FLIGHT MUSEUM PLACED ON HOLD

The News Leader published an article May 15, 2002 stating that the property owner of the proposed site for the Legacy of Flight Museum had withdrawn his offer to sell. This action was taken, according to the property owner, because he grew impatient watching negotiating deadlines pass. Since plans were first announced to build the museum, the project has been scaled back from 325,000 square feet to 120,000 square feet and would feature only 20 aircraft instead of 40.

Springfield and Greene County officials remain committed to building a right-of-way and access road. They are also willing to develop a community improvement district that will capture taxes within its boundaries to pay down the debt service on the bonds.

With this delay, our Association once again has to be patient and see “what happens.” If an announcement is made that financing becomes available to The Legacy of Flight, then contact will be made with the proper officials to talk about an access road into The Union Campground Cemetery.

UPDATE ON MODOT'S PLAN TO REVAMP INTERCHANGE AT VALLEY WATER MILL ROAD AND HIGHWAY 65

In July 2002, the Missouri Department of Transportation held an open house for the public to view the latest plans for future projects as related to the I-44 and Highway 65 exchange as well as for the Valley Water Mill Road and Highway 65 exchange.

The highway department officials were also desirous of receiving comments from interested persons as a step in the process of making general improvements. In this regard, a brief history of the cemetery was submitted in written form, stressing the fact that the members of Union Campground Cemetery Association would like to work with the highway department to create an entryway across the private land south of the cemetery, beginning at some point on Valley Water Mill Road.

In the August election, the highway department had an issue on the ballot requesting monies for future projects. This issue was defeated, and since the Valley Water Mill Road project was to be funded from new tax money, the outlook for the near future does not seem encouraging.

INDIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Kickapoo Indian Reservation by treaty with the United States, July 19, 1819, the Kickapoo Indians received a tract of land in Southwest Missouri. This territory included what is now the northern two-thirds of Greene County. An early map of Greene County published in History of Greene County by Fairbanks & Tuck, drawn by A. M. Haswell, shows roads, Indian trails, villages and mounds, and clearly reveals the southern boundary of the Kickapoo Indian Reservation in the immediate vicinity of Union Campground and Cemetery. About five miles to the east of the cemetery, and just north/northeast of present day Strafford, Missouri, the map depicts an active Kickapoo village (1828).

According to Fairbanks & Tuck, the meaning of the word Kickapoo is as follows: “He stands about, or be moves about, standing now here, now there.”

The Kickapoos belonged to the Algonquin family who lived in Wisconsin about 1667. They were driven southward by northern Tribes in 1765 and remained for a short time in Illinois.

cont. page 2
Some of them were associated with Tecumseh and his war against the White man, and a portion of them later migrated to Indiana and later removed to the reservation in Missouri. They lived in permanent villages, raising corn, beans and squash, often wandering out in the plains to hunt.

Greene County history, as recorded in Fairbanks & Tuck, tells of beautiful large prairies in the region, for timber in those days was mainly near water sources. Over these broad expanses roamed buffalo, elk, deer, wolf and bear, while the prairie grass was alive with smaller game.

The Kickapoo were removed in 1829 and 1832, and then early pioneers began to homestead.

With this information as a background, additional research took the form of oral interviews with numerous people who presently live in the Valley Water Mill area and whose roots go back several generations. It was soon established that many Indian artifacts had been found through the years along the Little Sac River, which is situated downhill of Union Campground Cemetery (to the north), as well as in adjacent fields and the nearby springs.

One interview took place with John Draheim on March 26, 1996. His grandfather, who was 88 years old at the time of his death in 1958, had bought and cleared the farmland east of where Valley Water Mill Road now ends, and had frequently mentioned the piles of chips he had found near the several springs on his property. Quite often, John and his grandfather would take walks through the fields, stand on the bank of the “creek,” look across to the other side and observe some mounds about 100’ in length. His grandfather had been told by the “old-timers” of the Valley Water Mill area that these mounds had been constructed by the Indians for drainage purposes to protect there wigwams. The mounds have long-since disappeared.

AN UNKNOWN FACTOR

Local historians have also recorded the presence of other tribes in Southwest Missouri, namely the Osage and Delaware. But, is it possible another tribe wandered into this territory who were called the Fox/Sauk? They claimed ownership of all the area north of the Missouri River and traditionally remained in that region. However, they were aggressive hunters and warriors and could have strayed to this part of the State in their quest for food and animal furs. They probably did not establish permanent villages but conducted seasonal forays, ranging far and wide in their hunting expeditions. If so, they might have been seen by French traders, who were constantly scouting the countryside for pelts.

The Sauk, or Sac, were reported to carry a medicine bag among their personal belongings. The Reader’s Digest publication Through Indian Eyes (published 1995, p. 157) has this quote from a Winneabea, Sauk warrior: “We value our medicine bags so highly that we would not part with them while life endures. Some of us did, and this proved to be source of many heavy calamities.”

The noted author, Washington Irving, had visited one of the Fox/Sauk camps during a tour of the Western Frontier, and he later vividly described their appearance (quoted from The Heritage of Missouri-A History, p. 130, by Duane Meyer):

“They were all armed with spears, clubs, guns and knives. Many of the warriors had a long tuft of red horsehair tied to their elbows, and wore a necklace of grizzly bear’s claws. Their headdress consisted of red dyed horsehair, tied in such a manner to the scalp lock to present the shape of the decoration of a Roman helmet. The rest of the head was completely shave and painted...They beat drums. They uttered yells at definite points...They looked the very spirit of defiance...”

QUESTIONS

Could the bold and dramatic Fox/Sauk warriors have had contact with the French in Southwest Missouri? Were the French so influenced by them that they applied the name “Sac” to several of our waterways?

The map drawn by A. M. Haswell labeled three different streams with the name Sac: Little Sac, Big Sac and Dry Sac Creek.

Perhaps we may never know the answer, but the French did leave a lasting impression on the land as they journeyed into unknown territory, taking notice of certain features and promptly naming them.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl, President
Union Campground Cemetery Association
A MOMENT IN HISTORY
The James S. Lewis Family

The conditions in Greene County following the Civil War were bleak. The countryside had been devastated by the many skirmishes and battles. Troops on both sides had pillaged and burned, leaving few resources for weary citizens. Somehow their lives had to be rebuilt. There was little or no time for anything that did not pertain to survival.

In the midst of this restructuring, rural churches found themselves with very little cash; there did not seem to be the interest for camp meetings they had enjoyed before the war. Money was not available to support a minister and most families did not even have a horse or wagon to travel the necessary distance to worship.

Due to these circumstances, a picture emerges through the hazy shadows of time, revealing the serious conditions facing the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Year 1866. Whether the church building near the Union Campground was still in existence, we do not know, but the matter of selling the acreage surrounding the graveyard had to be discussed.

A series of meetings must have been held by trustees C. C. Williamson, R. J. Sims, W. P. Dysart and James Harkness to discuss, argue and debate about the wisdom of selling the land. This acreage had been the scene of many gatherings, with the faithful involved in the protracted camp meetings. Perhaps many had been baptized in the nearby river, and we know that a death occurred in the very first month the campground was acquired.

By September 1866, agreement was reached to sell the 39.6 acreage, with the exception of the 3 acre graveyard, to a man by the name of James S. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was a farmer and owned property to the south of Union Campground and Cemetery. He first appears in historical context as early as 1846 when he was served a subpoena to appear as a witness in Greene County Circuit Court.

The 1850 census has James S. as the head of the household, age 24, Illinois; Angeline, his wife, age 21, Indiana; and living with them four Keeney children as well as Elizabeth Watson, age 22, Indiana. Twenty years later in 1870, the Keeney children are not listed nor Elizabeth Watson. Instead we find Oliver, age 8, Missouri, Mary, age 6, Missouri and Ulysses, age 4, Missouri. By 1880, two daughters are listed, Mary P. and W.S.G. ages 15 & 13, along with two grandchildren, John, age 10 and Nancy, age 7.

Few details have emerged concerning the personal life of James S. Lewis. His birth date is unknown. He died May 28, 1896 and the Paxson Funeral Home provided one casket and box for $32, a burial wrapper for $14, and a pair of slippers for $1.50. His wife, Angeline (birth date unknown), died May 30, 1890, and the Springfield Republican reported her age as 75. Her death occurred at home, south of the city, and burial was to be in the old Union Campground 7 miles northeast of the city, by the side of her husband who died four years earlier.

James S. was apparently concerned enough with the cemetery to petition for a road in 1875 that led toward the cemetery, turning east for some distance, then on to the north again crossing the Little Sac River to the end at Blue Grass Road. It appears access to the cemetery could have been from this road. A few descendants have reported hearing that you could enter the cemetery from a road east of the cemetery. The following neighbors and friends signed James' petition in 1875: Jackson, Thomas, B.F. Rathbone, Thomas J. Dulin, William Reynolds, A. J. Dulin, J. W. Dulin, T. S. Dulin, Henry Overstreet, W. N. McMurry, Thomas H. Rathbone, W. D. Reynolds, A. M. Reynolds, T. G. Price, R. R. Putman, Aaron Beckner, William ? , H. H. Westmoreland, W. B. Edmundson, J. M. McCracken.

A map drawn in 1904 shows another road (and the one often mentioned in our newsletters) coming up from the section lines (Sec. 3 and 4), running toward the east of the cemetery and then on to the north and eventually leading on east to the old farmhouse on the adjacent property. Documentation has not been found to show the name of the road, if it ever had a name, or who petitioned for the road.

Just this last year, a descendant of James S. and Angeline called at the Library Center in Springfield, inquiring about the location of the cemetery. Kyle Johnson, a descendant, from Centerville, TN. had found a notice pertaining to the death of Sarah A. (Lewis) Crosby, Sarah was the daughter of James S. and Angeline. The notice states she was to be buried in Union Cemetery, five miles northeast of the city.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl, President
### OFFICERS

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

### Directors

<table>
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<td>James Appleby</td>
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<td>Margaret Bredeman</td>
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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.  
3856 S. Jefferson  
Springfield, MO 65807  
417-881-4456

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### UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

#### TREASURERS REPORT

**OCTOBER 1, 2002**

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Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

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### THE UNION CAMPGROUND

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED