Annual Meeting

If you missed the Annual meeting this summer, you missed an excellent program. The history of The Womack Mill, and the Fair Grove Historical Society was presented by Maryln Smith. Meeting was called to order by President Jean Rayl. After a short meeting and election of officers we heard music from the Liberty Baptist Church. Larry Voris demonstrated grinding corn meal and corn grits.

Application Made to Greene County Historic Sites Board

A few months ago, a telephone call was received from Mr. Ken Elkins of the Greene County Historic Sites Board. He had heard about our cemetery and wanted to meet with me to discuss the history of Union Campground Cemetery.

Mr. Elkins dropped by the house one day and looked over the various documents connected with our research, and when he left, he took with him several photographs, maps, newsletters, etc. During the following weeks he kept in touch with me, and then one morning (September 12th) he telephoned to say that the Historic Sites Board had approved our application.

He explained that the Board does not usually approve a cemetery as an historic site, but since the burials in Union Campground had so many ties to the early pioneers of Greene County, it was felt the cemetery was worthy of recognition.

One of the factors entering into their decision, was the documented evidence the cemetery was racially integrated from its earliest inception.

The Historic Sites Board praised our association for its cooperation, enthusiasm and energetic approach to restoring and preserving this piece of Greene County history.

The next step in achieving historic designation will be in the hands of the Greene County Commissioners. This procedure should take some five or six weeks.

Signed: Jean Rayl

A MOMENT IN HISTORY
Elizabeth Snow Appleby

Research of Union Campground began early in 1994. A new-looking marble tombstone attracted our attention, simply because it was a recent addition and was set among other old and broken stones in an area to the northwest section of the cemetery. This area later was determined to be the Freeman family plot. The etched lettering on the tombstone disclosed the following details:

Elizabeth Snow Appleby
Wife of W.A. Appleby
Born: June 17, 1828
Died: May 21, 1864

We wondered who had cared enough to replace a damaged stone, especially since the graveyard had been abandoned for many years. We found the answer we were seeking from the Peyer Monument Company on West Kearney, Springfield, MO. On April 14, 1971, Mr. Leonard Appleby (now deceased) ordered a new tombstone for Elizabeth Appleby. When the new stone was completed on May 10, 1971, it was delivered to Mr. Appleby to his home address, Route 10, Springfield, and he then took it to the cemetery and set the stone by himself.

Marriage records of Greene County, MO., Book A, reveal Elizabeth Snow was married to George W. Freeman on November 29, 1846. Mr. Freeman died a few years later in 1852. He is buried in Union Campground. On March 28, 1855, Elizabeth was united in marriage to William A Appleby and the ceremony was performed by Rev. C. C. Williamson of the Kickapoo Prairie Church (later to become Mt. Comfort Church). The marriage took place at the residence of Horace Snow.

William A. Appleby owned acreage in Franklin Township. He first purchased 80 acres in Section 27, Township 30, Range 21 on January 16, 1839. He later purchased 40 acres in the same section on January 26, 1848, then added 40 acres in the same section on March 24, 1856. For a number of years the Hall School House, located on his property, served as a meeting place for the Bellview Presbyterian Church (according to Holcombe’s History of Greene County, p. 899).

The Greene County Missouri 1860 Census lists William A. Appleby age 43; Elizabeth age 32; Samuel 4, Sarah 2; David 4/12; W.W. 19; Susannah 15; Scott 12; John 11; Mary 9; William Freeman 12; and George Freeman 7. Fairbanks & Tuck, Vol. I, p. 864, mentions the marriage of Sarah L. Appleby to Henry F. Kennedy on April 6, 1885.

When Elizabeth died, her remains were probably placed by those of George W. Freeman in Union Campground. His tombstone was read in the 1960s by individuals from the Church of the Latter Day Saints but at the present time his stone cannot located. It could be one of the weathered stones found on or near the Freeman plot, but the lettering has long-since been obliterated by the forces of nature. Only a footstone has been discovered bearing the initials “G.W.F.”

-continued page 2-
The phenomenon of camp meetings originated in 1799/1800 and later became known as “the great revival movement.” The first outdoor meeting occurred in Kentucky where a large assembly of people gathered under the foliage of trees and continued their religious exercises day and night. From all reports, emotions ran high and great numbers of individuals would fall to the ground and remain unconscious until they passed through their “trance.” This novel way of worship excited and attracted huge numbers of people.

The open air meeting experience began in areas of the Ozarks even before counties were organized. Participants would bring food to feed their own families plus enough to share with the preachers. It was a time for socialization as well as a time to strengthen their religious ties through prayer and reflection.

People would travel from miles around for this yearly four or five week event, usually held in late summer through early fall after the crops were harvested. The very first meetings were held without shelter of any kind except the shelter provided by wagons. Later, crude sheds were built as well as brush arbors. There were areas set aside for the men to pray and meditate and areas set aside for the women to do the same.

Straw was a necessity and was furnished to use wherever needed. A field of grain was desirable for the livestock and good, clear water from springs had to be close by as well as wood for campfires.

Earl T. Sechler commented in his article, “our Religious Heritage,”

Church History of the Ozarks (1806-1906), p. 23:

“The decline of the camp meeting period was hastened by Civil War, simply through neglect. The war brought such a collapse of moral standards and interference of religious activities...that the religious development was retarded by several years. The Ozarks being the field of many battles and the abode of constant ‘bushwhackers,’ suffered greater religious setbacks than Northern Missouri.”

According to Joseph H. Hall Presbyterian Conflict and Resolution on the Missouri Frontier, p. 130, between 1861 and 1866 one-half of all the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches on the roll became utterly extinct, not appearing afterwards on the records. He states, “churches were burned not only by guerilla groups but also by federal troops in retaliation for Confederate attacks.”

It makes us wonder today if the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1866 were forced to sell the 39.6 acres, with the exception of the graveyard, because the church meeting house had been destroyed by fire and families scattered throughout the region. Without sufficient membership and funds, the congregation could no longer exist.

Prepared by:
Jean Rayl, Member
Greene Co. Historical Society
"The first—in fact the only—mention of the Union Camp Grounds given in available records was found in the ‘age-old’ Session record of Pleasant Valley congregation. That mention (she quotes page 18) reveals the fact that Springfield Presbytery was scheduled to hold its fall meeting (1851) at these grounds."

"Recent information brings to light the exact location of this long-ago camp meeting place, as being five or six miles north and east of the City of Springfield. The many changes wrought by time makes access to this area most difficult. However, it is said, there still stands a number of aged tombstones giving evidence of its one-time use as a burying ground by early settlers. Some of these stones carry the name of grandparents of younger members of Mt. Comfort congregation. These say: unkept as the place now is, yet it still reveals its one-time picturesqueness."

Mr. Fare remarked that if the congregation (if such did, in fact, exist) failed to petition the Presbytery to become organized, then this would account for the church at Union Campground not being mentioned in the newly formed Springfield Presbytery in 1847.

However, we might assume today that a meeting house was on the grounds, making it possible to conduct business for the large gatherings at protracted camp meetings. It most probably was fashioned of logs if it had been constructed prior to the 1850s as milled lumber was not available locally in the 1840s.

Jean Rayl
President

**ANNUAL DUES**

There is still time to become a member of Union Campground Cemetery Association for the Year 2000. You have only to send a check made out to the Union Campground Cemetery Association in the amount of $15.00 (or $25.00 for any two persons). Please mail to Mrs. Pansy Harvey, Treasurer, Union Campground Cemetery Association, 3822 E. State Highway AA, Springfield, MO 65803

**Late breaking news on the Historic Site Status.**

At the meeting of the Greene County Commission on November 6, 2000, an historic site designation was proclaimed for Union Campground Cemetery. Sometime in the future a sign will be erected on the cemetery grounds and might possibly be paid for by the Historic Sides Board.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Mary Elizabeth Alexander**  
Born: August 2, 1908  
Died: July 11, 2000  
A Greene County resident all her life, Elizabeth was born in Douglas County. She was a graduate of Senior High School and Teachers College in Springfield. She was a school teacher for 37 years and was retired from the Strafford School system in 1977. Funeral services were conducted on July 14, 2000 in the Klingner Mortuary and burial was in Eastlawn Cemetery.  
She is survived by two brothers, Charles Dulin of Springfield, and John Dulin, Whittier, California, and several nieces and nephews.

**Chester E. Erickson**  
Born: October 23, 1904  
Died: August 22, 2000  
Chester was born in Welda, Kansas. Following his graduation from Welda High School, and later Pittsburg State College, he came to Springfield and began his teaching career. Over summer vacations, he obtained a Master’s Degree from the University of Missouri. He taught for 59 years, and his family recalls that he never missed a day of work. Funeral services were held at Gorman-Scharpf Brentwood Chapel in Springfield on August 26 with interment in Maple Park Cemetery.  
He is survived by his daughter, Mary Ann Erickson Wood, three grandchildren, two great-grandsons, all of Springfield; a sister in Chanute, Kansas; and a niece in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

President Jean Rayl and Secretary Elaine Mott conducting the annual meeting at the Vera Chandlar home.

Host: Vera Chandlar

Guest Speaker: Maryln Smith
Officers
Jean Rayl, President
Bettie Hickman, V-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 at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

Address inquiries to:
Jean Rayl, President
Union Campground Assn.
1853 E. Gretna
Springfield, MO 65804

Union Campground Cemetery Association, Inc.
Treasurer’s Report
September 1, 2000

Balance, May 1, 2000 $1,513.74

Receipts:
Donations: $123.00
Dues: 455.00
Books: 5.00
Memorial: 17.00
Rental: 150.00

Total Receipts: 752.00
Total Balance and Receipts: $2,265.74

Disbursements:
Postage: 22.12
Film: 6.90
Corp. Renewal Fee: 15.00
Legal Fees: 260.00
Office Supplies: 10.24
Work On Cemetery: 25.00
Newsletter: 48.10

Total Disbursements: 337.46
Balance September 1, 2000 $1,928.28

THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER

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