NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2002
12:00 NOON
4473 E. Farm Road 74
Springfield, Missouri

Vera Chandler has once again invited us to have our annual meeting and picnic at her farm. All you have to bring is a salad, vegetable or dessert. Please invite a friend or neighbor to come with you and share in this day of celebration.

Pansey Harvey will be collecting dues, $15.00 per person or $25.00 for any two persons. Check should be made payable to Union Campground Cemetery Association. Board members are asked to come by 10:30 A.M. for a short business meeting. The picnic will begin at 12:00 Noon. Refer to the map on the back page of newsletter for directions to the Chandler farm.

UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETARY, 23GR926

With her ever present interest in Springfield and area history, Patsy Denton Corbett, upon invitation of Jean Rayl, president of the Union Campground Cemetery Association, explored the cemetery grounds with Jean and her husband in November 1993. Noting the environmental setting of the cemetery location, her trained, archaeological eye scanned the ground’s surface and noticed the presence of prehistoric lithic flakes and a primary biface fragment (collection stored at the SMSU Center for Archaeological Research). Hence the Union Campground Cemetery had apparently been occupied by humans prior to the early 1800’s when the area had been a campground for Presbyterians and the cemetery that was later established. Without further archaeological testing, no conclusion can be reached as to the prehistoric use of the area. Location on the hilltop and slope adjacent to an intermittent stream suggests that it was used as a hunting and/or camp site for the prehistoric occupants.

Patsy observed within the approximate two and three quarters acres that remain of the cemetery’s original three acres, several historic features including an intact wrought iron enclosure, portions of wrought iron fence around one plot, and a concrete wall surrounding another plot and scattered gravestones.

The cemetery had previously been designated as a Greene County Historic Landmark and is now recorded by Patsy as Missouri Archaeological and Historical Site 23(Mo) GR (Greene Co) 926(site in Greene County).

Prepared by:
Betty Jane Rathbone Turner

LEGAL ACTION TABLED

Two new developments have occurred since our fund raiser last September. One is the proposed Legacy of Flight Museum. This project would be constructed immediately south of Valley Water Mill Road. Necessary funding is yet to be determined but, if all goes as planned, the museum should be in operation by the summer of 2003. The city and county have agreed to pay for road and infrastructure improvements.

The flight-themed attraction has the potential of bringing in 15 to 20 antique airplanes and featuring flight simulators and full-motion theater. Once it is built, it is expected other business enterprises will be interested in locating nearby.

At a city council meeting this winter, officials from the museum showed area road maps and pinpointed where they would like to have auxiliary roads to handle traffic exiting I-44. One road angled up through the 40 acres to join Valley Water Mill Road. As a result of more traffic, plans might include widening Valley Water Mill to a three-lane road. If this done, we would like to work with Legacy officials to somehow create an entryway for Union Campground Cemetery. Contact has already been made with Chamber of Commerce and they, in turn, have talked to the spokesperson for the Legacy Museum. Legacy officials will be meeting with engineers and architects to finish the project design. Groundbreaking is set for August 2002. Costs of construction are unknown.

The second development concerns the revamping of the I-44/U.S. 65 interchange by the Missouri Department of Transportation. This will not happen until after 2004 when funding is expected to be available. Planned improvements would help ease the traffic flow for the more than 71,400 vehicles which travel through it each day. The cloverleaf design would be eliminated and replaced with “flyover” ramps to allow more vehicles to drive through the interchange with fewer accidents. Property acquisition would be necessary before the first phase of construction.

Some years later, another phase would involve changing the Valley Water Mill overpass as it crosses above Highway 65. This phase is closer to the cemetery. A half-circle loop road would be constructed to the south of the cemetery and it would come to within approximately 35’ of our southern border.

An appointment has been set up to consult with the district supervisor of MODOT to see what, if anything, can be done. Please be patient as we try to resolve our entryway problem; perhaps we can avoid the expense of legal action and apply the fund raising money to
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

THE VILLAGE OF HICKORY BARREN

How often do we pass by a certain place and never realize the events of bygone days? Sometimes an historical marker will remind us of past events, but if there is nothing visible on the landscape, we drive on to our next destination, completely unaware of what has happened right there, on that particular spot, to untold numbers of people.

A ridge of land along Farm Road 181, leading north from Highway KK, is a near-forgotten memory. Located in Franklin Township, a few miles north of Union Campground Cemetery (but before you reach Fair Grove), the little village of Hickory Barren prospered. As early as 1832, a man by the name of John Headlee had already carved out a homestead in Township 30, Section 10N, Range 21W. It is not recorded what made him decide to come to what is now Greene County, But evidently satisfied with his decision, he sent word back to Tennessee for his former friends and neighbors to come to Hickory Barren. Other families soon began to move into the area, one of them being Zachariah Simms, (a brother-in-law of John Headlee) an ancestor of Vera Chandler. A few of the Simms family had arrived in 1832 with numerous aunts and uncles following in 1837. Simms purchased a tract of land and began farming. A few years later, a Fanny Simms died and was buried in Union Campground Cemetery. Her stonebox grave has her name scratched on the surface of the stone.

In a volume copyrighted by Jane Morris in 1938, Adam Symes and His Descendants, she recounts this story: this story: “Nearby neighbor by the name of Steele had a family of 5 girls. Headlee had 7 boys. five of the Headlee boys married 5 of the Steele girls & John Headlee married Mary Sims & Noah Headlee married Mary Patterson. Their were also 4 daughters.

An article published in the April 1983 edition of Springfield Magazine Arthur Paul Moser, “The Lost Towns of Greene County,” had this to say about Hickory Barren:

“Located in Franklin Township, north/northeast of Springfield, this town once had a store, a blacksmith shop and a school house. The store was built by C.W. Appleby in the winter of 1881. The was a popular overnight stop between Springfield and Buffalo. For 20 years prior to the opening of the first business establishment there had been a post office at Hickory Barren, although it was discontinued during the Civil War and restored when peace came again. The post office was discontinued permanently in 1905. By 1910, the population had declined to 30. Hickory Barren School became part of the Fair Grove District in 1959.”

Marilyn Smith, who has engaged in extensive research of Fair Grove and vicinity, shares the following story: “A large spring was once located at Hickory Barren. The spring was used as a place to replenish the water supply of travelers and their horses. Many years ago, a wagon train passed through Hickory Barren and camped at the spring. During the time they were camped, an infant died. The wagon train went on its way and neighbors buried the child in Mt. Comfort Cemetery. Since no one knew the name of the parents, a sandstone marker was put at the grave with the inscription “Little Stranger.” The inscription finally became so worn by the elements it was almost illegible, and Mr. Diemer of Greenlawn Funeral Home put up another monument.

Marilyn’s research also included a comment by Ruth Miller, a long-time resident of Hickory Barren. Ruth remembers the spring along the side of the road where people would stop and water their horses. She never remembered it running dry.

Mrs. Clara Mertes of Springfield, Missouri recalls living in Hickory Barrens as a child. Her father’s father-in-law, John Albert DeHaven, had moved the family during the depression years into what was once a grocery store. The store was located across from the school house. Clara also remembers a family by the name of Warren who had a dairy and they would store milk and cream products in the spring that crossed the road.

In recent years, a booklet was compiled by David Burton listing the rural schools in Greene County. Hickory Barren is #32 in the booklet.

“Northeast of Farm Road 181 and Hickory Barren Lane, 3 miles south of Shelby road. Fell during 1997. First built as a log cabin school in 1837. The school house was built by the contributions of labor and material from settlers. Building had one large room for classes. Reorganized as Fair Grove District RX in 1954.”

According to Vivian Ryan of Springfield, MO., the one-room school served as a center for social activities when she was young. There was a large potbellied stove at one end of the room. Drinking water was from the hand-pump in the school yard. At the time she attended the school there were around 25 to 30 students. She moved away from the area in 1955, and at that time there were one or two structures still standing.

Little by little, the old buildings deteriorated and fell into ruin, leaving no trace of the past. Voices of yesteryear faded; now nothing remains of the once bustling, thriving community of Hickory Barren.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl, Member of Greene Co. Historical Society

Editors Notes:
The connection between the Sims, Headlee, Steele and Bedell Families.
On 26 July 1832, Fanny Sims, widow of Briggs Sims along with 12 children sold 196 acres to Robert Sims a sibling in Bedford Co., TN.
It was probably shortly after this that John Headlee and wife Mary Sims along with mother-in-law Fanny Sims came to Greene County, Missouri. It wasn’t long before Zacharich Sims, Mary’s brother and others came west. By 1837 many of the Headlee brothers and relatives started showing up in Greene County. Elisha Headlee, John’s father was among the migration. Samuel Steele moved to the area about the same time to be with his daughters and grandchildren. My connection is Caleb Headlee, “brother of John Headlee and son of Elisha Headlee who was married to Mary (Mollie) Steele daughter of Samuel Steele.

Another Story: In the diary of the Rev. Jacob Lanius, written in 1838, he tells of resting “at the home of Brother Headlee” where he met with three old men, all revolutionary Veterans and Methodists for nearly a century. (Lucille Chrisman speculates that these may have been Samuel Steele, Elisha Headlee and Elisha Headlee’s brother-in-law David Bedell). There were striking parallels throughout the lives of the two old friends. They shared many grandchildren and even death, there was a similar circumstance, each died in his 86th year. Elisha Headlee in 1845 and Samuel Steele in 1847. Elisha was buried in the old Salem Cemetery and Samuel was laid to rest in Mt. Comfort Cemetery. The recognized them as two of the four Revolutionary War Veterans buried in Greene County.

Both are my Grandfathers.

by Larry Voris


A MOMENT IN HISTORY

The Isaac Stiver Family

While volunteers were clearing a portion of the cemetery in the spring of 1997, a broken, irregular stone was uncovered with the name Charley Stiver which was barely visible. This discovery gave credence to the story passed down through the Stiver family that some of their ancestors were buried in Union Campground Cemetery. They recalled that Isaac Stiver was supposed to be buried in the old graveyard when he died in 1897, although no written proof has been found. The Stiver farm was just east of Union Campground.

Isaac was born in 1826 to Jacob and Sarah (Seyler) Stiver in Montgomery Co., Ohio. His father, grandfather and great grandfather were all born in Pennsylvania. Isaac married Susanna Hoerner in 1853 in Montgomery Co. Ohio and after their marriage they lived in Pueblo Co., Ohio where their oldest son was born in 1854. They moved back to Montgomery Co. where their second son was born in 1855.

They moved to Elkhart Co., Indiana in 1856 where they lived for 22 years on a farm that had been deeded to him by his

During this period 7 boys and 3 girls were born. In 1878 they moved to Greene Co., MO., in a covered wagon, bringing along 6 sons and 1 daughter. The oldest 3 sons and 1 daughter were grown and stayed in Indiana. The youngest son was born in Greene Co. in 1880. Following Isaac’s death, his widow and younger sons moved to north Springfield on National Avenue. One son returned to Indiana, one son disappeared, and 2 sons moved to Okla. The first wife of Isaac’s son Harrison and Charlie are buried in Union Campground.

Wesley was the 5th son born to Isaac and Susanna. He married Maggie Witherspoon in 1886. Wesley bought the Witherspoon homestead in Franklin Township after 1900. His sons Roy and Wade, grandsons Clifford, Harry and Bernie, granddaughter Pansey Harvey and great-grandson Clarence all raised their families in Franklin Township.

Isaac’s daughter, Jennie, married Wm. Penn Murray. Their granddaughter, Lenora, married Clifford Burrell and still lives on Summit Street Road north of Springfield.

Roy’s son Bernie, daughters Pansy Harvey and Margaret Bredeman, and grandson Bruce Bredeman and Wade’s grandson, Clarence, are active members of the Union Campground Cemetery Association.

Prepared by:

Pansy Stiver Harvey
### OFFICERS

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

### Directors

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<td>Douglas Rayl</td>
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**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 Cemetery Assn.  
1853 E. Gretna  
Springfield, MO 65804  
417-881-4456

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### UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY TREASURER’S REPORT  
APRIL 1, 2002

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Signed: *Pansy Harvey, Treasurer*

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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**