Annual Meeting for 2009

We have conflicts this year on the Annual Meeting date. (We usually meet the first Saturday in June.) Our President Robb Chandler has family travel conflicts for the last Saturday in May and the first Saturday in June. (Please see below for more information)

Message from the President

It certainly is hard to believe that it has been another year already, but it has, and it is time to meet again to go over some business matters for our association. We have always enjoyed having our annual meeting at the home of Vera Chandler, but this year scheduling conflicts for both the last Saturday in May and the first Saturday in June will prevent us from benefiting from the hospitality and the covered dish meal we are used to there. (I apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause for you, and I know each of you have an open invitation to come to the Chandler home any time you can do so.)

In speaking with Larry, it looks like our best option is to meet on the last Friday of May, at Ryan’s Steakhouse on East Kearney (just East of Glenstone), for an evening dinner meeting. Let’s plan on the board members arriving to meet at 5:30pm, with the rest of the membership to join us at 6pm for the meal. The meal will be followed by the meeting of the board and general membership, which should start about 6:30pm. We have the room (in the North end of the restaurant) from 5:30 until 8pm, so we have lots of time to visit and “catch up” with each other.

We have had lots of great accomplishments this year, and we are poised for the completion of some of the work currently in progress and for more advancements in the upkeep and appearance of the cemetery. Please read the newsletter for some accounts of the progress, and if at all possible, join us at Ryan’s Steakhouse for this year’s annual meeting. If we don’t get to see you this time, we sure hope to be able to next time.

God bless you,

Robby Chandler

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

A small book entitled “Personal Reminiscences and Fragments of the Early History of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri” can be found on the shelves of the Greene County Public Library. It contains stories related by pioneers and their descendants at various old settlers’ dinners through the years 1907-1911.

A gentleman named Jesse M. Kelly attended one of the dinners. A portion of his narrative is printed below, covering the construction of houses, sleeping arrangements, system of communications, clothing and schooling.

“...In respect to the houses that people built in those days, they were made of rough logs and usually about sixteen feet square. There wasn’t a nail in them nor a piece of iron. They were what we called rib and weight pole roofs. The ribs were laid lengthwise to hold the boards, and boards were laid on ribs and weight poles were laid on the boards to hold them down. The doors were made of clapboards similar to those on the roof, generally four feet long and nearly a foot wide. They made a good roof, and the doors were hung on wooden hinges. They had a wooden latch on the inside with a string tied to it and a hole above it, and the string hung on the outside. If you were outside and wanted to get in, all you had to do was pull the string, and I suppose that is the original of the phrase that the latch string hangs on the outside.’

The sleeping arrangements in those cabins consisted merely of what we called a trundle bed, which was built low enough to be pushed under this bed which was to be used by the children, and in our house there was three of us children and we could all lie with our heads in one way upon the bed. After a while there was another one sent down from the big bed, and there were four of us. Then we had to turn, two heads one way and two the other way, and our feet went in between each other. After a while, when there got to be five of us in the trundle bed, and we could not be fitted in that, we had to be put crossways, and I, being the oldest boy, by that time I was to long, and I had to either let my head hang out on one side or my feet on the other.

“I would like to speak of the things of which we were deprived and which the younger people may think indispensable to business and comfort...we had no railroads, but we had our ox teams and house teams which enabled us to transport any of our products to market. We hauled our wheat to Boonville. We had no telegraph or telephone, but we had a substitute; we called it the ‘dinner horn.’ It was made from the largest and longest ox horn and had a suitable mouthpiece carved in the small end with an opening to the hollow of the horn. Any woman or 10 year-old boy or girl could blow this horn so that it might be heard from one to three miles away. This horn was used to call the men from their work to breakfast, dinner or supper, but if heard at any other hour of the day or night it was known as a signal for help. Everybody knew the tone of every settlers horn, and when heard at any hour between meal hours, every man within hearing distance started at once for the cabin from where the summons came. The cabin might be surrounded buy a pack of wolves, a panther or a wild cat -continued on page 4
OFFICERS 2008-09

Robb Chandler, President
Bettie Hickman, 1st Vice Pres.
Jean Rayl, 2nd Vice Pres.
Elaine Mott, Secretary
Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec'y
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer

Directors
Clarence Stiver 2011
Betty Jane Turner 2011
Jean Rayl 2011
Ben Gravely 2011
Douglas Rayl 2010
Hazel Voris 2010
Jackie Warfel 2010
Joanna Coonrod 2009
Molly Faulkner 2009
Don Holdway 2009

Doug Rayl is our web site coordinator. Check it out at:
http://www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org

We also have a web newsletter.
http://www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org

A Moment in History
Eliza Thomas
B: 22 May 1820 D: 6 Jun 1849 w/o W. A. Thomas
Eliza is buried in Union Campground Cemetery. We know this because her weather-worn, broken tombstone was found on the ground covered by leaves and dirt. The inscription on the stone reads as follows:

"You __ to God angles greet her,
join the seraph band
__are springing now to meet her,
__ that glorious spirit land."

The only individual owning land in the vicinity of the cemetery by the name of Thomas had a first name of Woodson. He is listed in the Springfield Land Office Sales Book 1833-1892 p. 124 as Woodson A Thomas owning acreage in Section 4, Range 21, Township 29, Greene County, MO. It seems likely that Woodson A Thomas was the husband of Eliza Thomas.

There is no record of a marriage in Greene County, MO; they were probably married in another state before moving to Southwest Missouri. The census of 1850 for Greene County, MO gives us the names of the Thomas family.

Woodson Thomas  36 M Farmer born VA
Eliza 33 F " SC
Celea A. 14 F " NC
Demarius J. 12 F " TN
Sarah 10 F " TN
Abigail M. 8 F " TN
Robert 7 M " TN
William H. 6 M " MO
John W. 5 M " MO
Mira M. 3 F " MO
James A. 1 M " MO
Milton Medley 14 M " TN
Samuel M Headley 74 M " TN

Census figures would have been completed before the published date of 1850. Since Eliza Thomas was born in 1820 and died in 1849 she would have been only 29 at the time of her death. The census gives her age as 33 years. The ages of her children listed in the above census would fall within the life span of Eliza.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl
THE UNION CAMPGROUND

Ucamp Work Log 2009
Hazel received this e-mail from Jody Clifton:
Subject: Boy Scout Eagle project
Hi all,
I worked the OGS Library today and received a call from Lester Gardner. He is looking for a cemetery that needs work/cleaning up, mapping etc.,... for an Eagle Scout project. He just needs to be in the area of Greene or Christian Co. If any of you can help him, please give him a call.
Jody

11-18-2008 10:00 AM
I immediately picked up the phone and called Les Gardner to see what he had in mind. We discussed the Union Campground Cemetery and what we would like to do and the progress we have made in the last couple of years. I told him by phone how to go to our web site and check it out. He e-mailed me back that afternoon saying he had looked at our web site.

12-18-2008 Thursday 2:48 PM
I received this e-mail from Les Gardner:
Hi Hazel,
I received a couple more calls while they were in the cemetery. He had been on our web site that day. He said this would be a doable project and he would get back to me after they accessed the project. We talked again just before Christmas and told me they would have to write up the project and submit it to the local Boy Scout office to get approved for an Eagle Scout project.
I Talked to Doug and Janet before Christmas about the projected project, also talked to Jackie.

3:15 PM Monday
I talked to Jim Atwell at Riteway Concrete Products, 860-1441. He has made about 20 stones from regular concrete and sent to a sandblaster to have “Unknown” sandblasted on one side of the stone. We can look at these and see if we like them. This will let us know if we want any more like these or have them plan. He will absorb the cost of the sandblasting.
1-05-2009 Visited with Robb about the happenings of the cemetery.
1-09-2009
Received call from Jim Atwell telling me he had 12 stones made with “Unknown” on them. They are ready to pickup.

1-11-2009
I received a call from Jackie Warfel telling me about a new GPR system. It is “Ground Seeding Radar”, Ryan with Ozarks Laser & Shoring, Inc., He has offered to help the Union Campground with the Imaging. She will talk to him again and see if we can set up a meeting with him.
I found the following on Google.
It can examine the subsurface to a depth up to 8 feet. Also keep cells 25 to 30 away from the antenna.
RADAN or Radar Data Analyzer. To be hooked up to a laptop computer program.
1-11-2009
I talked with Robb 8:30 PM Sunday night. He is to have knee surgery on Thursday at Noon. I told Robb about the GPR system and what is going on concerning the GPR. He was well pleased with the GPR offer.
1-12-2009
I had a Phone call from Ryan Cwecrink at Ozarks Laser. He explained a little bit on how the GPR worked. He would like to see the cemetery. We talked about the trees and he needs open space to connect to the satellite. He has access to one of the units. I picked up the 12 head stones from Rite Way Concrete. They looked good to me. Jim said to show them to the committee and see if they liked them and he would make what ever we wanted. Let him know.
1-13-2009 Met with Doug and Andrew on website.
2-5-2009 Visited with Jim Atwell at Riteway Concrete. We ordered 38 more stones to making a total of 50 for a beginning for this project. We also talked about the concrete test cylinders for the corners of the grids. He will talk to Palmerton & Parrish a concrete testing company. The test cylinders are 6” x 12” and could be placed at the corners of the grids. Also Anderson Engineering also does this kind of work and I have used there test cylinders before. I talked to Josh and they are at 2045 W. Woodland. He will start saving some of the better cylinders for us.
2-5-2009 Met Conner and Les Gardner and Tim from Ryans Tree service at the cemetery. They had already been down and looked when I got there. Tim said he would donate labor for 8 men for 2 days work on the trees. He would take the dead swing limbs out of the top of the trees and remove any dead trees and damaged trees left from the ice storm. He would bring in chips for us to use on the trail. He has some composted chips that about like dirt and would donate this to fill graves. Conner said he would get his troop together and come and rake the leaves and clean up what brush that was on the ground at this time. Tim asked if we could dig a 8 foot wide x 20 foot long x 2-3 foot deep trench to burn brush in. He said it would burn faster in a pit than on top of the ground. Conner said to keep track of any hours we spent working and report them to him. He needs to know total man hours spent on the project.
3-12-2009 Call from Jim Atwell saying that he has the 38 stones finished.
3-18-2009 Met with Doug and Don and worked on the fence and gate area. Don brought his tractor.
3-20-2009 Dale Stewart brought his backhoe out and dug the burn hole in the old roadway. (2-1/2 ft deep x 8 ft wide x 20 ft long) He then filled the hole with brush ready to burn. He removed the cut stump and the 2 little trees next to the stump that didn’t have any tops. We will give Dale a certificate for his work done for his tax purposes. Then he hauled a load of black mulch from Larry & Hazel’s mulch pile and dumped it just north of the cable gate. Dirt donated by Larry & Hazel Voris. We picked up the other 38 stones and Doug and Larry hauled them down to the cemetery.
4-15-2009 Ryans Tree service was out with 3 chip trucks that about like dirt and would donate this to fill graves.
5-5-2009 Call from Conner Gardner confirming that the scout troop is planning to work on Saturday May 9.
5-6-2009 Picked up 61 round concrete plugs and Robb came by and wrote his article for the newsletter. I guess you noticed he didn’t promise anything this time.

New Directions to get into the Cemetery
The Union Campground Cemetery is located 500 ft north of Valley Water Mill Road at the northeast corner of U.S. Highway 65 and Valley Water Mill Road. If you follow Highway 65 North from Springfield and go past (over) 1-44, you need to take the first exit which is Valley Water Mill Road. You need to turn right and turn around, then you can park on the north side of Valley Water Mill Road. You will then follow the path down the hill (North) and up to the Southwest corner to enter the cemetery.

The Missouri State Highway Department says that it is dangerous to park along side of US 65. US 65 is now a 4-lane highway to Fair Grove and they are working on the next section which will take us to Foose or Hwy EE south of Buffalo.

SO DO NOT ENTER OFF HWY 65

-Notice-
Annual Meeting
Friday,
May 29, 2009
Ryans Steak House
1950 E. Kearney
Springfield, MO

Board meeting at 5:30 PM with the rest of the membership to join us for the
Meal at 6:00 PM
The meal will be followed by the meeting of the board and general membership, which should start about 6:30pm. We have the room (in the North end of the restaurant) from 5:30 until 8pm, so we have lots of time to visit and “catch up” with each other.

New Web Site
I’m sure most of you have been to our new web site. Andrew did an outstanding job on creating the site. Doug reports that we have had several hits on the site. There is a program attached that tells us where the hits are coming from. So far we haven’t heard anything but good comments about the site.

www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org
continued from page 1-
snake, for snakes were numerous in those days, or a child might be lost in the woods, or a boy had fallen from a tree."

"Every family had its little cotton patch and its little flax patch; also a little flock of sheep, and the women folks made their wearing apparel at home.

The man, for everyday wear, wore brown jeans, sometimes called butternut, in our days, but he always had a Sunday suit which his wife had made for him of indigo blue, and when he got that on he could strut. The women folks made their own dresses. They spun their cotton, dyed the colors, and they had blue and pale blue, and white and copperas, striped or checked, as fancy pleased them, and when a woman could get a few threads of turkey red woven into her dress, when she got that on she could strut.

"During those early days we had no schools. My mother taught four of us children how to read and spell at home. We had no chairs in the house except two that were tied to the rear end of the wagon when they moved from Tennessee, and the posts were worn half an inch deep from rubbing against the feed trough. My father split the timbers out, what we called puncheons, and put legs in them for his children to sit on. Among those was one some five or six-feet long. My mother would set us four children on a bench, and while she went about her cooking and house work she would teach us, and if we found a word we could not spell we would put our finger on it and turn the book to her, and she would pronounce it for us, and we would go on. By that means we learned to read. I do not remember just when the free school system was organize in this country. We had at first a three months’ school commencing in the summer, and the boys would go a few weeks after the corn was laid by, and after the school was closed the teacher had to wait for the trustees to make their return of his school and draw the money for it the following year. We seldom had the same teacher two years, and every teacher would turn the boys back in their books, and they were just as far as they were at school before."

The above article contains more interesting stories, and if you are interested in reading more about them, please refer to the book mentioned at the beginning.

Prepared by:
Jean Gaffga Rayl

Note To all Members:
We send out messages often about the progress being made in the cemetery by e-mail. If you would like to be on this list please send you e-mail address to Larry Voris at: lgvoris@sbcglobal.net
The web version of the newsletter will be out soon. This is a quick and easy way to communicate with our membership.

Thanks
Larry