NEW SIGN FOR CEMETERY
(April 1997)
FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the most interesting things I have discovered about the members of Union Campground Cemetery Association, is the fact they are eager and anxious to learn more about their ancestors. Every little detail seems to be, AND IS, important!

When our booklet was published last April we wondered if enough people would be interested in the project to make it worthwhile. However, all copies were sold before the publication was barely "off the press." Hazel Voris and Bettie Hickman decided to order a second printing and these sold in record time. A third printing is planned and should be ready by late summer.

I believe a majority of our members realize the hours of research involved in a project such as this, but have you thought about some of the physical aspects connected with the gathering of genealogical information? For instance: it seems that the above-mentioned ladies made a trip or two to the cemetery, heavily armed with tools-of-the-trade (notebooks, pencils, trowels, cornstarch for dusting the tombstones, etc.). They managed to carry all these items as they walked down the steep drainage ditch next to the highway. When they neared the end of the ditch, they stumbled up the hill toward the walk-through gate. They forged on and battled the underbrush to an area of tumbled-down stones. Here, with great grace and dignity, crawling on hands and knees, they attempted to "read" the stones. All this, mind you, in the cause of genealogy.

As research continues in the future we hope to find answers to some perplexing questions:

* Where was the church located and what was its name?
* When did the church burn? Who kept the records and minutes? Where are they?
* Where was the location of the original entryway? Wagons, and later funeral hearses, would have to enter the grounds for burials.
* Was a grid followed for burials? Where recorded?
* Did Union soldiers camp on nearby grounds? Were some soldiers buried in the cemetery? Where documented?
* Did the church trustees in 1840 buy the land for protracted camp meetings? Later found a need for a church and cemetery?

A great deal of correspondence has taken place the past several years to numerous agencies in an effort to unravel the above mysteries. We remain optimistic that some agency or some individual will be able to provide the answers we seek.
WISH LIST

As we progress with our program of restoration, there will be numerous opportunities to make a donation in memory of an ancestor or perhaps place a plaque to honor a pioneer family.

Immediate Needs

- Bronze markers for unknown graves (approx. $50 each)
- Restoration of smaller tombstones (costs range from $40 to $100 each; monument company can manage to haul small equipment into cemetery via a wheelbarrow)
- Fill dirt for sunken graves ($70 per cubic yd. load with some rocks; $110 per cubic yd. load if we plan later to seed grass on top of soil)
- General maintenance of cemetery (an on-going expense)
- Storage shed to house maintenance equipment (an 8' x 12' shed would cost approx. $1,200)
- Maintenance tools (lawn mower, rakes, weed eater/trimmer, chain saw, shovel, wheelbarrow, etc. Would cost approx. $700). These items have been furnished by volunteers up to this date, with volunteers having to haul equipment in and out of the cemetery on each work day.

Long-Range Needs

- 30' riding mower (approx. $1,200)
- Concrete benches scattered throughout the grounds (36' long would cost $53.50; curved bench $69.50; benches would have scroll work on legs.
- Memorial plaques honoring pioneer families (depends on size of plaque and amount of lettering desired)
- Construction of permanent pathways (cost unknown)
- Roadway with large wrought iron gate at entryway (if and when a roadway can be obtained; cost unknown)
- Development of cemetery video for presentation to other historical and educational groups

If you would like to support a project, make out a check to Union Campground Cemetery Association, c/o Mrs. Pansy Harvey, 3822 E. State Highway AA, Springfield, MO 65803. Please designate on the check your choice of project. Memorial monies will be carefully set aside JUST FOR THIS PURPOSE.

With everyone's help our approximate three acre cemetery can eventually evolve into a beautiful and peaceful park-like setting.

[Signature]

Jean Rayl
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 1, 1996 - August 1, 1997

Balance, September 2, 1996.......................... $1,024.88

Receipts:
- Membership dues..............$595.00
- Donations......................... 200.00
- Cemetery Books................. 180.00
  ______________________________________________________________________
  975.00

Total Balance & Receipts................... $1,999.88

Disbursements:
- Oct. 29 Safety box............ 15.00
- Mar. 4 Insurance.............. 154.00
- Apr. 11 Attorney fee......... 18.75
- May 23 Newsletter............ 44.48
- May 23 Sign $254.17
  Labor 188.00............. 442.17
- Jun 2 Sec. of State......... 15.00
- Jun 19 Attorney fee......... 162.50
- Jul 27 President's
  expenses for year:
  Office Sup. 63.35
  Postage 69.37
  Film 67.87 200.59

Total Expenses................................. $1,052.49

Balance August 1, 1997.......................... $ 947.39

Note: Expected income $150.00 from Fantastic Caverns
  Expected Expense 45.00 for newsletter

NOTICE
Annual Meeting
and
Election of Officers
Saturday, September 20, 1997
10:30 A.M. - 12:00 noon
Brentwood Public Library
2214 Brentwood
Springfield, Missouri

This will be a business meeting only with election of officers for the coming year. Also, three new board members will be elected, each serving a three year term. We need and welcome your attendance.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BE AT THE LIBRARY FOR A MEETING AT 9:30 A.M.
A MOMENT IN HISTORY  
The Sims/Price Legacy

In the very old section of Union Campground Cemetery a stone box grave reveals the name of Fanny Sims. At the time of her burial the name was scratched onto the surface of the stone. The census of Greene County in 1840 lists the name of Fanny Sims, age 60-70, with a male 50-60 in the household, along with three children.

The Sims family migrated to Missouri from Tennessee in 1832. Numerous aunts and uncles followed in 1837. They came by wagons pulled by oxen and felt fortunate to travel as much as ten miles per day. When the family reached what is now Greene County the area was sparsely populated and almost a wilderness. A stopover was made southwest of Springfield to visit the Rountrees before continuing on through what is now the public square, wagons and oxen cautiously dodging trees and stumps along the way. Progress was slow as they lumbered toward the community of Hickory Barren, some 10 to 12 miles north of the village of Springfield and well to the north of what was later to become Union Campground Cemetery.

They settled in a rustic home, and the story is told about how the beds were checked each night for the presence of rattlesnakes. After almost 12 years the family moved to a larger home south of Pleasant Home Church and were living at this location at the outbreak of the Civil War. Worried about his family and better to protect them from the possibility of marauding soldiers, Mr. Sims had notches carved into the windowsills of the upstairs rooms. These notches would hold rifles, if and when the occasion demanded.

Nancy Ann Sims Price, niece of Fanny Sims, often mentioned about an upsetting time during the years of conflict when her husband, Terry Griffin Price, failed to return home from a trip into town. People knew the troops of both sides were ever present because evidence of campsites had been found in the nearby woods. When neighbors heard of his disappearance they set out to find him. Just about a mile from the house he was found, left for dead. None of his belongings were near him and he was carried home. He was alive and soon recovered from a terrible beating. He could only recall the immediate capture and the extreme pain he endured before losing consciousness. Nancy Ann would speak of the dreaded sound of the cannons to the south and murmur, "It was a terrible, fearful time." And she would tap her cane and softly hum a hymn of reassurance.

Excerpts from an interview with Vera Kathleen Price Chandler, August 12, 1996. Interview conducted by Jean Gaffga Rayl, member of the Greene County Historical Society.