Linen

In this day and time, when we want to purchase a new garment, we get in our cars and drive to the nearest mall. From the countless selections of clothing, we usually find just what we need and then return home, supposedly satisfied with our purchase.

This was not the case in the very early years of Greene County History.

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A few brave people arrived in Southwest Missouri during a time when roads did not exist and currency was in short supply. A site would be chosen for a homestead and the hard work would begin to clear the land. Two or three acres would be set aside to raise a crop of flax. Anticipating the need for flax, families had brought along primitive log looms, spinning wheels and a supply of flax seed.

Preparation for seeding took place in the spring and harvesting occurred two months later.

The steps required to process the harvest are listed below and were used for centuries before the industrial revolution:

- After harvest the stems were walked on repeatedly or beaten with a flail to remove the seed bolls. Then the crop was soaked in water for two weeks, usually in a nearby stream or warm tubs of water. Stems were left in the fields to dry for another two weeks.
- Dried stems were then beaten to remove fibers. The stems were then drawn through a heckling comb to remove loose bark and remnants of fibrous core. Then all would be ready for spinning and weaving. It might take all winter to spin enough thread for an article of clothing. The resulting cloth was called linen. Bedding, table linens, toweling and feed bags were also crafted from this thread.
- Hand weaving almost ceased following the industrial revolution except in the few remote areas. The Ozarks region was one of the few.

A brief history of Linen

Production of linen was practiced 6,000 years ago, but its origins of cultivation and weaving have been lost in the mists of pre-history.

Nancy Ann Sims Price, Age 100. Photo taken Nov. 1926.

Photo courtesy of Vera Price Chandler

Archaeological findings of wall paintings suggest linen was used in Egypt as early as 4,000 BC. Linen wrapped around mummies was much finer than any woven today. Some linen cloth found measured 60" wide and over 6' long with threaded count as high as 540 threads to the inch.

Linen was of profound economic importance according to Greek and Roman records. Phoenician traders transported linen to other parts of the world and eventually to the American colonies.

Linen is mentioned in the Bible at least 6 times: Lev. 19:19; 1 Sam. 2:18; 1 Sam. 6:14; Daniel 10:5; Rev. 15:6; Rev. 18:16.

A paragraph copied from Threads That Bind: Linen, by Anne Henninger, 1st Maryland Regiment, reveals additional information about the use of linen:

"Linen fish nets and the earliest surviving linen textiles in Europe were used by the Neolithic Swiss Lake Dwellers of the Stone Age at sites dated about 2,940 BC. Among the artifacts found at these sites have been bundles of flax, spun linen yarn, and fragments of lined fabric."

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

Resources:
History and the Art of Weaving by Edith McCall from White river Valley Historical Quarterly Vol. 7, #6, Fall 1981.
Threads that Bind: Linen by Anne Henninger, 1st Maryland Regiment from the Continental, Line, Inc.
Use of Flax in America (author unknown)
Information from the Internet

Note from our President
There is lots to report on since we last spoke, and I encourage you to read the newsletter closely for information on all the "goings on" at the cemetery. It is looking really nice, and great progress has been made with the placement of several new markers inscribed Unknown at some of the places we can tell are graves but no longer have a marker.

I won't go further into that at this time, as you can find out more on that topic (and other interesting information) elsewhere in the newsletter. I would like to use the rest of my allotted space in the newsletter to encourage you to attend our Fall meeting. It will be held Friday, December 4th, at 6pm in the Santa Fe Room at the Library Station on N Kansas Expressway (just north of Kearney). The library is immediately adjacent to a Panera Bread restaurant. You may eat there (or elsewhere) prior to the meeting, or bring your food from Panera Bread into the Santa Fe Room to eat just prior to the business meeting.

(That's what several of us plan to do.) Whatever your choice for your meal that night, I hope you will join us for the "catching up on our visiting" prior to the meeting, and the discussion about the cemetery and our progress in it's renovation during the meeting. We have some matters to discuss and decide upon, and I hope you can make it to the meeting to voice your opinion on how to proceed. If we don't get to see you at the meeting, God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Robb Chandler
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Doug Rayl is our web site coordinator. Check it out at: http://www.unioncampgroundcemetery.org
We also have a web newsletter.

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

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

Fall Meeting
and
Get together
Date: December 4th, 2009
Place: Library Station
2535 N. Kansas Expwy
Time: 6:00 PM in the
Santa Fe Room

The Panera Bread Restaurant joins the Library on the south side and we can meet there maybe after 5:00 PM for a meal if you like or eat before you come. Or you can take your food to the Santa Fe room and eat there. If you do this be sure to clean up after you eat.

This is a meeting to up date everyone on the progress being made in the cemetery and what we plan to do next.

Duncan
New Names for Our Cemetery
Bettie Hickman was doing some research and visited the Greene County, MO Archives. Bob Neuman told her, he had a file for UCC. Checking this file he found that he had placed some names that might have connections to our Cemetery. Lola Beatrice Duncan age 7 and Bertie Duncan age 31. Upon checking the Missouri Death Certificates we found both names listed. Both said they were buried in Union Camp or Union Campground.

Lola is the daughter of Arthur and Rosie Deeds Duncan and died Jan 13, 1914. The family is black, lived near Strafford, and is in the 1910 Greene Co MO census.

Bertie is a housewife and her father is Sam Martin. Husband and mother “unknown.”

Bertie is colored and died Aug 17, 1915 and lived at 260 McAllister Street. I have not found an obituary or husband.

Hazel Voris

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

Wresche
Another New resident for the cemetery

Thank you Cynthia for the new information.

A Moment In History
The Looney family
The Looney family graves are located near the eastern edge of Union Campground Cemetery. The tombstones of Carie and Mary have been vandalized. The tombstone for Benjamin is missing.

Research has produced only a few facts and these are listed below.

LOONEY, Benjamin— birthdate unknown - died 27 Oct 1907 at age of 38. Tombstone missing.

Springfield, MO Republican Tuesday 29 Oct 1907. “Benjamin Looney, colored, died Sunday at this home on George Street. Aged 38 years. The funeral was held at 10 o’clock Monday morning with interment at Union Campground Cemetery, nine miles northeast of the city.”

Greene Co. MO 1900 Census, North Campbell Twp. E.D. 61 sheet 18, lists Ben Looney born May 1871, age 29, farmer, wife Lilly, born Jul 1874, age 25, married 6 years. She has had 3 children: Gela 5, Ray 4 and Lena, also 5. This family is next door to Nathan Bedell.

LOONEY, Carie - born 1827 - died 6 Oct 1894. Tombstone standing in front of a tree. See Greene Co MO 1880 Census p. 139, has C. Loona, age 47; M. A. 35; Amanda 15; Jane 13; Netta 12; Matty 11; Benjamin 9; James 7; Adia 5; and Seth 2. This family is black.

Looney, Mary A. - born 1836 - died 13 Oct 1899. Stone broken about one-third way up from the base. Paxson Funeral Home Records 1871-1900 “James C. Looney and Mat Fulbright, #2 box damaged $20.00 and shroud $3.50.” by Jean Rayl
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) I-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 headed west. Walk west down the ditch on the north side of Valley Water Mill Road. You will come to a cable across the path. You then follow the path down the hill (North) and up to the Southwest corner to enter the cemetery.

DO NOT ENTER OFF HWY 65

New Web Site
I'm sure most of you have been to our new website. 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

Summer work Log on the Cemetery restoration project
8-1-2009 Ryans Tree service put more chips on the trail down to the cemetery. Boy Scout, Connor Gardner and his dad Les have been working on mowing and raking, most all of the wood we cut has been burned and the area cleaned.
8-26-2009 Larry went and sprayed the cemetery. Les Gardner got enough spray from Ryans Tree Service to make about 25 gallon of spray mixture. I used it on the east fence line and down on the north east corner. I then mixed another 45 gallon and finished spraying the north end, the west side along the fence and up through the center. Hazel and Bettie Hickman started about 9:00 AM and spent about 3 hours each with the witching sticks. They marked about 100 graves and established rows on the north central area. They ran out of flags. Larry got there about 10:30 with the tractor and helped them with the witching. Hazel and Bettie left at about 12:00 and Larry worked until about 1:30 pm when it started to rain.
8-30-2009 Bettie Hickman and Larry & Hazel Voris went back out and witched for more unmarked graves and marked another 100 possible grave sites. It is starting to take shape. The rows are appearing now north to south. We ran out of markers again. Les and Connor Gardner were out stacking some more brush they had cut on Friday afternoon late. Les brought out a torch and straightened the iron fence that was damaged on the west side. He also worked on the other iron fence. It appeared that the spray is working. The wilting had already started.
Larry & Hazel met again with the scout troop. First we measured from west to east and set markers at about 150 feet from the west fence line. We squared off the south fence line. Then we ran a string from the south fence down to the north end. This came in the middle of a row of flags. We started on the central part and set several stones and then moved on down line. We then moved another line to the east and set more stones. Then measured and set another row on the west side.
10-17-2009 Larry met with Robb at 11:00 am and they looked over the progress being made by the scouts members. Robb and Larry worked on the grid markers. We decided to have the scouts complete the grid work and do some more raking and cleaning on the North end. Robb helped measure from the survey marker at the South gate so we could measure the grid in 50 ft sections. After I made some more measurements the lines weren't coming out to what I thought was square. I went to the SE corner and found the survey marker. Ah, the fence was off by about a foot. I measured out a foot on each end and run a new string line. Then I went to the NW corner and found that survey marker and run a string along the west side. The fence was off by about 2-1/2 feet west of the property line. We reset all the grid markers and I think we are back to where the grids should be. When you look at the grid drawing, it says 396 feet on the west line and 320 feet on the east line. When we measured, the west line is about 396 feet. We didn't get down in the northeast corner and look for that marker. So the North fence is set at an angle. The so called "brow of the hill" is confusing.
Larry & Hazel went back out with a riding mower. Hazel took brushes and corn starch so she could try to read a stone. I got most of the lower part mowed. There still is a lot of brush and trash that needs to be picked up. I bent a blade on the mower. I think the cemetery can be mowed with a riding mower if we get all the sticks picked up. Of course we won't be able to mow very close in places until it is mowed several times and these spots will work out. Rented the Billy goat again and mowed along the east fence line to clear the brush that hadn't been mowed this year. The Scouts came back on 10-24-2009 and did more cleaning and worked on the grid lines and placement of the grid markers.
I met with Les Gardner on Tuesday November 3 and signed off on the completion of the Eagle Scout project for Connor Gardner. With all the rain we have had this year it was impossible to plan a work schedule. The scouts with the parents did a good job in cleaning and mowing the cemetery this year. I believe this is the best the cemetery has looked since I have been involved. I can see a lot of improvements at the end of this year.
1. Final cleaning of the brush from the ice storm.
2. Completed the grid of the cemetery.
3. Started setting some of the unknown head stones.
4. Metal fence around the McMurry plot was repaired.
Weather permitting maybe we can do more work this fall.