

# ◆ THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER ◆

A publication of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

Volume 18 Issue 1 No 34

Cemetery Established 1840

SPRING 2011

## 2011 Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 2011

at the

Vera Chandler Homestead

From the President:

Another year has gone by, and the time is upon us to have our annual meeting. As is our custom, we will meet at the home of Vera Chandler. (If you need directions, please call me at 417-833-4501, or call at Vera's at 417-833-4503.) Please do try to join us for the good food and good fellowship, and a time to think back on this past year and to make plans for the upcoming year. If you can't make it, please know you will be missed.

Please see the next column for information from Larry on what was done at the cemetery this year. Those of you that have been able to see the cemetery, either up close or from highway 65, know that the markers erected thus far to mark the unknown graves in the cemetery look very nice, and really help those interested to know that many early settlers of the area are buried on that pretty hillside. Our work is not done in this regard, but further progress has been made and the cemetery looks very nice this Spring.

Our main need at this time is the labor to finish the project. If you or anyone you know has interest in spending time volunteering at the cemetery we would certainly appreciate the help. We are quite close to seeing to completion the task of marking all the unknown graves.

After the meeting, weather permitting, we plan to make a visit to the cemetery with all that want to. Larry has access to one or more golf carts that we can use to help folks travel up and down the hill

from Valley Water Mill Road.

I hope to see you on June 4<sup>th</sup>, but if that is not possible, have a great summer and we will hope to see you next time. Take care,

and God bless you,

Robb Chandler

## Annual Meeting of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

June 4, 2011

**Board meeting at 10:30 A.M.**

**Picnic 11:30 A.M.**

**General Meeting 12:30 A.M.**

**Weather permitting we will  
go to the cemetery in the  
Afternoon**

**Bring your Lawn chairs**

## Cemetery Log for 2011

Hazel and I went to the cemetery in late March. The leaves were about 6 inches thick all over the cemetery. Other wise it looked great compared to the Ice Storm of 2007. I went back home and got a riding mower and went back and spent 6 hours or more mulching the leaves. I could not get close to a lot of the trees because of the roots. The roots need to be covered with dirt. There are several trees that need to come down but we couldn't tell this early in the spring. The tops were broken out and this seemed to kill the trees. There are several big trees that need to come out. Also there was a tree on the south fence that I took out. There was a very big tree that fell on the fence from the north side close to the Northwest gate. I took it out and repaired the fence. There is another very big tree in the

North fence line where we have been piling brush. I guess we will have to wait for a storm to take it down. There is a tree in the Southeast corner that also needs to come down. I sawed several low stumps closer to the ground so we can get the mower over them. It is time to get Bettie and Hazel back out and wave there sticks searching for the unknown graves and mark the spots for the new unmarked head stones to be placed. We have poked and prodded the sunken grave and haven't found any new hidden stones.

We set about 40 of the new stones to see how it looked. We dug down 6-8 inches and set the stones in the holes and tamped them in. Most have stood the winter and the weather. Some have tilted and fallen over, some of this was caused from falling limbs. It will still be necessary to use concrete around the stones for stability and for weed control. This will keep the grass and weeds away from the stones. This will make less labor in trimming and upkeep.

It would be nice to just mow the grounds and leave it at that. But I still think that each grave deserves a headstone to honor that person. We may not know them but we still need to honor them. Surprisingly, I have found very few rocks while digging in the cemetery. The dirt seems to be of a "silty loam" consistency which may be the many years of leaves that have laid on the ground and rotted. I think after we get the stones set that we can have a pretty green cemetery. The "vinca" vines are still in abundance and makes cover. (Plant taxonomy classifies this plant as *Vinca minor*. Its common names are "creeping myrtle" and "periwinkle flower." But this is a case where the scientific name is at least as well known as the common names.) As soon as the rain stops for a few days I will go back out and spray again for weeds and brush. I mowed the cemetery with a riding mower on Saturday May 7. It took about 5 hours of actual mowing time.

We still could use some help this summer. Give me a call.

Larry

**OFFICERS 2010-11**

Robb Chandler, President  
 Bettie Hickman, 1st Vice Pres.  
 Jean Rayl, 2nd Vice Pres.  
 Elaine Mott, Secretary  
 Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec'y  
 Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

**Directors**

Clarence Stiver	2011
Betty Jane Turner	2011
Jean Rayl	2011
Ben Gravely	2011
Douglas Rayl	2013
Hazel Voris	2013
Jackie Warfel	2013
Joanna Coonrod	2012
Molly Faulkner	2012
Don Holdway	2012

Doug Rayl is our web site coordinator.  
 Check it out at:  
<http://www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org>  
 We also have a web newsletter.

**Cemetery Location:**  
 US Hwy 65 North of I-44 at Valley  
 Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

**Address all inquiries to:**  
 Robb Chandler, President  
 Union Campground Cemetery Assn.  
 4875 E. Cimarron Lane  
 Springfield, MO 65803  
 417-833-4501

**Member Information**

Phone Numbers are all "417"  
 Robb Chandler 833-4501  
 Bettie Hickman 881-5424  
 Jean Rayl 881-4456  
 Elaine Mott 886-1296  
 Larry Voris 881-1587  
 Pansy Harvey 833-2023  
 Clarence Stiver 833-1419  
 Betty Jane Turner 862-6293  
 Joanna Coonrod 881-2501  
 Don Holdway 833-9684  
 Molly Faulkner 833-4503  
 Douglas Rayl 830-2371  
 Jackie Warfel 742-3848  
 Hazel Voris 881-1587  
 Vera Chandler 833-4503  
 Ben Gravely 326-3057  
 Don Harvey 380-1515

**E-mail addresses:**

**Ben Gravely**  
 marquitagravely@windstream.net  
**Bettie Hickman**  
 b.l.hickman@worldnet.att.net  
**Betty Jane Turner**  
 bjt1617@sbcglobal.net  
**Clarence Stiver**  
 cdwe@aol.com  
**Dee Appleby**  
 deeappleby@aol.com  
**Doug Rayl**  
 firehawke7@aol.com  
**Elaine Mott**  
 emott65@mchsi.com  
**Molly Faulkner**  
 mfaulkner2001@yahoo.com  
**Robb Chandler**  
 robert.chandler@coxhealth.com  
**Hazel Voris**  
 hmvoris@sbcglobal.net  
**Larry Voris**  
 lgvoris@sbcglobal.net  
**Jackie Warfel**  
 jwarfel70@yahoo.com  
**Don Holdway**  
 fordjd@peoplepc.com  
**Don Harvey**  
 papadjh@yahoo.com  
**Cindy Davison**  
 cynjett04@yahoo.com  
**Josh Chandler**  
 ravenleaf@gmail.com

**UNION CAMPGROUND  
 CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
 TREASURERS REPORT  
 May 12, 2011  
 Spring Meeting**

Balance, October 31, 2011	\$3,668.91
Receipts:	
Total Receipts	\$ 00.00
Total Balance and Receipts	\$3,668.91
Disbursements:	
Newsletter	
Insurance	\$253.00
Bank Box	
Web Site	
Maintenance	
Total Disbursements:	\$253.00
Balance May 15, 2011	\$3,415.91

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

Total Membership 31

**A Moment in History**

**The Life of Nannie Aldrich**

Her tombstone is missing. The only information we have is from a newspaper account:

NANNIE ALDRICH  
 Death 24 Jan 1902  
 Age 29

Springfield, MO Express 25 Jan 1902. "Miss Nannie Aldrich, aged 29 years, died yesterday morning at the county alms house. The funeral will be conducted from Ely Paxson's undertaking establishment at noon today. The interment will be in the Union Camp Ground cemetery six miles northeast of the city of Springfield."

**Web Site**

Have you checked the web site lately?

[www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org](http://www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org)

Andrew has done a great job in the re-design work he did last year.

**More things to be done in the Cemetery**

The grid markers need to be painted again. I will try to make a template and use paint this time instead of a felt marker pen which didn't make it through the winter.

I have made some removable forms for the concrete bases we plan to set the stones in. Robb and I set one of these up and it looks like it will work. We worked on the fence lines for about 2 hours and got it all back in shape.

## Barbed-Wire



### Flattened single wire strand with two-point wire barb.

The average person in today's world can give very few details about the history of "wire fences."

If asked about the subject, a vague look of puzzlement emerges with perhaps a remark about seeing some old fencing on some one's farm, rolled up and abandoned. But, that old fencing could just maybe tell the story of lives lost due to flaring, violent tempers. Untold numbers of men died installing the fences and others for tearing them down.

To understand why wire fencing was invented, we need to go back to the days following the Civil War. Wooden fencing had been the popular raw material for fences along the Atlantic Coast and in the South, but in the Midwest and Southwest, conditions made wooden fences impractical. As families migrated to the Plains, they found some trees, some loose stones and some water, but none of the three in abundance. Settlers soon discovered that more acreage would be required "than back home." They had to find something to provide protection against wild animals as well as those first settlers called American Cowmen, who had originally settled in

the Plains country. Their presence pre-dated the Civil War.

The Cowmen held settlers with contempt. They kept their distance but were always aware of what the farmers were doing

As feelings of apprehension grew, farmers realized they had to protect their crops from wandering herds as well as the cowmen. Thus the need for some type of sturdy fencing.

In the 1870's patented fencing became popular in the State of Illinois, and by 1874 the number had grown rapidly. Untold inventors obtained patents on different versions of barbed-wire but the exact number remains unknown. Smooth wire was used at first but it was not successful. Barbs were added later and this appeared to be the answer. Early barbed-wire used to control livestock inflicted injury, but designs were modified and became less cruel.

Barbed-wire was important tool during World War I and has remained useful in succeeding wars. The wire used by the military is usually a heavier gauge and the barbs are stronger.

#### Note:

People who observed the early days of barbed wire fencing are no longer with us. Fencing is vanishing every day as modern highways, malls and other construction take their toll.

We owe thanks to those collectors of barbed-wire who have found and preserved this small but important piece of American history.

Prepared by: *Jean Gaffga Rayl*

Resource: The Wire That Fenced the West by Henry D. and Frances T. McCallum (1965)

**Editors note:** Barbed-wire in this part of the country isn't dead yet. We need to have a fence around our cemetery. It needs to be 5 wire and the 4-point variety to keep the neighbors' cows out of the cemetery. The deer just jump over and do what they want to do. My brother is building a one mile stretch of new 6-wire, 4-barbed fence along one of his property lines. Many of you remember that they used cedar and hedge for posts. We still use hedge for corner post and braces. Most of the line post are metal "T" post as they are called. Now they will use a hedge post about every fourth post. Cows seem to push against the fence and eventually the whole fence line will be standing at an angle. The grass is always greener on the other side and a cow will put her head through the fence to get at a blade of green grass.

Now we are seeing the White plastic fences around the fancy homesteads with horse farms. It doesn't cut the horses and is impressive looking.

# THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER

Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec'y  
2340 S. Luster  
Springfield, MO 65804



## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 18, Issue 1, No 34  
Spring 2011



### PAY YOUR DUES NOW

*Dues are \$15.00 per single person or \$25.00 for any two persons. Your support will help pay the cost of preparing and mailing the newsletter and for cleanup activities at the cemetery.*

*Dues will be payable at the meeting or mail a check to:  
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer  
Union Campground Cemetery  
Assn  
3822 E. State Hwy AA  
Springfield, MO 65803*

**PLAN ON BEING AT THE MEETING THIS YEAR. WE NEED YOU AND YOUR INPUT.**

### Cemetery Tour

As of now I am planning to have a golf cart available at the Cemetery in the afternoon after our annual meeting to escort people down to the cemetery that can't walk that far. We will have lawn chairs there too. We have a couple of workdays planned before the annual meet date. I think you will find that this is the best the cemetery has looked in many years. We came through this last winter with out much damage and this has allowed us to proceed with our restoration project. I would like to get this all done if possible this year so we can move on to just the up-keep. It will take a lot of work but it is possible.

Larry

### Note To All Members

Keep me updated on your e-mail address. This is a quick and easy way to communicate with each of you. Besides it is cheaper than sending mail.

### Past Newsletters

I think that all past newsletters have been up loaded to the web site. You can read them there. If you want a copy on a CD let me know and I will copy one off for you. I also need to know if you can download programs in pdf format. There will be a minimal charge for this service. You can also furnish a flash drive if you have one