

◆ THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER ◆

A publication of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

Volume 19 Issue 2 No 37

Cemetery Established 1840

Fall 2012

FALL MEETING:
Friday, Dec. 7, 2012
Houlihan's Restaurant
2110 E. Republic Road
Springfield, MO
Eat at 6:00 PM
(Order from Menu)
Business Meeting from
6:30 PM until ????????

Message from the President:

We are already approaching six months from our last meeting, which I find hard to believe. I hope you have been well these past few months, and are able to join us at the Fall Meeting. After discussion between some of the board members it was decided to try a new location for our meeting, this time in the south part of Springfield. If you can't join us for the meal at 6:00 pm please try to join us for the meeting at about 6:30pm. It will certainly be good to see our friends from the cemetery association again, to get caught up on what has been going on with everyone, to be able to discuss what has been done in the cemetery this Summer and Fall, and to discuss what we plan to do in the months ahead. To briefly catch you up on recent events cleaning of many of the old stones has

been done, and one broken stone has been successfully repaired. Plans for what to do next will be a major part of the discussion at this meeting, so come to the meeting to share your ideas, or call me with them and I will share your thoughts for you with those present. If you cannot join us for the meeting I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and new year, and we will hope to see you at the annual meeting next June. Take care, and God bless you, Robb

A Moment in History

This column is usually devoted to a history of someone known to be buried in Union Campground Cemetery. An exception is made in this newsletter in order to give some information about the possible burial of William C. Layton.

An e-mail was received last summer from Gerald Lyon of Westland, Michigan. He wanted to know if William C Layton was buried in Union Campground Cemetery. This young man fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and was later buried in Union Cemetery.

Realizing this could mean the Union side of the National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri, contact was made to the superintendent of the facility, and upon searching their records, he could only find the name of William J. Layton of Arkansas.

Mr. Lyon's family has an old, handwritten letter stating that William C. Layton is buried in Union

Cemetery. No death date was given. The letter has been misplaced and the family is conducting a search.

Since William Layton property near the Jeffries and Ellison families (and not too far distant from the Union Campground), It is entirely possible that the family had him buried in the nearest graveyard. Stories from different families in the area have often mentioned that soldiers are said to be buried on the hill above the Little Sac River.

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

We have come a long way in the last few years on cleaning and working in the cemetery. Hazel and I have been directly involved since the spring of 2005. It has been a challenge from the first day we went down and tried to get into the cemetery. A boy scout troop had cut a path down to the SW corner of the cemetery a few years earlier and this was a big help. It was a jungle in there. It was like searching for the unknown. Jim & Jean Rayl and family had worked hard in the 1990's and did a lot of the foot work on finding graves and the initial cleaning. After Jim died there wasn't much done until 2005. You can hardly believe how things grow up again in 6-8 years. We had another scout troop do a lot for the cemetery. Now we have a class from MSU cleaning and working on the head stones. We have had a lot of help and support from the members of the Cemetery Assoc. There are many things we need to do. What is next?

Larry

OFFICERS 2010-11

Robb Chandler, President	2013
Bettie Hickman, 1st V- Pres.	2013
Jean Rayl, 2nd Vice Pres.	2013
Elaine Mott, Secretary	2013
Larry Voris, Corres Sec'y	2013
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer	2013

Directors

Douglas Rayl	2013
Hazel Voris	2013
Jackie Warfel	2013
Clarence Stiver	2014
Betty Jane Turner	2014
Ben Gravely	2014
Joanna Coonrod	2015
Molly Faulkner	2015
Don Harvey	2015

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"

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Jean Rayl	881-4456
Elaine Mott	886-1296
Larry Voris	840-4418
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
Ben Gravely	326-3057
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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 saw a few more stumps. We did remove a couple of dead trees. There are four 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.

Update on cemetery work. Doug, Hazel & Larry went out and raked leaves and brush in June. We did the center section and it really made a difference. We uncovered stones and markers we hadn't seen for a while. This needs to be done on a yearly basis. We would rake the trash in a row and then burn as we went along. This seemed to work better than hauling leaves to the brush pile down on the north end. The MSU class started work on the stone in late August under the direction of Dr Billie Follensbee. They had 2 Tuesday afternoons in Sept with a full class of on hands project.

UNION CAMPGROUND
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
TREASURERS REPORT

Oct 21, 2012
Fall Meeting

Balance, April 24, 2012	\$3,306.50
Receipts:	
Donations	\$85.00
Dues	345.00
Sign Rental	250.00
Total Receipts	\$ 680.00

Total Balance and Receipts
\$3,986.50

Disbursements:	
Bank Box	\$20.00
Insurance	\$30.25
Total Disbursements:	\$50.25

Balance Oct 21, 2012 \$3,936.25

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

Note: The insurance figure is for added liability for the MSU group to work at the cemetery.

Volunteers

by Jean Gaffga Rayl

One day last summer, a young woman by the name of Professor Billie A Follensbee, visited the cemetery with her husband. The professor had been told by a former student about our cemetery and that we might be appreciative of volunteer help. Professor Follensbee teaches in the Department of Art and Design, College of Arts and Letters at Missouri State University Springfield. She has had training and experience in the field of tombstone restoration.

Contact was made with our President Robb Chandler and along with Hazel & Larry Voris they met the professor at the cemetery. They discussed the possibility of one of her classes helping in the cleaning and repair of tombstones. This was brought before our board of directors and approval was granted for this work to begin.

On the first visit early in September, before the class divided to work in different sections of the cemetery, Larry Voris presented a few facts about the physical aspects of the cemetery. On the second visit, Jean Rayl gave a brief history of the cemetery, stressing the many years of research.

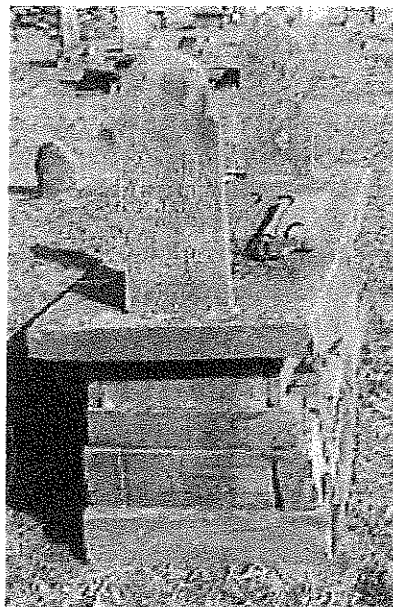
The first visit, 15-20 stones were cleaned, and incomplete wrought iron fence enclosure was raked and probed, and a possible tombstone discovered underneath the soil. On the second visit, an attempt was made to repair broken tombstones cleaned on the previous visit, and two tombstones were reset. An exact count is not available, but somewhere between 10-14 stones were glued back to-

gether with epoxy and stabilized with duct tape. Another visit was made later to see if the epoxy effectively did its job and the tape was removed to check for stability. This epoxy glue worked on one stone.

Two gravestones were reset in a bed of paver sand and pea gravel near the Thomas Patterson Ellison grave. It is called temporary resetting because the stone can easily be pulled and removed, if desired.

It is clear that there were table-top tombs in the Union Campground Cemetery. A large pile of table-top slabs are in one part of the cemetery. One owner of the adjoining farm now deceased, used his tractor to scoop up stones in order for his cattle to roam the graze.

Stone-table burials are rather unique in Southwest Missouri. This style of tombstone originated in New England around the 1700's but it could have been as early as the late 1600's. A photograph below depicts one such tombstone.



We feel fortunate to have these university students interested in our cemetery. They seem to realize the importance of restoring an important piece of Greene County history.

The class is offered every two years, and we hope Professor Follensbee will bring another group of students in 2014.

To show appreciation to the students and the professor, the association held a pizza party. This was a popular event for all.

Note #1: There is another grave in our cemetery (Fanny Sims, known as the widow Sims), that could possibly be a stone-table burial. She was listed in the 1840 census of Greene county, MO, as born in Tennessee and was 60-70 years old. An article on Fanny Sims appeared in the August 1997 edition of the Union Campground newsletter.

The "Widow" Sims

By Larry Voris

Fanny Sims may be my only connection to the Union Campground Cemetery and it is only on a string. She was the mother-in-law to my 3rd Gr Grand Uncle John Headlee who married Mary S "Polly" Sims, daughter of Fanny and Briggs Sims. John was a brother to my 3rd Gr-grandfather Caleb Headlee buried at Old Salem. Fanny "Widow" Sims came to the area with her dau Polly & son-in-law John Headlee in 1832 after her husband Briggs died in TN. John & Polly Headlee are both buried at Mt Comfort Cemetery. They had 2 dau. Several Headlees came to the area in about the same time period.

As read earlier this must be in section E-6, plot #5. There evidence of a stone box grave in this area.

THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fall 2012



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 NEXT YEAR. WE NEED YOU AND YOUR INPUT.

First Saturday in June. Place to be announced. Remember June 1, 2013.

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

When we can use a riding lawn mower over the cemetery, that is good. We have used wooden stakes to mark several graves where there may be a rock or something that indicates a grave may be at that spot. The leaves are falling now and it won't be long until it will be fully covered and we can't see the stones. This last year we used the riding mower to mulch the leaves and went in later and raked and burned the leaves. Yes, we did hit a few of the hidden stones in the leaf cover. If we can start in March or earlier depending on weather, I would like to rake the leaves and burn before we use the mower. I did not spray this year. We need to go out and "Dowse" or use the witching sticks again and mark with wooden stakes. 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.