stones were. Some of the stones were broken, along with some broken stones lying under trees. Cullum, a prominent surname at the cemetery, originates from Germany.



Dutton Cemetery
13,038 sq. meters

C.B. Cliff Cemetery

C.B. Cliff Cemetery is located along an abandoned forest road on a ridgetop. The area is overgrown with vegetation. This cemetery consists of eight stones, with depressions present between the stones. None of the stones have any engravings. It is unclear when the cemetery was established. Based on size, the cemetery appears to be a family cemetery. The Cliff surname has an English origin.



C.B. Cliff Cemetery
78 sq. meters

Parkinson Cemetery

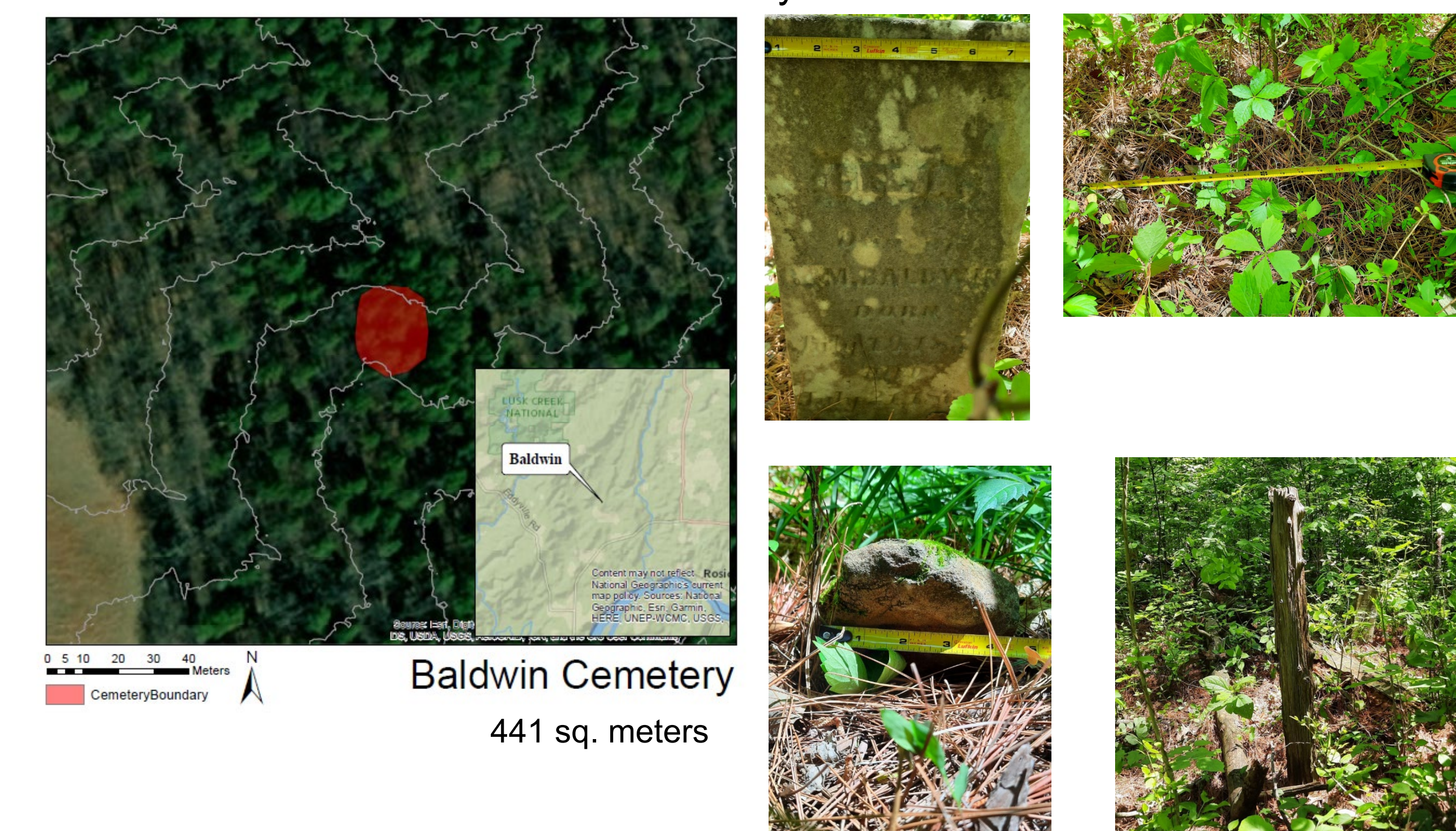
Parkinson cemetery has an old metal gate for an entrance. Parkinson Cemetery has not been maintained with an old fence that fell to help mark the perimeter. Thirty-three stones were documented, and photographs were taken throughout the site. The earliest stone found in the graveyard was in 1866 with the most recent being 1912. Depressions were present throughout the cemetery along with overgrown vegetation. Parkinson's surname has been established in Ireland since the 17th century.



Parkinson Cemetery
720 sq. meters

Baldwin Cemetery

Baldwin Cemetery is located on the edge of Shawnee National Forest. Old fence posts were located close to stone 1. It was overgrown with vegetation. The one stone documented the burial was a 1-year-old girl. None of the other stones were marked. This appears to be a private owned cemetery. The ground was covered in pine needles, which made depressions between the gravestones more visible. Baldwin's surname originates from Germany.



Baldwin Cemetery
441 sq. meters