2011 Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 4, 2011
at the
Vera Chandler Homestead

From the President:
Another year has gone by, and
the time is upon us to have our an-
nual meeting. As is our custom,
we will meet at the home of Vera
Chandler. (If you need directions,
please call me at 417-833-4501, or
call at Vera's at 417-833-4503.)
Please do try to join us for the
good food and good fellowship,
and a time to think back on this
past year and to make plans for
the upcoming year. If you can't
make it, please know you will be
missed.

Please see the next column for
information from Larry on what
was done at the cemetery this
year. Those of you that have been
able to see the cemetery, either up
close or from highway 65, know
that the markers erected thus far to
mark the unknown graves in the
cemetery look very nice, and
really help those interested to
know that many early settlers of
the area are buried on that pretty
hillside. Our work is not done in
this regard, but further progress
has been made and the cemetery
looks very nice this Spring.

Our main need at this time is
the labor to finish the project. If
you or anyone you know has in-
terest in spending time volunteering
at the cemetery we would cer-
tainly appreciate the help. We are
quite close to seeing to completion
the task of marking all the un-
known graves.

After the meeting, weather per-
mitting, we plan to make a visit to
the cemetery with all that want to.
Larry has access to one or more
golf carts that we can use to help
folks travel up and down the hill
from Valley Water Mill Road.
I hope to see you on June 4th, but if
that is not possible, have a great sum-
mer and we will hope to see you next
time. Take care,
and God bless you,
Robb Chandler

Annual Meeting of the
Union Campground
Cemetery Association

June 4, 2011

Board meeting at 10:30 A.M.
Picnic 11:30 A.M.
General Meeting 12:30 A.M.

Weather permitting we will
go to the cemetery in the
Afternoon

Bring your Lawn chairs

Cemetery Log for 2011

Hazel and I went to the cemetery in
late March. The leaves were about 6
inches thick all over the cemetery.
Otherwise it looked great compared to
the Ice Storm of 2007. I went back
home and got a riding mower and went
back and spent 6 hours or more mulch-
ing the leaves. I could not get close to
a lot of the trees because of the roots.
The roots need to be covered with dirt.
There are several trees that need to
come down but we couldn't tell this
early in the spring. The tops were bro-
ken out and this
seemed to kill the trees. There are se-
veral big trees that need to come out.
Also there was a tree on the south fence
that I took out. There was a very big
tree that fell on the fence from the north
side close to the Northwest gate. I took
it out and repaired the fence. There is
another very big tree in the

North fence line where we have been pil-
ing brush. I guess we will have to wait for
a storm to take it down. There is a tree in
the Southeast corner that also needs to
come down. I sawed several low stumps
closer to the ground so we can get the
mower over them. It is time to get Bettie
and Hazel back out and wave there sticks
searching for the unknown graves and
mark the spots for the new unmarked head
stones to be placed. We have poked and
prodded the sunken grave and haven't
found any new hidden stones.

We set about 40 of the new stones to
see how it looked. We dug down 6-8
inches and set the stones in the holes and
tamped them in. Most have stood the win-
ter and the weather. Some have tilted and
fallen over, some of this was caused from
falling limbs. It will still be necessary to
use concrete around the stones for stability
and for weed control. This will keep
the grass and weeds away from the stones.
This will make less labor in trimming and
upkeep.

It would be nice to just mow the
grounds and leave it at that. But I still
think that each grave deserves a headstone
to honor that person. We may not know
them but we still need to honor them.
Surprisingly, I have found very few rocks
while digging in the cemetery. The dirt
seems to be a "silty loam" consistency which
may be the many years of leaves that
have laid on the ground and rotted. I
think after we get the stones set that we
can have a pretty green cemetery. The
"vinca " vines are still in abundance and
makes cover. (Plant taxonomy classifies
this plant as Vinca minor. Its common
names are "creeping myrtle" and
"periwinkle flowers." But this is a case
where the scientific name is at least as well
known as the common names.) As soon as
the rain stops for a few days I will go back
out and spray again for weeds and brush.
I mowed the cemetery with a riding mower
on Saturday May 7. It took about 5 hours
of actual mowing time.

We still could use some help this sum-
mer. Give me a call.

Larry
A Moment in History

The Life of Nannie Aldrich
Her tombstone is missing. The only information we have is from a newspaper account:

NANNIE ALDRICH
Death 24 Jan 1902
Age 29

Springfield, MO Express 25 Jan 1902. “Miss Nannie Aldrich, aged 29 years, died yesterday morning at the county alms house. The funeral will be conducted by Ely Paxson’s undertaking establishment at noon today. The interment will be in the Union Camp Ground cemetery six miles northeast of the city of Springfield.”

Web Site
Have you checked the web site lately?

www.unioncampgroundcemetry.org

Andrew has done a great job in the re-design work he did last year.

More things to be done in the Cemetery
The grid markers need to be painted again. I will try to make a template and use paint this time instead of a felt marker pen which didn’t make it through the winter.

I have made some removable forms for the concrete bases we plan to set the stones in. Robb and I set one of these up and it looks like it will work. We worked on the fence lines for about 2 hours and got it all back in shape.
Flattened single wire strand with two-point wire barb.

The average person in today's world can give very few details about the history of "wire fences."

If asked about the subject, a vague look of puzzlement emerges with perhaps a remark about seeing some old fencing on some one's farm, rolled up and abandoned. But, that old fencing could just maybe tell the story of lives lost due to flaring, violent tempers. Untold numbers of men died installing the fences and others for tearing them down.

To understand why wire fencing was invented, we need to go back to the days following the Civil War. Wooden fencing had been the popular raw material for fences along the Atlantic Coast and in the South, but in the Midwest and Southwest, conditions made wooden fences impractical. As families migrated to the Plains, they found some trees, some loose stones and some water, but none of the three in abundance. Settlers soon discovered that more acreage would be required "than back home." They had to find something to provide protection against wild animals as well a those first settlers called American Cowmen, who had originally settled in the Plains country. Their presence pre-dated the Civil War.

The Cowmen held settlers with contempt. They kept their distance but were always aware of what the farmers were doing.

As feelings of apprehension grew, farmers realized they had to protect their crops from wandering herds as well as the cowmen. Thus the need for some type of sturdy fencing.

In the 1870's patented fencing became popular in the State of Illinois, and by 1874 the number had grown rapidly. Untold inventors obtained patents on different versions of barbed-wire but the exact number remains unknown. Smooth wire was used at first but it was not successful. Barbs were added later and this appeared to be the answer. Early barbed-wire used to control livestock inflicted injury, but designs were modified and became less cruel.

Barbed-wire was important tool during World War I and has remained useful in succeeding wars. The wire used by the military is usually a heavier gauge and the barbs are stronger.

Note:

People who observed the early days of barbed wire fencing are no longer with us. Fencing is vanishing every day as modern highways, malls and other construction take their toll.

We owe thanks to those collectors of barbed-wire who have found and preserved this small but important piece of American history.

Prepared by: Jean Gaffga Rayl

Resource: The Wire That Fenced the West by Henry D. and Frances T. McCallum (1965)

Editors note: Barbed-wire in this part of the country isn't dead yet. We need to have a fence around our cemetery. It needs to be 5 wire and the 4-point variety to keep the neighbors' cows out of the cemetery. The deer just jump over and do what they want to do. My brother is building a one mile stretch of new 6-wire, 4-barbed fence along one of his property lines. Many of you remember that they used cedar and hedge for posts. We still use hedge for corner post and braces. Most of the line post are metal "T" post as they are called. Now they will use a hedge post about every fourth post. Cows seem to push against the fence and eventually the whole fence line will be standing at an angle. The grass is always greener on the other side and a cow will put her head through the fence to get at a blade of green grass.

Now we are seeing the White plastic fences around the fancy home-steads with horse farms. It doesn't cut the horses and is impressive looking.
THE UNION CAMPGROUND NEWSLETTER

Larry Voris, Corresponding Sec'y
2340 S. Luster
Springfield, MO 65804

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Dues** are $15.00 per single person or $25.00 for any two persons. Your support will help pay the cost of preparing and mailing the newsletter and for cleanup activities at the cemetery.

**Dues will be payable at the meeting or mail a check to:**
Pansy Harvey, Treasurer
Union Campground Cemetery Assn
3822 E. State Hwy AA
Springfield, MO 65803

**PLAN ON BEING AT THE MEETING THIS YEAR. WE NEED YOU AND YOUR INPUT.**

As of now I am planning to have a golf cart available at the Cemetery in the afternoon after our annual meeting to escort people down to the cemetery that can’t walk that far. We will have lawn chairs there too. We have a couple of workdays planned before the annual meet date. I think you will find that this is the best the cemetery has looked in many years. We came through this last winter with out much damage and this has allowed us to proceed with our restoration project. I would like to get this all done if possible this year so we can move on to just the upkeep. It will take a lot of work but it is possible.

Larry

Keep me updated on your e-mail address. This is a quick and easy way to communicate with each of you. Besides it is cheaper than sending mail.

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**Past Newsletters**

I think that all past newsletters have been up loaded to the web site. You can read them there. If you want a copy on a CD let me know and I will copy one off for you. I also need to know if you can download programs in pdf format. There will be a minimal charge for this service. You can also furnish a flash drive if you have one.