**Yard Sale A Success**

Many thanks to all those who helped with the sale! The weather cooperated for most of the day on Saturday, and as we were boxing up the remaining merchandise and waiting for the truck to come from the Association of The Blind Thrift Shop, the raindrops began to fall. By the time we finished loading, it became a full-fledged rainstorm.

You may want to refer to the treasurer’s report on the back page of this newsletter for total sales, as well as to learn the amount donated in response to our fund raising letter. Appreciation is expressed to all who contributed and helped in so many ways. Our members are becoming better acquainted and enjoy an esprit de corps rarely seen in a group such as ours.

One member, who will remain anonymous, was not too enthusiastic about having a yard sale, but when the day arrived, turned out to be one of our best customers.

Our gratitude goes to the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department for allowing us the use of their facilities. It was a very visible location with plenty of available parking. A donation of $75.00 has been made to the fire department along with a letter of appreciation.

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**Circuit Riders**

The Spring 2001 newsletter highlighted the lives of certain Cumberland Presbyterian Church ministers who served as trustees of that denomination when Union Campground and Cemetery were established in 1840. Three also served as circuit riders, enduring untold hardships and danger along wilderness trails.

To better understand how these brave men spread the gospel, it becomes necessary to go back into early American history.

During the 1760s, John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in Great Britain, sent several lay preachers to preach the gospel in America. By the early 1800s other Protestant denominations, including Presbyterians, sent preachers into remote areas. They became known as circuit riders and traveled by horseback and foot, perhaps carrying a Bible and a few items of clothing. After a few years, they came to know the settlers and the problems they faced.

Since the people in the rural areas were unaccustomed to paying someone to preach, it was not unusual for a circuit rider to go without pay of any kind, so quite a few relied on farming to support their families.

Bernard A. Weisberger in his volume *They Gathered at the River*, gives this account of the early circuit riders:

“They were a superbly mobile force, ready to go anywhere at any time where sinners were in need of the saving word. No settlement was too rundown or too remote for them. They roughed it along the trails in snow and rain, taking their chances on bears, wolves, cutthroats and Indians. They put up where they could find local hospitality, which usually meant cornbread and pork and a spot for sleeping on the dirt floor by the fire. They spent a good part of their lives hungry, wet, cold, verminous and saddlesore, and if they did not die young of consumption, they could expect an old age of..."
Circuit Riders (cont'd)
rheumatism and
dyspepsia…"

If it had not been for these brave souls, the religious movement on the frontier would not have taken root. It was through their encouragement that individuals sought to read the Bible, and this thirst for knowledge led to the spread of literacy.

The missionary zeal of these early preachers endured long after the settlements grew into towns and cities and made their calling obsolete. A few later became known as successful full-time ministers, winning unbelievers to the gospel through powerful, energetic sermons.

Bibliography
2. Weisberger, Bernard A. "They Gathered at the River" (Courtesy of The History Museum for Springfield-Greene Co.)

"Circuit Riders" researched by Jean Rayl of the Greene County Historical Society.

Several years ago, a series of profiles was started on people buried in Union Campground Cemetery. In this issue we feature the life of Sarah Ann Warr Rathbone.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Sarah Ann Warr Rathbone was born in Holstock, Dorset, England in 1833. On June 9, 1847 she married Thomas Henry Rathbone in St. Peter’s Catholic Chapel, Warwick County, Birmingham District, England. Since she was very young and unable to write her name, she made an “X” mark on the marriage certificate.

Sarah and Thomas immigrated to the United States in 1850 or 1851, bringing along their two children, Bernardino and Theresa. During the voyage to the United States their sailing ship was blown off course and, since they were at sea long enough to run out of food, it became necessary to look for rats on board the ship, catch, cook and eat them.

After arriving in the United States the family settled in New York. In 1851 another son, John

Thomas, was born, followed by the birth of William Henry in 1857. A year later, Thomas’ request for naturalization was finalized in Brooklyn, N.Y. The witness stated he was “well acquainted with the applicant…that he (Thomas Henry) behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States…” At that time, only the head of the family received documentation for naturalization, but it automatically included any dependents.

It was around 1859 that Thomas Henry and family migrated to Missouri and settled in Springfield. Another son, Samuel, was born in 1860, and on August 4, 1861, James Henry was born.

According to the Federal Census of 1860, Thomas H. Rathbone is listed as head of the household age 35; Sarah age 36; Bernardo age 13; Terresa age 11; John age 6; William age 3; Samuel age 1. The 1870 census reveals James, age 9, added to the household but the name of Samuel does not appear. This child probably died and is presumed buried in Union Campground Cemetery.

On March 23, 1863 a
Deed for approximately 99 acres in Township 29, Range 21, Section 3 was recorded from John J. Faulkner to Sarah Ann Rathbone for $100. This became known as the Rathbone Farm and adjoined a portion of land that is now Union Campground Cemetery. The Rathbones arrived on the farm too late that year to make a crop and it became necessary to trade with the neighboring Dulin family a tea leaf pattern of ironstone china and some heavy silver plated flatware for wheat, corn and other food.

Through the years a story has been handed down in the Rathbone family concerning an incident that occurred during the Civil War. The family had settled into a life of farming but were always on the alert for soldiers who might be roaming the countryside. Their fears were realized one day when troops arrived on the property. Food and livestock were confiscated and the officer in charge handed Thomas Rathbone a detailed list of what had been taken. Thomas was told that after the war the government would make restitution. Thomas was so angry, however, he tore the list in shreds. After the war ended the government attempted to make

Rathbones acquired 39.58 acres in T29, R21, S3. In July 1874 the farm was sold. Later in that year Sarah Ann died and was buried in Union Campground Cemetery. The funeral folder published at the time of her death, reads: “The funeral of Mrs. Sarah Ann Rathbone will take place at the Union Camp Ground, six miles northeast of the city, tomorrow, Wednesday, September 16, 1874 at 3 o'clock. The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.”

An intact, wrought iron enclosure surrounds the W. N. McMurry family plot; a smaller wrought iron enclosure surrounds four unmarked graves; and remnants of another wrought iron enclosure are scattered throughout the cemetery. Perhaps at one time, these scattered remnants surrounded the graves of Sarah and her son, Samuel.

The above genealogy is based on material written by Betty Jane Rathbone Turner, great granddaughter of Sarah Ann Warr Rathbone.
**OFFICERS**
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Cemetery location: U.S. Hwy 65 North at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

Address inquiries to: Jean Rayl, President, Union Campground Cemetery Ass'n, 1853 E. Gretna, Springfield, Missouri 65804

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**UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2001**

| Balance, May 17, 2001 | $1,135.28  
|-----------------------|------------  
| Receipts:  |  
| Donations: | $1,050.00  
| Dues: | 430.00  
| Garage Sale: | 993.95  
| Rent on sign | 150.00  
| Adj. On Bank: | 39.00  
| Total Receipts | 2,662.95  
| Total Balance & Receipts | 3,798.23  

| Disbursements:  |  
| Newsletter: | 108.91  
| Sec. Of State | 15.00  
| Bank Serv. Fee | 3.00  
| Bank Box rental | 18.00  
| Garage Sale exp. | 175.50  
| Lawyer: | 89.25  
| Total Disbursements | 409.66  
| Balance October 1, 2001 | $3,388.57  

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**THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER**

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

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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