

UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY NEWSLETTER

Vol 21, Issue 1, No 40

A publication of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

Spring 2014

**Union Campground Cemetery
Association Annual Meeting
11am, Saturday, May 31, 2014
Golden Corral Restaurant
2734 N. Kansas Expressway
(Across from the Wal-Mart
Supercenter at Kansas & I-44)**

Message from the President:

Its already time for the annual meeting, which seems hard to believe. Please refer to the specifics above for the time and location, and we certainly hope you will be able to join us. We always have some good fellowship (and good food) as we conduct the business of the cemetery association. Afterward, weather permitting, we will have tours of the cemetery. (Larry Voris plans to have a golf cart there to help transport folks up and down the hill between Valley Watermill Road and the Union Campground Cemetery.)

Last Fall we met with Dr Steve Illum and his class from MSU at the Ozarks Genealogical Society Library to discuss genealogy and our work at the cemetery. (Our plans to meet with them at the cemetery were changed due to the cold weather and snow that had moved into the area.)

We anticipate this Fall again having Professor Billie Follensbee and her class from MSU at the cemetery helping with restoration and preservation. They did a great job last time, and we look forward to their help and expertise again this year.

Please be sure to read all the articles in the newsletter to learn about the other work that has gone on these last few months, and if you

can, please join us for the meeting. If not, we hope to see you soon.

Take care, and God bless you!

Robb Chandler, President

Cemetery Maintenance Notes Larry Voris

Last fall was the last time there has been any maintenance done at the cemetery. It seems that every time I think about work or visiting the cemetery something comes up. I am sitting here in front of the computer looking out the window watching it rain the grass growing. I remember we went to the cemetery in the mid 1990's to a work day. Jim and Jean had a path from the northwest gate up to the McMurry enclosure. We had a picnic on the grounds. That was probably 18 -19 years ago. Jim & Jean and the Gaffga's and several others did a lot of work up until the time of Jim's death. So from 1998 until 2005 the brush and trees just kept on growing. When Hazel and I retired in 2005, the cemetery was a project we took on. The first time we went out to work we started at the southwest corner because the state highway department stopped us from parking on the new 4-lane highway. You couldn't walk through the brush. We had several work days during 2005 & 2006. Doug, Robb, Don, Ben, Larry and Hazel and others did a lot of work. We rented a walk behind "Billy Goat" which is a 30 inch "brush hog". Doug and I mowed the cemetery 3 times with this machine. Ben and his chain saw kept me busy with the tractor and loader pushing dead trees and brush down to the north end into the big gully. By the end of 2006 we all had made a big improvement in the appearance of the cemetery. I was well pleased with the progress everyone had done. I think we even

I was looking forward to starting with the new unmarked head stones and trying to finish the project. "BUT" you all remember January 10th of 2007. We were in Texas & Florida for the winter and missed all the ice fun you all had. We got home 60 days later and the first thing we did was to go to the cemetery. All the work we had done the last year had been destroyed. We couldn't even get down the path. When we finally did get into the cemetery, Hazel & I stood there and just about cried. All the work everyone had done was destroyed. You know it was fun the first time around but hasn't been fun the second time. Ben Gravely, Doug, Hazel & I spent several days and weeks cleaning up after the storm. We also have had 2 boy Scout troops and a couple of college classes help. Ryan's Tree service topped the broken limbs in the trees. It has been a joint effort. We also have filled sunken graves and started with the headstone repairs. I found out last fall that a good leaf blower and a match was a good way to get rid of the leaves.

We need another 3-4 days of cleaning this spring if possible.

Notes from Cynthia Davison

Cynthia has been visiting the library this winter and has come up with some data on burials. I have turned all this over to Jean and Hazel to check out.

OFFICERS 2013-2014

Robb Chandler, President 2014
 Bettie Hickman, 1st V-Pres 2014
 Jean Rayl, 2nd V-Pres 2014
 Elaine Mott, Secretary 2014
 Larry Voris, Corres Sec'y 2014
 Pansy Harvey, Treasurer 2014

DIRECTORS

Doug 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

Josh Dilsaver, Webmaster
www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org

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

Address all inquires 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 840-4418
 Pansy Harvey 350-8089
 Clarence Stiver 833-1419
 Betty Jane Turner 862-6293
 Joanna Coonrod 881-2501
 Don Holdway 838-3080
 Molly Faulkner 833-4503
 Doug Rayl 830-2371
 Jackie Warfel 742-3848
 Hazel Voris 881-1587
 Ben Gravely 326-3057
 Don Harvey 380-1515

E-mail addresses:

Ben Gravely:
marquitagravely@windstream.net
Bettie Heckman:
b.i.hickman@att.net
Clarence Stiver:
cdwe@aol.com
Dee Appleby:
deeaappleby@aol.com
Betty Jane Turner:
bjt1617@sbcglobal.net
Doug Rayl:
firehawke7@yahoo.com
Jean Rayl:
jeancrayl@yahoo.com
Elaine Mott:
emott65@mchsi.com
Molly Faulkner:
mfaulkner2001@yahoo.com
Robb Chandler, Home:
Robb.chandler57@yahoo.com
Robb Chandler, Office:
Robert.chandler@coxhealth.com
Hazel Voris:
hmvoris@sbcglobal.net
Larry Voris:
lgvoris@sbcglobal.net
Jackie Warfel:
jwarfel70@yahoo.com
Don Holdway:
fordjd.mm@gmail.com
Don Harvey:
papadjh@yahoo.com
Cindy Davison:
cynjeff04@yahoo.com
Josh Chandler:
ravenleaf@gmail.com
Pansy Harvey:
pasharvey01@gmail.com
Robert Thomas:
thornt@cox.net

Union Campground Cemetery Assn
 Treasurers Report
 May 12, 2014

Balance Nov 15, 2014 \$4,076.82

Receipts:

Donation	\$65.00	
Dues	<u>160.00</u>	
Total		<u>225.00</u>
		\$4,301.82

Disbursements:

Insurance	301.00	
Maintenance	<u>88.95</u>	
Total		<u>389.95</u>

Balance May 12, 2014 \$3,911.87

Signed: *Pansy Harvey, Treas*

Membership: 28

A Moment In History
The Life of James P Lester

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

He was a young man of 21 years buried in Union Campground Cemetery. Cause of his death is unknown.

The years have not been kind to his tombstone, one that originally stood upright with some type of design carved into the stone. Now, the stone is broken into two sections, whether from vandalism, the element or grazing cattle, and the inscriptions erased by forces of nature.

Records in the Greene County, Missouri Archives show his name on an 1860 census. He was 12 years old at the time. Below is a listing of family names:

Joseph Lester (father of James P. Lester) at 38 years old, engaged in farming, born in Tennessee.

Elizabeth, his wife, 32 years old, born in Kentucky.

James, a son, 12 years old, born in Tennessee.

Juanita? A daughter, 10 years old, born in Tennessee.

Leonardo, (or Leonard) a son, 6 years old, born in Missouri.

Josephine? A daughter, 1 year old, born in Missouri.

A certificate of Death from the Missouri State Board of Health, shows another son, George W. Lester, born June? 29, 1861.

No marriage license found for James P Lester and no ownership of land. A discolored footstone was discovered in the same are as his tombstone and bears the initials J.P.L.

THE SPRING HOUSE

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

A source of water was critical when a pioneer family decided to settle on a tract of land, and when a natural fresh water spring was discovered, it often determined the site for the homestead. The spring was usually down hill from the main house, and if there was enough flow to keep a pool full, it was considered adequate to supply water for both household and farm use.

The spring water was always cold (58 degrees) and it was soon realized that if you could contain that temperature, foods could be kept fresh for several days. But, how could this be done?

Necessity seems to always create solutions, and it was not long before the idea of a small covered structure built over the spring would solve the problem. The idea proved successful. Logs were used for the main housing and sand stone provided a foundation. It did not take long, however, for the logs to rot, so another more sturdy house would take its place. This one, with thick stone walls, provided a better cooling system. The new structure not only kept animals away but also afforded protection from the weather. Perhaps later, a farmer would add shelving to provide more storage space.

Stories abound about how women and children carried buckets of water uphill, perhaps several times a day, in order to provide enough water for daily living.

It is interesting to read or hear how laundry was sometimes done at the spring house. If the area surrounding the house tended to be a cool, shady place to sit, then this was the place to be on a hot summer day.

With the advent of electricity and refrigeration, use of the spring house gradually ceased. Deterioration did not take long to destroy this once, necessary part of our heritage. It is a rare thing, indeed, to find one intact as we view the rural landscape.

Note: The water table in Greene County, Missouri has dropped considerably these past decades and many springs have disappeared.

Editors notes: I was raised on Hominy Creek north of Schofield which ran through our farm. It was my job to go out in the afternoon and get the cows. We had several springs along the creek. There was one in particular that was about 6 inches above the water level of the creek. I would stop and clean the pretty white sand and come back after getting the cows started towards the barn. I would get down and drink the cold water.

Another time we were down the creek maybe a 1/4 mile from the house in the dead of winter cutting wood and the creek was froze over. I complained to dad that I was thirsty. He told me to take the ax and cut a hole in the ice and get a drink. I did and that was the best cold water I had tasted. Would I do that today? Probably not. We didn't think anything about the safety of drinking water then. The creek ran year around. I go down there today and there isn't any water in the creek. The government stopped us from removing gravel from the creeks several years ago and all the water holes have filled up with gravel now.

THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER

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*

Spring House

This is a picture of a stone built spring house

