

# ◆ THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER ◆

A publication of the Union Campground Cemetery Association

Volume 2 Issue 13

Cemetery Established in 1840

Spring 2001

## **Annual Meeting NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2001 at the Chandler Farm 11:30A.M.**

We will once again gather on the historic Chandler farm for our picnic and to catch up on what has happened in the lives of our families during the past year. We invite you to join us as we celebrate the past, enjoy the present and anticipate the future.

The meat, iced tea, lemonade, coffee and picnic supplies will be provided; all you have to do is to bring a covered dish of your choice.

Members of the board of directors should come around 10:00 A.M. for a short business meeting.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TRUSTEES INVOLVED IN THE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR UNION CAMPGROUND**

History tells us that by the 1840s the Cumberland Presbyterian movement had swept through Southwest Missouri territory. The settlers in this isolated region were receptive to hearing the message brought by the Presbyterian faith and families began to gather in homes to worship whenever a preacher was in the neighborhood. It did not take long for individual congregations to become organized and campgrounds to be established.

Certain trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church evidently decided sometime during 1839/40 that a campground was needed. Land was purchased (39.6 acres) in September 1840 from Joseph T. and Lucinda Morton. A graveyard became necessary that same month, as extensive research has revealed that Thomas Patterson Ellison died

on 23 Sept 1840, thus creating a need for a burial ground. The indenture for the land transaction included the names of C. C. Williamson, Horace Snow, Josiah Danforth, William Dysart and Alexander Younger.

Following the Civil War, in the Year 1866, all the acreage was sold with the exception of the three acre graveyard. Trustees named at the time of the sale were: C. C. Williamson, R. J. Sims, W. P. Dysart and James Harkness.

From old records we learn that at least two of the above were circuit riders or itinerant ministers, and one other was sent into the full-time ministry through the Mt. Comfort congregation. Perhaps all these men had ties to the Mt. Comfort Church, located some five miles north of Union Campground Cemetery. It is of particular interest today to discover all we can about these dedicated men and include our findings in the on-going history of Union Campground and Cemetery. Although their voices were stilled long ago, it is important to remember them and gain a little more knowledge about their everyday lives and activities.

### **C.C. WILLIAMSON**

Holcombe's History of Greene County. p. 896, tells us that "about 1835 C.C. Williamson came from Kentucky and settled on Sec. 29 in Franklin Township."

Michael Fare, Historian of the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO., presents the possibility that "C.C." might have stood for Columbus C. as the 1840 census shows a Columbus Williamson. This census lists two adults between the ages of 20-30 and two males under 5 years of age.

Census information of 1850

shows

C.C. Williamson, age 38, born in Kentucky, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister; Caroline Williamson, age 38, born in Kentucky; Dawson S. Williamson, age 8, born in Missouri; Martin L. Williamson, age 3, born in Missouri; and Eliza M. Williamson, age 5 months, born in Missouri.

Histories and Families of Wright County, MO. Vol. 2, p. 23, gives an account of circuit riding ministers, saying..."Circuit riding ministers held services on the third Sunday of each month, weddings and funerals being held when needed. Campground meetings were held with people coming in wagons prepared to come out for the duration, sometimes for two or three weeks." The article goes on to mention that one of the early ministers was C.C. Williamson.

Presbterism in the Ozarks. p. 336, relates..."C.C. Williamson appears as moderator of the session from the 3rd of July 1846 to the 16th of September 1864. Doubtless his was the longest time of service of any minister who has shepherded this flock (Kickapoo Prairie Church, later Mt. Comfort Church)."

According to the "Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892, Columbus C. Williamson owned the following parcels of land: T30, R21, Sec. 20 - 40 acres Date of Sale 16 Jan 1839

T30, R21, Sec. 20 - 40 acres Date of Sale 12 Jun 1852

T30, R21, Sec. 20 -40 acres Date of Sale 25 May 1857

T30, R21, Sec. 21 -40 acres Date of Sale 26 Dec 1855

C. C. Williamson is buried in Mt. Comfort Cemetery. The words inscribed on his tombstone:

## HORACE SNOW

Genealogy of the Snow family indicates Horace Snow arrived in Greene County sometime during the period 1836-1840. The 1840 census gives his age as 40/50 years. In the 1850 census he is listed as 53 years of age, with two males in the household 10/15 years; one female under 5 years; two females 5/10 years; one female 10/15 years; one female 30/40 years. This census also shows Mr. Snow as a farmer and he emigrated from the State of Mississippi.

"The Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book." 1833-1892 shows ownership of:

T29, R21, Sec 6 - 160 acres Date of Sale 23 Sep 1839

129, R21, Sec. 6 - 39.55 acres Date of Sale 23 Sep 1839

T29, R21, Sec. 6 - 39.93 acres Date of Sale 3 Feb 1840

T30, R20, Sec. 31 - 39.62 acres Date of Sale 4 Oct 1839

The land in Township 29, Range 21, Section 6 was located in what is now known as the Fulbright Springs area.

Personal Reminiscences and Fragments of Early History of Greene County. p. 49, has this short statement: "Horace Snow settled about 4 miles northeast and was an enterprising citizen, raised a large family and died, regretted by all who knew him."

He was an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was elected as one of the first three elders of the denomination in Springfield, MO.

It is unknown when Horace Snow died or the place of his burial.

## JOSIAH F. DANFORTH

Quoting from a biography in Holcombe's History of Greene County.

"This gentleman was born in

Maryville, Blount County, TN., August 23, 1800. He was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood. On the 9th of December, 1830, he was married to Miss Letitia, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy Prather. He emigrated to Gasconade County, Missouri in September 1832, but soon after came to Greene County and purchased thirteen hundred acres of land. At that time there were only four farms in Taylor Township. He represented this district in the Legislature from 1844 until 1848 and was one of the ablest members of that body at the time. He established the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in his neighborhood and served as deacon until his death upon the 13th of August 1849 at Las Vegas, New Mexico. He had started to California to regain his health but only got as far as Las Vegas. He is buried at the American Cemetery in that city. During his life he was an earnest, devoted Christian, kind husband and loving father. He was the father of seven children, only two of whom are now living, viz. Josiah J. and Mary R."

The neighborhood church mentioned in the above paragraph was located on what later became the Danforth farm east of Springfield, MO. It was known as New Providence Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Josiah was an elder from the time it was organized in September 1837.

Another account about Josiah Danforth, on page 219, Holcombe's History of Greene County. states that he and a number of other young men left the county for California during the Gold Rush, taking the southern route through Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona, and that Josiah died on the way.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace in June 1836, as recorded in Holcombe's History. p. 175.

The 1840 census reveals that he was head of the household, 30-40 years of age, along with one male child 5-10 years; one male 20-30 years; one family under 5 years; and two females 20-30 years.

"The Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892 lists the following property:

T29,R20, Sec. 4 - 80 acres

Date of Sale 8 May 1840

129, R20, Sec. 5 - 160 acres

Date of Sale 8 May 1840

T29, R20, Sec. 5 - 160 acres Date of Sale 14 Oct 1839

T29, R20, Sec. 6 - 120 acres

Date of Sale 1 Feb 1848 & 8 May 1840

T29, R20, Sec. 8 - 160 acres Date of Sale 8 May 1840

T29, R20, Sec. 8 -40 acres Date of Sale 3 Jul 1848

## WILLIAM DYSART

William Dysart came from Bedford County, Tenn., where he attended the Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian Church. An exact date for his arrival in Greene County, MO. could not be determined, but in the historical records of Mt. Comfort Church, there is a record of the Kickapoo Prairie Church being organized, and it mentions that one of those credited with the organization was William Dysart, and he was elected to serve as a ruling elder. This occurred in 1835.

By the year 1848, according to Holcombe's History of Greene County, p.897..."Dysart and Headlee built and operated a saw mill. The mill stood near the southwest corner of the Section."

He became well-known as a buyer and trader of livestock. He also found the time to serve as an itinerant minister.

The 1850 census lists William P. Dysart, age 26, farmer from Tennessee; Mary J., age 24 from Tennessee; Rachel M. C., age 4, born in Missouri; Robert McCord, age 3 born in Missouri; Martha Ann, age 1, born in Missouri; Mary J., 3/12 years born in Missouri.

In the "Civil War Enrollment of Greene Co."(1866), p. 56, William Dysart is listed as age 44, married, 6', farmer, Greene Co., and assigned to CO. F., Reg. 12 (enrollment found in

Ozar'kin, Spring 1989).

Presbyterism in The Ozarks.

pp. 377-378: "William P. Dysart served for fifty or sixty years as an elder in the Mt. Comfort Church and was a power in personal evangelism."

"The Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892 gives this information:

T30, R21, Sec. 11 - 40 acres

Date of Sale 6 Nov. 1854

T30, R21, Sec. 12 - 80 acres

Date of Sale

T31, R21, Sec. 33 - 40 acres

Date of Sale 25 Jul 1857

T31, R21, Sec. 33 - 80 acres

Date of Sale 25 Jul 1857

His tombstone in Mt. Comfort Cemetery bears these dates;

B: 7 Mar 1822

D: 12 Oct 1903

R. J. SIMS

The Ozar'kin, Vol. XV, No. 4, Winter 1993, p. 138, states that The roster of the Pomme de Terre Cumberland Presbyterian Church (formerly Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church) shows the name of R. J. Sims serving as a minister there from Dec. 29, 1867-1873. Presbyterism in The Ozarks, p. 337, has this to say..."Among the most pleasant associations of the church are the old Pomme de Terre camp meeting grounds and the Pleasant Hope Academy. In 1867 the old shed was removed from this camp ground and placed west of the old Academy and a great revival was soon held. This was under the ministry of R. J. Sims." This same publication mentions that the eldership of the Kickapoo Prairie Church sent R. J. Sims into the ministry.

No record has been found of his burial place. "The Springfield, MO Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892 does not show ownership of property.

JAMES HARKNESS

The pages of history do not record when James Harkness first arrived in Greene County. We do know from "The Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892 that he purchased 80 acres in T30, R21, Sec. 9 on 11 Mar 1858 and 21 Oct 1854.

The 1850 census gives his age as 43, married, a farmer from South Carolina. Other members of the household were Eliza M., age 39 born in Tenn.; Mary J., age 17; Robert A., age 15; Nancy A., age 13; James N., age 10; J.C., age 6 (all born in Tennessee).

He is buried in Mt. Comfort Cemetery and these dates appear on his tombstone:

B: 10 Oct 1806

D: 10 Jan 1896

ALEXANDER YOUNGER

Holcombe's History of Greene County, p. 155, states that Alexander Younger was on of the very early settlers of the County. On page 164 of that same book, it reports that he was foreman of a grand jury empaneled the first term of Greene County Circuit Court in August 1833, Springfield, MO. He evidently lived in Bedford County, Tennessee before coming to this region, as his name is listed on the 1830 census of that county.

The Federal census of 1840 of Greene County has him as head of the household, 50-60 years of age; one female age 40-50; one female 15-20 years; one female 10-15 years; one female under 5 years; one male 10-15 years; one male 5-10 years; one male under 5 years.

"The Springfield, MO. Land Office Sales Book" 1833-1892 lists ownership of the following:

T29, R21, Sec. 2 - 160 acres

Date of Sale 1 Jul 1839

T29, R21, Sec. 2 - 80 acres

Date of Sale 23 Sep 1839

T29, R21, Sec. 11 - 40 acres

Date of Sale 26 Dec 1839

Date of death and place of Burial unknown.

These biographies were written and researched by Jean Rayl.

DUES FOR 2001-2002

Dues are payable at the annual meeting. Make your check to: Union Campground Cemetery Association in the amount of \$15 for one person or \$25 for any two persons. If you cannot attend the meeting, please mail your dues to : Mrs. Pansy Harvey, Treasurer 3822 E. State Hwy AA Springfield, MO 65803.

Other donations are also welcome and gratefully accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

**Progress Report on Campground Ingress/Egress**

Wilson Surveying Co. has conducted an assessment of acreage needed for a roadway into Union Campground Cemetery, and an appraiser has completed a report on land values in the vicinity of the cemetery. Additional information will be forth coming in a separate communication.

Jean Rayl

Sorry for the lateness of the newsletter. We had a computer problem. We crashed our harddrive and thought all files were backed up on zip disk. When I reloaded the newsletter it was another newsletter. OOPS, yea panic. I had printed off a copy to be proof read. Hazel scanned some of it back in and we retyped some.

I think maybe you need to fire the newsletter editor. Larry

**Officers**

Jean Rayl, President  
 Bettie Hickman, Vice President  
 Elaine Mott, Secretary  
 Larry Voris Corresponding Sec'y  
 Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

**Directors**

Ben Gravely	2001
Charles Dulin	2001
Vera Chandler	2001
Betty Roy	2002
Clarence Stiver	2002
Donna Stiver	2002
Betty Jane Turner	2003
Bernie Stiver	2003
Hazel Voris	2003

**Cemetery Location:**

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

**Address all inquiries to:**

Jean Rayl, President  
 Union Campground Assn  
 1853 E. Gretna  
 Springfield, MO 65804  
 417-881-4456

**Union Campground Cemetery Association****Treasurer's Report**

April 1, 2001

Balance, September 1, 2000		\$1,928.28
Receipts:		
Donations	\$25.00	
Dues	\$15.00	
Total Receipts		<u>40.00</u>
Total Balance & Receipts		\$1,968.28
Disbursements:		
Liability Insurance	\$196.00	
Service Fees	24.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>220.00</u>
Balance, April 1, 2001		\$1,748.28

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

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

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*ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

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