

RED OAK GROVE REPORTER

Issue No. 14

May 2014

May 18 is date of eighth annual Red Oak Grove Reunion; 'regulars' encouraged to invite newcomers

The eighth annual Red Oak Grove reunion celebration will take place at the church Sunday, May 18. All are welcome to attend; a family connection with the church or cemetery is not required. If you've never attended before, you are cordially invited. If you attend regularly, please consider inviting one or more relatives or friends to experience with you this special day of remembering and rejoicing.

The traditional schedule is planned: an 11 a.m. interdenominational service, followed by a good old-fashioned potluck dinner in the church basement. The 123rd annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association will begin at 1 p.m. Anyone who owns a plot in the cemetery or has a family member interred there is a member and may vote at the meeting. Non-members may attend if they wish.

Conducting the service will be Pastor Ron Lashmit of Tipton; Jeff Kaufmann of Wilton, Cedar County supervisor; and Bob Rickard of Tipton, president of the Cemetery Association. Special music will be provide by Mary Barnum of Tipton, Karrington Mohr of North Liberty, and Jamie Bahr of Tipton. Mr. Kaufmann's address will be "Faith, Family, and Country: A Red Oak Grove Blessing."



Cleanup Day April 5

*Helping to clean the church and cemetery grounds were **front, alone:** Katlyn Curry; **Row 2,** from L: Dave Hill, Liz and Rachael Bierman, Ashlyn & Tony Curry; **Row 3:** Carter & Landan Hill, Frank & Sam Bierman; **Row 4:** Barb Rickard, lunch provider, Trina Hill, Jeff Curry, Kirby & Greta Bierman. (More photos of Cleanup Day and tombstone cleaning April 26 on Page 3.)*

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Virginia Lenore Cole Laing, 83, of Tipton died March 2, 2014, at an Iowa City Hospital. Funeral: March 7 in Tipton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mearl W. Laing, in 2004. Survivors include three children, Bonnie Stutzel, Linda Lou Brennan and Jeffery M. Laing, all of Tipton; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Donna Belle Proctor Johnson, 80, of Tipton died April 7, 2014, at a Clarence nursing home. Funeral: April 11 in Tipton. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Keith E. Johnson; four children, Priscilla Plate, Lois Rees, Mark Johnson, and Esther Klotz; four grandchildren; three sisters; and two brothers.

Board member's husband

Gary E. Ostrich, 68, husband of Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board member Lori Ostrich, died Feb. 3, 2014, at his home in Stanwood. A visitation was held in Tipton Feb. 6, followed by the funeral Feb. 7 in Nevada, Iowa. Burial was in the Nevada Cemetery.



Red Oak Grove will honor its many heroes in July 2015

Plans are being made for a major event at Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery July 5, 2015, to commemorate a host of bygone individuals and groups who were important in the history of this small, yet significant, place. A title for the event, “Red Oak Grove Remembers Its Heroes,” was chosen April 14 at the second meeting of the planning committee. The event will coincide with the celebration of Tipton’s 175th anniversary.

“Heroes” was first envisioned as a ceremony to honor the Civil War soldiers buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. However, its scope has grown to include all veterans interred there, about 167. The earliest was Isaac Carl (1763-1847), a New Jersey Militia soldier in the War of 1812. David Becker and Gary Fleming were veterans of the Vietnam War. Also honored will be Red Oak Grove native son Robert G. Cousins (1859-1933), who served 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Medal of Honor recipient Pitt B. Herington (1841-1919), who was a farm worker in Red Oak Grove before enlisting for the Civil War. (Later he lived in Clinton, Ill.) Completing the list of honorees will be the early pioneers in Red Oak Grove. Please save that date – July 5, 2015 – and plan to attend!

THE TALLY OF CIVIL WAR veterans buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery has increased from eight to nine with the discovery of **Alexander Cameron**’s grave. A native of Ireland, he was in Company K, 15th Iowa Infantry. He died in 1914.

Church improvement project

The Operations Committee has designated tuckpointing Red Oak Grove Church's brick foundation and chimney; recaulking around the sidewalk and exterior doors; and repairing or replacing the front (north) entry steps as the major improvement project for 2014-2015. This project will be presented to the Cemetery Board for approval at its May meeting.

Estimated total cost of the project will be \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on number of basement window lintels that must be replaced (six of the 15 are in bad condition), and whether the steps are repaired or replaced. One or more grants may be applied for to assist in financing the project.



From left, Mike Herring, Randy Nau, and Garrett Nau straightened monuments April 5.



Also working in the cemetery April 5 were Eric Storjohann and Samantha Wiese.



*Cleaning monuments April 26 were, from L, Dick and Rich Urban, Paul Buchmayer, Gary Lillis, Drew Oberfrank, Karrington Mohr and Randy Crist.
(Not pictured: Bob Rickard)*



Kiaya Urban also cleaned tombstones on April 26.

❧ 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;
- To acquire former pastor's residence north of church for curator's residence.

*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:

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- Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association web site: www.redoakgrovecc.com ◀
➤ Facebook: facebookredoakgrovechurchandcemetery ◀

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