

# RED OAK GROVE REPORTER

Issue No. 10

April 2012

Beautiful panoramic photo of cemetery and church taken by Bob Rickard.



*All the seasons have their own beauty, but spring may be the loveliest time of all at Red Oak Grove.*

## ***Sixth annual Red Oak Grove Reunion to be May 20***

The sixth annual Red Oak Grove Reunion will be **Sunday, May 20, 2012**, at Red Oak Grove Church. A warm welcome is extended to everyone who is interested in Red Oak Grove. The reunion will follow the traditional format: an 11:00 a.m. service, a noon potluck dinner in the church basement, and the 1:00 p.m. annual meeting.

Pastor Ron Lashmit of Tipton and State Representative Jeff Kaufmann of Wilton will conduct the non-denominational service. Special music will be performed. Those dining at the potluck are asked to bring a dish of food to share, and their own tableware. Coffee and a fruit drink will be provided.

**Windows restoration proceeding . . .** Thanks to the generosity of dozens of donors from several states, the project to restore all 37 church windows has now been fully funded (\$27,000). Glass Heritage LLC of Davenport began work in February. Some 230 individual pieces of glass were removed from frames and each piece cleaned by hand. (Storm windows were left in place.) A list of all donors is included in this issue of the Reporter.

**Attention to monuments . . .** Volunteers are being sought for the first annual cleaning and straightening of monuments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery, on **Saturday, May 19**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lori Ostrich will give instruction on cleaning, and Rich Urban will head up the straightening teams. If you can help with either of these important tasks, please contact Bob Rickard at (563) 886-6018 or [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net)

## Founding Members, Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove, 1841

John Chappell, Elizabeth Sturrock Dallas (wife of Charles Dallas), Robert and Elizabeth Pirie, Robert Dallas, Miss Sara Dallas (later Mrs. Elza Carl), John and Isabella Sturrock Ferguson, John Safley, and Samuel Yule

**Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery have been listed on  
The National Register of Historic Places since February 3, 2010.**

**Mission** The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., comprises a historic church and perpetual care cemetery dedicated to its upkeep and preservation.

**Vision** The vision of Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association is to further enhance the park-like setting of the church and cemetery by encompassing nearby Rock Creek and Red Oak Park (founded in 1894), through the following actions:

- Revise Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery's National Register of Historic Places designation to include Red Oak Park;
- Acquire approximately five acres of land lying between the cemetery and the park, making the two entities contiguous;
- Build walking paths and additional cement driveways to access the cemetery;
- Clean and reforest the timbered area west of the church to accommodate a labyrinth, walking paths along Rock Creek, and paths linking the cemetery and Red Oak Park.

*The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., is a 501 (c) (13)  
organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.*

For information about church rental, purchase of plots, or other matters pertaining to the church or cemetery, contact Bob Rickard, Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association president:

Phone: (563) 886-6018 ♦ E-mail: [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net)

U.S. mail: P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

➤ Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association web site: [www.redoakgrovecc.com](http://www.redoakgrovecc.com) ◀

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Karen Safley Taylor, Editor

## *Congratulations to Wethingtons, Phelps*

Congratulations to newlyweds Jason and Michelle Gaunt Wethington, who were married March 17, 2012, and to Jonathan and Lisa Roberts Phelps, whose wedding was April 7, 2012. Both weddings were at Red Oak Grove Church.

The church, located about a mile off Highway 38, is a lovely setting for weddings, and is also suitable for reunions, club meetings, and other types of gatherings. For more information about rental, contact Bob Rickard, (563) 886-6018, or [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net).

## **In Memoriam: Recent interments at Red Oak Grove**

**Shirley Ann Kimberling Thomson**, 75, of West Des Moines died Nov. 25, 2011, in Rochester, Minn. Her funeral was Dec. 1 in West Des Moines. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Gregory Landry, and two grandchildren. Mrs. Thomson was the daughter of Claude and Beulah Kaufman Kimberling, and the wife of the late Roland Thomson. A daughter, Wendy Sue, also predeceased her.

**Ruth E. King Warren**, 42, of Clarence died Dec. 4, 2011, in Iowa City. Her funeral was at Clarence. She was the daughter of LaVerne and Dorothy McDonald King (now Dorothy Faulkner). Survivors include her husband, John Warren; her parents; daughters Connie Warren and Elaine Warren; a brother; and a grandson.

**Carol Rae Wood Schroeder**, 68, of Olin died Feb. 13, 2012, in Cedar Rapids. Her funeral was Feb. 18 in Tipton. Mrs. Schroeder was the daughter of Velmar “Pete” and Bernice Paustian Wood. She is survived by her husband, Donald M. Schroeder; four children, Scott, Todd, Kim Bixler and Kris Kuehl; 12 grandchildren; two sisters; and a brother.

**Frances J. Carl**, 94, formerly of Lowden, died March 8, 2012, in Tipton. She was a descendant of Red Oak Grove pioneers Elza and Sarah Dallas Carl. Her memorial service was held March 12 in Tipton. Miss Carl was the daughter of Forest and Edna Miller Carl. She was predeceased by two sisters and a brother. Survivors include her sister-in-law, Betty Carl; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**CARL-DALLAS FAMILY . . .** Elza H. Carl (1822-1903) was born in Ohio. He came to Red Oak Grove at age 17 after living first in Indiana and Linn County, Iowa. On Nov. 15, 1844, he married Sarah Dallas (1818-1916), a native of Scotland. She and her father, Robert Dallas, were among 10 founding members of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in 1841. Elza and Sarah Carl were the great-grandparents of the late Frances J. Carl.

## *Cleanup day held March 11*

A big thank-you to those who took part in the annual cleanup day at Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery March 11, 2012: Scott, Vickie and Nathan Heick, Mike and Brenda Herring, Daisy Wingert, Elsie Payton, Cecil Mathias, Drew Oberfrank, Steve Nash, and Bob Rickard. Barb Rickard served a tasty noon lunch for the volunteers in the church basement.

The church interior fairly sparkled when the cleaning was complete. In the cemetery, sticks, old flowers and other debris were removed; recent graves were prepared for application of sod; some areas were rolled to flatten mole tunnels; and on the east (front) side of the South Cemetery, a gate was moved and the fence repaired.

## **Our history: Challis shivaree at Red Oak Grove**

In the spring of 1960, Don Challis, a 49-year-old bachelor farmer, proposed to Mary Richards Moylan, 36, of Tipton. She had four children, ages 8 through 14, by her first marriage. In Shiloh, just north of Red Oak Grove Church, a flurry of activity prepared an unused house for the soon-to-be family of six. A sink replaced the kitchen pump, and 1 ½ baths were installed. Mary and her children moved in first.

The couple was married Oct. 7 at the rural Iowa City home of Judge Louis Penningroth, a Red Oak Grove native. The newlyweds then went on a brief honeymoon. Daughter Dianne Moylan Glenney of Muscatine recalled, “When they returned and we (children) came home from school, Dad had moved in and we were now a family.”

A couple of nights later, after supper, she went on, “we were startled by the sound of gunshots and clanking pans outside our house . . . We saw that the yard was full of cars and laughing neighbors.

### **Cigars and candy bars**

“It seems that Dad had an inkling this was going to happen, and he told us we were being ‘shivareed’ . . . He passed out cigars and candy bars to the men, women and children who had surrounded our house. Then he said we were going up to the church for a party.

“So we all piled into the family vehicle – Dad’s ‘courting car’ – and headed up the hill to Red Oak Grove Church. After we arrived, we realized that the neighborhood was having a shower for Mom and Dad. Presents were opened and we had cake and ice cream in the church basement.”

Among the gifts were a number of heavy wool blankets. “Apparently, most of our neighbors realized we were going to need a lot of blankets,” said Dianne. Their house had no storm windows, and its coal furnace did little to heat the upstairs.

“It didn’t take us long to appreciate all the wonderful blankets that kept us warm at night, and the Red Oak Grove community who became our dear friends and neighbors.”