

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Henry Cemetery

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town East side of Highway Z approximately 1 mile south of Reger N/A not for publication

city or town Reger X vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Sullivan code 211 zip code 63556

3. State/Federal agency certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

11/15/05  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Sullivan County, MO  
County and State

### 5 Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

#### Category of Property

(check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

### 6 Function or Use

#### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

#### Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

### 7 Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Cemetery

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

STONE

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Henry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Sullivan County, MO  
County and State

## 8. Description

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

#### EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

### Period of Significance

1841-1948

### Significant Dates

n/a

### Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

### Cultural Affiliation

na/

### Architect/Builder

n/a

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Henry Cemetery  
Name of Property

Sullivan County, MO  
County and State

## II. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 4/8/3/0/7/0 4/4/4/1/8/4/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## III. Form Prepared By

name/title Glenda S. Richey (also see continuation sheet)

organization Board of the Friends of the Henry Cemetery date 3/7/2005

street & number 4721 South Vivian Street telephone 303-607-3373

city or town Morrison state CO zip code 80465

## IV. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

name/title Board, Friends of Henry Cemetery

street & number 325 E. 2nd St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Milan state MO zip code 63556

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

### Summary

The Henry Cemetery is located east of Highway Z, approximately one mile south of Reger, Sullivan County, Missouri. The two-acre cemetery is rectangular in shape with the short side facing Highway Z. Graves are laid out in roughly straight rows running north and south on either side of an unpaved central drive. Gravestones date from 1841 to present day and display a variety of funerary iconography. The earliest markers are hand carved in locally quarried stone, though the cemetery also contains many examples of professionally finished Victorian era markers and more modern granite stones. Historic stone posts at each corner mark the boundary of the cemetery, though the fencing material is not original. Stone pillars also mark the entrance. A sign with the name of the cemetery in metal dye cut letters spans the drive and is supported by metal posts. Though many of the stones are deteriorating due to age and the quality of the stone, the cemetery is well maintained and retains a high degree of integrity from its period of significance.

### Elaboration

The Henry Cemetery is a large, relatively flat, open space set in the rural farmland of Sullivan County. The cemetery contains little vegetation, though it is surrounded on three sides by mature trees. Yuccas, traditional plantings in many cemeteries, are planted on either side of the stone entry posts.

The entrance and four corners of the cemetery are marked by stone posts. The two entry posts are by far the largest, measuring four-feet in height and roughly one foot square. At one time, statues were cemented to the top of these posts, and a remnant of one of these statues remains on the top of the southernmost post. The corner posts are shorter and narrower, though all posts are braced with smooth cut stones laid at an angle. The posts were placed sometime in the mid-to-late 1800s. There are several small stone quarries in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery and it is likely that these posts and many of the earliest grave markers are of locally quarried limestone.

The cemetery contains approximately 200 historic (pre-1955) grave markers, though several unmarked graves and recent burials with modern markers are scattered throughout the cemetery. Graves are aligned in roughly straight rows running north and south, with graves facing east. Extant markers date from as early as 1841, when the first burial occurred, to today. Because of the wide span of burials, the cemetery contains a variety of grave markers from simple limestone slabs with hand carved names to more elaborate Victorian-era stones with carved funerary iconography and elaborate epitaphs. Carvings include clasped hands, lambs, doves, and opened books (Bibles), all common features of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century gravestones.

The cemetery pre-dates the nearby community of Reger by 40 years, and holds the remains of some of the county's earliest settlers, their families, and quite possibly their slaves and servants. Though few family plots are marked, family burials are usually grouped close

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

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together. A very low concrete wall and a cast concrete urn mark at least one family plot in the southwest section of the cemetery.

The cemetery is still in use and a few burials occur there every year. New graves and markers are scattered throughout the grounds and do not detract from the historic character of the cemetery. New markers are of compatible size and scale with the historic stones, and are often of a lower profile, making the historic stones the primary focus when visiting the site. The cemetery is well maintained, though many of the historic markers are of soft stone susceptible to erosion and breakage. Overall, the cemetery retains a high degree of historic integrity and reflects its significance as an early settlement graveyard.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

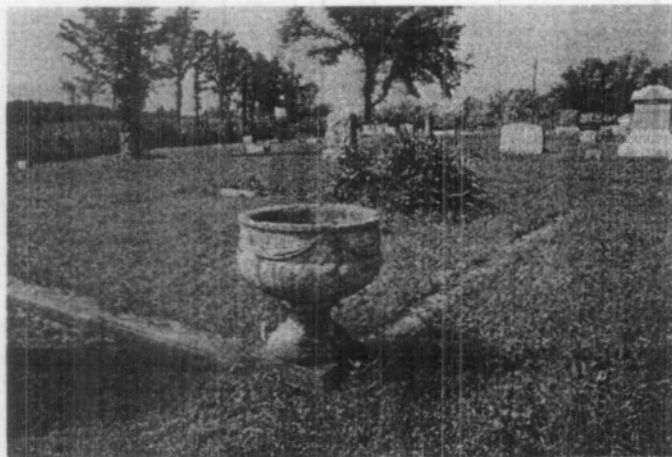
Figure 2: Example grave marker types.



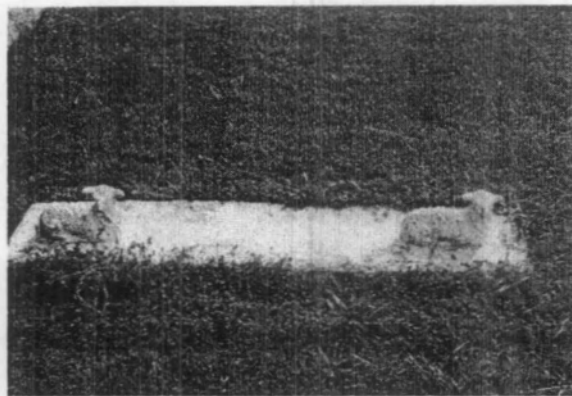
Early marker of locally quarried stone.



Victorian Era marker with typical hand-clasp iconography.



Family plot with corner planter.



Child's grave marker with lamb iconography.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

### Summary:

The Henry Cemetery, Highway Z, Reger vicinity, Sullivan County, Missouri is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION and SETTLEMENT. Under Criterion A and Criterion Consideration D, it is eligible for its association with the early settlement and social and community development around present day Reger. Established in 1841 on land donated by Thomas Henry, the Henry Cemetery represents the pioneer families of Sullivan County and the social institutions developed to serve their needs. Though no towns or even churches were located near the cemetery during its formation, Henry Cemetery is in many ways a community burial ground. It was common for families, related by blood and marriage, to settle new lands together, a pattern seen in burials in Henry Cemetery. However, the site also reflects broader social connections among new settlers, because many that are buried there are not related and no immediate member of the Henry family, who donated the property, is buried there. While Henry Cemetery still receives interments, the historic grave markers and rural setting document the lives of the original settlers and most new burials descendants of pioneer families buried in the cemetery. The period of significance is 1841 to 1948, the date of the first interment to the year of the most recent historic burial of a pioneer family descendent.<sup>1</sup>

### Elaboration:

#### *Settlement Pattern:*

Settlement in Sullivan County followed the general trends and patterns seen across the state. Typically, the earliest settlements were along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and in the upland areas parallel to these early transportation routes. Although outlying areas were settled early in the state's history, notably the lead mining areas in present day Jefferson, St. Francois and Madison counties, it wasn't until the 1830s and 1840s that significant population growth and settlement occurred in the state's more remote regions. The 1830s saw a tremendous expansion of frontier lands, and over 300 townships were settled in this decade.<sup>2</sup> It was during this period that the first recorded settlers moved into Sullivan County.<sup>3</sup>

Though Sullivan County had no major river or transportation routes during its earliest settlement period, like other parts of the state, most pioneers purchased land near water resources. In the early settlement period there tended to be a general aversion to settling prairie lands.

<sup>1</sup> Note that this date is based on surnames of early families rather than blood descendants that might have different last names.

<sup>2</sup> James R. Shortridge. "The Expansion of the Settlement Frontier in Missouri." *Missouri Historical Review*, p.76. Rather than depending on census data to define "settlement," Shortridge uses establishment of post offices as an indicator of when an area became "settled." The need for a post office indicated a "settled," or permanent population of sufficient size and concentration to warrant federal mail service.

<sup>3</sup> When the first settlers arrived in what is now Sullivan County, the land was officially part of Linn County and remained so until 1845. Sullivan County is used throughout the document for ease of reference.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

Avoidance of prairies appears to be more of a general trend than a specific characteristic of early settlement patterns in the state. However, James Shortridge noted that:

The earliest North Missouri settlers, highly dispersed, poor in technology and necessarily self sufficient, located in the familiar and diverse natural environments associated with stream valleys.<sup>4</sup>

This general pattern proved true in Sullivan County, an area that had a diverse topography of wooded streams, rolling hills and open grasslands. The earliest settlement occurred in the southern part of the county along the regions numerous streams and creeks.

The land on either side of West Locust and Locust ("Main Locust") was especially popular and it was to this area that Jacob Holland and his son Robert, the Sullivan County's first recorded settlers, came in 1836. Their land was near the early community of Scottsville (platted in 1847), the second oldest town in the county. The Hollands apparently did not stay long and according to tradition moved to California as part of the gold rush.<sup>5</sup> Though not permanent settlers, the Hollands ushered in a wave of pioneers to the county including those who would, within the next five years, form the Henry Cemetery.

The population of Missouri and Sullivan County grew steadily in the 1840s, reaching 2,983 by 1850.<sup>6</sup> It was during this decade that Sullivan County separated from Linn County and established its own county government. The Missouri General Assembly established the boundaries of the county in 1843 or 1844, though the functions of government remained the responsibility of the Linn County court. During this brief period the area was known as Highland County. When the state legislature officially established the county on February 14, 1845, the name was changed to Sullivan. Apparently "Highland" was seen as derogatory, referring more to the attitude of the people than the topography of the region.<sup>7</sup>

Both the *Historical Atlas* of 1877 and Goodspeed's history of the county mention a surge in population in the 1850s. *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Sullivan County, Missouri* notes that "During the years 1853 and 1854 immigration came into the county more rapidly than any time prior . . . the population marked increase until 1861."<sup>8</sup> Over 6000 new residents settled in or were born into the county during the 1850s, increasing the population to 9,108 (including 102 African-Americans) in 1860.<sup>9</sup> Population growth in Sullivan County mirrored growth across the state. The marked increase in settlement in the county and state is likely due to the passage of the Graduation Act in 1854. The act lowered the minimum sale price of most public lands

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 83.

<sup>5</sup> *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Sullivan County, Missouri*. Philadelphia: Edwards Brothers, 1877, p. 9.

<sup>6</sup> *History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam and Schuyler Counties, Missouri*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, p. 79.

<sup>7</sup> Gladys Wells Crumpacker. *The Complete History of Sullivan County, Missouri, Vol. 1 1836-1900*. Milan, MO: History Publications, Inc., 1977.

<sup>8</sup> *Historical Atlas*, p. 9.

<sup>9</sup> Goodspeed, p. 80.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

unsold after 10 years on the market. After ten years, the act allowed a graduated reduction of price from the previous minimum of \$1.25/acre to as little as \$0.125/acre if unsold after 30 years.<sup>10</sup>

Sullivan County histories note a "decided falling off" of population growth during the Civil war, though population grew slowly throughout the 1860s, reaching 11,907 by 1870.<sup>11</sup> Population growth continued at an increased pace during the 1870s, reaching 16,569 by 1880.<sup>12</sup> Based on Shortridge's analysis of post office location as an indication of "settlement" in Missouri, Sullivan County was completely settled (served by regularly spaced post offices) by the end of the 1870s.<sup>13</sup> Though "settled" to a large extent by 1880, new residents continued to purchase new or existing farms and property throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and by 1900, the population of the county reached 20,282.<sup>14</sup>

### *Early Settlers and Henry Cemetery*

The area in which the Henry Cemetery is located was known as the Main Locust Settlement, noted by several histories as the earliest part of the county to be populated. According to one history,

The Main Locust creek settlement might include all that part of Sullivan County, from the western boundary line to the main division between Main and East Locust creeks, and extending north from the southern line to the line dividing townships 63 and 64 on the north.<sup>15</sup>

Though called a "settlement," the area was relatively large and included parts of 8 or 9 political townships. (See Figure 3) Within this larger settlement, neighbors banded together to form smaller social groups and trading posts. Early communities of Scottsville, McCollough's Station (Cora), and even the county seat of Milan were part of the larger Main Locust Settlement. The closest small community to Henry Cemetery in the early settlement period was Scottsville, about 2 to 3 miles to the south. Reger, one to two miles to the north, was not established until 1881.

Henry Cemetery is an example of neighbors banding together to provide for the needs of a community or group. Death is an inevitable part of life, and burial grounds were some of the first permanent markers of early settlement. Family graveyards were typical of settlement period Missouri, primarily due to the remoteness of location and sparse population. Family burial grounds were generally restricted to immediate or extended family members. Several of

<sup>10</sup> Shortridge, p. 84.

<sup>11</sup> Historical Atlas, p. 9; Goodspeed, p.80.

<sup>12</sup> Goodspeed, p. 80.

<sup>13</sup> Shortridge, p. 88.

<sup>14</sup> Walter Williams. *The State of Missouri: An Autobiography*. Columbia, MO: E.W. Stephens Press, 1904, p. 525.

<sup>15</sup> Historical Atlas.

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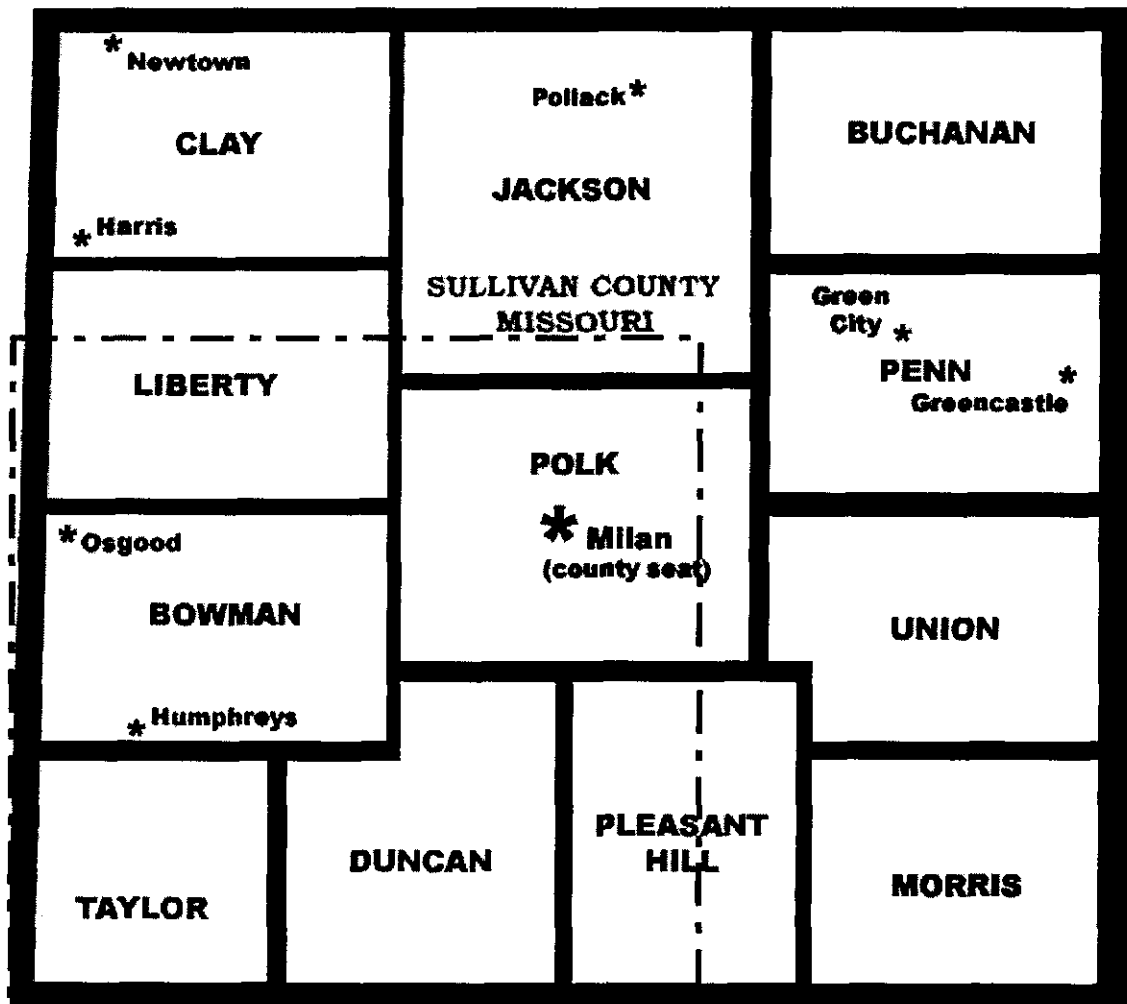
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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

Sullivan County's 78 documented cemeteries represent these family plots.<sup>16</sup> Unlike family graveyards, the Henry Cemetery appears to be an early community cemetery established for and maintained by neighbors who owned properties in the townships and sections surrounding the cemetery location.

Figure 3: Map of Sullivan County showing rough boundaries of Main Locust Settlement.<sup>17</sup>



Thomas Henry donated the land for the cemetery around 1841. Though the cemetery bears his name, there are no markers for immediate Henry family members in the cemetery. Thomas

<sup>16</sup> A list of Sullivan County Cemeteries can be found at: [www.rootsweb.com/~mosulliv/sccem.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosulliv/sccem.html).

<sup>17</sup> "Sullivan County Townships," MoGenWeb, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosulliv/townships.html>  
Accessed, 11/2005.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

Henry was an early settler in the county and held land patents for at least 15 pieces of property in Sullivan County. Henry came to Sullivan County in 1838 or 1839 from Franklin or St. Charles County where he also owned several acres of property. Henry completed his first land entry in Sullivan on June 17, 1839, just three months after the first land entry in the county was recorded.<sup>18</sup> The land patent for the property on which the Henry Cemetery is located was issued in 1843.<sup>19</sup>

Families interred in the Henry Cemetery represent some of the earliest and, in a few cases, more prominent settlers in the county. Also interred there is a second generation of settlers represented by the descendents of the earliest settlers and those who came later and purchased previously cleared farmland. This second generation came as the first generation died, moved further north or west, or lost their farms through financial failure. The *Historical Atlas* of 1877 described the process like this,

Emigration slowly but constantly extended northward from the Holland and Hatcher neighborhoods [both in the Main Locust Settlement], following Locust and Medicine creeks, leaving the already cleared and fertile land for other and perhaps wiser settlers, but [sic?] those possessed of more means to improve their lands.<sup>20</sup>

It is common in Missouri to see people from similar regions of the country settle together on new lands, and this is certainly the case for those settling around Henry Cemetery. New settlers came from the eastern and southern states, notably Pennsylvania and Virginia, and some had previous social or familial connections. A good example of this existing social connection can be seen in the DeWitt and Mairs families, both of which have several members interred in the cemetery.

Dr. Joel DeWitt (b. 1816 in Pennsylvania) studied medicine under Dr. Joseph Mairs in Jackson County, [West] Virginia. In 1842 DeWitt married Mairs' daughter Rachel Ann, moving to Missouri in 1845. After residing in Carroll County, Missouri for nearly a year, the DeWitts moved to Sullivan County and purchased 168 acres of farmland.<sup>21</sup> Dr. DeWitt was one of the first three doctors to practice in the county, and his practice allowed him to grow his initial 168 acres of farmland into approximately 2000. Dr. DeWitt quickly became an important figure in the county and was lauded as having "made his own comfort subservient to his profession," visiting "the sick both day and night, at all seasons of the year, whenever his services were required."<sup>22</sup> His profession likely brought him into contact with a wide variety of the county's citizens and he was elected to the Missouri Legislature in 1849 as a member of the Whig party.

<sup>18</sup> Goodspeed, p. 32-33. The first land entry was March 22, 1839.

<sup>19</sup> Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, Land patent search results for Thomas Henry, <[www.glorerecords.mlm.gov/PatentSearch/Results.asp?QryId=75042.52](http://www.glorerecords.mlm.gov/PatentSearch/Results.asp?QryId=75042.52)>, accessed November 2004.

<sup>20</sup> Historical Atlas, p. 9.

<sup>21</sup> Goodspeed, p. 794

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

By 1865, the DeWitts had a well-established farm and it was at this time that his father-in-law, Dr. Joseph Mairs, moved Sullivan County.<sup>23</sup> At least two of Mairs' sons, Thomas and Mark, were already residing in the county or came with their father in 1865. Joseph and Thomas Mairs as well as Catherine Mairs (wife of Thomas or daughter of Joseph) are buried in Henry Cemetery. The Mairs, though closely connected with earlier settlers, represent the second wave of settlement in the county.

While family and pre-existing social connections may have played a role in the formation and continued use of the cemetery, necessity may have been more of a factor. The people interred in Henry Cemetery were politically and ethnically diverse, yet shared a sacred place for burial of loved ones. Several of the people who owned land around the cemetery were slaveholders, including the Clems and Henrys. Though Jacob Clem [Sr.] died before the Civil War started (his wife Elizabeth was the first burial in the cemetery, 1841), four of five sons fought for the Confederacy. One of these sons, Elias, is buried near his parents in Henry Cemetery.<sup>24</sup> Dr. Joel DeWitt, however, was noted as "a strong Union man," and enlisted in the Union army as a surgeon in 1862. His son Joseph also fought for the Union.<sup>25</sup> Political differences did not affect either family's use of the cemetery and several generations of Clems and DeWitts are interred there. There are at least 14 markers for DeWitts in the cemetery and 19 or more markers for the Clem family. Oral tradition suggests that the Clem's slaves were also buried there.

Unlike some parts of Missouri, Sullivan and other northern Missouri counties did not have a large African-American population (either enslaved or free) in the 1850s and 1860s. Duane Meyer, in *The Heritage of Missouri*, wrote that:

In centrally-located Lafayette County there were 6,374 slaves to 13,699 whites . . . a ratio of one to two. At the same time Sullivan County in northern Missouri had only 102 slaves to 9,095 whites or a ratio of one to ninety.<sup>26</sup>

Though the slave population was relatively small, at least two of the people and families associated with the cemetery were slaveholders. The Clems brought some slaves with them when they moved to Linn/Sullivan County in 1838,<sup>27</sup> and Thomas Henry named three enslaved persons in his will that would be inherited by his children upon his death.<sup>28</sup> This gives credence to the oral tradition that there are unmarked burials of slaves (or former slaves) in the cemetery. Because of the lack of African American population density in the county historically, it is likely that most were buried in existing community or family cemeteries rather than one segregated by

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Liz Sterling, e-mail correspondence, 12/18/2004. Liz Sterling is the great, great granddaughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Clem, early Sullivan County settlers, both of whom are buried in Henry Cemetery.

<sup>25</sup> Goodspeed, p. 794.

<sup>26</sup> Duane Meyer, *The Heritage of Missouri: A History*. St. Louis: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1973, p. 316.

<sup>27</sup> Sterling.

<sup>28</sup> Will of Thomas Henry, written in 1854 and entered into probate in 1863. A copy and transcript of the will is on file at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, Missouri.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

race or religion. This tradition is so strong that the William's family, long time caretakers of the cemetery, did not and have not interred new burials in the northeast section of the cemetery. There is at least one marked grave of an African-American person in the cemetery. In the 1880 census, Robert Henry (no apparent relation to Thomas Henry), is listed as a single, African-American, servant of Joel DeWitt.<sup>29</sup> Henry died in 1883 and has a small stone over his burial place.

According to the 1877 Historical Atlas, there were two other cemeteries within a 2-3 mile radius of Henry Cemetery. One was located about 1 1/2 to 2 miles to the south of Henry Cemetery, and the second was about 2 1/2 miles northwest. In comparing land ownership listed on plats in the atlas with names of those buried in the cemetery, the families served by the Henry Cemetery lived primarily to the north and southwest. Oddly, few if any of the surnames of landowners in the township and range directly south of Henry Cemetery (Township 61 N, Range 20 West) showed up on markers on the cemetery itself. This is true both of the 1877 atlas and 1897 atlas of the county.

Most of the families with members buried in the cemetery owned property within 1 to 4 miles of the cemetery. Based on plat maps the Clem, DeWitt, Shipley, Regers (on whose land the town of Reger was platted) and Mairs families were the largest landowners among the families associated with the cemetery. These families also had relatively long association with the cemetery. For example, Jacob and Elizabeth Clem were some of the earliest settlers in the area, arriving c. 1838. Elizabeth, who died in 1841, was the first person to be buried in Henry Cemetery. Jacob's children inherited his land after his death in 1847, and continued to purchase more land throughout the late 1800s. Several members of the Clem family were buried in Henry Cemetery (at least 19), with the last historic burial occurring in 1915.<sup>30</sup> The first marked burial of a DeWitt family member occurred in 1865, and the last historic burial occurred in 1948. Similarly, the first marked Reger burial occurred in 1866 and the last in 1945.<sup>31</sup>

It is difficult to document or understand the complex relationships of people settling new lands. In many cases remoteness of farms, and low population seemed to more important factors in social connection and community development than common backgrounds or political ideas. This is certainly the case in Henry Cemetery, a site that represents the early settlement of Sullivan County and the diverse people who populated the region. The cemetery contains burials of people on both sides of the Civil War, something that divided neighbors and families across the state. The remote location and sparse population also opened the cemetery to a racially mixed group, with at least one marked and several possible unmarked African-American burials. Though most of the burials in Henry Cemetery occurred toward the end or after the initial settlement period in Sullivan County (c. 1836-1880), the descendants of early pioneer

<sup>29</sup> "Robert Henry," 1880 United States Federal Census, published online by Ancestry.com, <search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gsfn=Robert&gsln=Henry&gsby...> Accessed December 11, 2004.

<sup>30</sup> *Cemetery Inscriptions of Sullivan County, Missouri*. Milan, MO: Daughters of the American Revolution, General John Sullivan Chapter, 1952, p. 21.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

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Sullivan County, Missouri

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families continue to be buried in the cemetery and there is a close association with the site and owners of surrounding farmlands. The cemetery retains a high degree of integrity and continues to convey its significant association with early settlement and settlers in southwestern Sullivan County.



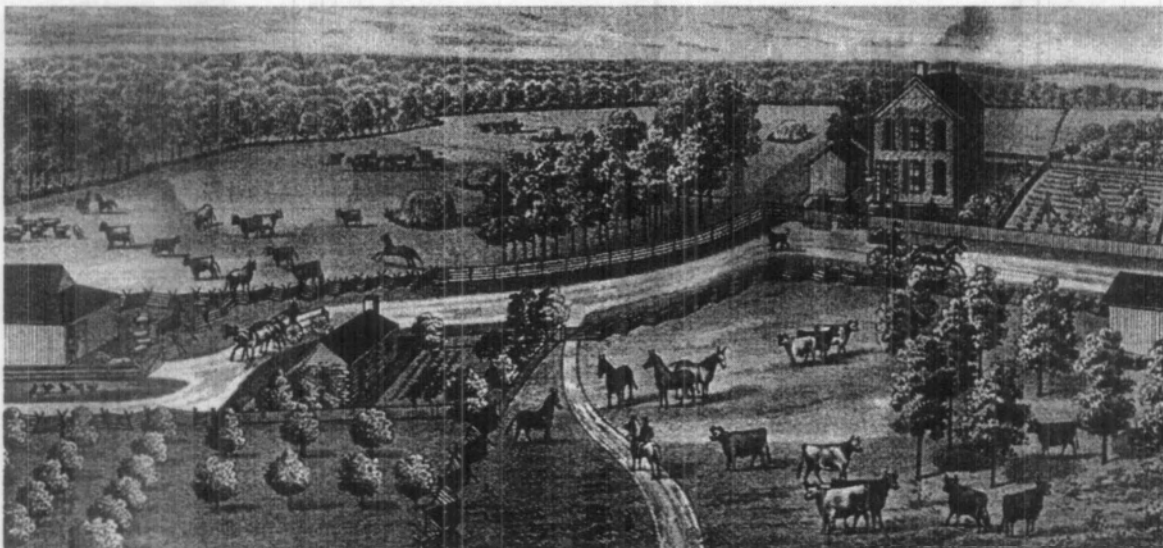
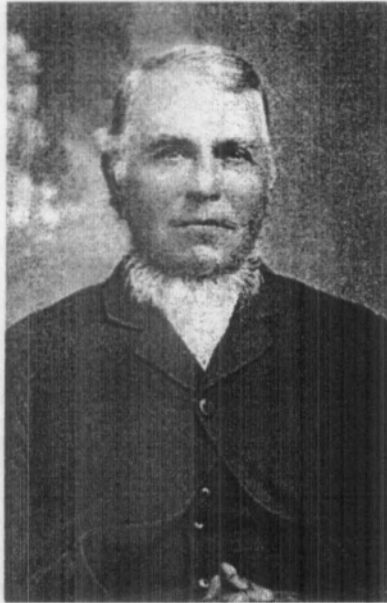
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Sullivan County, Missouri

Figure 4: Portraits and farm Dr. Jacob and Rachel Ann (Mairs) DeWitt, n.d.<sup>32</sup>



FARM RESIDENCE OF DR. J. DEWITT, 6 M. S.W. OF MILAN, SULLIVAN CO. MO.

<sup>32</sup> Don DeWitt, "Our DeWitt Ancestry,"  
<[www.bergen.org/ACADEMY/Bio/dewitt/DeWittAncestry.html#JoelDeWitt](http://www.bergen.org/ACADEMY/Bio/dewitt/DeWittAncestry.html#JoelDeWitt)>, accessed 7/11/05.

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

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Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri

### Boundary Description

From the intersection of Hwy Z and Sunridge Road, move north along Hwy Z 544 feet to the beginning point at the southwest corner of the cemetery. The beginning point is the intersection of the cemetery's half-circle drive with Hwy Z. From the starting point move east southeast 557 feet to the stone post marking the southeast corner of the cemetery. Thence move north 193 feet to the stone post marking the northeast corner of the cemetery. From this point move west northwest 557 feet to the northern intersection of the half circle drive and Hwy Z. This intersection marks the northwest corner of the property. From this point move south 193 feet to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

Boundaries include all the lands historically associated with the cemetery and its use as a burial ground.

### 11. Form prepared by, con't:

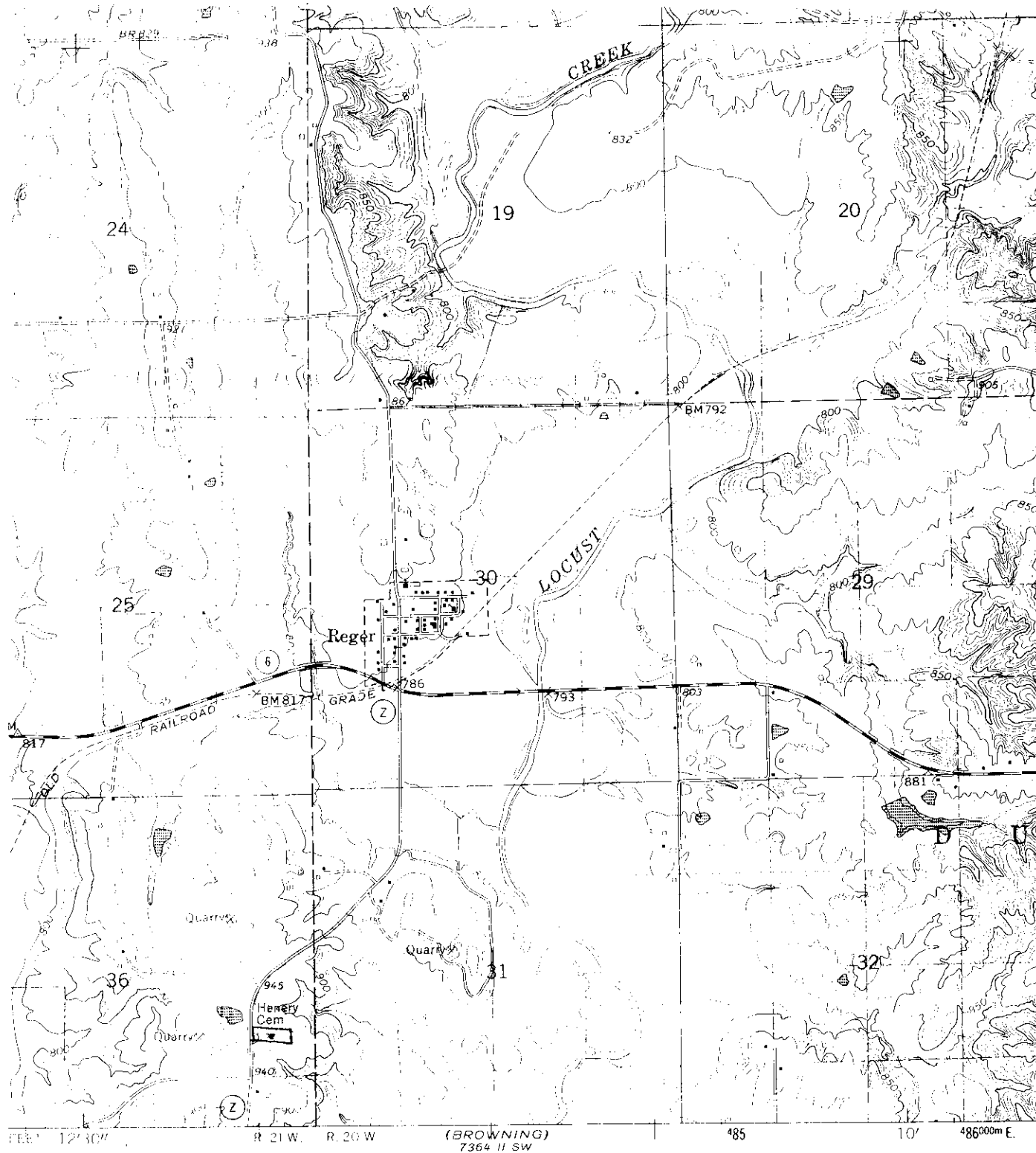
Tiffany Patterson  
Missouri State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-751-7800

### Photo Log

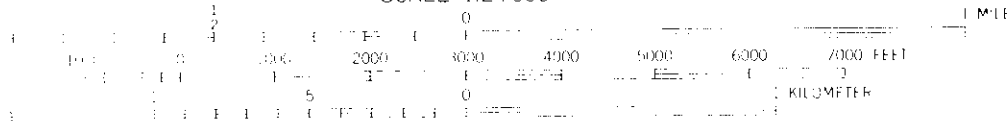
The following is true for all photographs:

Henry Cemetery  
Sullivan County, Missouri  
Photographer: Shari Howard  
Date: September 11, 2004  
Location of Negatives: Glenda Ritchey, 4721 South Vivian Street, Morrison, CO 80465

1. Entrance gates, looking east.
2. Detail, entrance gate, looking east southeast.
3. Overview of cemetery, looking east toward northeast corner.
4. Overview of cemetery, looking north from center of cemetery.
5. Overview of cemetery, looking east southeast toward southeast corner.
6. Overview of cemetery, looking east northeast toward northeast corner.
7. Family plot looking south southeast.
8. Saul Reger grave marker, looking north.
9. Southeast corner post, looking southeast.
10. Native stone grave marker, looking east.
11. Northwest corner post and non-contributing outhouse, looking northwest.



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

C. NORTH  
SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
AND THE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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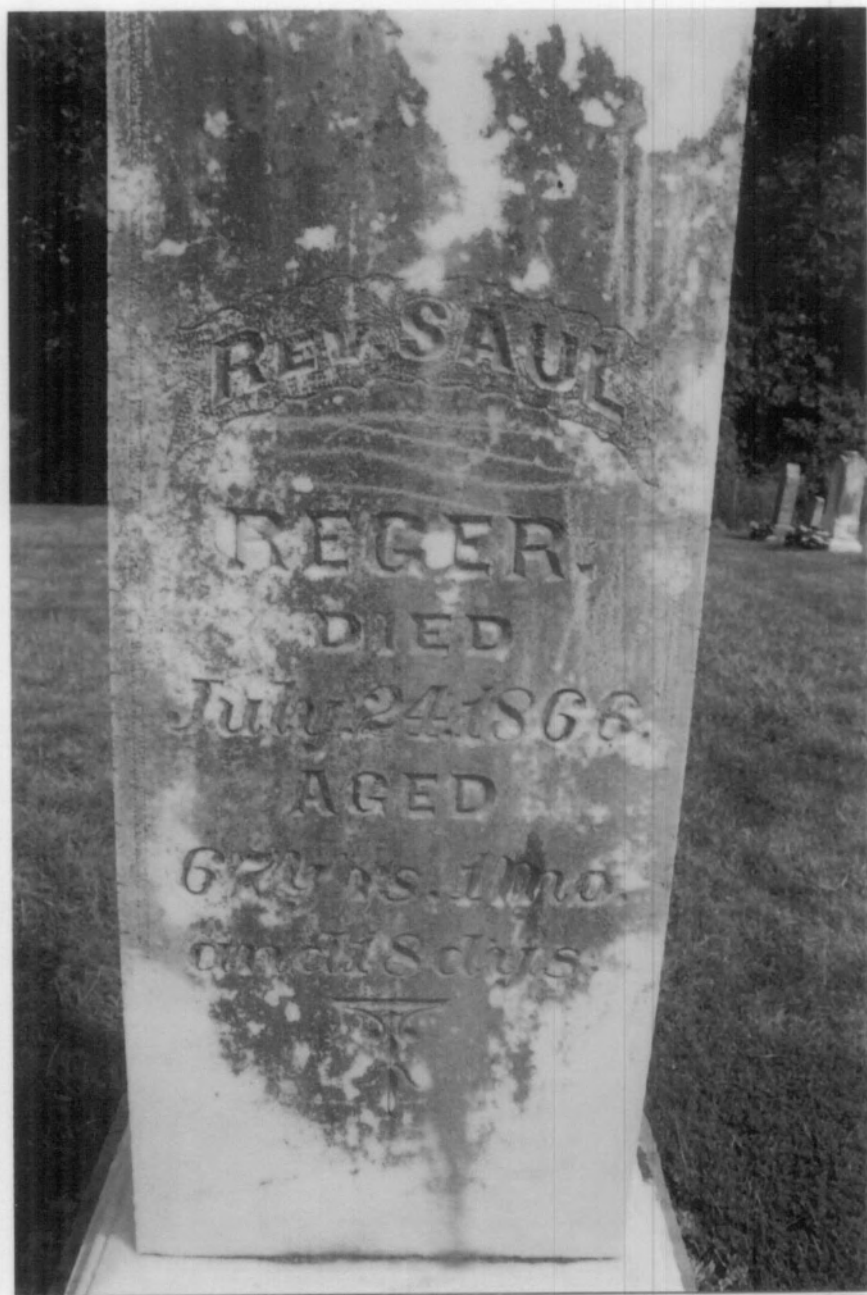












REV. SAUL

REGER.

DIED

July 24, 1866.

AGED

67 yrs. 1 mo.

and 18 days.





