

RED OAK GROVE REPORTER

Issue No. 11

December 2012

❧ *Wishing you a merry Christmas and a very good new year* ❧

Sixth Red Oak Grove Reunion was success

The sixth annual Red Oak Grove Reunion and 121st annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association took place Sunday, May 20, 2012, a beautiful spring day. Altogether, 77 persons attended the 11 a.m. service, conducted by Pastor Ron Lashmit, State Representative Jeff Kaufmann, and Bob Rickard, Cemetery Association president. Thanks to them, and to the “Attic Belles,” who welcomed people; Mary Barnum, organist; and Tipton High School’s Select Women’s Choir, directed by Julie Thomas, with flutist Nichole Malott.

The 2013 reunion and annual meeting are scheduled **May 19, 2013**. Mark your new year calendar and plan to attend. It’s always a special, memorable experience.



Red Oak Grove Bible school, 1956

Row 1, L-R: Larry Mathias, Russell Dickey, Dennis Harmsen, Victor Kimberling. **Row 2**: Katie Hartig, Randy Mathias, Mary Albaugh, Jan Crispin. **Row 3**: John Beckman, Brenda Rupe, Beth Crispin, *Unknown*, Diane Warby. **Row 4**: Nancy Crispin, Pearl Crispin, Lillian Hipple.

Windows restoration completed . . . Thanks to the generosity of dozens of generous donors from several states, a \$27,000 project to restore all 37 church windows was successfully completed July 16, 2012. A firm of recognized experts, Glass Heritage LLC of Davenport, began work in February 2012. Some 230 individual pieces of glass were removed from frames and each piece was cleaned by hand.

Down Memory Lane . . . Thanks to Dennis Harmsen of Iowa City for contributing the 56-year-old photo on this page. Readers of the Red Oak Grove Reporter are invited to share other old photos, articles, etc. If you wish to have your originals returned, the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board would be glad to do so after making copies.

Our history: Eleven Civil War veterans remembered

Eleven Civil War casualties and veterans are commemorated on stones in Red Oak Grove Cemetery, although three (possibly four) are buried far from Cedar County, Iowa. Their ages at enlistment ranged from 17 to 38. They are listed below with their regiments, birthplaces, dates of service, and burial places if other than Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

John Whiteley Davis (1824-1887) Co. F, 17th Iowa Infantry. Born in Indiana. Served April 1862-April 1865. (*Named for his maternal grandfather, a Revolutionary War veteran.*)

John W. Dorcas (1841-1864) Co. E, 35th Iowa Infantry. Born in Iowa. Served August 1862-September 1863. Discharged for disability (disease); died six months later.

Ezra Goodrich (1846-1920) Co. B, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in Iowa. Served January 1864-January 1865. Wounded at Winchester, Virginia; discharged for wounds.

George Moir (1832-1865) Co. B, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in Scotland. Served August 1862-July 1865. Killed by lightning at Savannah, Georgia. Possibly buried there.

Richard Moon (1841-1905) Co. C, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in County Tipperary, Ireland. Served August 1862-July 1865.

William Ellis Rickard (1834-1890) Co. K, 11th Iowa Infantry. Born in New Hampshire. Served September 1861-July 1865. (*Probably related to Bob Rickard of Tipton.*)

Eugene Titus Rigby (1837-1912) Co. C, Second Iowa Cavalry. Born in Ohio. Served August 1861-June 1865. Discharged for disability.

John W. Safley (1840-1863) Co. B, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in Scotland. August 1862-August 1863. Died of disease. Burial: Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis.*

Robert Lowe Safley (1839-1863) Co. C, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in New York. Served August 1862-April 1863. Died of typhoid fever. Burial: Vicksburg National Cemetery.*

Socrates Tryon Safley (1842-1864) Co. K, 11th Iowa Infantry. Born in Iowa. Served August 1862-July 1864. Died in Battle of Atlanta. Burial: Marietta National Cemetery.*

Johnson Spear (1845-1928) Co. B, 24th Iowa Infantry. Born in Ireland. Served August 1862-July 1865.

* *Robert L. and Socrates T. Safley were brothers. John W. Safley was their first cousin.*

2013 cleanup set April 6

The annual Red Oak Grove cleanup day (both interior and exterior) will be held **April 6, 2013**. Volunteers are invited to help clean the church, clean and straighten tombstones, and do various tasks in the cemetery and adjacent woodland. If you would like to help, contact Bob Rickard.



Cleaning tombstones May 19 are, from left, Kiaya and KiaLeigh Rickard-Urban, Lori Ostrich, Steve Harmsen and Karen Taylor.

September wedding bells

Congratulations to newlyweds **Adam and Jessica Crowley Goodale**, who were married at Red Oak Grove Church Sept. 15, 2012. A lovely setting for weddings, the church is suitable also for reunions, club meetings, and other gatherings. For information about rental, contact Bob Rickard, (563) 886-6018, or bbrick@iowatelecom.net.

In Memoriam: Recent interments at Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Randy Joe Mathias, 58, of rural Tipton died July 2, 2012, at Mercy Hospital, Iowa City. Services were July 7 at First United Church of Christ in Tipton. Survivors include his wife, Nancy J. Hodgkin Mathias; three children: Teresa Bohlmann, Megan Mason, and John Mathias; four grandchildren; his father, Cecil Mathias; two brothers, Ronald Mathias and Larry Mathias; and a sister-in-law, Marilyn Mathias. ❧

Joyce Ann Maiden Laing, 58, of Tipton died Oct. 21, 2012. Her funeral was Oct. 24 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Survivors include her husband, Merlin J. Laing; a daughter, Susan Beranek; four grandchildren; her father and stepmother, Delmar and Bernice Maiden; and two sisters, Darlene Larew and Karen Maiden. ❧

Ellen Francis Sander Mixell, 72, of rural Tipton died Nov. 3, 2012, at her home. Services were Nov. 7 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Survivors include her husband, Elmer "Nick" Mixell; a daughter, Kim Gadke; a son, Frank Mixell; three grandchildren; and two brothers, Leroy Sander and Everett Sander. ❧

James "Jim" Lyn Stolte, 46, of Waterloo died Nov. 24, 2012, at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo. His funeral was Nov. 28 at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls. Survivors include his wife, Nicole Aldrich Stolte; a son, Reese Stolte; his parents, Leroy and Cheryl Stolte; and a sister, Kim Ehlers. ❧

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

John Chappell, Elizabeth Sturrock Dallas (wife of Charles Dallas), Robert & Elizabeth Pirie,
Robert Dallas, Miss Sarah Dallas (later Mrs. Elza Carl), John & 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

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

➤ Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association web site: www.redoakgrovecc.com ❧

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Karen Safley Taylor, Editor

Red Oak Grove scenes, May and June 2012



Dwight Hughes Jr. clears and levels ground near the woodland May 19.



An expert from Glass Heritage LLC works on the church's oculus (round window) June 15. All 37 windows have now been restored.



From left, Nathan Heick, Elsie Payton, Vickie Heick, Cecil Mathias, cleaned the church interior May 19.



From left, Neal Smith, Rich Urban Sr., and Rich Urban Jr. straighten a tombstone in the cemetery May 19.



Lori Ostrich cleans a tombstone May 19.



Before.



After cleaning.

Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association

List of Donors, January - November 2012

Supplement to Red Oak Grove Reporter
Issue No. 11, December 2012

Albaugh, Connie, Cedar Rapids, IA

Ehresman, Edna, Tipton, IA

Fear, Glenn and Ellen, Tipton, IA

Glenney, Dwight and Dianne, Muscatine, IA

In memory of Ray and Florence Challlis

Harmsen, Steve and Bev, Papillion, NE

In memory of Harold and Dorothy Harmsen

Haynes, Allan and Barbara, Tipton, IA

Herring, Ken and Carolyn, Tipton, IA

Kaufmann, Jeff and Connie, Wilton, IA

Keller, Max and Judy, Tipton, IA

Kuhnle, Joyce, Marengo, IA

In memory of Randy Mathias

Lenschow, Phyllis, West Branch, IA

Mathias, Cecil, Tipton, IA

In memory of Randy Mathias

Mathias, Nancy, Tipton, IA

In memory of Randy Mathias

Mathias, Ron and Carol, Davenport, IA

In memory of Randy Mathias

Moylan, Marty, Tipton, IA

Penningroth, Mark and Rebecca, Tipton, IA

Schroeder, Don, Olin, IA

Smith, Keith and Virginia, Farmington, MO

Smith, Neal and Judy, Stanwood, IA

Staton, Mack and Mary, Santa Barbara, CA

Stimson, Lannie, Austin, TX

Stonerook, Marge, Tipton, IA

In memory of Ellis "Sonny" Stonerook

Taylor, Karen, Springville, IA

Tofson, Steve and Dawn, Northwood, IA

Wingert, Ron and Daisy, Tipton, IA

Anonymous donors at May 20, 2012,
Reunion service

*A sincere thank you to all who support Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery,
helping to preserve this historic property for future generations.*

*If your name has been inadvertently left off the above list,
we apologize. Please notify Bob Rickard of any errors.*