President’s Letter to the Membership

Another year has come and gone, and we have proof yet again that time goes by faster and faster! As you watch a clock it doesn’t seem to go that fast, but just watch the pages of a calendar. I hope that this past year has been a good one for you, and I am happy to report that we have made some progress again with the access and upkeep of our cemetery.

We’ll talk more about this at our annual meeting, but it sure is nice to see the results of the work done this Spring. Volunteers were busy using tractors (one equipped with a front end loader, the other with a brush hog), chain saws, pruning tools, and brush killer. (Not to mention a little perspiration.) I would especially like to thank Larry and Hazel Voris, and Don Holdway for their help in the process. They were very instrumental to the progress that was made thus far this year and deserve our thanks!

We have a special treat in store for those that can attend our annual membership meeting on June 3rd. I hope to see many of you at the home of Vera Chandler at 11am for the meeting, which will be followed by a covered dish lunch at Noon. We’ll have some time set aside for music, with singing of favorite hymns and some bluegrass musicians as well. If all that isn’t enough for you, how about a visit to the cemetery! We will have a specially equipped golf cart operated by Don Holdway available that day to help folks navigate the path to and from the cemetery that afternoon!

Please try to join us June 3rd for a time of fun with friends and family. Don’t hesitate to call or correspond with us if you cannot attend this time, and we will hope to see you next time!

May God bless you and keep you safe! - Robb Chandler

Work Log 2006

1. Tue. 4-18 Don Holdway & Larry Voris cleaned trail of fallen trees and started new trail on the south side of campground.
2. Fri. 4-21 Larry & Hazel started at 10:00 a.m. and worked till noon removing fallen trees and hauling them to the north draw and to the pile on west side. Larry used tractor to haul away logs and brush. Hazel surveyed the cemetery and cut brush. Rob Chandler came about 1:00 p.m. with another chains. We worked till 3:00 p.m.
3. Sat. 4-22 Larry & Hazel started about 9:00 a.m. Hazel worked on the south road and cleaned a path about 8 foot wide from the southwest entrance along the south fence to the cemetery. Larry cut brush down the west fence line and removed trees on the fence and worked around the sign. Made another wider trail for a bigger tractor to get through to the south end of the cemetery. We still need to make a better entrance at the southwest corner. We can get in with my tractor but getting out is hard. Had a picnic lunch and worked till about 1:30 p.m.
4. Fri. 4-28 Larry & Hazel and Rob started about 8:30 a.m. Robb brought his tractor and bushhog. We started on the south end. Larry would walk ahead and watch for head stones and Robb would follow with the tractor. We quit about 11:30 a.m. when the bushhog sheared a pin and it started raining harder. Robb and Larry cut a wider road on the outside to get the tractors in and out of the gate. We are still limited on the width of the chip trail on the size of tractor that can travel the area.
5. Wed 5-3 Don Holdway with his brush sprayer and Larry Voris went out and worked. Don sprayed the southeast corner as a experiment to see how effective brush killer would be on the undergrowth. As of this writing it is to early to tell.

The cemetery has a covering of a creaping vine and it is hard to walk through and you can’t see varmints in the undercover. There are many sunken grave sites that you can’t see when mowing or cleaning. The cemetery hasn’t been cleaned for 3-4 years. This is the first time we have had a tractor into the area. There many finger size saplings that the bushhog can clear, but it can’t get in and around the tombstones. This all has to be done by hand.

Following the same thought of getting rid of all the ground cover we can then see where the graves are and then can mark with some kind of marker. Then we can fill the indentations to make it easier to mow and clean.

We have talked about renting a walk behind self-propelled brush cutter. This will not be cheap but is one way of making the cleaning easier.

And remember this isn’t a one-time thing. It will have to be done 3-4 times a year to keep the growth under control. And hopefully after every cleaning we will find more head stones. It is time for another probe of the cemetery for sunken and fallen head stones.

This was the thinking of the brush killer. If we can kill the brush and undercover, we can then use a power rake to clean with and start back with a grass later. If you all don’t want to do this, then we are wasting our time.

The last time I checked the age of the membership, there are only 3 or 4 under the age of 60 and they have full time jobs. For all of us that are retired, we have the time but we can’t do the heavy manual labor. This is another reason we need to get the grounds to a point that they can be mowed with a riding mower. We need your comments and support.

Thanks
THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL

In Franklin Township, Greene County, Missouri, stands a house built around the old Whitlock School. The dwelling and grounds do not give a clue that long ago the excited voices of eager children filled the air as they responded to the sound of the school bell.

Whitlock School is mentioned in David L. Burton's book, A History of Rural Schools in Greene County, Missouri. Whitlock School is #39 on the list of rural schools and has this description:

"Southwest corner of Highway AA and Farm Road 183. Effective January 1951 became part of Pleasant View R-1. Reorganized into Springfield District R-12, April 1968."

"District purchased walnut chairs for the students in 1939. School photo that year shows the students seated in those post-depression chairs."

Irene Law, mother of Pansy Harvey, Bernie Stiver and Margaret Bredeman, taught at Whitlock School from 1915-1920. She kept a journal during her teaching years, and the family has graciously allowed us to publish a few of her reminiscences.

"Whitlock School was a large one room schoolhouse that held about eighty pupils. There were two outdoor toilets on the playground. The boys’ toilet was north and the girls’ toilet was south of the school. A good well with a pump in it was in front of the school. The playground was about two square acres. A wooded area was across the road. Some of the children kept their horses in sheds built by their parents. These children had a long way to come to school."

"In the building there were four windows toward the back of the room on each side. There was a blackboard across the front and down each side to the windows. A large wood heating stove was in the center of the room. Four rows of double seats were on each side of the stove. A row of hooks was across the back of the room to hang the wraps on. Shelves were in each corner to put lunches on. The teacher’s desk was in the front of the room."

"This school year (1915) I stayed in a home near the school and walked one-half mile a day to and from school. We had about 75 pupils enrolled."

In Irene’s journal she included copies of “Teacher’s Term Reports” where she recorded the number of pupils every school year. The number varied from 67 per year to as many as 78. She described a pie supper one fall where every pie was sold and $100 was collected, and with the money a teacher’s desk and chair were purchased. Another fall season a school fair took place in the district with schools participating. Its purpose was to create more interest in nature study and agriculture. Spelling matches were popular with the students and parents. Every year there would be a Christmas program with a Christmas tree and people would place gifts on and around the tree.

Irene had previously taught at Bellview School and in general described some of her duties. She (and perhaps a student) would build a fire by using dry corn cobs, kindling and coal oil. The damper on the stove would have to be regulated throughout the day. She had to sweep the floor and dust everything in the room.

Today, 91 years later, it is interesting to see how things have changed! Take a look at the article below.

Rules for 1915 Schoolteachers

- You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- You are not to keep company with men.
- You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
- You may not loiter down town in the ice cream stores.
- You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have permission of the chairman of the board.
- You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or your brother.
- You may not smoke cigarettes.
- You may not dress in bright colors.

- You may not dress in bright colors.
- You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
- You must wear at least two petticoats.
- Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- To keep the schoolroom clean, you must sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

These rules appeared in the 1915 teachers’ magazine and more recently in a publication called “Buckeye Farm News.” The Gray/Campbell Newsletter (of Greene County, Missouri) reprinted it and now it is presented to our readers.

Prepared by: Jean Rayl

Hazel Voris has about burned her computer up the last few weeks after finding out that the state of Missouri has a new program on the internet. Starting in 1910 up through 1955, you can find death certificates on-line. Some you can print off and some you have to order. 1910 to 1920 you can actually view these on-line and print them off. From 1921 through about 1955 you can order them by mail at a cost of $1.00 each.

She has found 1 new burial in the Union Campground Cemetery.

Add this name to your UCC Book

Clotealis Bedell died April 17, 1912. She was 18 years old and daughter of Julia Bedell. Father’s name unknown.

Clotealis Bedell was born Sep. 1894. She was living in the household of Julia Bedell and 3 other siblings, in 1900 census of Greene County, MO. Nathan and Mary Bedell (who have stones in UCC) had a daughter named Julia, age 4, in the 1870 Greene Co MO Census.

If Julia is their daughter, this girl would be Nathan & Mary’s granddaughter and is probably buried close to their graves in the west central section of the cemetery.
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

A MOMENT IN HISTORY
George & Sarah Gimlin
Prepared by Jean Rayl

There are those who ask, "Why be interested in a rundown, neglected, forgotten cemetery? Why not just forget it and move on to other things?"

The answer: It is our heritage; the people buried in Union Campground Cemetery helped build our community; they worked from dawn to dusk to pave the way for us, often under harsh and inhospitable conditions. The hardships they endured and the joys they experienced are now woven into the fabric of the present generation.

If you carefully inspect the fabric, you will find many threads interlaced by two special people buried in the old graveyard—George and Sarah Gimlin. According to the Green County, Missouri Plat Book of 1904, they owned 40.17 acres immediately west of the cemetery (T29 R21 S4). Their farm was surrounded on two sides by the W. E. Appleby farm.

George and Sarah had a rather large family. The 1880 census of Greene County, Missouri, includes George as head of the household, age 52, from Tennessee. Their children:
- H. A. Black, age 12, dau
- Walter Black, age 11, son
- Clarence Black, age 9, son
- Mary Black, age 7, dau
- Lucy Black, age 5, dau
- Julia Black, age 2, dau
- Alice Black, age 1, dau

Zada Winton Black, age 65, mil. (mother-in-law) also in household.

The Personal Tax Records of 1890 show the Gimlins owned 2 mules, 7 cattle, 7 hogs, $16.00 in other personal property. They paid $1.27 in taxes. In April 1995 a letter was received from Dorothy Appleby Turner, and she had this to say about the Gimlins and the cemetery:

"The old Union Campground has always been a special place to me even before I ever saw it over 30 years ago. When I was growing up, I used to hear some of my family mention it. My Grandfather William Appleby's farm adjoined it and my Uncle Claude Appleby told me a lot of stories about the cemetery when he and his siblings were kids."

"Grandma Gimlin (as the Appleby kids called her) and her husband were former slaves and they worked on Grandfather's farm. My uncle once told me he remembered them well and how much he and his family loved them. The family attended Grandma Gimlin's burial and he said he could still remember how he cried like a baby."

"A daughter and son-in-law of the Gimlins (can't remember the names off-hand also worked on the Appleby farm. My first visit to the cemetery, all four of their were laying down, the third time, they were gone."

Beatrice Taylor, a descendant of William W. and Elmira Jeffries, once talked about Aunt Sarah helping families in the community when a new baby arrived. Everyone loved and respected her. (William W. and Elmira Jeffries are both buried in Union Campground Cemetery.)

The base of George's tombstone still stands over in the northeast section of the grave yard. The vandalized top has been toppled to the ground, although if placed on the base resembles the drawing below.

Letters engraved on the tombstone:
George Gimlin
Died: January 17, 1910
Age 94

The 1900 census of Greene County, Missouri has George Gimlin born in Kentucky in 1828, and at time of census was 71 years old. This would have made him 81 or 82 at time of death, not 94.

A stone cannot be found for Sarah. A Springfield Republican article, dated February 28, 1906, reports the following:

"Sarah Gimlin, age 60 years died yesterday of pneumonia at the home, seven miles north of the city. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon, with interment at Union Campground Cemetery." A tombstone for Sarah was in existence back in the late 1970's or early 1980's before Highway 65 was constructed. Dorothy Appleby Turner took a photograph of the Gimlin plot around that time period. The photograph is now faded but these words are visible:

Sarah
Wife of
George Gimlin

I would like to add telephone numbers to the officers and directors and anyone else that would like to be included.

Phone Numbers are All "417"
- Rob Chandler 833-4501
- Bettie Hickman 881-5424
- Jean Rayl 881-4456
- Elaine Mott 886-1296
- Larry Voris 881-1587
- Pansey Harvey 833-2023
- Clarence Sivler 833-1419
- Betty Jane Turner 862-6293
- Joanna Coonrod 881-2501
- Raymond Ellison
- Ben Gravely 326-3057
- Douglass Rayl 742-4967
- Bernie Sivler 833-1044
- Hazel Voris 881-1587
- Vera Chandler 833-4503

News Flash
Jean Rayl has a new computer. She is coming into the 21st century with a bang. Now, if we can get her to sign onto the internet. I think she will now that the "Death certificates are on the web". She how has a new toy.
**THE UNION CAMPGROUND**

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

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**OFFICERS 2005-2006**

Rob 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  2008  
Betty Jane Turner  2008  
Jean Rayl  2008  
Joanna Coonrod  2006  
Raymond Ellison  2006  
Ben Gravely  2006  
Douglas Rayl  2007  
Bernie Stiver  2007  
Hazel Voris  2007

**Cemetery Location:**

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

**Address all inquiries to:**

Rob Chandler, President  
Union Campground Cemetery Assn.  
4875 E. Cimarron Lane  
Springfield, MO  65803  
417-833-4501

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**UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETARY ASSOCIATION TREASURERS REPORT**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

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**Directions**

Go North on Highway 65 towards Buffalo. When you go under the bridge at Valley Water Mill it will be exactly 2.5 miles to Hwy AA. Now remember to turn on your left turn signal about a 1/4 mile before you get to Hwy AA. Don’t wait until you get there and then turn your signal on because this is what causes accidents and this is a busy intersection. Go west about a 1/2 mile and don’t take the curve to the left. Go straight and stop at Farm Road 197. Turn right and go about a 1/4 mile to farm road 74 and turn left.

Follow this country road to the homestead. It is paved and has several curves and a little narrow. So enjoy the drive.
NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC
of the
Union Campground Cemetery Association

Saturday, June 3, 2006
At

The Vera Chandler Farm
(Directions are in the Newsletter)

All Board Members should be there at 9:30 AM for a Board Meeting

11:00 AM
General membership meeting And Election of officers
For 2006-2007

12:00 Noon
Lunch

You are encouraged to come to the picnic and enjoy good food and fellowship. Meat, iced tea, lemonade and coffee will be provided along with paper products. Bring a generous covered dish of your choice.

There will be a music program following lunch and weather permitting Don Holdway will use his Golf Cart for tours into the Cemetery for those that can't walk that far. We will park along Valley Water Mill road and travel down the new chip trail to the southwest gate. It is about a 1/4 mile and it is steep. Wear your walking shoes.

DUES

Dues will be payable at the Annual Meeting or mail your check to
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer
Union Campground Cemetery Association
3822 E. State Hwy AA
Springfield, MO 65803

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 cleanup activities at the cemetery.