Notice of Annual Meeting

Seventh Annual Meeting and Picnic
Saturday, May 20, 2000
11:30 A.M.
The Chandler Farm
4473 E. Farm Road 74
Springfield, Missouri

Meat will be furnished by the Chandler family as well as iced tea, coffee, bread and soft drinks. Picnic supplies will be available. You are asked to bring a covered dish: this can be a salad, a vegetable or a dessert.

Membership dues will be collected at the meeting ($15.00 person or $25.00 for any two persons). Make checks payable to Union Campground Cemetery Association.

Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors, although bring along a little extra food so there will be enough for everyone.

Members of the Board of Directors are asked to come early (10:00 A.M.) for a brief business meeting. The meeting should be finished in time to enjoy the picnic.

A Little History

A little background history on the Union Campground Cemetery.

In 1840 the trustees of a Cumberland Presbyterian Church purchased 39.6 acres of land in Township 29, Range 21, Sec. 3, Greene County, Missouri, from a Joseph and Lucinda Morton for a church and graveyard.

No documents have been found concerning the church until 1866 when the trustees were selling the land with the exception of three acres for a cemetery. Either at that time or sometime after that date the old church burned and no one knows today just when that incident occurred.

Getting to Know your Officers
I guess we should start at the top with Our President Jean Rayl

I had a big article all started and was ready to go to print when the Springfield Magazine came. Mabel Taylor did a great job on the article about Jean and her accomplishments. If you all don’t take the magazine, you need to get a copy of the May 2000 issue.

Turn to page 34. The only thing that Mabel left out was her birth date and those records have been destroyed. I guess we’ll never know.

In late 1993, Jean & Jim Rayl along with her brother, Bob & Evelyn Gaffga discovered the unattended and overgrown Union Campground Cemetery. This became a project of hers along with her brother Bob. After much work of cleaning of the grounds by the Rayls, Gaffgas and many other volunteers it became necessary to form an association to handle the many legal moves that needed to be made. Jean was elected President and still holds that position today. She has spent many many hours on the project to bring it to where it is today. There are many more things that need to be done. Probably the most needed is to gain access to the grounds from the road.
When Did George W. Freeman Die?

By Jean Rayl

January 19, 2000: Quite by chance, while researching the life and death of Elizabeth Snow Appleby, I found rather conflicting information concerning the death of her first husband, George W. Freeman. Mr. Freeman is buried in Union Campground Cemetery.

In the 1960's his tombstone was read by John and LaMerle Cochran and his death date given as May 15, 1882. I supposed the lettering on the stone was very difficult to read, more-or-less erased by the forces of nature.

During the process of preparing a profile on Elizabeth Appleby, I had gone to the Greene County Archives in order to find more about her life and that of her husband, William A. Appleby. This is where I learned she had first been married to George W. Freeman. In his probate file, #3151, there were numerous papers and from these I learned he had died in 1852—not 1882. Listed here are a few dates and facts:

March 15, 1852:
Listing of property sold by George W. Freeman

March 20 thru May 12, 1852:
Dr. H. M. Parrish had presented a bill to the estate of George W. Freeman for visits and medicines

April 1852:
John L. McCracken had presented a bill to the estate for making a coffin and case

May 20, 1852:
David Appleby & Thos. Edmonds were appointed to appraise slaves and other personal estate of George W. Freeman

June 12, 1852:
A sale bill of the Personal Estate of George W. Freeman, deceased.

I have attached copies of the doctor's statement and the one for John L. McCracken. The others I did not copy. It is a bit puzzling why John L. McCracken presented a bill to the estate in April when apparently George W. Freeman did not pass away until May 15, 1852.

Invoice:  
Date: April 1852  
George W. Freeman..  
Due to John S. McCracken, for making one coffin and case $12.00

Invoice:  
George Freeman, Dec'd to H.M. Parrish  
1852 Debit  
From 3/20 - 4/4 Sixteen visits and Med $40.00  
4/7 Pint Bearing & Tonics 1.25  
4/11 Visit & Medicine 2.50  
4/18 Prescriptions & Med 1.00  
4/20 to 5/12 Twenty-Two Visits & Med 55.25  
Total 100.00

According to "Pioneer Families of the Missouri Ozarks" A-G (located at the Library Center in Springfield, Missouri), George W. Freeman was born 17 Oct. 1820 and died 15 May 1852. However, in the Union Campground Cemetery booklet, under the name of George W. Freeman, the 1850 Census has his age listed as 27. If you subtract 27 from 1850, his birth date would have been in 1823.

We cannot locate Mr. Freeman's tombstone at this time, although his stone could be one of those that we are unable to read. We have found a footstone near the Freeman plot with the initials "G.W.F."

Association loses Five Members

Bob Gaffga:
Bob's parents were Brandt Walter Gaffga and Edith Leora Rathbone. The family home was located at 1430 N. Clay, Springfield, MO. Bob's father was a railroad man and his mother was a homemaker. Bob was 9 years old when his father died (1930), and the family continued to live at this address, although there were difficult times inasmuch as his mother did not work outside the home. Durning high school, Bob worked at the Roy Thomas Grocery, located at the corner of Division and North Clay, delivering groceries, stocking shelves and "sweeping out" - whatever needed to be done.
Bob was drafted for military service March 25, 1943. He was discharged May 22, 1946. June 4, 1948 he married Evelyn Eileen Cochran. He graduated from SMSU with a B.A. degree in accounting which took him to Lubbock, TX with Powell Truck Lines.
Bob was a volunteer and member of many worthy organizations. Bob was survived by his wife Evelyn of the home, a son Robert and wife Kelly of China Springs, TX, two grandsons and a sister Jean Rayl of Springfield, MO.

Erma Erickson:
Died Oct. 30, 1999 at St.Johns Regional Health Center at the age of 94. She was a retired music teacher from the Springfield Public Schools. Funeral service were held Tuesday Nov. 2, 1999 at 3:30 p.m., in the Gorman-Scharpf Brentwood Chapel with Dr. Gary W. Metcalf officiating. Burial was in Maple Park Cemetery.

Erma was the great-granddaughter of Thomas Rathbone, who settled in Springfield in 1858, the granddaughter of Barney Rathbone, former Chief of Police, and the niece of George Cutter, former mayor of Springfield.

Victoria Elizabeth Bedell Hendricks, was born August 9, 1947 and left us to be with the Lord December 27, 1999.
She is survived by her parents, Velma And Hurley Bedell; her three grandchildren; and all her family that will miss her dearly.
Services will be at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 30, 1999, in Gorman-Scharpf Brentwood Chapel. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

We need articles for the next newsletter. If you have a story or article, please send it to us.
Jim Edward Rayl:

James Edward Rayl, 80, Springfield, MO., passed away at 7:57 a.m. Thursday, March 23, 2000, in Cox Medical Center South.

Jim was born Sep. 24, 1919, in Swedeberg, MO., to the late Merton C and Ruth McMichael Rayl. Jim grew up in Springfield and was a 1938 graduate of Springfield Senior High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps and was a Korean War Veteran serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jim was retired from the Military Reserves. He graduated from SMS in 1957, was a member of Masonic Lodge #5 and VFW Post #963, also a Red Cross volunteer with Disaster Relief Services.

Jim married Jean Carol Gaffga Nov. 22, 1952. An active member of Central Christian Church, Jim was deacon and member of the Loyal Workers Sunday School class. He served on many committees and was well known for his handy-man work. Jim was a loving husband and devoted father.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, of the home: a son, Douglas Keith Rayl, Springfield, MO; a daughter and husband, Brenda Elaine and Jim Mott, Springfield, MO. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Mon., Mar. 27, 2000, in Gorman-Scharpf Brentwood Chapel with the Rev. Larry Snow officiating. Burial with full military honors at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery.

Notes from President Jean Rayl

New Major Thoroughfare Map for Greene County

The December 7, 1999, edition of the News-Leader reported the County Commission recently adopted a new map to help officials make decisions involving future development in all parts of Greene County. One of the projects being considered would be the upgrading of Valley Water Mill Road (Farm Road 102). The plan would be to move the road a bit to the north of its present location in order to accommodate increasing traffic in the area.

Following the appearance of this article, an appointment was made with the County Planning and Zoning Department. We voiced our concern about changes being considered in the location of Valley Water Mill Road. We explained that if the road is either widened or perhaps moved some distance to the north from its present location, the road would be almost to the southern border of the cemetery. The distance from our fencing on the south to Valley Water Mill Road is only some 500’. Personnel of the Planning and Zoning were cognizant of our lack of ingress/egress, and went on to explain that one of the negative aspects of making Valley Water Mill Road into a major thoroughfare is the existence of the Valley Water Mill lake and dam, about 1-1/2 miles to the west of Union Campground. This factor, alone, might prevent the creation of an east-west corridor from Strafford, Missouri to Highway H.

They assured us nothing was definite at this time, but before the conversation was brought to a close, we asked this question: If the project proves to be a viable option for future traffic flow, would it be possible for a road to be constructed leading into our cemetery? They could make no guarantees as to this possibility but did seem genuinely interested in our situation. As we departed, they promised to contact our association if any new developments occur.

About a year ago, a news release mentioned that the State Highway Department planned to widen Highway 65 north of I-44 to Fair Grove, Missouri. Since Highway 65 is immediately to the west of the Union Campground, contact was made with Gary Ludlam of the district highway department offices. We asked him if the highway department could manage to create a roadway for our cemetery. He explained that when federal money is involved in building of highways, then the states have to abide by federal regulations and these regulations only allow entryways at designated locations.

We thought the membership of the Union Campground Cemetery Association would appreciate the above information in order to know that your board members and officers are trying to find a solution to our ingress/egress problem.

Spring Creek Mill at Hurley, MO.
The Mill is under restoration, they will have a show May 12-14, 2000, for a fund raiser.

Hulston Mill at Greenfield, MO., will have their fall show Oct. 6-8, 2000. You will be able to tour the mill and the other buildings that are being restored.
A MOMENT IN HISTORY
Lewis McAdams

The account of Lewis McAdams’ death appears in The Springfield Republican, February 13, 1898: “DIED OF HIS INJURIES. Lewis McAdams who was hurt at Valley Water Mill is dead. He is the aged colored man who was injured at the Valley Water Mills Thursday while attempting to throw a belt.

He was caught by the tumbling rod and his left arm fractured in three places. In addition to this, his shoulder was dislocated and he sustained other injuries. Dr. James visited Mr. McAdams yesterday and found him in a dying condition. His patient survived until 2 o’clock yesterday afternoon (12 Feb. 1898), when death relieved him of his suffering. The deceased was the father of Prof. W.H. McAdams, formerly principal of the Lincoln school, but now principal of the Douglas school. The funeral will take place at 2 o’clock at the home of the deceased, a few miles north of Springfield, and the interment will be at the Camp grave yard.”

This respected gentleman was born in slavery and up to the age of 35 could neither read nor write. He survived many difficulties and hardships, but managed to learn the harness and saddle business, becoming skilled in the trade. Following the Civil War he engaged in farming and moved to Jefferson City, Missouri around 1870. By 1881 he had returned to Greene County and bought property and later sold same for a profit. Then, in 1884, he purchased 200 acres and by working hard and paying close attention to business he prospered and was considered well-to-do and successful.

He was the father of seven children, six of whom he educated. Five later became teachers. He and his wife were members of the Gibson Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with Mr. McAdams serving as an elder and holding other offices.

The Federal Census of 1870 (Campbell Township) shows Lewis McAdams as a farmer, age 43, with wife, Margaret, age 41. Their children were: Henry, age 18; Julia, age 12; William, age 9; Celia, age 7; Maggie, age 6; Archie, age 3; and Peter, age 8 months.

According to the Springfield City Directory of Greene County Gazetteer of 1890-91, Lewis McAdams owned 93 acres in Section 4 of Campbell Township. The 1904 Greene County Missouri Plat Book reveals Lewis McAdams had property in Township 29, Range 21, Sections 4, 5 (this is northeast of the Valley Water Mill Dam). Time has erased the burial site of Mr. McAdams. His grave might be one of those in the cemetery without a marker of any kind or it might have an old tombstone with lettering so dimmed by the elements that genealogists can no longer read the stone. His life, however, should be remembered and preserved in the pages of history.

Prepared by;
Jean Gaffiga Rayl, Member of the Greene County Historical Society

Edited by;

Resources:
Pictorial and Genealogical Record of Greene Co., pp 281-282; Springfield City Directory & Greene Co. Gazetteer, 1890-91; Greene Co. Missouri 1870 Census, Campbell Township

After researching the life of Mr. McAdams, a desire was created to know more about the mill that was once in operation at Valley Water Mill. It must have played a vibrant part in the lives of those living in the surrounding area. What happened to the Mill? Please read the following and perhaps glean a little more information about the history of this once active, spring-fed grist mill.

Their are several other Mills in the area. The closest one being in Fair Grove, MO. The Wommack Mill is being restored. The stone buhr mill has been restored and is being used for demonstrations only. You can see it in operation during their fall show, Sep. 23 & 24, 2000.

Program For Annual Meeting
Marilyn Smith, Secretary of the Fair Grove Historical and Preservation Society, will be the featured speaker telling us about the Wommack Mill and where they are in the restoration project.

If everything works out we might possibly have a demonstration on grinding corn meal.

Recipe for Corn Bread

2 Cups Corn Meal
2 Eggs
1-1/2 Cups Milk
3/4 t Salt
4 t Baking Powder
1T Oil

Mix all ingredients together and put in oiled 8 x 8 pan. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes.

Recipe for Grits Casserole

2 Cups boiling water
1/2 t Salt
1/2 c corn grits
1/4 c Margarine
1 c Velveta cheese
1/2 t Garlic salt
1 Beaten egg

Stir grits into boiling salted water and cook for 5 minutes. Cool. Add margarine, cheese and garlic salt then add egg to the cooled batter. Pour into greased baking dish and bake 30 minutes at 325 degrees. Can be served hot or cold.

You can also add fried crumbled sausage to the batter before pouring in baking pan. Also bake for 30 minutes at 325 degrees.

Breakfast Grits

Use grits, salt & boiling water and cook until grits are thick, then add sugar and milk. Enjoy.
THE MILL AT VALLEY WATER MILL

The small, neighborhood grist mill was often the heart of a community. This is where families gathered as they waited in line for grain to be ground into flour. The women seized the opportunity to socialize while the men discussed the weather, crops, politics and caught up on the latest news. Sometimes the wait proved to be a long one as the grinding was slow, time-consuming process. As more people settled near a mill they soon found a need for a blacksmith, a general store, and a school house. Other business enterprises would flourish as wagon trails began to improve. Such a settlement evolved many years ago in the northeast portion of Greene County called Valley Water Mill. Although the settlement and mill no longer exist, it strengthens our sense of history to review their importance in the development of this fertile farming region.

Documents creased with age, to be found in the Greene County Archives, tell of a man by the name of John L. McCracken who bought 37.76 acres of land in Lot No. 6 of the northeast fractional quarter of Section 5, Township 29, Range 21 in the year 1851. He built a mill near a spring (exact date unknown) and the flow of water from this spring provided the necessary energy to operate the machinery.

Stories have long been told by descendants of the early settlers of the region about the mill during the days of the Civil War. As Springfield and surrounding vicinity changed hands during the conflict soldiers were constantly patrolling the roads, sometimes encamped near the mill. Here they knew milled products and fresh water would be available.

Mr. McCracken sold his land in 1870 to a gentleman by the name of Milton B. Crain. The sale included the grist mill.

The mill continued to be active during the 1890s as the Springfield City Water Company began to seek new sources for water power. In a promotional booklet published by the Springfield City Water Company (no publication date), the mill is mentioned: "With the establishment of a complete sewer system in Springfield in 1892, further additional water supplies were necessary. At Valley Water Mills, four miles east of Fulbright, there was another water power grist mill. When this mill was running, the flow at Fulbright Springs was noticeably increased. This was carefully watched and at an opportune time this water supply was acquired. It was also discovered that there was a subterranean passage just below this spillway leading direct to Fulbright Spring. "It was found out definitely that when certain quantity of water was released that same quantity appeared at Fulbright Spring three hours later. That discovery was immeasurably valuable to the Company as it made this large additional supply available at little cost as no large pipe connecting Valley Water Mills to Fulbright was needed, thus saving at least an investment of over $100,000. Here a new concrete dam was built impounding a lake 3/4 of a mile in length and holding approximately two months' supply of water."

The Springfield Water Company, a private concern, purchased the property in 1899 from James A. Stoughton and Robert Jenkins, who owned it for many years (per newspaper article in 1899; article does not give name/date of newspaper). A copy of this newspaper article is located in the archives of Fulbright Treatment Plant.

These archives also include a drawing made in 1900 of the dam and mill. This same drawing also shows Edmonson Spring and Jarrett Spring. Another map at Fulbright Pump Station gives the location of Sanders Spring: "Shepard (1898, pp225-226), discussed the spring which is at Valley Water Mills. His discussion follows: "Sanders Spring (T.29 N, R.21 W, Sec.5) just south of the McCracken Mill on the South Dry Sac, is another good example of a spring issuing from the base of a low bluff into a large basin, and its discharge is probably 8,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. A recent attempt to dam this spring has shown that its waters are the chief source of supply for Fulbright Spring, a fact which, in dry times, may be very disadvantageous to the water supply of the City of Springfield. The drainage here, both surface and underground, follows the line of the McCracken-Ritter faulting."

Sander Spring, the largest of the springs, was also known as McCracken Spring, and later Valley Water Mill. The legal descriptions are similar. During normal seasons, the springs are covered by the waters of the reservoir.

A photograph of the dam made in 1906 and now in the archives of Springfield City Utilities, does not show the mill. Perhaps machinery and other equipment were sold after the Springfield City Water Company purchased the property in 1899. Numerous longtime residents of the Valley Water Mill Vicinity do not remember seeing any machinery scattered around the grounds, machinery that might have been used in the old mill.

No one seems to know just when the name Valley Water Mill came into use. Here, again, the name might have been given to the dam following the purchase of the property in 1899.

GRIST MILLS

Rural grist mills with their hand-hewn timbers are mostly gone. The few remaining examples are isolated, showing the ravages of time and weather. Occasionally, one can be found, still grinding the corn meal and flour, reminding us of the role they played in the development of Greene Co.

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl, Member of Greene County Historical Society Research Material: Greene County Archives; Fulbright Treatment Plant; Watershed Committee of the Ozarks; Springfield City Utilities; The Springfield Missouri Republican (Feb. 13, 1898); Springfield Water Company booklet.

Note: To everyone who purchased the Union Campground Cemetery book
Please change the death date for George W. Freeman, from 1882 to 1852
### Officers

Jean Rayl, President  
Bettie Hickman, V-President  
Elaine Mott, Secretary  
Larry Voris, Corres. Sec'y  
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

### Directors:

- Bob Gaffga  
- Judy Atwater  
- Rob Chandler  
- Ben Gravely  
- Charles Dulin  
- Vera Chandler  
- Betty Roy  
- Clarence Stiver  
- Donna Stiver

### Cemetery Location:

US Hwy 65 North at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

### Address inquiries to:

Jean Rayl, President  
Union Campground Assn  
1853 E. Gretna  
Springfield, MO 65804

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### Union Campground Cemetery Association, Inc.  
Financial Statement for year ending April 30, 2000

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Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

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### The Union Campground Newsletter

Larry Voris, Corresponding Secretary  
2340 S. Luster  
Springfield, MO 65804

Address Correction Requested

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CHANDLER FARM

![Map of Chandler Farm]