

## Sennert Family Burial Ground

*By Dave Hallemann*



This very unique cemetery with its hand made monuments is located in T39 R6 S11 NW ¼ of the SW ¼.

38° 06' 26" N / 90° 20' 15" W

This cemetery was visited on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

This cemetery is unique in that the Sennert Family Plot is covered with concrete. This plot is about 15x15 feet with quartz and other pretty, native rocks, embedded into the concrete on the perimeter along with glass vases for flowers.

Descendants tried to make

this burial site special by embedding two small panes of glass, which undoubtedly encased a picture of the person buried here, into the concrete in front of the mother's grave, two large pieces of glass behind the father's grave that reportedly held pictures and the name of the cemetery, and a fence around the plot. A descendant showed us pictures of family members at a reunion in the 1940s, with trowel in hand, repairing or adding items to the graves. Many of the monuments appear to be hand made of concrete. The amount of love and caring put into this site is quite evident. Unfortunately desecrators have destroyed some of this cemetery.

This cemetery appears to be about 30x50 feet in size with the Sennert plot a small portion. There is a gravesite of a Confederate Civil War Soldier. Current property owner relates that in the past someone dug up the soldier's grave and stole the monument. When the property owner found this he filled in the grave, went to Festus where he was well known, and let it be known what he thought about anyone who would dig up a grave. A few days later the monument reappeared on the grave however it was broken into three pieces. This *could* have been a possible reason the Sennert descendants concreted the entire family plot, to prevent this kind of desecration.

Also on this site is a two-room log cabin with enclosed dogtrot. The cabin was originally a one-room log cabin denoted by the old fireplace stone chimney. It appears that at some later date another one room and roof for a dogtrot was added. This was determined by the fact that the end of the logs of the two rooms were cut in different styles, and the second room had a brick chimney coming up from the center of the room. The dogtrot was enclosed at and even later date. At one time the entire structure was covered with "clapboards". This is undoubtedly why the cabin is still in fair shape.

An ancient roadbed is located in front of the cabin and property owners relate this was always called the "King's Trace." In the Deed of Dedication for the cemetery it was called the "St. Louis to St. Genevieve Road."

As with all cemeteries we can only record the names of the person who have monuments. Who else is buried there is lost to time. Why was Confederate Soldier Wiatt buried on this ground? Perhaps he was related to the Sherman family as they own the property from 1847 to 1882. He was buried there before the Sennerts first purchased the tract in 1886.

The tract was originally purchased from the U. S. Government on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1840 and recorded as Certificate #10102 by Joseph D. Wiley of Jefferson County, Missouri.

Seven years later, by 1847, Joseph has died and in records of the estate of Joseph D. Wiley, probate case #548, Agnes Wiley his wife received "...all furniture and a mare." Sale of land in Indiana and Missouri was to be placed in the Bank of Missouri with interest being paid annually to Agnes during her lifetime. The money then was to go to two nephews, Orin and George Wiley. A brother John Wiley was to receive "...all my books, clothing, and trunk."

Also in the probate records were bills from *Dr. Francis Sherman* of Rush Tower who attended Joseph during his last days, and a bill from Mark W. Ideman for \$5.<sup>00</sup> for making a coffin.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1849 Public Administrator Phillip Pipkins confirms the sale, to Francis Sherman, "...the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11 Township 39 Range 6 containing 40 acres, also the *northwest quarter of the southwest quarter*, Section 11 Township 39 range 6 containing 40 acres which was acquired by the deceased from the U. S. Government and which said tracts of land and real estate was sold by Agnes P. Wiley the then Administratrix of the estate to Francis Sherman for \$51.<sup>00</sup> he being the highest bidder on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1847..." recorded in Book I at Page 571.

Joseph Wiley *could* have been the person to build the original part of the log cabin, as there was only him and Agnes. They left no heirs as reported in the probate records.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1882 Francis Sherman and wife Elizabeth, after owning the land for 32 years sell the tract, containing 160 acres, to John T. Drury, for \$800.<sup>00</sup>, recorded in Book 22 at Page 368.

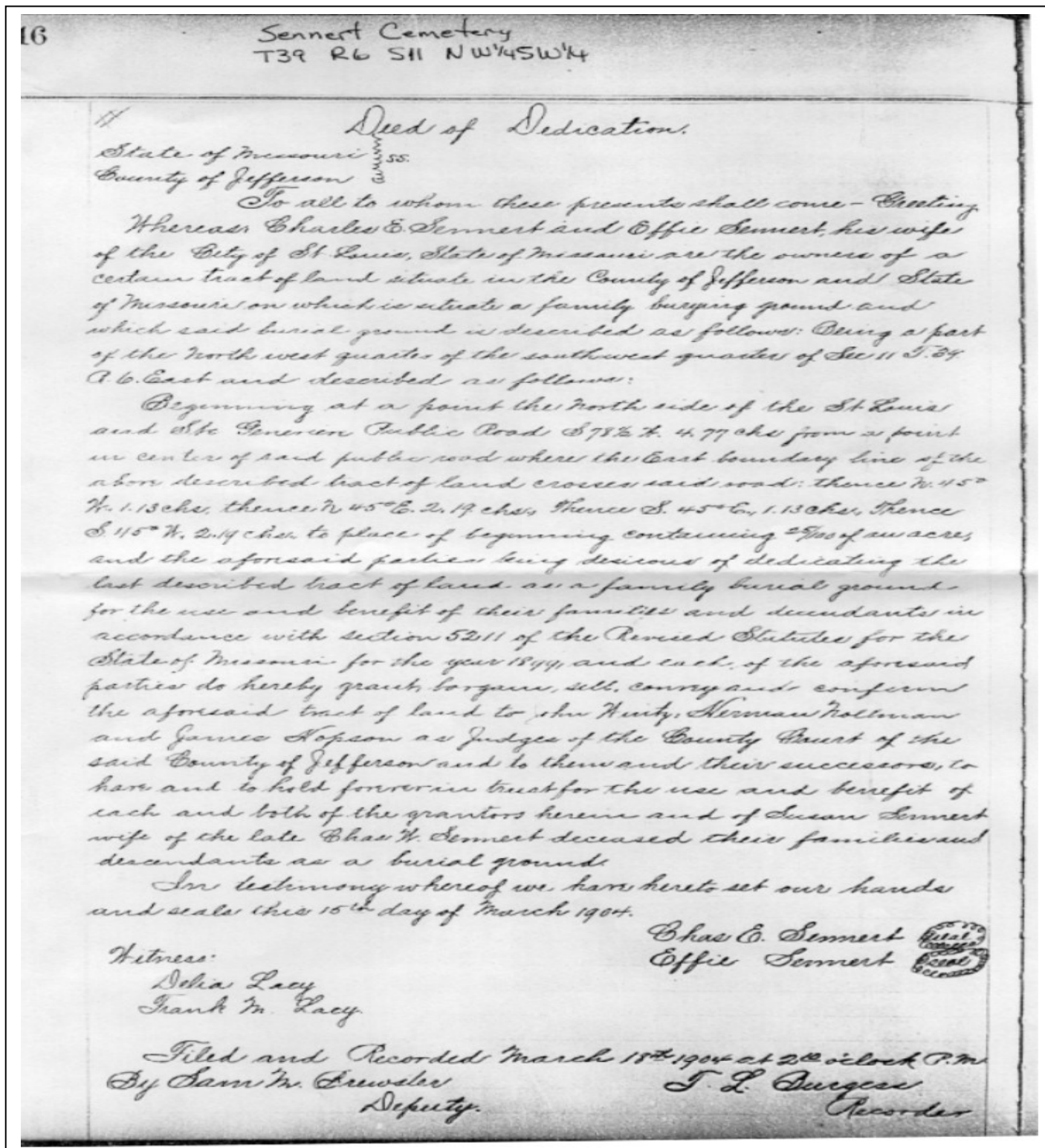
Four years later on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1886 John T. Drury and wife Sarah sell the tract to Charles Sennert of Jefferson County, for \$800.<sup>00</sup>, "...the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10 Township 39 Range 6 containing 80 acres, also the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and the *northwest quarter of the southwest quarter* Section 11 Township 39 range 6 containing 80 acres...", Charles being 43 years old at the time.

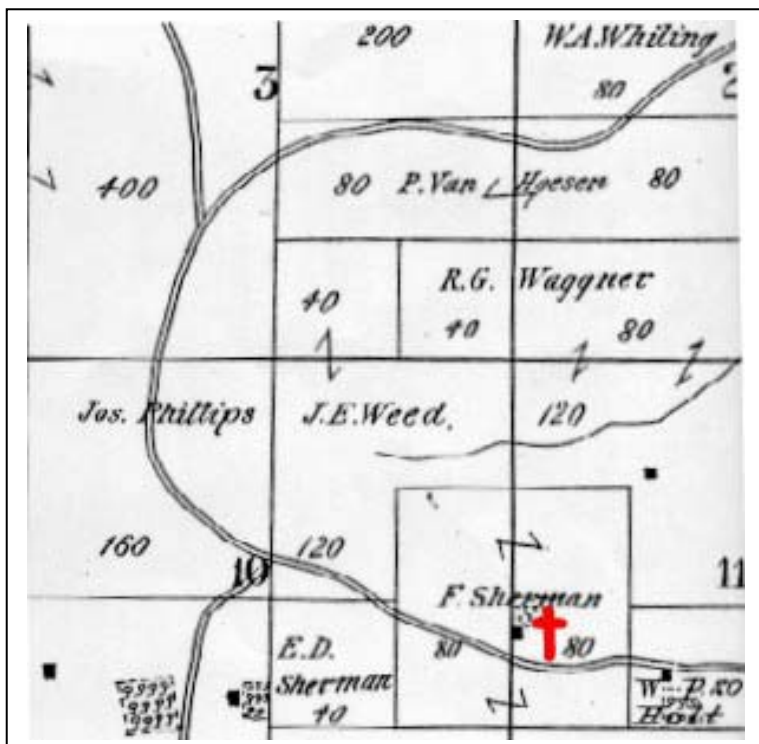
In Trust Deed Book 17 at Page 266 Charles Sennert and Susie his wife, execute three promissory notes to J. E. Waggener and Benjamin F. England, one note due on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1887 for \$600.<sup>00</sup>, the second due September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1888 for \$58.<sup>00</sup>, and the third due September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1889 for \$58.<sup>00</sup>.

The next document I found is a deed recorded in Book 55 at Page 626, the sale of the 160 acres to satisfy the deed of trust. "...Charles Sennert being more than 9 months dead...to satisfy deed of trust to Benj. F. England...sold on the courthouse steps April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1903...published in the Jefferson Democrat March 19<sup>th</sup> thru April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1903...to Charles E. Sennert for \$200.<sup>00</sup> cash and other promises...recorded December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1903. This deed to correct errors recorded in Book 55 at Page 246." Charles E. Sennert bought the farm back on the courthouse steps for his

family. Charles E. Sennert was the oldest son of Charles W. and Susie Sennert. He was born 1<sup>st</sup> March 1875 and died in 1940

The final deed I examined was a Deed of Dedication executed in Book 57 Page 116, as follows;



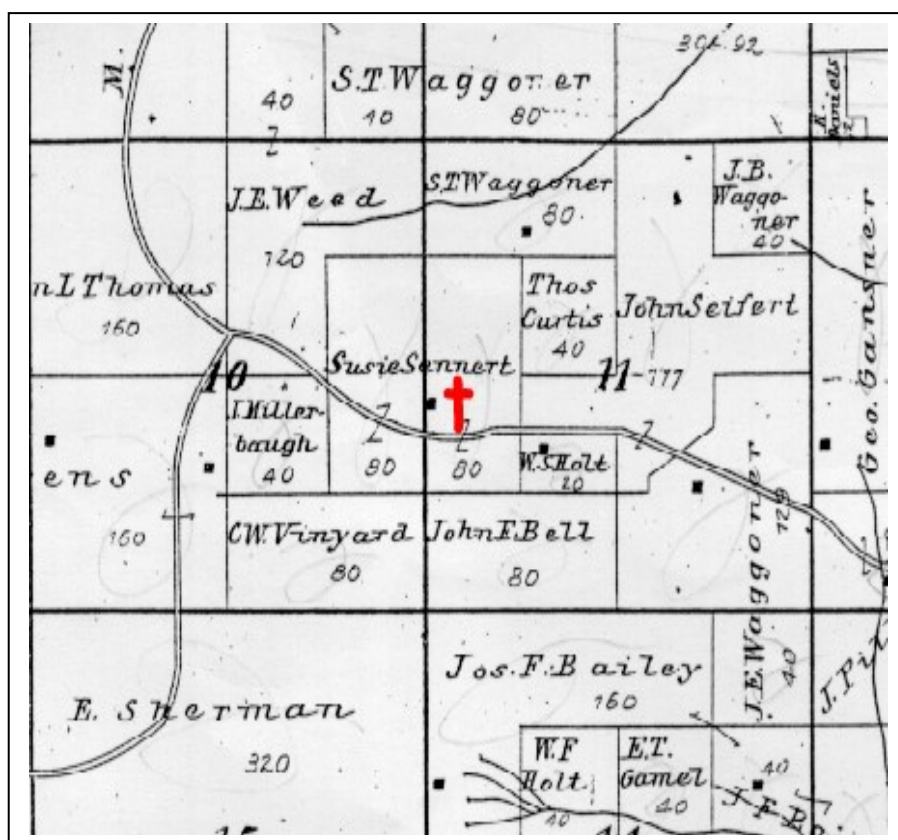


As can be seen in the picture at left, in 1876 F. Sherman has possession of the property.

The Cemetery is located where I have added the red cross. Note the presence of a building where the log cabins is located.

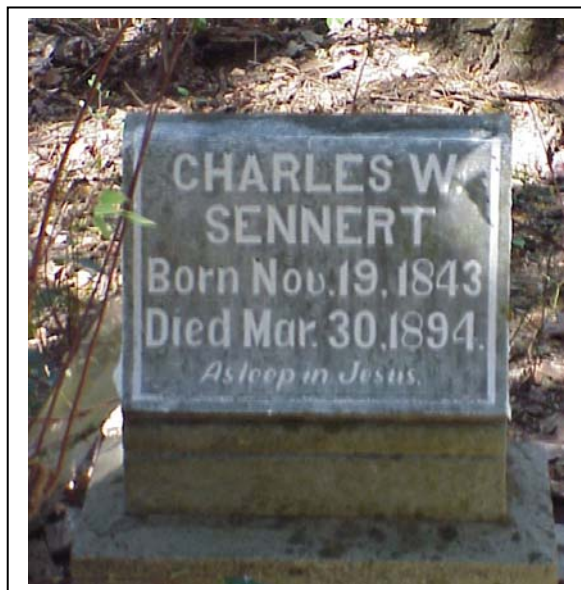
By 1898 Susie Sennert now owns the tract.

Again I have added the red cross to denote the approximate location of this cemetery.





The following pictures are of the monuments in this cemetery. The clarity of the lettering on the photographs is due the "shaving cream" method. There are probably unmarked graves in this cemetery.



## **Charles W. Sennert**

Born Nov. 19, 1843

Died Mar. 30, 1894

*Asleep in Jesus*

*Aged 50 years 4 months 11 days*

*Footstone C. W. S.*

*(Charles was born in the Saxon area of Germany. His German name was Karl Wilhelm Sennert. He came to America at age 16 and joined the Civil War in Tennessee, getting his big toe shot off.)*

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## **Susie Sennert**

Born 4-14-1854

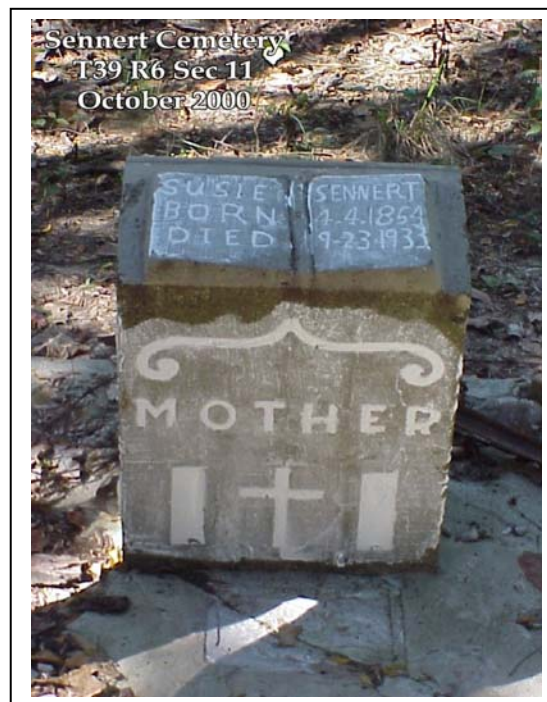
Died 9-23-1933

Mother

*Aged 79 years 5 months 10 days*

*(Note where two panes of glass were pressed into the concrete in front of the monument to hold a picture. Susie was born in Tennessee her parents were from Switzerland.)*

*Barnhart Funeral Parlor of De Soto records show buried in family cemetery, died of Paralysis aged 79-9-1.*



**Elmer H.**

Son of  
**John. Robert. & F. Mathilda.  
Hughes**

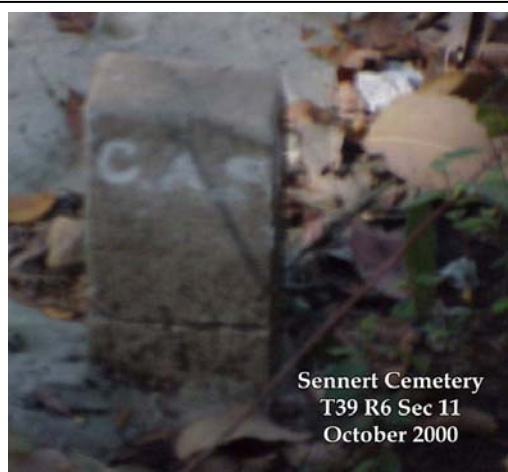
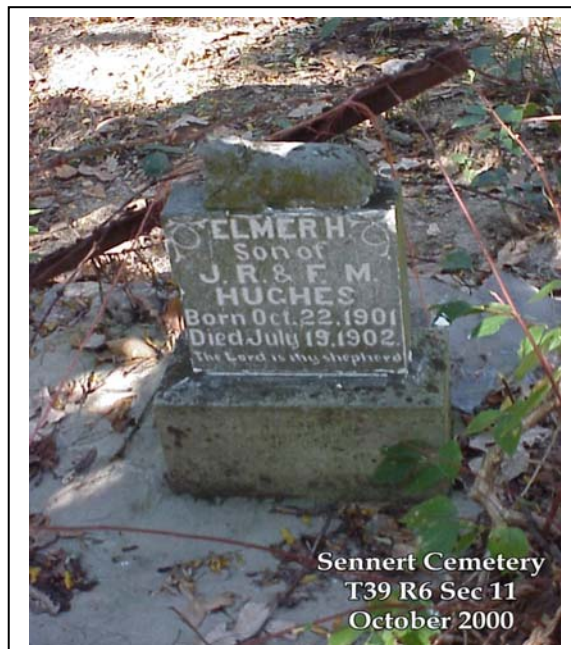
Born Oct. 22, 1901

Died July 19, 1902

*The Lord is my Shepard*

*Aged 8 months 27 days*

*(Concrete Lamb was added to the top of monument at a later date. Grandson of Charles W. Sennert he was born in Danby, Mo.)*



**C. A. S.**

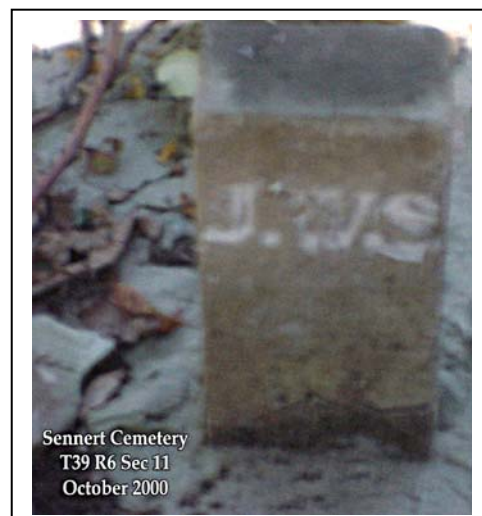
*(Christine A. Sennert  
Born 3-28-1887  
Died 7-30-1888)*

*(Home made stone of concrete, for an infant.)*

**J. W. S.**

*(John W. Sennert  
Born 8-28-1892  
Died 8-28-1893)*

*(Home made stone of concrete, for an infant.)*

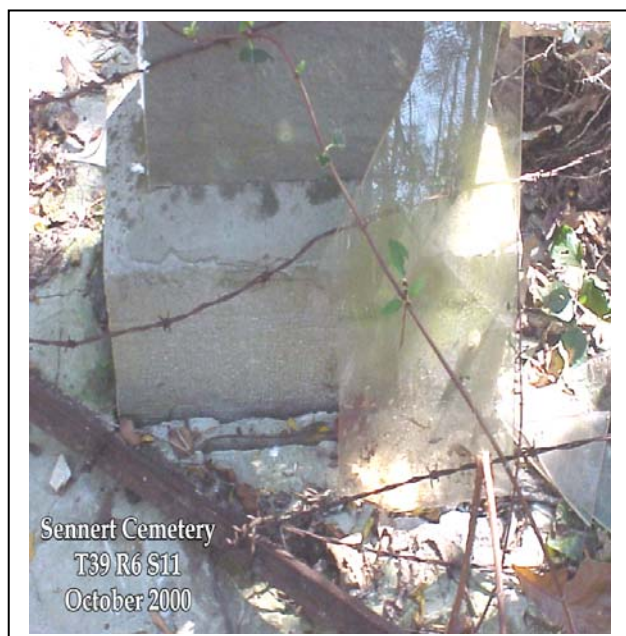
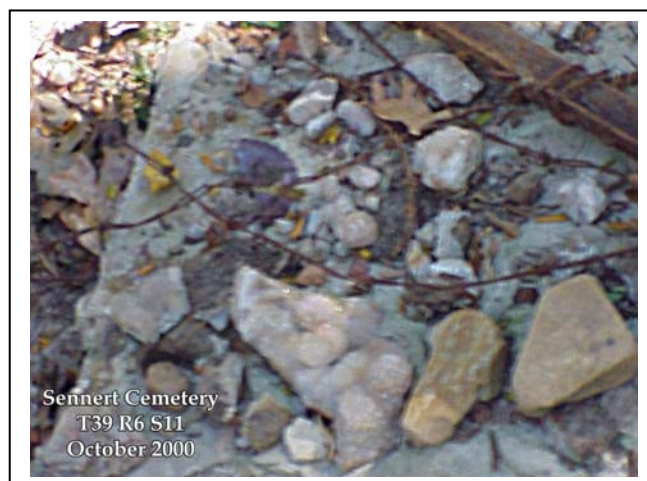






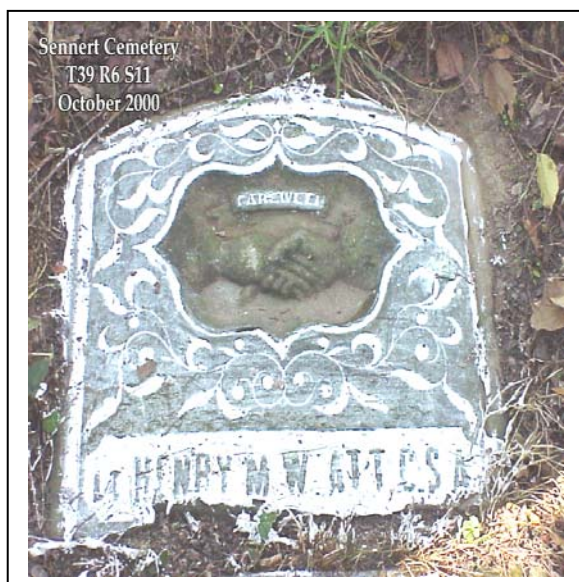
As seen in the photo at left the concrete blocks around the Sennert Plot. The entire area, inside the blocks and fence, is concreted over. This area is about 15 x15 feet. Many of the monuments were made of concrete.

In the photo at right, we see the native quartz and other pretty stones, embedded into the concrete around the perimeter. The purple glass was at one time a flower vase.



In this photo we see what is left of one of the two panes of glass located behind the Charles W. Sennert monument. This at one time held the name of the cemetery and *probably* the location of each person buried here. Note that the original monument was later placed upon a concrete base.

*(Civil War Veteran Monument. This grave is about 10 feet outside the Sennert plot. Complete monument broken into three pieces.)*



## **Lt. Henry M. Wiatt C. S. A.**

*(Circle with holding hands pointing down & Farewell in circle at top. Top of three broken pieces.)*

**Born**  
In Spottsylvania Co. Va.

**Oct. 31, 1830**

**Died**

**April 1871**

*Aged 40 years 6 months ? days*

*(Middle of three broken pieces. Bottom piece was blank and was set into ground.)*







*Symbolism played a big part in monuments. We interpreted the carving above, on top of the Lt. Wiatt stone as follows;*

*There is a woman's hand on the left as denoted by the collar on the sleeve of her dress and the hand is in the submissive position, the hand on the right we interpret as a man's denoted by the button holes on the collar of the shirt sleeve end, also the hand is in the dominate position. The finger pointing down we determined as the man or probably husband is buried here. The farewell banner for death.*

This information was sent to me after the article was written. From members of a family who served with Lt. Wiatt;

A Henry M Wiatt was a member of the 9th Virginia Cavalry. He enlisted 4/25/61 into Company E. He was promoted to Lt. April 25, 1862. He was a POW at Guiney Station 5/21/64 and released from Ft. Delaware June 16, 1865. He was described as being 6 ft. 5 inches tall. This mans Great Grandfather and G Uncle were both members of this unit.

Note: If this is the same Henry Wiatt that is buried here I do not know however it could be.



This is a picture of Susie Sennert late in life. One can almost see the sadness from a lifetime of struggles in her eyes. She with her husband and children, scratched out a farm living on 160 acres of Jefferson County. A woman that suffered the death of four of her children in infancy, only to then lose her husband at the age of 40. Her slight smile shows the determination of her true pioneer spirit, her hand still wearing the plain wedding band.

Susie and Charles had 11 children.

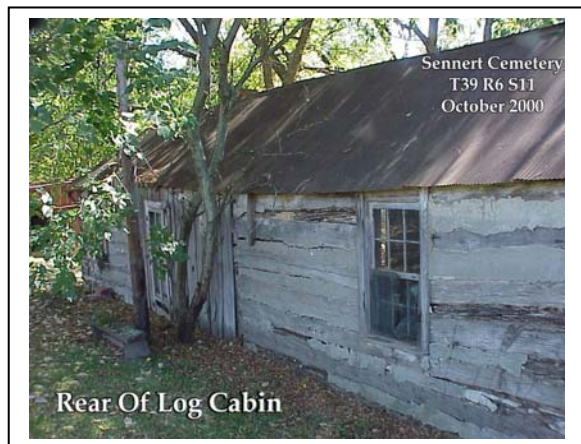
In probate of Charles Sennert (sic) record Case # 2246 the following appraisal of all personal property was

listed as follows;

1 span of mares, \$70, 1 calf \$3, 1 yearling heifer \$3, 14 head hogs \$21, 300 bushels corn \$120, 1 wagon \$10, 5 plows \$5, 1 harrow \$1, household and kitchen furniture \$10, lot of books \$1, Total \$244

Notice of estate was published in the Jefferson Democrat on May 10<sup>th</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1894.

This log cabin sits about 150 yards west of the cemetery on the original tract. It was the home of the Sennert family. It is a two-room design with an enclosed

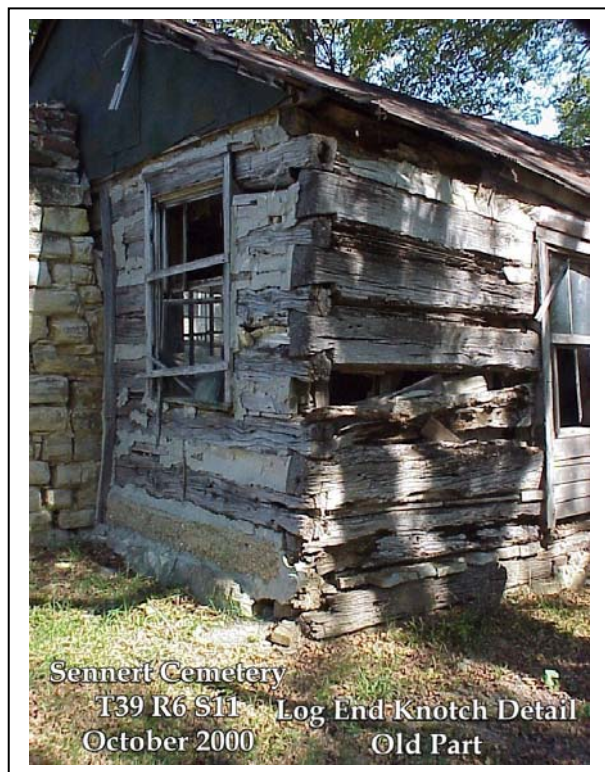


“dogtrot” in the middle. The room on the left was the original building and the room on the right and the pitched roof being added later.

The room on the west was a family room with a large stone fireplace. The room to the east or right of the above picture was the kitchen. Added later it had a brick chimney on the west wall.

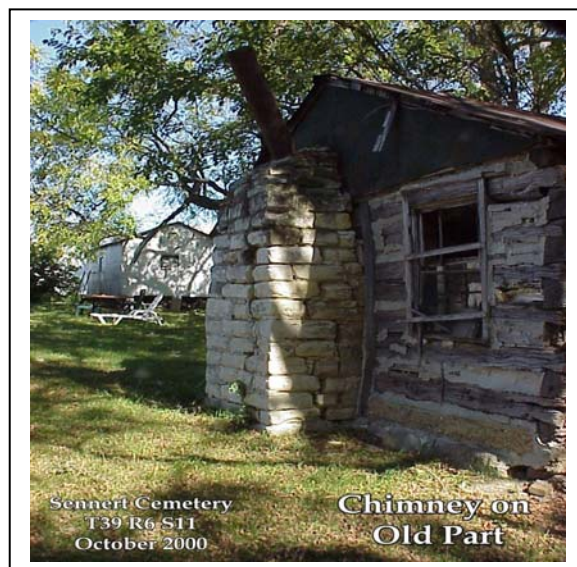


The top of the rock chimney of the old part had fallen down and a brick top was added. The brick top also deteriorated and a pipe was used to replace the top.

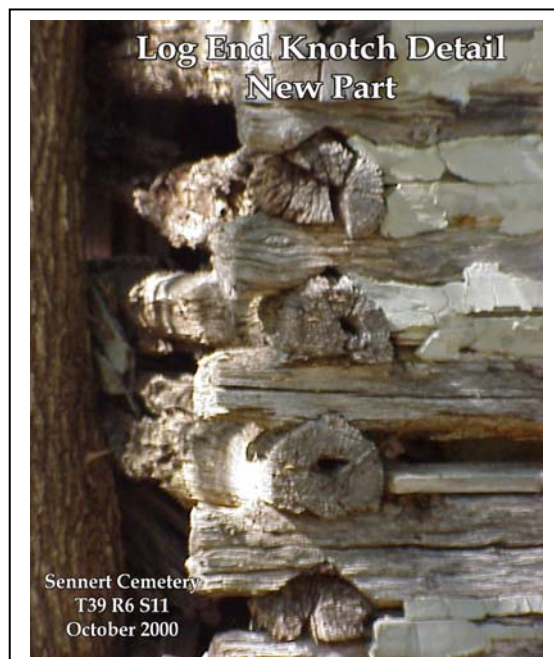


Picture at right shows notch detail on the newer addition.

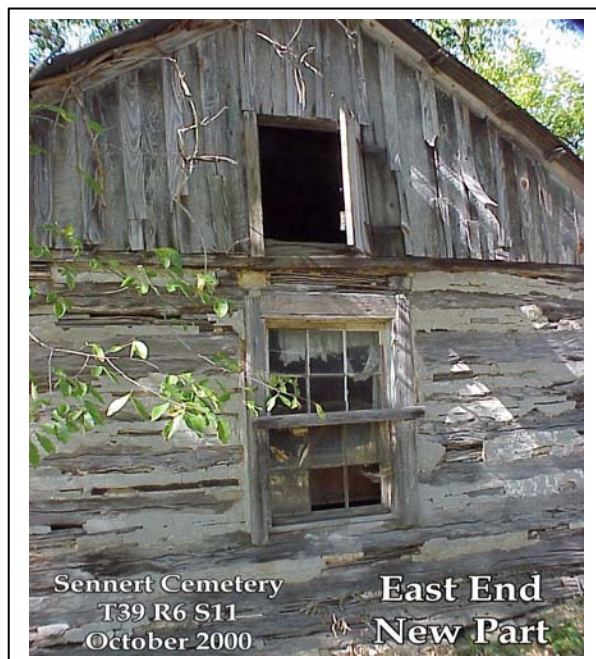
Note a building shows up on the 1876 and 1898 Atlas. It could not be determined if this cabin was in existence then or was built later.



The picture on the left shows the detail of how the logs were notched on the original part of the log cabin.

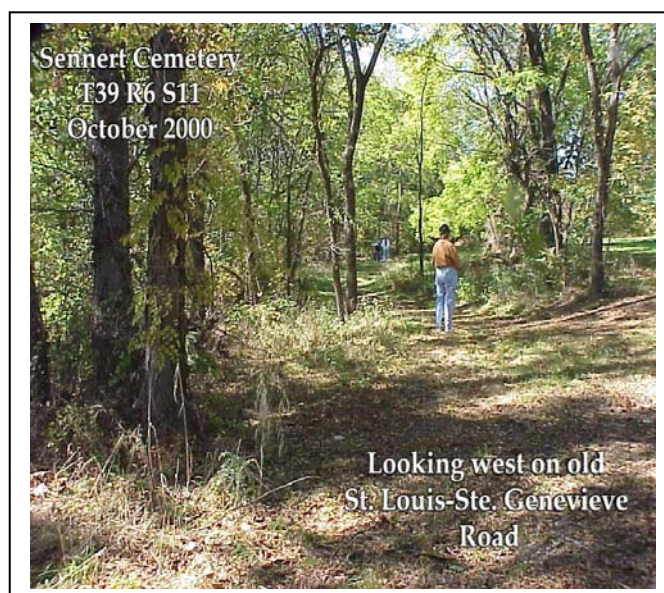






This photo shows the east end of the new addition. The loft area could have been used for bedrooms. We could not see an entrance to the loft from inside of the rooms. We assume that a ladder of some kind was used for to enter this opening.

The two pictures below, looking west, show the old roadbed in front of the cabin, which is to the far right. The current owners had always heard the road called the "King Trace", however on the cemetery deed it is called the "St. Louis to Ste. Genevieve" road. This area is about a mile west of Danby.





This wonderful picture was taken in the 1940s on Decoration Day. Women standing in the back are, left, Nancy Sennert Windes and to the right, Mathilda Frances Sennert Hughes (Grandmother of Rosemary Hughes Miller) and mother of Elmier Hughes in the cemetery. Sitting down is Carrie Sennert Farmer. Carrie owned a milliners shop in Festus. These are daughters of Charles W. and Susan Sennert.

Note the love and caring that these families put into the cemetery. The women in back appear to be holding a rake and a broom. The lady sitting is holding a trowel for smoothing the concrete. The boy also appears to be holding a rake or shovel. There is a 1930s or 40s type automobile in the background.

Women standing in front of the log cabin, on the left is Mathilda Frances Sennert Hughes and on the right is Nancy Sennert Windes. These two pictures were taken at the same time.

*Since these wonderful women worked so hard year after year to keep the burial place of their loved ones nice, my goal has been to see that the babies who did not have a chance at life, will not go unnoticed. Although it has been over 100 years since they passed, their brief presence is known. And that people still think about them and still love them. If I accomplish this, I will feel as though my presence has been worthwhile.*

Rosemary Hughes Sennert



I would like to thank Rosemary Hughes Miller Great Granddaughter of Susie Sennert and Cathy Miller current property owner for notifying me of the location of this cemetery, furnishing background pictures and information, and helping to preserve the heritage of Jefferson County.

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