

From the Springfield (MO) News Leader, May 15, 1997—

MYSTERY GRAVE STONES CALL OUT FOR ANSWERS WHO WAS PHEBE MARTIN??

By Lance Jay

OSAGE BEACH — Ted Turner probably has two or more bodies buried in his yard.

The “probably” part of this is because Turner found two tombstones, but refuses to do any digging.

“I have been trying for a long time to get anyone to help me find out about these two tombstones and whether or not there are graves on my property,” Turner said.

The search began in the fall of 1995.

Turner bought the house and property on Lake Road 54-62 in 1994. In the fall of the following year while raking leaves near a line of trees about 150 feet from the house, Turner uncovered two tombstones laying on their sides under about 8-inches of leaves.

Turner said one of the stones was broken into 15 or so pieces and was indiscernible. The other was in great shape.

That tombstone read “Phebe, Wife of Ambrose Martin, Died Sept. 6, 1875, Aged 66 years, eight months and 15 days.”

Inscribed on the stone was “I am done with the troubles and afflictions of this world. There is rest in Heaven.”

According to Turner, he began calling several people around the lake area asking for information about Phebe Martin and her unidentified neighbor’s headstone.

“I went to the Versailles Historical Society, the Camden County Courthouse and Macks Creek City Hall. No one could help me,” Turner said.

About a month ago he got help from longtime friend Jim Ward of Camden County, who agreed to help him search for answers.

Ward’s efforts were futile too, so he called the newspaper, hoping an article



Jim Ward, who has assisted in the search for information about two mysterious tombstones found in friend Ted Turner’s yard, stands next to the only stone intact. (Photo by Lance Jay)

about the possible grave site might help them find the answer to the questions of whether or not there are graves on Turner’s property, and if so how many, and whose name was on the destroyed stone.”

“By all likelihood, there are graves on Turner’s property,” Dean Allee, Owner of Allee-Reed Funeral Home in Camdenton said. “Back then, people weren’t so concerned about keeping death records and where they buried the dead.”

Allee said that his death records only date back to the 1920s.

Turner said that anyone with information about Phebe Martin could call him at home at (579)348-9562.