ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Saturday, June 7, 2003
12:00 Noon

Vera Chandler’s Farm

Can you believe it is time for our annual meeting? It seems only a few months ago since we last met and had such a good time at Vera’s.

You will notice the meeting and picnic are scheduled somewhat later this year. A few of our people teach school, and in order to accommodate school closing dates, the decision was made to plan for a Saturday in June. We hope this is satisfactory for everyone.

Board members should arrive by 10:30 A.M. for a short business meeting. The picnic will start at noon and you are asked to bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Meat will be furnished as well as paper products, iced tea and lemonade. We always have a few guests, so be sure to prepare a generous amount.

Please refer to the map on the back of this newsletter for directions to the Chandler farm. Let’s see if we can have the best ever attendance at this year’s get-together.

The treasurer reminds all members that it will be time for annual dues, so hand your check to Pansy Harvey at the meeting or mail to her at 3822 E. State Hwy AA, Springfield, MO 65803. Dues are $15.00 per person or any two people for $25.00.

President Jean Rayl

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Robert Wesley Meals

The wedding plans were under way although a definite date had not been selected. The bride-to-be was aglow with happiness and looking forward to a long married life with the young and handsome, Robert Wesley Meals. Everything seemed to be going well with nothing to cloud the horizon.

But, as so often happens, FATE stepped in and altered the course of their lives. The young girl was M. Clara Chandler, daughter of William Allen and Rebecca Suzanne (Connelly). Her future husband-to-be was Robert Wesley Meals. Both young people began to experience health problems, and their future, once thought to be filled with happiness, became filled instead with anxiety and fear. The Chandler family doctor had traveled some miles by buggy to examine Clara and found she was suffering from consumption. The same diagnosis was pronounced about Robert’s condition. There were months of lingering illness for Clara and Robert. What medicines the doctors prescribed would not help much at all. Although aspirin was available, some people in the rural areas were suspicious of its healing quality, thinking perhaps it was a dangerous poison.

Robert was the first to die on February 8, 1901. An account of his death appeared in The Springfield Republican, February 10, 1901: “R.W. Meals, 21 year old son of C.W. Meals, died Friday of consumption at his home five miles northeast of the city. The remains were buried in the country yesterday.”

Then, on April 17, 1902, Clara’s death was recorded and her body interred in the Mt. Comfort Cemetery.

The two young lives ended after only a moment’s time in history.

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Genealogy of the Chandler family tells us that the Meals came to Greene County from Moberly, Missouri in 1893. According to Robert’s sister, Mrs. Robert Milton Chandler, Robert Wesley was definitely buried in Union Campground Cemetery.

Vera Chandler remembers the reminders of Jerry’s mother, that on Decoration Day Jerry and his father must see that flowers were placed in Union Campground Cemetery at the grave of her brother, Robert Meals. She also encouraged them to clean and weed around the tombstone.

No trace remains today of the tombstone.

Material furnished by:

Vera Chandler

Remember, Bring your Lawn Chairs to the
Before the advent of the railroad in Southwest Missouri, early settlers spent many weeks during the year in the business of freighting. Goods were transported by steamboat and ox-freight lines to merchants in St. Louis, MO, 240 miles by wagon, or sent up-river to Boonville, MO, some 125 miles to the north.

All towns and villages depended upon transportation for existence. Trading posts, later becoming general stores, had to have the means of obtaining supplies as well as having the means of shipping local products to other markets.

From the time the county was first settled, trade flourished under the above conditions. However, when the railroads crossed the Mississippi in the early 1850’s, a new era of transportation emerged.

The United States Congress offered railroad companies immense amounts of land to build their lines through the unsettled Western Territories. In 1852 a land grant to the southwest branch of the Pacific Railroad was made and a line was started toward Springfield and Greene County.

To give an example of the vast expanse of land involved, Fairbanks & Tuck, Vol.I, p.187, describes the granting of public domain:

"The grant for this particular road comprised all vacant government lands upon the even-numbered sections for a distance of six miles on each side of the surveyed route. It was specified that the company had the right to take all vacant land up to a distance of 15 miles on each side of the survey, to make up an equivalent of six miles solid alternate sections. The survey crossed Greene County diagonally from about the center of the east line to a point but a short distance from the southwest corner of the county, and there were about

100,000 acres of railroad land in Greene County. Some of this was the finest prairie, for the original settlers, not being familiar with land that grew no trees, doubted the fertility of the prairies, and settled where they were sure of the two prime requisites of life, as they viewed it, timber and water. Thus some of the finest lands became railroad property…"

The line toward Springfield was slowly progressing when railroad building came to a standstill during the great panic of 1857. Eventually, construction resumed, and when the Civil War broke out, the line had reached Rolla, MO, 120 miles away.

After the war, Greene County voted a special tax levy to hasten the arrival of the railroad. It was 1870, however, before the first locomotive chugged into this region, belching voluminous smoke, emitting strange sounds, causing consternation for both humans and livestock.

The settlers near Union Campground Cemetery were among those who looked forward to sending produce and other materials by railroad. Whether it was lumber cut and shipped by wagon to the nearest terminal (perhaps Strafford, Missouri); mules transported by rail to the Southern states; fruits from bountiful orchards to far-flung markets, the railroad was quicker and easier method of shipment. Profits were expected and often realized.

Jean Rayl

Presenting a brief history of the first railroad line into the Springfield area is included in this newsletter for two reasons:

1) When railroad land was made available following the completion of lines through Greene County and citizens could purchase acreage, many families connected with Union Campground Cemetery took advantage of this golden opportunity, later having one of more members working in some capacity for the railroad. A few names mentioned during research: Ed Dulin was blacksmith for the Frisco*; W.N. McMurry was a machinist or boilermaker; Harry McMurry was employed in the yards and retired from his job; John Price, descendant of the Sims family, worked as a coach painter for some years, and his two brothers, William and Robert, worked for the railroad until retirement; Claude Meals, brother of Robert Meals, spent many years as a watchman; Clarence Stiver was a car and train inspector until his retirement; Vera Chandler was employed for a brief time in the auditing department.

*In 1876 the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad became the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company, better known as the Frisco.

2) A rusted iron lid, eaten away in portions was found a few years ago under a layer of leaves and dirt. It was identified as a lid to a dutch oven. Since railroad crews camped as much as one to two miles on either side of the roadbed, it is entirely possible a crew left the lid behind when their work was finished. (The cemetery is approximately one-and-a-half miles north of the railroad as it cuts through the countryside just south of I-44.)

CONGRATULATIONS

go out to

CLARENCE AND DONNA STIVER

for

50 YEARS TOGETHER
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

DULIN FAMILY
by Hazel Dulin Voris

The research that I have done convinces me that Thomas S. and Margaret Swift Dulin are buried in The Union Campground Cemetery. They do NOT have tombstones, and I probably will never find any. Aunt Mary Ann (Dulin) Overstreet, is quoted as being at the cemetery on “Decoration Day” and telling some of the grandchildren that their great-grandparents are buried “here” and marked with “these rocks.”

The Dulin Family moved to Greene County, Missouri in 1851 from Robertson County Tennessee. The land was plentiful, cheap and less crowded. They moved to Section 3, Township 30, Range 21, where Thomas S. Dulin received a land grant in 1854 for 130 acres at $1.25 per acre. He was a farmer.

The Dulin family lived “up the road” east of the cemetery. They went by the cemetery many times on their way home or going somewhere. One of the first “Dulins” buried in the cemetery was Josie Ann Giles Dulin. She married Andrew Jackson Dulin (son of the above couple) on 24 Jul 1865 in Cooper Co. MO. Florence McMurray Dulin verified her death as 13 Feb 1866. Florence was the second wife of Andrew Jackson Dulin and the above information is in his Civil War File. Andrew and Florence moved to Texas and are buried in Oak Cliff Cemetery in Dallas.

Florence’s brother was William Newton McMurray and married Margaret Ellen Dulin (daughter of the above couple). Both W.N. and Ellen are buried in Union Campground with tombstones, along with their two daughters, Alta and Daisy.

John Wesley Dulin, (son of the above couple), and Elizabeth Null’s youngest child “was killed when a boy, lived there until 1851, moved to Greene County MO, where he has lived ever since. He was a member of the Methodist Church over 50 years, and died in his faith.”

Sarah Dulin Kennedy (dau of John W.) another grandchild of the above couple died in childbirth on 14 Jun 1894 age 21. She is also buried at the cemetery with no stone per Charles Dulin.

Alonzo Dulin died 17 Jul 1907 age 42. Ethel Dulin born 15 Nov 1902 died 24 Feb 1911 age 9 years.

Infant of Walter P. Dulin, age 7 months died 10 Sep 1907. On Wednesday 11 Sep 1907 Springfield, MO Republican. “The seven month old infant of Walter P. Dulin, who lives four miles north of the city, died Tuesday morning off summer complaint. The funeral will be held this afternoon and the interment will be at the Union Camp burial ground.”

Children of John Wesley, Alonzo and Ethel were buried at Union Camp Cemetery, then on 26 Jun 1924 they were moved to East Lawn Cemetery where there tombstones are today. (Information from Paxson Funeral Home records 1900-1926.)

John Wesley Dulin born 2 Mar 1837 and died 15 Mar 1916 from an accident with a sawmill. He was buried in Union Camp Ground Cemetery. Three years later, his family had his body exhumed and buried him at Greenlawn Cemetery. The Cemetery was deteriorating and no one was taking care of it is the reason for the move.

I am sure these people would be very appreciative that there is a small group of people interested in preserving this cemetery. I know that I am. I hope that this organization will be successful in leaving a legacy for the future of the cemetery.
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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Betty Roy 2002
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Betty Jane Turner 2003
Bernie Stiver 2003
Hazel Voris 2003
James Appleby 2004
Margaret Bredeman 2004
Douglas Rayl 2004

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

Bettie Hickman, Vice President

UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
TREASURERS REPORT

April 1, 2003

Balance, October 1, 2002 $3,796.68

Receipts:

Disbursements:
   Newsletter 47.23
   Bank Box Rental 18.00
Total Disbursements: 65.23

Balance, April 1, 2003 $3,731.45

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer