

# Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 17

December 2015

## *“Wreaths Across America” at Red Oak Grove Saturday, December 12*

Saturday, Dec. 12, at 11:30 a.m., the public is cordially invited to Red Oak Grove Cemetery’s first “Wreaths Across America” ceremony. Family members and volunteers will place balsam wreaths on the graves of 64 veterans and markers that honor four veterans buried elsewhere. After the ceremony, cookies and hot beverages will be served in the church basement. Daisy Wingert, Cemetery Association Board member, led in bringing “Wreaths Across America” to Red Oak Grove. This nationwide project began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery. More than 900 cemeteries in all states and overseas now participate. A big thank you to all who made tax-deductible gifts to cover the \$15 per wreath cost.



## *At Red Oak Grove, a glorious day to remember: July 5, 2015*

About 225 persons, from babies to a centenarian, attended a special event, “Red Oak Grove Remembers Its Heroes” on Independence Day plus one. It was a memorial for the 68 veterans of seven wars interred or commemorated in Red Oak Grove Cemetery – and it was even more than that. On this lovely summer day, with flags fluttering in the breeze, deep patriotism and a fervent appreciation for our shared heritage and blessings of a free country were almost palpable. It was truly a “keepsake day.” (See also Page 3.)

## ***In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery***

**Cheryl Ann Warscko Woodward Kitchen**, 60, of Tipton died June 12, 2015, in Iowa City. Funeral: June 15, Tipton. A native of Iowa Falls, she is survived by a daughter, Carrie Bisbee, Tipton; two sons, Brandon Woodward, Wilton, and Brian Woodward, Illinois; eight grandchildren, two sisters and three brothers. A daughter and son predeceased her.

**Carolyn Kay Carpenter Crowley**, 51, of Tipton, died Oct. 2, 2015. Funeral: Oct 5, Tipton. Born in Virginia, she is survived by her husband of 16 years, Tom Crowley; children John and Sara, at home; mother, Evelyn Carpenter of Virginia; father, Richard Carpenter of Florida; two sisters; and one brother.



## ***Summer, autumn weddings held at Red Oak Grove Church***

*Congratulations and best wishes to the following four couples, who were pronounced man and wife at Red Oak Grove Church in June, September, October, and November 2015:*

The wedding of **Paul Urmie** and **Joyce Maltas** was celebrated June 6, 2015.

**Scott Varland** and **Jamie Dlask** exchanged marriage vows Sept 19, 2015.

Oct. 10, 2015, was the wedding day of **John Walker** and **Alyssa Schroeder**.

**James Cormaney** and **Brenda Cousins** were married Nov. 7, 2015. The bride is related to Robert G. Cousins, U. S. Representative from Cedar County, who in 1905 donated the ornate arch and gate along the east side of Red Oak Grove Cemetery.



**DID YOU KNOW** that Red Oak Grove Church may be rented as a site for weddings, club meetings, family reunions, memorial services, and other gatherings? For more information, contact Bob Rickard, (563) 886-6018, or [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net).

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***A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A GOOD NEW YEAR TO YOU!***



*William and Barbara Bandeen Coutts, 1871*

## ***Historic treasure: 1871 Red Oak Grove pioneer photos***

Copies of an 1871 photo poster of Red Oak Grove pioneers are available for purchase, as are separate photos. To view photos and place orders, go to [www.woodsstudio.com](http://www.woodsstudio.com). Twenty photos showing 34 people are in four rows. The 19 men and 15 women range in age from 84 (Charles Dallas) to 27 (Mary Ann Porter Yule).



Clarence photographer Charles Neff took 18 of the photos in February 1871. Individual portraits of Charles and Betsy Sturrock Dallas were apparently sent from California; the couple moved there from Iowa in 1849. The poster omits wives' names, but a list is available. Jeff Kaufmann of Wilton arranged for copying and digital enhancement.

## **Projects for 2016: Tuckpointing brick, painting church interior**

Two major projects are planned for 2016 at Red Oak Grove Church. They are tuckpointing the brick foundation and chimney (estimated cost: \$34,500) and repair and painting the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary and entryway (\$15,000).

Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard noted, “This church is 94 years old, and the tuckpointing is a project we can’t delay any longer.” Repair and painting of walls and ceiling, while not as urgent, have been needed for some time. He concluded, “Many thanks to those who made donations in response to the letter we sent Nov. 2.”

## ***Keepsakes from “Red Oak Grove Remembers Its Heroes”***

A luscious blue sky; summer-green grass groomed to perfection; gratitude for Red Oak Grove’s 66 sons and two daughters who served our country; a kilted piper and the thrilling skirl of bagpipes; honor to a former Red Oak Grove farmhand who received the Medal of Honor for Civil War valor; an 1890s oration “bringing to life” Congressman Robert G. Cousins; men in Civil War uniforms and women in dresses of the same era; vintage planes overhead; our national anthem soaring upward; the poignant notes of “Taps” echoing in the cemetery. These are some of the many priceless memories from “Red Oak Grove Remembers Its Heroes” July 5, 2015. (Photo on Page 1)

The efforts of many people created this successful and unforgettable event. Chairman of the planning committee was Bob Rickard, Cemetery Association president. A list of those who helped with “Heroes” is on Page 4. *(If your name should be there but isn’t, please let us know!)*

## **In-kind gifts – time, expertise, and loans/gifts of equipment and supplies**

**Cleanup day April 4:** **Church cleaning:** Greta, Kirby & Sam Bierman; Toni, Jeff, Ashlyn & Katelyn Curry; Trina, Dave, Landan & Carter Hill; Kim & Mike Pelzer; **monument leveling:** Mike Herring, Eric Storjohann, Dick Urban, Rich Urban; **monument cleaning:** Randy Crist, Gary Lillis, Jacob & Jackson Otten, Bob Rickard, Julie Vilhauer, Daisy Wingert, and Silver Cord students Jordan Vilhauer and Mackenzie Waltz; **preparation and seeding north of church:** Brenda Herring; **lunch:** Gary Lillis, Barb Rickard, Kiaya Rickard-Urban.

**“Red Oak Grove Remembers Its Heroes” July 5:** **Aerial salute (vintage planes):** Don Gurnett, John Ockenfels, Jim Rohlf; **invocation:** Pastor Ron Lashmit; **greeters:** Pam Freet, Sherry Hall, Shelly Quinn, Kathy Schott, Daisy Wingert, Company C; **master of ceremonies, main speaker:** Jeff Kaufmann; **opening ceremony, retiring of colors:** Company A, 49th Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment; **guests of honor:** U. S. Rep. Dave Loebsack, State Sen. Bob Dvorsky, State Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, Col. Greg Hapgood; **vocalist:** Micki Kruse; **veterans roll of honor, “Congressman Robert Cousins Lives”:** Hobert Flory; **wreaths:** Daisy Wingert; **cedar sprigs for veterans’ graves, programs:** Sandy Harmel; **sprig placement:** VFW, American Legion, greeters; **“Taps”:** Andy Owen; **veterans book:** Lori Ostrich; **refreshments:** Open Prairie Chapter, NSDAR; **rock and base for Pitt Herington’s plaque:** Eric Storjohann; **chairs:** Dwight Hughes, Cedar County Historical Society, VFW; **chair delivery:** Roger DeWulf, Dwight Hughes, Mark Stueland; **parking:** Gary Lillis, Drew Oberfrank, Bob Paul; Mark, Karen & Scottie Stueland; Dick Urban, Rich Urban, Ron Wingert; **flags:** Mike Boyle; **decorations:** Sherry Hall, Daisy Wingert; **audio:** Brad Goetz; **video:** WMV Channel 6; **photography:** Dwight Hughes, Kelly Lamb, Karrington Mohr; **wagon rides:** Dwight Hughes and his Percheron team.

**Other in-kind services:** Jamie Bahr, Pat Barglof, Lee Beine, Josh Crist, Chris Foss, Dwight Hughes, Jeff Kaufmann, Ron Lashmit, Don Maxson, Karrington Mohr, Lee Myers, Steve Nash, Drew Oberfrank, Marvin Palmer, Barb Rickard, Mark Thumma, Dick Urban, Rich Urban, Bruce Zaruba, Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board members.



*The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., is a 501 (c) (13) organization. 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: (563) 886-6018 or [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net) or P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

Web site: [www.redoakgrovecc.com](http://www.redoakgrovecc.com)  Facebook: redoakgrovechurchandcemetery

## **Monetary gifts, December 2014 – November 2015**

Albaugh, Don & Connie, Cedar Rapids  
Anderson, Scott & Karen, Tipton  
Aquilani, Ricci & Barbara –  
    *In memory of Franklin Gault*  
Austad, John & Dianne, Marion –  
    *In memory of Carl and Ruth Agne*  
Bain, Robert & Janet, Salem, OR  
Barglof, Bill & Pat, Bennett  
Beckmann, Mary, Tipton –  
    *In memory of Vernon Beckmann*  
Bisbee, Carrie, Tipton  
Bixler, Charlene, Lowden –  
    *In memory of Charles William Findlay*  
Bolton, Duane & Judy, Tipton  
Brennan, Dick & Linda –  
    *In memory of Mearl Laing and Virginia Laing*  
Brown, Wayne & Joan, Stanwood  
Buchmayer, Paul, Iowa City –  
    *In memory of Clarice E. Buchmayer*  
Calvert, Alex, Clinton, IL  
Cedar Masonic Lodge No. 11, Tipton  
Challis, Dean, Clarence – *In memory of*  
    *Don & Mary Challis*  
Child Conservation Club, Tipton  
Clark, Jim & Mary, Tipton –  
    *In memory of Evelyn Clark*  
Community Foundation of Cedar County  
Crispin, Pearl – Estate (Tipton)  
Crowley, Pat, Tipton –  
    *In memory of Jack Crowley*  
Davis, James, Washington, D. C.  
Demaree, Darlene Penningroth, Peachtree  
    Corners, GA  
Densmore, Diane, Johnston – *In memory of*  
    *H. Lee and Muriel M. Miller*  
Duschek, Edward, Anamosa  
Edwards, Lawrence & Fae  
Ehresman, Edna, Tipton  
Ferguson, Hugh & Mary, Friendswood, TX  
Fulwider, Nora, Tipton –  
    *In memory of James R. Fulwider*

Glenney, Dianne, Muscatine –  
    *In memory of Don and Mary Challis*  
Goetz, Mike & Denise, Tipton  
Hall, John & Julie, Clinton, IA – *In memory of*  
    *of Harold and Dorothy Harmsen*  
Hall, Sherry, Tipton  
Harmsen, Dennis, Iowa City – *In memory of*  
    *Harold, Dorothy, and Maryann Harmsen*  
Harmsen, Steve & Bev, Papillion, NE – *In*  
    *memory of Harold, Dorothy, and*  
    *Maryann Harmsen*  
Harmsen, Tom & Teresa, Muscatine – *In*  
    *memory of Harold, Dorothy, and*  
    *Maryann Harmsen*  
Hass, Richard & Karen, Cedar Rapids  
Hegarty, John, Swisher – *In memory of*  
    *Donald B. and Frances Hegarty*  
Herring, Ken & Carolyn, Tipton  
Herring, Mike & Brenda, Mechanicsville  
Huebner, Velma, Clarence –  
    *In memory of Orval Huebner*  
Hughes, John & Hillary Cedar Rapids  
Keller, Dean & Leslie, Cedar Rapids –  
    *In memory of Max Keller*  
Keller, Judy, Tipton –  
    *In memory of Max Keller*  
Kern, Vesta – Estate (Tipton)  
Kinney, Kevin & Deb, Oxford  
Knepper, Cathy Dee, Kensington, MD –  
    *In memory of Robert, Suzanne, and*  
    *Greg Dee*  
Knutsen, Gene & Connie, Mechanicsville  
    – *In memory of Harvey Chappell,*  
    *Walter Chappell, Roland Meyers,*  
    *and Ed and Emma Meyers*  
Laing, Dan & Kathy, Tipton –  
    *In memory of John H. Laing*  
Laing, Merlin, Tipton –  
    *In memory of John H. Laing*  
    [CONTINUED ON REVERSE]

## Monetary gifts – *Continued from other side*

Laing, Ronald H. –

*In memory of John Henry Laing*

Lashmit, Ron, Tipton

Lenschow, Phyllis, West Branch

Martin, Ron & Dixie, Tipton

Mathias, Cecil, Tipton – *In memory of*

*Norma Mathias and Randy Mathias*

Mathias, Larry, & Casterline, Sherri,

St. Charles, IL – *In memory of Norma*

*Mathias and Randy Mathias*

Mathias, Ron & Carol, Davenport –

*In memory of Norma Mathias*

Maxwell, Dayton & Marie, McLean, VA

Moeller, Wally and Pat, Tipton

Olson, Collen –

*In memory of Isaac Carl*

Osborn, Howard & Virginia, Midland, OH –

*In memory of Vernon Kimberling, Ronald*

*and Dorothy Osborn Anderson, and*

*Shirley Kimberling Thomson*

Ostrich, Lori, Tipton –

*In memory of Gary Ostrich*

Otten, Laura, Tipton –

*In memory of Jack Otten*

Ovel, Steve & Susan, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of Virginia Bolton Weih Youngker*

Paul, Bob & Rhonda, Tipton

Penningroth, Jean, Marion – *In memory of Bill*

Penningroth, Mark & Rebecca, Tipton

Penningroth Family, Tipton

Reinhardt, Bev, Lone Tree –

*In memory of Wilbur Woode*

Rickard, Bob & Barb, Tipton –

*In memory of Betty Rickard*

Rohlf, Delores, Tipton

Rummells, Larry, West Branch –

*In memory of Wayne Rummells*

Schroeder, Scott, Mechanicsville –

*In memory of Carol*

Seligman, Dale & June –

*In memory of James R. Fulwider*

Simmermaker, Jerry & Vella Mae, Ames –

*In memory of Pfc. Alan Lee “Smitty” Schmidt*

Smith, Keith & Virginia, Farmington, MO

Stiff, Sharon, Tipton –

*In memory of Donald Stiff*

Stonerook, Marjorie, Tipton –

*In memory of Sonny Stonerook*

*and Ben Penningroth*

Stutzel, Bonnie, Tipton – *In memory of*

*Virginia and Mearl Laing*

Swinton, Jerry & Sherry, Des Moines

Tate, Marsha and Pat, Muscatine –

*In memory of William Dean Tate*

Tauber, Frank & Lorraine, Iowa City

Taylor, Karen, Springville

Thomson, Dr. Lee, Cedar Falls

Weih, Jeff & Phyllis, Portland, OR –

*In memory of Virginia Bolton Weih*

Wingert, Ron & Daisy, Tipton

Woode, Robert & Marilyn, Davenport

*In memory of F. D. Woode*

Wurr, Anne, Petaluma, CA –

*In memory of Alice Rigby*

Wurr, Juliet, Washington, DC



**In-kind gifts made by persons and groups  
are listed on Page 4 (the back page)**