

NEWSLETTER
Union Campground Cemetery Association
April 15, 1995

On a recent windy Sunday afternoon, my husband and I walked the grounds of the cemetery to see what needed to be done in the way of clean-up work for the spring and summer months. No major winter storm damage was evident. We found the usual small limbs and branches scattered around the grounds and a multitude of dead leaves. So, on Saturday, March 25th, six of our membership donned work clothes and spent the morning doing general maintenance; the work was a lot easier this spring than last! The pathways were still relatively clear and the picnic area required only a quick mowing. It must be emphasized, however, that a lot of underbrush remains and a number of small dead trees require removal.

Since the annual meeting last September research has continued on both the cemetery and church. At present, an attempt is being made to determine ownership of the approximately three acres containing the graveyard. The mainline Presbyterian Church has been contacted as well as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Archives. These two entities merged in 1906 although some Cumberland churches decided to remain on their own and bought property on which to build new churches. Lawsuits were filed in following years and it becomes a bit confusing to determine if either entity might now be able to claim ownership of Union Campground Cemetery. The office of the Greene County Commissioner has been requested to research the possibility of county ownership (although this is doubtful) and research on the farm east of the cemetery has failed to reveal ownership of the cemetery by any owner of said farm property.

A great deal of interest has been generated throughout the community in our old graveyard and appreciation has been expressed many times for our concern and plans for restoration. Sad to say, in some instances, abandoned family cemeteries have been destroyed in the name of progress, and we do not want this to happen to our pioneer treasure. Let us do everything in our power to make this a viable piece of Greene County history.

Visitors: Last October we had the pleasure of meeting Donna Chandler Alexandre from Yuma, AZ. Donna was visiting in Springfield and expressed a desire to see the cemetery. Vera Chandler and Viola Nimmo accompanied us as we talked and reminisced about the families who lived and died in this lovely region of the Ozarks. Donna, Viola and Jim Rayl uncovered the stone of Josephine Deeds who had died in December 1844. Her name and stone had been read by the Ozarks Genealogical Society and placed on the last census of the cemetery. However, we had been unable to locate her stone on previous visits and/or workdays.

Michael Fare, historian of the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church, visited the cemetery in March 1995. He also expressed interest in studying the documents relating to the cemetery and the old church.

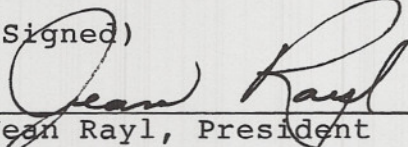
Update on checking account: Viola Nimmo reports a balance of \$752.54 as of April 15, 1995. The association has not incurred any outstanding expenses thus far but in the future several projects will need attention: fencing, a roadway and gate, a sign and perhaps legal fees. If you wish to make a donation, please send a check payable to Union Campground Cemetery Association, c/o Viola Nimmo, 5748 N. Farm Road 175, Springfield, MO. 65803. REMINDER: dues are \$10.00 per person per year, payable at the annual meeting in September 1995.

For research purposes: Although the Rathbone family cannot locate a headstone for Sarah Ann Warr Rathbone in Union Campground Cemetery, they do have a proof of burial in the form of a Funeral Notice dated September 16, 1874. This notice is what we now call a memorial folder. As we endeavor to match headstones in the cemetery to the readings of the Ozarks Genealogical Society published in 1992, we find numerous headstones missing. It would be a great help in our research if other families could find and send some type of documentation for family burials, if available.

COVERED DISH PICNIC
Saturday, May 27, 1995
11:30 A.M.
Union Campground Cemetery
Springfield, Missouri

Come! Help celebrate the Memorial Day Week End with good food and fellowship. The food committee, under the direction of Vera Chandler (833-4503) will provide table service including paper plates, cups, napkins and utensils. Please bring folding chairs for yourself and guests. You should call Vera and let her know how many will be in your party. If you need a ride call 881-4456. In case of rain we will gather at the Rayl home, 1853 E. Gretna. A short business meeting will follow the picnic and we will hold an election of officers (officers to serve September 1995 up to and through the annual meeting in September 1996). Last year 26 adults and two children attended the picnic. Let's have a bigger attendance this year!

(Signed)



Jean Rayl, President
Union Campground Cemetery Ass'n.
1853 E. Gretna
Springfield, MO. 65804
Telephone: (417) 881-4456