
❖ THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER ❖

A publication of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

Volume 19 Issue 1 No 36

Cemetery Established 1840

Spring 2012

Message from our Prez

Greetings! I hope you have had a great few months since our last newsletter, and that this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the beautiful weather and flowers we have been blessed with this Spring. I have been enjoying the weather and flowers just fine, but recently had surgery on my right foot. Consequently, I haven't really been well enough lately to truly be enjoying the weather as much as I would like to have been. I am to be 100% non-weight bearing a total of four weeks, and since the surgery was May 3 that will allow me to be partial weight bearing on my right foot just in time for our annual meeting, which I will tell you about next.

For a variety of reasons we have changed things up a bit for this year's annual meeting. The annual meeting will still be held the first Saturday of June, on June 2nd, from 11:30am to 1:30pm, but at the Shoney's restaurant at North Glenstone and I-44. We have the meeting room there reserved for the entire two hour period, and plan to meet and begin our meal at 11:30am. The business portion of our meeting will commence at Noon. Feel free to join us for only the business meeting if you prefer to eat elsewhere. Once our business session is completed and everyone is done eating and socializing, those that want to can proceed easily to the cemetery to view the progress made this past year.

Once again, Larry, Hazel, Doug, and I have done the lion's share of the work in the cemetery this year, with most of the effort devoted to removal of downed limbs, spraying herbicide, mowing, and placement of more of the unknown grave markers. There is still work to be done in this regard, but the cemetery is looking just about as good as it ever has, and is relatively easy to walk through at this time. Note - the mild winter has

"endowed" the countryside with an overabundance of insects, and spraying yourself with insect repellent to protect yourself from ticks and chiggers is highly recommended prior to venturing "off road".

It is my sincere hope that you are able to join us for the Union Campground Cemetery Association annual meeting this year, and that you may be able to visit the cemetery as well. We are all sad that we have lost some of our members these past years, but let's use this opportunity to have our meeting as a chance to be together and celebrate those who have gone on before, whether or not they are buried at Union Campground Cemetery. Take care, God bless you, and hope to see you at the June meeting!

Robb

ANNUAL MEETING

June 2, 2012

Eat at 11:30 AM

Order from Menu

Business Meeting at

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Shoney's Restaurant

2731 N Glenstone

**Cemetery Tour following
meeting, weather permitting
Will have golf carts for
Transportation**

In Memorial

Vera Kathleen (Price) Chandler

Vera died on December 29, 2011 at the age of 93 at Cox Medical Center following a brief illness. She was born July 2, 1918 in Springfield, MO and lived in Greene County all her life.

Vera's husband, Jerry, preceded

her in 1974. She is survived two daughters, Becky Aldridge of Mesa, AZ and Molly Faulkner of Springfield, MO; one son, Robb Chandler of Springfield; three grandsons, John Aldridge, Joe Aldridge and Josh Chandler. One brother Don Price of Ozark, MO.

Vera was a member of National Heights Baptist Church in Springfield for the last ten years. Prior to that she was a member of Liberty Baptist Church, Pleasant Home Baptist Church and East Avenue Baptist (now known as National Heights Baptist Church) where she was baptized as a child.

She enjoyed her many friends from the Springfield Ladies' Saturday Club, the Springfield Opera Guild, the Gray/Campbell Farmstead, DAR and the Union Campground Cemetery Association & the Greene Co Historical Society.

The funeral arrangements were under the direction of Klinger-Cope Funeral Home and the funeral services were held in the sanctuary of National Heights Church at 3:00 P.M. on January 1, 2012. Internment was at Mt Comfort Cemetery (Near Fellows Lake) at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday January 3.

Vera's knowledge of the families who lived and living in the Valley Water Mill area proved to be invaluable during these past years of research relating to Union Campground Cemetery. She enabled us to contact living descendants buried in the cemetery, providing many stories and incidents of bygone days. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

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:
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

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Cindy Davison
 cynjeff04@yahoo.com
Josh Chandler
 ravenleaf@gmail.com
Pansy Harvey
 pansyharvey01@gmail.com

CEMETERY WORK

I have mowed twice so far this year. First to scatter the leaves and then mow the grass/weeds. Doug, Hazel, Michael and I worked a couple of days in early March to mow leaves and pick up rocks and brush. I did see a few more stumps. We did remove a couple of dead trees. There are a couple more dead trees that need to be removed. We have burned leaves 3 times this year. Hazel and I went out the 2nd week of May and burned leaves down in the valley will try to mow again this week and again the week of the meeting. We did drive stakes where we had marked graves with the flags. If any of you have any time to

work, please call me and we will arrange time to work with you.

Web Site

Have you checked the web site lately?
www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org
 Andrew has done a great job in the re-design work he did last year.

UNION CAMPGROUND
 CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
 TREASURERS REPORT

Nov 16, 2011
 Fall Meeting

Balance, June 4, 2011	\$3,415.91
Receipts:	
Donations	\$60.00
Dues	490.00
Sign Rental	150.00
Memorial	290.00
Total Receipts	\$ 990.00

Total Balance and Receipts
 \$4,405.91

Disbursements:	
Bank Box	\$20.00
Maintenance	\$826.41
Insurance	\$253.00
Total Disbursements:	\$1,099.41

Balance May 14, 2012 \$3,306.50

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

Total Membership 33 5-14-2012

A Moment in History

The Life of J.E. Davis

Who was this young man?

A weathered, uneven stone gives only a few clues. As with so many tombstones in Union Campground Cemetery, the lettering has almost disappeared. The birth date is legible as December 10, 1921, but his death date is in question. The Month of September emerges but the exact day of death could be the 9th and year 1843. However, this uncertain.

The Greene County Archives does not have a federal census for 1840 and a check of the 1850 census only reveals a James Davis, age 33, and married in Kentucky.

If the death date on the tombstone is 1853 instead of 1843, then this could possibly be J.E. Davis.

Below the lettering on his tombstone is this epitaph:

*Remember as You Pass By
As You Now Are So Once
Was I, Now You Must Be
Prepared for Death, Follow
Me.*

In April 1997, as Dan Price (a member of our Association) was looking over the photographs of tombstones in our cemetery, he said his mother used to sing a song as she passed tombstones in a cemetery. These were the words she sang:

*Remember friend,
as you pass by,
As you now are,
so once was I.
As I now am,
you soon may be,
Remember, Friend,
remember me.*

By Jean Gaffga Rayl



The Covered Wagon

The massive westward movement occurred in the 1800s. Many pioneer families made the perilous journey by covered wagon, often called "prairie schooners." Every inch of space was utilized as the wagon would serve as living quarters for perhaps six months. The approximate 10-1/2' x 4' wide wagon was outfitted more for utility reasons than for comfort. The wagon was made of wood, covered with canvas, and was pulled by oxen. Tools, clothing, food, cooking utensils, bedding, water barrel, plus other items, were carefully selected. It was usually the women who estimated the amount of food required for each person. The men took care of the livestock and construction of the wagon. Attention to detail could and might make the difference between a safe journey and one fraught with disaster.

It is difficult today to imagine the health problems, the anxiety of what tomorrow might bring, the constant discomfort of living conditions, plus the danger from wild animals. And, there was always the possibility that fresh water would be scarce or unavailable.

To illustrate how death could occur along the trail, a story or legend is recorded in the history of Mt. Comfort Church, north of Springfield, MO

"A flat stone with only the words 'Little Stranger' marks a tiny, decorated grave. Legend holds that travelers passing through the country by wagon train had a child who became very ill and died. The name of the child is unknown and at first a rock was put at the head of the grave. Later, a benefactor replaced the rock with a traditional marble tombstone."

Think how difficult it must have been for family members to move on leaving a lonely grave by the side of the road, knowing they would never visit the grave again.

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

A DEA officer stopped at a ranch in Texas, and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, he needed to inspect his ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher said, "Okay, but don't go in that field over there.....", as he pointed out a distant location.

The DEA officer verbally exploded, saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!"

Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher.

"See this badge?! This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... on ANY land!! No questions asked or answers given!! Have I made myself clear..... do you understand???"

The rancher nodded politely, apologized, and went about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams, looked up and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by the rancher's enormous Santa Gertrudis bull....With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that the officer would be gruesomely gored before he reached safety. The man was clearly terrified.

The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs.....

"Your badge..... show him your BADGE!!"

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

June 2, 2012. First Saturday in June.

This
space
was
Supposed
To
be
For
another
Article.
Did
You
forget
To
Send
It?

We spent more for maintenance this year than any year in the past. But we did a lot of work.

When I can use a riding lawn mower over the cemetery, that is good. Thanks for all your support.

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.