ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC
Saturday, May 22, 2004
at
The Chandler Farm
12:00 Noon

Following Lunch
1:00 P.M.
A meeting of the members
and election of Officers
for 2004-2005
Entertainment to follow

You are encouraged to come
to the picnic and enjoy good food
and fellowship. Meat, iced tea,
lemonade and coffee will be pro-
vided along with paper products.
Bring a generous covered dish of
your choice. Members of the
Board of Directors are asked to
arrive around 10:30 A.M. for a
brief business meeting.

Please refer to the map on the
back of this newsletter for direc-
tions to the Chandler Farm.

Joe Kensel

Who is Joe Kensel? Joe is the
son of Scott and Carol Kensel.
Joe is 14 years old and in the
eighth grade at Logan-Rogersville
Junior High School. Joe has been
in Scouts since he was in the first
grade. He has advanced through
every level of scouting. The last
hurdle is the ultimate goal of every
young man in scouts is receiving
the Eagle Scout award. Joe has
the 22 merit badges required to
receive the Eagle Scout award.
The last requirement for this ad-
vancement is a work project. Joe
must layout the project, work and
supervise his work crew to com-
plete the job. Joe with the help of
fellow members of Troop 46 will
spread wood chips down the 1/8
mile trail that has been cleared and
prepared for the wood chips.
The trail is on the West side of
the Sunnybrook Property on the
Missouri State right-of-way start-
ing at the South end from Valley
Water Mill Road and go North to
the South property line of the
Cemetery. At that point we will
install a gate into the cemetery.
Probably the best road will be to
follow the south fence line East
across the ditch and this will take
us close to the most used part of
the cemetery. This trail will allow
us to take in small tractors and
mowing equipment and do some
much needed cleaning of the
cemetery grounds. There are sev-
eral trees down and some on the
fences.

Larry Voris

Rob Chandler has taken his new
job as President serious. He has
negotiated with the MO State
Highway Department for a ease-
ment along the edge of their prop-
erty for the Cemetery Association
to have a small trail. Thanks Rob.

New Cemetery Access
by Joe Kensel

Boy scout troop 46 of
Rogersville will help to establish a
safe access to the Union Camp-
ground Cemetery.

Joe Kensel is conducting his
Eagle Scout Project on Saturday,
May 1, 2004. This includes
spreading wood chips on a 1/8 of
a mile trail. Thanks to Rob Chan-
dler, the MO Highway Depart-
ment has granted an easement on
their right-of-way from Valley
Water Mill Road.

A rough path has already been
created along the Highway side of
Sunnybrook Estate’s fence line. Rob Chandler, Larry Voris, Scott
Kensel and Joe Kensel have al-
ready worked several hours to get
the path to where it is today.

Hopefully the project will have
a good turn out on May 1st. Ev-
everyone is invited to come and
watch the progress. The work
will begin around 10:00 A.M. on
Saturday.

Can you help us on May 1
May 1 will be a work day at
the new trail from Valley Water
Mill Road to the Cemetery. We
want to feed the Boy Scouts that
will help us that day. The Associ-
ation will buy the fried chicken,
but we would like volunteers to
help provide drinks, desserts, etc.
Please call Jean Rayl at 881-4456
to let us know what you can bring.
THE SEARCH CONTINUES

We know the Cumberland Presbyterian Church purchased 39.6 acres in 1840 to establish a campground. We know the acreage was sold in 1866 with the exception of the three acre graveyard. What we do not know is the name of the church and where it was located. Two developments in this regard:

1. About a year-and-a-half ago, someone visited the Library Center making inquiry about a Cumberland Presbyterian Church named Union Chapel in northeast Greene County. No one thought to write down the person’s name and address, so we have no other information. The name Union Chapel certainly sounds like a good fit with Union Campground.

2. A file at the Greene County Archives, labeled Papers of Incorporation, has a folder containing a petition for certificate of incorporation (1866) by a Cumberland Presbyterian Church named Pleasant Divide. No legal description given. Four names appearing on the petition match four of the names on the Indenture of 1866 when the campground was sold: C.C. Williamson, W.P. Dysart, R.J. Sims and James Harkness.

Question: If Pleasant Divide was the church at Union Campground, then why would the trustees petition for incorporation knowing the acreage was to be sold?

Two thoughts come to mind:

1. Perhaps the structure was built just before the Civil War and there was no opportunity to petition for incorporation during the war years. In 1866, when the decision was made to sell the land, it was probably felt there was still a need to file a petition in order for the church to move forward.

2. Could the church have been located within the three acres graveyard?

Michael Fare, historian of the Cumberland Church in Springfield, has promised to research the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Archives for the names Union Chapel and Pleasant Divide.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Mary E. Sage

Research on Union Campground Cemetery was at an all-time high during the summer of 1994. We were attempting to discover all we could in a short period of time. Contacts were made with families, either through telephone conversations or personal interviews and from these contacts many interesting and colorful stories emerged about "what-used-to-be."

More than one family mentioned that years ago an old wagon road ran along the western edge of the cemetery. To verify this story, a few photographs were taken. One of the photographs revealed traces of tracks made by the passage of wagons. No evidence, however, of where the road began and ended. A few people believed it started on Valley Water Mill Road and threaded its way along the western edge of the cemetery, leaving the boundaries in the northwest corner.

The ground to the western edge is uneven and overgrown. Small rocks are scattered and embedded in the soil. One rock seemed to be a little unusual. After a bit of prodding, prying and digging around the rock, a perfectly preserved tombstone came to light. The leaves and dirt and protected it from the elements for untold seasons. Lettering on the stone reveals:

MARY E. SAGE
Dau. of W.W. and S.A. Sage
Died: Feb. 8, 1884
3 Y,1 M, 28 D
"Suffer Little Children Come Unto Me" At the top of the tombstone is a dove.

The Springfield Land Office Sales Book (1833-1892) does not show a Sage family owning farmland. By 1904, the sales book lists a E.A. Sage, E.W. Sage, O.B. Sage and Martha Sage as owners of acreage in Franklin Township, but no W.W. Sage. Searches were made of probate, tax and census records with no results. Marriage Abstracts (1871-1893) show a William Sage married to Lucy Haslip on 4 October 1871. The name Lucy does not match the initials of S.A. Sage on the tombstone. The Springfield City Directory and Greene County Gazetter (1890-1891) lists W.W. Sage as owning property in Sec 22, Taylor Township, with a post office address as Ozark, MO.

An account of Mary’s death is to be found in the Greene County Missouri Archives Births and Deaths (1883-1890), p. 186:

"Mary E. Sage - death registered by Dr. J.A. Brown - died of typhoid - state of system with thrush - suffered 3 months."

Typhoid, an acute highly infectious disease, is associated with contaminated food or water. Thrush is an oral infection with a fungus, characterized by white eruptions in the mouth. The doctor could not have done much more than keep Mary hydrated and as comfortable as possible. She probably did not take much water of food at the end of her life. How young to die, suffering untold misery, with little medical care because it simply was not available.

Mary Sage needs to be remembered. We can help do this by replacing her tombstone on its base. The base is nearby and in good condition.

No other Sage burials have been found in Union Campground Cemetery.

Prepared by: Jean Rayl
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

IN MEMORIAM
James Kelvin Mott
B: 20 Feb. 1966
D: 19 July 2004

Jim was the husband of Elaine Mott, who has served so many years as our recording secretary. Jim was one of our most dedicated and likable members. He spent many hours working in the cemetery even though no one in his family was buried there. His quiet and steady ways will be missed.

For the past 13 years he was employed at the Springfield Police Department working in the criminal investigation section as a computer forensics specialist.

We bid farewell to a remarkable young man.

NOTES BY GRATEFUL

Have you ever paused to wonder what our Ozark frontier ancestors faced when they arose from their straw tick, feather mattress covered rope bed on a lovely spring day?? Ozark spring weather not only brings flowers, but unexpected showers and the myriad’s of insects necessary that creates our ecological environment.

The first part of the saying “Sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite”, arose from the experience of sleeping on a loosely strung rope bed or maybe damp weather had loosened a tightly strung rope causing a severe dip in the middle. Knowing that a hard mattress prevents many a backache, it is very possible that a sagging rope bed would cause frontier folk some back pain. Another hazard of a sagging rope bed is that everyone would slide to the middle and this too would not allow for a good rest. Hence, there was a rope key to tighten the rope and allow for better sleeping. The rest of the expression, “don’t let the bed bugs bite” came from the insects who loved a warm bed and were possibly still present in the spring before the bedding had been taken out and aired. A night of itchin could also interrupt a good sleep. Of course, after a normal day of working on a farm in the mid eighteenth century, one could be so tired that they would sleep through everything.

Time to rise and face the hard work that was ever present on a farmstead without running water or electricity. The trip to the odorous outhouse, carrying the jars of accumulated waste from a large family, in our opinion, would not be a pleasant way to start the day. Maybe one of the many children would do that chore when they got up later. The lack of paper in the 1860’s is a fact we would quickly notice on a trip to the privy, especially if we did not have a supply of newly collected green leaves. I sometimes wonder about the reported use of corn cobs!

To wash your hands and face, you can hope that the pitcher or bucket still contained enough water from the well without making an early morning run necessary. The hand made lye soap may seem a bit harsh to us, but it was used for hands, face, wash tubs, floor or anywhere soap was necessary for cleaning. The washing of teeth was not a usual daily occurrence, hence teeth would need to be pulled if poor tooth hygiene had caused decay. At that time, the only treatment for an infected tooth was extraction. This practice resulted in the grim faces in the many photographs of some of our ancestors who did not want to show a toothless smile.

Dressing was another task to accomplish before starting the daily chores. It took the hooking of many buttons on underwear, pants, shirts, shoes, petticoats, other female undergarments, skirts and blouses. A button hook facilitated this arduous task.

For the women, who usually had long hair, there was a handmade bone comb, bone or wire pins to take care of some kind of a hair do.

Dressed and groomed, we are now ready to start work on a beautiful Ozark spring day.

Signed, Grateful that I live in the present.

Prepared by: Betty Jane Rathbone

Presidents Message

These past few months we have made significant progress toward having better access to the cemetery! After May first we expect to be able to park on the shoulder on the north side of Valley Water Mill Road and walk north on a wood chip covered trail along the edge of the highway dept. property to the cemetery. It will be a long trek, and somewhat difficult to travel, but not as bad as the drainage ditch access we have had to resort to in the past. We hope to have places to stop and sit so folks on the path can catch their breath as the need arises. We have many people to thank for the hard work that has gone into this project already, and I am sure many more as time progresses and we are able to work in the cemetery itself. Burt Pitchford (Missouri Highway Dept. Area Engineer), Joe Kensel (Eagle Scout candidate), Scott Kensel (Joe’s father), Boy Scout Troop #46, Cindy Jeffries, Jean Rayl, Mike Inman (Spfgd Dept. of Public Works) and Larry & Hazel Voris are some who come to mind right off. I am sorry if I have left anyone out at this time, but rest assured that the efforts of everyone involved in this project are much appreciated. We should have an easier time in the near future of making the cemetery just what we all envision, a place that we can all be proud of for our ancestors to be buried. God bless you and we hope to see or hear from you soon. Rob
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICERS 2003-2004
Rob Chandler, President
Bettie Hickman, 1st Vice Pres.
Jean Rayl, 2nd Vice Pres.
Elaine Mott, Secretary
Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec’y
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

Directors
James Appleby 2004
Margaret Bredeman 2004
Douglas Rayl 2004
Jean Rayl 2005
Kay Witherspoon 2005
Joanna Coonrod 2006
Raymond Ellison 2006
Ben Gravely 2006

Cemetery Location:
US Hwy 65 North of I-44 at Valley Water Mill Road, Springfield, MO.

Address all inquiries to:
Rob Chandler, President
Union Campground Cemetery Assn.
4875 E. Cimarron Lane
Springfield, MO 65803
417-833-4501

UNION CAMPGROUND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
TREASURERS REPORT
April 22, 2004

Balance, October 1, 2003 $4,007.75

Receipts:
Dues $40.00
Books
Sign Rental
Donations 50.00

Total Receipts: 90.00
Total Balance and Receipts $4,097.75

Disbursements:
Newsletter Printing 76.50
Insurance 210.00

Total Disbursements: 286.50

Balance, October 1, 2003 $3,811.25

Signed: Pansy Harvey, Treasurer