

RED OAK GROVE REPORTER

Issue No. 13

December 2013

❧ *Wishing you peace and hope for Christmas & the New Year* ❧



At left and below: Taken Nov. 27, 2013, two views of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery following a light snowfall. One can imagine the sound of sleigh bells as area farm families of yesteryear arrived for a Sunday morning service.

The Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove was founded March 1, 1841, by 10 Scottish immigrants under the guidance of the Rev. Michael Hummer. The current church building was completed in the spring of 1921.



‘Red Oak Grove . . . a living place’

A beautiful spring day dawned May 19, 2013, for the seventh annual Red Oak Grove reunion celebration. At the 11:00 a.m. service, about 50 heard Jeff Kaufmann, a Cedar County supervisor, discuss “Red Oak Grove’s Timeless Legacy of Dedication and Vision.” He declared, “Red Oak Grove is not a piece of history with dust on it. This is a living place.” The bountiful potluck dinner at noon was followed by the 122nd annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association. It was indeed a memorable day.

Dates for your 2014 calendar

April 5 (Saturday) Annual spring cleanup of church and cemetery

May 18 (Sunday) Eighth annual Red Oak Grove reunion celebration. Please spread the word that *everyone* is welcome. Why not invite someone who hasn’t been there before to join you?

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Janice (Jan) Meier Penningroth, 80, died July 7, 2013. Funeral: July 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tipton. Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Darrel Penningroth; two sons, Rob Penningroth and David Penningroth; and three grandchildren.

Gwendolyn Leaf Emrich, 63, of Tipton, died July 15, 2013. Services: July 18, Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Surviving are her husband, M. Lyle Emrich; four children, Melissa Doerscher, Darren Lenz, Derek Lenz, and Jon Moore; a sister, Ginger Ford; two brothers, Robert Leaf and Wayne Leaf; and eight grandchildren.

Maryann Lukaszek Harmsen, 65, of Coralville, died Aug. 21, 2013. Services: Aug. 24 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Survivors: her husband of 38 years, Larry L. Harmsen; four children, Patty Rodriguez, Melody Harmsen, Paul Harmsen and Scott Harmsen; a sister, Bonnie Vernola; two brothers, Ronnie Lukaszek and Rick Lukaszek; and two grandchildren.

Walter L. Chappell, 62, private interment of ashes Oct. 12, 2013. Died Nov. 10, 2011; last residence, Marshalltown. Survivors include a daughter, Carmella Burns; his mother, LaVonne Britcher Chappell; a brother, David Chappell; three sisters, Connie Knutsen, Dorothy Brown and Kathy Croney; two grandchildren, and a great-grandson.



Rickard cousins meet for first time in Tipton

This past September, three sisters took a trip to Cedar County, Iowa, in search of ancestors. But thanks to the help of their bed and breakfast hostess in Tipton, Kris Clark, they also met a previously unknown third cousin, Bob Rickard.

Sharon Goggins and Anne Kelly of Oconomowoc, Wis., and Sandy Ten Pas of Lake Forest, Ill., share a set of great-great-grandparents with Bob. These forebears were Cyrus and Hannah Ellis Rickard, who farmed in Red Oak Grove. Bob gave the sisters a tour of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. “What a beautiful setting!” Sharon declared.

Cyrus and Hannah’s daughter Rosamond married Jacob Wilson; their son Jerome was the father of Burdette “Red” Wilson, who was the dad of Sharon, Anne and Sandy. Rosamond’s brother, Winchester Rickard, was Bob’s great-grandfather.

Sharon said, “If my sisters and I hadn’t made this trip to Cedar County, we would never have known about Red Oak Grove and its importance to our family.”



GOOD NEIGHBOR TURNS 80 – Elmer “Nick” Mixell, whose property borders Red Oak Grove Cemetery, celebrated his 80th birthday Aug. 26. We are grateful for his watchfulness and caring over the years, and we offer congratulations and best wishes.

A glimpse of recent projects at Red Oak Grove

Three important projects were completed at Red Oak Grove in the fall of 2013: repair of the roof fascia, waterproofing of the north foundation wall, and a timber improvement project in the wooded area west of the church.



Above: *In a JLG Lift, Mark Petersen works on the fascia over the church entry.*

Above right: *A new drainage channel routes water away from the church foundation.*

At right: *Dwight Hughes operates a backhoe to clear scrub trees and brush from the timber area.*



Rededication of Civil War graves planned

Planning has begun for a 2015 ceremony to rededicate the graves of Civil War soldiers buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. This will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, and also with the 175th anniversary of the founding of Tipton.

Civil War veterans known to be interred here are John W. Davis, John W. Dorcas, Ezra Goodrich, Richard Moon, William E. Rickard, Eugene T. Rigby, and Johnson Spear. Further study is needed regarding George A. Moir, killed by lightning in Georgia just before his regiment was mustered out, and John Paton, who died in New Orleans in 1873.

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

John Chappell, Elizabeth Sturrock Dallas (Mrs. 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 and is dedicated to their 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 church or cemetery matters, 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 ◀
➤ Facebook: redoakgrovechurchandcemetery ◀

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Karen Safley Taylor, Editor

Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association

List of Donors, January - November 2013

Supplement to Red Oak Grove Reporter ☸ Issue No. 13, December 2013

Monetary donations

Boddicker, Dan and Maureen, Laramie, WY	Mathias, Cecil, Tipton, IA
Boddicker, Maureen, Laramie, WY	<i>In memory of Randy Mathias</i>
Bolton, Duane and Judy, Tipton, IA	Mathias, Ron and Carol, Davenport, IA
Cedar River Sportsman Club, Tipton, IA	Penningroth, Mark and Rebecca, Tipton, IA
<i>In memory of Rick Rochau</i>	Rickard, Bob and Barbara, Tipton, IA
Dallas, Herb and Lillian, San Jose, CA	<i>In memory of Betty Rickard</i>
Ehresman, Edna, Tipton, IA	Smith, Keith and Virginia, Farmington, MO
Goggins, Gerald and Sharon (Wilson), Oconomowoc, WI	<i>Smith Foundation</i>
Harmsen, Dennis, Iowa City, IA	Smith, Neal and Judy, Stanwood, IA
<i>In memory of Harold, Dorothy and Maryann Harmsen</i>	Stonerook, Marjorie, Tipton, IA
Heck, Vera, Guernsey, IA	<i>In memory of Ellis "Sonny" Stonerook</i>
Herring, Ken and Carolyn, Tipton, IA	Tauber, Frank and Lorraine, Iowa City, IA
Kaufmann, Jeff, Wilton, IA	Taylor, Karen, Springville, IA
Keller, Max and Judy, Tipton, IA	Ten Pas, Harlan and Sandy, Lake Forest, IL
Kelly, Ann, Oconomowoc, WI	Thomson, Leland, Cedar Falls, IA
Knutsen, Gene and Connie, Mechanicsville, IA	Wingert, Ron and Daisy, Tipton, IA
	Wurr, Anne, Petaluma, CA
	<i>In memory of Alice Rigby</i>

Donations in kind: time, expertise, loans or gifts of equipment/supplies

Crist, Josh, Tipton – *Bucket truck, skid steer, sprayer, back hoe*
Herring, Mike, Mechanicsville – *Bat wing, timber improvements, foundation (north wall),
landfill wire*
Hill, Dave, Tipton – *Chain saw, cleaning supplies*
Hughes, Dwight, Cedar Rapids – *Aerial photo vision display board, articulated tractor,
timber improvements, repair of south gate entrance caps*
Mathias, Cecil, Tipton – *U.S. flag, flag pole light, dehumidifier, heater*
Meyers, Lee, Tipton – *Mowing sign area on Highway 38*
Ostrich, Lori, Stanwood – *Dining table*
Smith, Neal, Stanwood – *4-wheeler, tools*

(Continued on reverse)

Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association

List of Donors, January - November 2013 *(continued from reverse)*

Donations in kind (cont.)

Cleanup Day, April 6, 2013

Cemetery pickup

Bierman, Liz and Rachel, Tipton
Curry, Ashlynn and Katelyn, Tipton
Hill, Carter and Landon, Tipton

Church cleaning

Bierman, Greta and Kirby, Tipton
Curry, Jeff, Tipton
Eichhorn, Gary, Tipton
Hargrave, Julia, Tipton
Hill, Dave, Rosalynn and Trina, Tipton
Pelzer, Kim and Mike, Tipton

Monument cleaning

Buchmayer, Paul, Iowa City
Crist, Randy, Cedar Rapids
Lillis, Gary, North Liberty
Oberfrank, Drew, Tipton
Urban, KiaLeigh, Kiaya and Rich, Tipton

Monument straightening

Herring, Mike, Mechanicsville
Smith, Neal, Stanwood

Lunch for volunteer crew

Rickard, Barb, Tipton

Timber improvement

Anderson, Craig, Tipton
Evers, Dan, Cedar Rapids
Herring, Mike, Mechanicsville
Hill, Dave, Tipton
Hughes, Dwight, Cedar Rapids
Oberfrank, Drew, Tipton
Rickard, Bob, Tipton
Urban, Rich, Tipton

North foundation project

Crist, Josh, Tipton
Herring, Mike, Mechanicsville
Rickard, Bob, Tipton

Fascia project

Crist, Grayland, Tipton
Mark Petersen, Tipton

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who devoted your time and resources to preserving Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery.



Some of the timber workers were, from left: Drew Oberfrank, Rich Urban, Dan Evers, Dwight Hughes, and Mike Herring.



A tranquil view of Rock Creek, seen from the South Cemetery's timber area.