Members and friends of The Union Campground Cemetery Association

Annual Meeting Saturday, June 4, 2005
Lunch 12:00 p.m.
Meeting 1:00 p.m.

at the Vera Chandler’s Historic Farm

Bring a covered dish of your choice. Meat, drink and table service will be furnished

Come and enjoy the day in the country with good food and entertainment.

Presidents Notes:
I can’t believe it is already time for our annual meeting! This year has flown by, but it has been a productive one. We made great progress on our access to the cemetery, with trees cut to make the trail, smoothing of the walking path with tractors, wood chips placed for a better walking surface/weed control, and the locked cable at the Valley Watermill Road access point (to try to prevent four wheeler access and vandalism). The “wire gap” gate into the southwest corner of the cemetery will be replaced soon with a more “user friendly” gate, and the date for a work day in the cemetery (removal of downed trees, brush hogging, weed-eating, etc.) will be set at the annual meeting.

The calendar project we attempted last year was a good idea, but not financially viable for us to see to completion. The project was stopped before we had any money tied up in it, as it had become evident that we would lose money if we continued. There just weren’t enough calendars ordered to pay for the production costs. Perhaps in the future we can obtain corporate sponsorship or other support to make sure it is not a financial burden for the association.

I hope to see you at the Chandler farm on June 4th. The board will meet at 10 AM, with lunch at Noon, maybe a little music (we hope) to follow, and the meeting for all association members at 1:00 PM. Come see your friends and bring your ideas for new projects.

God bless you Robb
Patrons of Husbandry
or
The National Grange

On December 4, 1867, in a small Washington, D.C. building that housed the office of William Saunders, Superintendent of Propagation Gardens in the Department of agriculture, the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, was born. Here, sitting around a plain wooden table, a group of men planned what was destined to become a vital force in preserving and expanding American democracy. They were all men of vision; they had faith in God; in their fellow men and future.

The National Grange is the nation’s oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 3,600 communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable rural America. It was formed to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation’s farm population.

After the panic of 1873, thousands of farmers rushed to form units of the Patrons of Husbandry. They were angry over the high prices they had to pay for things they had to buy and the low prices they received for things they had to sell. Through the Grange, they hoped to improve their low economic condition.*

The Missouri Weekly patriot, June 26, 1873, describes a meeting at the Greene County Court House of the Patrons of Husbandry. A gentlemen from St. Louis, representing the Patrons of Husbandry, addressed a small audience upon the nature and objects of the organization. According to his comments, it was chiefly established to check the growing power of the railroads and other monied monopolies. Another object was to control the price of wheat and other products.

Holcombe’s History of Greene County (1883) writes about proceedings (Springfield, Missouri) under date of December 4, 1873:

“The patrons of Husbandry met for the purpose of completing an organization under the name of the District Council, composed of Greene and adjoining counties, adopted a constitution, appointed committees, and elected officers.”

Twenty-five subordinate granges were represented through their delegates, and one of them had the name of “Wood.” Thomas H. Rathbone was listed as a delegate, and this information tells us that the Patrons of Husbandry was active in the Valley Water Mill area.

To further establish active participation of the meetings by farmers near of nearby Union Campground, a brief mention was made by Elizabeth Alexander (now deceased) that her grandparents had told about attending grange meetings in the old church. This story is different from others recorded, that the church had either burned during the Civil War or shortly thereafter.

Today’s Grange provides an opportunity to serve by providing leadership for local community service projects. It reaches out to all people in an effort to respond to real needs. After 138 years it remains the nation’s oldest and strongest sustained organizational force working for a better life for rural Americans everywhere.

*The Settlers West, by Martin F. Schmitt and Dee Brown, p. 235
Prepared by:
Jean Rayl

THE UNION CAMPGROUND

A MOMENT IN HISTORY
The life of Josephine G.J. Deeds

The tombstone of Josephine Deeds was found in October 1994, buried under several layers of dirt and leaves. The original gravesite cannot be determined, although from her death date it would have been in the oldest section of Union Campground Cemetery.

The shape of the stone is similar to many others in this section, very plain and unadorned. The lettering is primitive and hard to read:

In Memory of
Josephine G. J. Deeds
Born: Feb. 17 A.D. 1843
Died: Dec. 28 A.D. 1844
Dau. of Margie (?) J.T.Y.D.

Who were her parents?
Three men in early Greene County history had the name of Deeds: James Deeds, Joshua T. Deeds, and Joseph Deeds. Only Joseph Deeds had a wife by the name of Margaret. Birth records in Greene County began in 1883. Before that time, birth registrations were “hit and miss”. As a result, no record exists for this young child. However, since the name Margie somewhat fits that of Margaret, research has focused on Joseph and Margaret Deeds.
The Polk County Missouri 1837 Tax List shows a Joseph Deeds owning 2 slaves valued at $1,000, 2
horses valued at $190, and 4 head of cattle valued at $100. In the Greene County Missouri Will Book C, No. 2: “Joseph Deeds of Greene County, State of Missouri, wrote his will on 26 Seep 1842. He named his beloved wife, Margaret M., who was to have plantation in lieu of her dower…” It should be noted that property owned by Joseph Deeds was not in the immediate vicinity of Union Campground Cemetery.

Greene County Probate Records, Book A, p. 31, May term 1843, ordered a sale of Joseph Deeds’ slaves. The Springfield Advertiser (1844-50) lists the death of Joseph Deeds in 1844, leaving a Margaret M. Deeds as one of the administrators of his estate.

By 1850, when the next federal census occurred, Margaret Deeds was listed as 49 years old, born in North Carolina, came to Missouri by 1835.

With so little information, nothing can be verified about Josephine except the dates on her tombstone. A few telephone contacts were made to individuals in Springfield who go by the name of Deeds, but no one was able to establish a Deeds family member who had had a daughter named Josephine.

Her death at such a early age, with no documentation of birth, and without family ties to Union Campground Cemetery, creates a puzzle. All that we can do in 2005 is to give recognition for her brief life and preserve and protect her tombstone.

Prepared By: 
Jean Rayl

Grandma’s Button Box

In past generations when clothing wore out, the lady of the house cut off all buttons before consigning the garment to the rag bag. The buttons were then tossed into a tin box or basket for later use. Buttons were hard to get on the frontier and tended to be expensive, so women added to their button boxes at every opportunity.

Not only were button boxes important to frugal housewives, they served as entertainment for bored children on rainy days. Buttons could be used as playing pieces on board games, a replacement for lost checkers and as every little girl knows, buttons make beautiful jewelry. Every child also knew when play time was over all buttons went back into the box until next play day.

In their infancy, buttons were more decorative than functional. They were made from a variety of materials: wood, mother -of -pearl, glass, precious stones and fabric to name a few. The material and use of buttons were determined by economics, politics and religion as well as fashion trends.

Prior to 1799s, most buttons were made mostly in France, Italy and Britain. Early buttons were made by guilds who specialized in various materials. These craftsman-made buttons were an established part of the economy. Guild-made buttons were expensive and worn by royalty and the “upper crust” in society. There were even laws to regulate how many buttons could be worn at one time.

In an effort to aid the economy of their countries, governments often decreed that buttons must utilize products that were prominent in their country. Examples of this are found in France in the 17th century where it was a law that all buttons be covered in silk to protect the silk industry. England at the same time prohibited fabric covered buttons to encourage the metal industry.

By the first quarter of the 19th century, buttons were being manufactured everywhere, with England, France Germany and the United States competing for dominance in the button industry.

Buttons have now become common sights on clothing, but with the introduction of velcro, they are coming full circle and becoming more decorative in use. Many people are now collection buttons for their beauty and individuality. Early buttons are hard to find and very cherished when they are added to a collection.

Some of the earliest button collectors were young girls of the late 1880s. They were very interested in creating charm strings. The goal was to have 1,000 buttons on a string. Legend said that when the string was completed, Prince Charming would come to claim the girl for his bride.

Whether you believe the legend or maybe you are simply frugal, button collecting can be fun and interesting.

(Sources: The Collector’s Encyclopedia of Buttons by Sally C. Luscomb and The Book of Buttons by Joyce Whittemore)

DUES

Just a reminder that it is time to pay dues. By supporting your Association, you make it possible to print and mail the newsletter and to maintain the cemetery. Make checks payable to Mrs. Fanny Harvey, 3822 E. State Hwy AA, Springfield, MO 65803. Dues are $15.00 for a single person or $25.00 for any two persons. The check should be made to: Union Campground Cemetery Association.
THE UNION CAMPGROUND
Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec’y
2340 S. Luster
Springfield, MO  65804

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICERS 2004-2005
Rob Chandler, President
Bettie Hickman, 1st Vice Pres.
Jean Rayl, 2nd Vice Pres.
Elaine Mott, Secretary
Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec’y
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Betty Jane Turner  2005
Jean Rayl  2005
Joanna Coonrod  2006
Raymond Ellison  2006
Ben Gravely  2006
Douglas Rayl  2007
Bernie Stiver  2007
Hazel Voris  2007

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
TREASURER’S REPORT

There being very little business

a report of the finances

will be read at the meeting.

Signed:

Pansy Harvey, Treasurer