

RED OAK GROVE REPORTER

Issue No. 9

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Left: One of the windows on the south side of the church. Above: The large oculus in the east gable.

Red Oak Grove Church windows will be restored

A major fund drive for much-needed restoration of all windows in Red Oak Grove Church began Sept. 19, 2011. “This project is a key part of our mission to preserve Red Oak Grove Church for the people who come after us,” said Bob Rickard, Board president. “We do this as a tribute to our pioneer forefathers, who had the vision to establish a house of worship 170 years ago when most of Cedar County was still uninhabited prairie.”

Rickard continued, “The Cemetery Association Board extends sincere thanks and appreciation to all the individuals, couples, businesses, and foundations whose gifts are making this project possible. Included is a \$10,000 matching grant awarded by the Community Foundation of Cedar County. As of Dec. 1, 2011, \$23,6470 of the needed \$27,000 has been contributed.” (*A list of donors is included with this issue of the Reporter.*)

The 90-year-old church has 37 windows, including the distinctive 5-foot-diameter oculus (round window) in the east gable end, plus the transom above the front door. Glass Heritage LLC of Davenport will do the work. All panes will be removed, cleaned, and reinstalled with new putty. Any broken panes will be replaced with colored glass matching the original. Window sashes will be replaced, if necessary, and all sashes will be repainted.

Tax-deductible donations of any amount for the windows project are welcome. They may be sent to Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.; P.O. Box 452; Tipton, IA 52772. Gifts may be made as memorials, if desired. Amounts are not published.

Request for Red Oak Grove memorabilia

The Cemetery Association Board is seeking photographs, articles, and other items pertaining to the church, cemetery, and people associated with them. Can you help?

If so, please contact Karen Taylor, (319) 854-7422 or kjsafleytaylor@msn.com.

Three weddings, a meeting, and an award

Three weddings were held at Red Oak Grove Church in 2011: Mike Clemens and Jennie Davidson, June 11; Dan Boddicker and Maureen Sorensson, July 1; and Casey Mente and Holly Winekauf, Oct. 1. Congratulations and best wishes to these couples.

On May 17, 2011, P.E.O. Chapter DY of Tipton met at Red Oak Grove Church. Barb Rickard is president. A program on Red Oak Grove history was presented by Bob Rickard.

Congratulations to Keith Whitlatch, recipient of the Lions Club's prestigious G. E. "Bud" Klise Leadership Award in June 2011. Mr. Whitlatch is a 33-year-member of the Tipton Lions Club, and a member of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board.

In Memoriam

Donna Marie Sander Zimmerman, 66, died May 3, 2011, at her home. A memorial service was held May 7, with private burial in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Mrs. Zimmerman is survived by her husband, Roland E. Zimmerman; four children, Janel Wenndt, Tanya Sterner, Carey King, and Rodney Zimmerman; her father, Leroy Sander; and a sister, Leah Sander. Roland Zimmerman resides in the house just north of Red Oak Grove Church, where he and his wife had lived for many years.

Isabel Rigby, 99, died Oct. 5, 2011, in Roswell, New Mexico. Burial was in Red Oak Grove Cemetery Oct. 10. Miss Rigby was the daughter of Charles L. and Jennie Billings Rigby, and granddaughter of Capt. William T. Rigby, a Union veteran of the Civil War who was instrumental in starting the Vicksburg National Military Park. Her great-grandfather was Washington A. Rigby (1814-1881), Red Oak Township's earliest settler.

Once there was a stile . . . The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association's annual minutes for May 29, 1950, report a vote to replace the stile in the new addition (South Cemetery) with a gate. Stiles were steps over a fence. Cecil Mathias, 92, does not recall the stile, but he remembers tearing out a hedge around the South Cemetery. An old woven-wire fence was embedded in the hedge. This was replaced by the present chain-link fence.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a good year in 2012

Strong hands to weak, old hands to young,
Around the Christmas board, touch hands.
The false forget, the foe forgive,
For every guest will go and every fire burn low
And cabin empty stand.

Forget, forgive, for who may say
that Christmas Day may ever come
to host or guest again.
Touch hands!

William H. H. "Adirondack" Murray (1840-1904)



Helpers needed for cleanup day March 31

The annual cleanup day at Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery is scheduled Saturday, March 31, 2012, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteer help is needed in three areas:

- Cleaning the interior of the church. This includes dusting, sweeping, removing cobwebs, and related tasks.
- Cleaning monuments in the cemetery. Instruction and materials will be provided.
- Picking up debris including fallen sticks and branches in the cemetery, and clearing in the adjacent wooded area.

Barb Rickard has graciously offered to bring lunch for volunteers to the church at noon. If you can help with the cleanup, please call Bob Rickard, (563) 886-6018.

Red Oak Grove-Vicksburg link . . . Capt. William Titus Rigby, born at Red Oak Grove Nov. 3, 1841, had a key role in establishing the Vicksburg (Miss.) National Military Park. He served almost three years in Company B, 24th Iowa Infantry, during the Civil War. After earning two degrees at Cornell College, he farmed for many years, also working diligently to establish a national park commemorating the 1862-63 campaign and siege of Vicksburg. The 1,323-acre park was approved by Congress in 1899. Capt. Rigby died May 10, 1929, and is buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery.

Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Officers and Board Members

Bob Rickard, President	Karen Taylor, Secretary and Historian
Cecil Mathias, Vice President, Operations	Keith Whitlatch, Board member
Lori Ostrich, Vice President, Administration	Daisy Wingert, Board member
Mark Penningroth, Treasurer	

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

Founding Members, Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove, 1841

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

U.S. mail: P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772 ☞ Phone: (563) 886-6018

E-mail: bbrick@iowatelecom.net ☞ Web site: www.redoakgrovecc.com

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