RESEARCH

Research on burials in Union Campground Cemetery continued throughout the winter months. This quiet activity resulted in a well-written publication about the individuals buried in our historic graveyard. Hazel Voris and Bettie Hickman, members of our association and members of the local Ozarks Genealogical Society, spent many hours compiling information. Genealogical facts are given, when available, and a survey map is included showing the location of graves. As a matter of interest, other maps of the Valley Water Mill area are inserted; you will soon discover this is a most interesting and unique booklet.

A total of 74 burials have been documented, mostly through newspaper articles and funeral home records; 19 others are considered possible burials.

There will be a $5.00 charge for each booklet and this will cover the cost of printing and provide a little extra for our treasury. Hazel and Bettie would like to have an idea about how many should be printed, so if you live in the Springfield area and you would like a copy, please call Hazel Voris (881-1587). Booklets will be distributed at the May meeting.

If you live out-of-town and you would like a copy, write to: Mrs. Hazel Voris, 2340 S. Luster, Springfield, MO 65804.

As with any publication, there are bound to be mistakes, so if you do find a misspelled name or inappropriate date(s), please correct before the next printing.

A lot of caring thought went into this treasured booklet, and we extend appreciation to Hazel and Bettie.
MAY PICNIC AND MEETING
Saturday, May 24, 1997
11:30 A.M.
Historic farm of Vera Chandler
4463 E. Farm Road 74
Springfield, Missouri

Bring a covered dish. This can be salad, vegetable, or dessert (just one dish per family). Vera and her family will provide the meat. All picnic supplies will be furnished as well as bread and beverages.

A special program will be presented by John Wolfe, a member of SHADOWS FROM THE PAST, Portrayors of American History.

Perhaps some of you would like to stop by Union Campground Cemetery on your way to or from Vera's to place a floral arrangement on a grave; this would also provide an opportunity to walk the grounds for a time of quiet reflection.

Please plan to join us for a Day of Remembrance!

Board members are requested to be at Vera's at 10:00 A.M. for a short Board meeting.

OUR SYMPATHY

to the
family of
Wilma K. Stiver
who departed this life
September 13, 1996

Wilma was born January 6, 1927, in Springfield, MO. She was graduated from Republic, MO. High School and was married in 1948 to Bernie R. Stiver. She was active in many organizations but especially loved the Pleasant Home Baptist Church where she enjoyed her choir, work in the library, and her Sunday School class.

Services were conducted in the Pleasant Home Baptist Church sanctuary on September 16, 1996, and burial was in Greenlawn North.

Her name appears as a charter member of the Union Campground Cemetery Association and she actively participated in our restoration efforts. We will greatly miss this wonderful lady.

Wilma was critically ill at the time of our last newsletter. Her death occurred just about two weeks before the annual meeting.
A MOMENT IN HISTORY

The McMurry Family

This story has no beginning and has yet to end. It is only a collection of verifiable facts and a few suppositions concerning the family history of the McMurry family of Southwest Missouri.

"The story begins, not with a McMurry but with a man, William Freeman, who was born in North Carolina on 26 October 1759. As a young man he was married to Mary Bryan and from this marriage there were eleven known children. One of the sons was John Freeman, born 23 December 1796 in Burke County, North Carolina. John married Lavica Williams, 16 November 1815 in North Carolina. John and Lavica had 13 known children and both John and Lavica are buried in Union Campground Cemetery, where their tombstones remain in the Freeman family plot."

"The above-mentioned William Freeman served in the Revolutionary War and is the only known soldier from that war who is buried in the National Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri."

"Erastus McMurray, whose last name contained the 'a,' moved to Missouri in 1834. Census records indicate Erastus was born in Georgia around 1800. He met Elizabeth Freeman and they were married on 12 May 1841 in Greene County, Missouri, and eventually there were four children from this marriage. Erastus died before 6 June 1878 and his grave is lost although thought to be in Union Campground Cemetery."

"The second child of the above marriage was William Newton McMurry, who grew up in Greene County and was a well-respected farmer. He was married first to Margaret Ellen Dulin, who died in 1890 leaving five young children in his care. In 1892 he married Delpia Price. This marriage ended in divorce."

"The graves of most of William Newton McMurry's family are to be found within a wrought iron enclosure in Union Campground Cemetery not too far from the graves of his grandparents, the Freemans."

The above information provided by Lyn and Malinda (McMurry) Gamelson of Wichita, Kansas

Research reveals: According to an old map prepared sometime after Greene County was first settled, the John Freeman acreage was located west of Union Campground Cemetery in Section 4, Range 21, Township 29. The W.N. McMurry farm (shown on a map of 1876) was located to the north of Union Campground Cemetery in Franklin Township.
SIGNS FOR THE CEMETERY

On April 18, 1997, two signs were delivered to the cemetery by the Technology Department of Southwest Missouri State University. Members of this department were met at the cemetery by several men from our cemetery association and through the combined efforts of all concerned, and with a great degree of difficulty, carried the signs onto the grounds for installation. Post holes some three feet in depth had already been prepared by Clarence Stiver and Jim Rayl. Mr Chris Schwartz and his son-in-law of the Amish also assisted. A special thanks to all.

One sign was placed opposite the walk-through gate at the northwest corner of the cemetery and the other was installed at the southeast corner, facing the adjoining farm property. The signs are constructed of Pressure Treated Pine, measure 4 x 5 feet, and are sealed and stained to withstand years of wind and weather.

Our association paid for all necessary supplies ($254.17) and the Technology Club donated the time and labor. A letter of appreciation has been forwarded to the head of the Technology Department. This program of outreach by the university on our behalf enables our organization to progress one step closer to being accepted as a Greene County historical landmark.

Contributions from various members of our group have made it possible to achieve a few of our long-range goals. To those of us who are in the planning process, it is a morale booster when people share in the numerous projects with their time, talent and money. We trust we will always use your donations in a worthy and appropriate manner.

Let me express how proud I am, personally, that through our own efforts and with no outside help, we have accomplished so many projects: fencing of the cemetery, workdays for our cleanup program, research on burials, publications this coming month of a booklet, and the construction of two signs to identify our pioneer graveyard. Thank You!

Annual dues are payable to Mrs. Pansy Harvey, Treasurer, Union Campground Association, 3822 E. State Highway AA, Springfield, Missouri 65803. Dues are $10.00 per person. Anyone interested in the perpetuation and preservation of the cemetery is eligible to become a member. Other donations are welcome.

Jean Rayl, President