

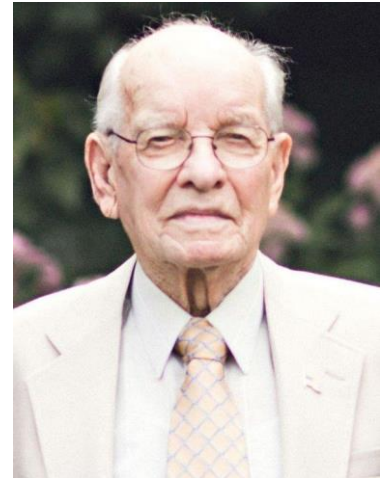
Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 19

December 2016



Cecil Mathias (right) receives plaque from board president Bob Rickard May 19, 2013, at the Red Oak Grove Reunion.



Cecil Mathias, who turned 98 on May 13 this year, died Oct. 14. Red Oak Grove will miss him.

Cecil Mathias, ‘Mr. Red Oak Grove,’ is no longer with us

Funeral services for Cecil Mathias, 98, of Tipton were held at his beloved Red Oak Grove Church Oct. 19, 2016. He now rests in the cemetery to which he devoted literally thousands of hours of work. Cecil died Oct. 14 at Cedar Manor Nursing Home after months of declining health. He will be deeply missed and long remembered.

A 50-year member of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Cecil served 45 of those years as a church elder. After 46 years on the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board, he was made honorary life trustee when he left the Board in 2013. Cecil farmed until 1974, then became an insurance adjustor and a bank director. Survivors include two sons, Ronald (Carol) and Larry (Sherri); daughters-in-law Nancy and Marilyn; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a sister; and a brother-in-law. Cecil’s wife Norma died nearly 32 years ago, his son Randy in July 2012; and his dear friend Freda Chambliss in August 2014.

‘Wreaths Across America’ Dec. 17 will honor veterans, casualties

The public is welcome to attend Red Oak Grove Cemetery’s second annual “Wreaths Across America” ceremony Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. Evergreen wreaths will be placed on 65 veterans’ graves, and on markers that commemorate three Civil War casualties interred at national cemeteries and a World War II sailor lost at sea. After the ceremony, all are invited to the church basement for cookies and hot beverages.

Daisy Wingert, Tipton, coordinates the event. “Wreaths Across America” began at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia in 1992. Red Oak Grove’s participation is funded by proceeds from an ice cream social (*see Page 3*) and by earmarked donations. Each wreath is made of Maine balsam and costs \$15.

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

A private family memorial service for **Darlene Penningroth Demaree**, 85, of Peachtree Corners, Ga., was held June 25, 2016, at Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Mrs. Demaree, died April 2, 2016. An obituary was in the last Reporter. (*Her brother, Raymond D. Penningroth of Tipton, died April 27, 2016.*)

Cecil P. Mathias, 98, of Tipton died Oct. 14, 2016. Funeral: Oct. 19 at Red Oak Grove Church. (See article on Page 1.)

Lois Elizabeth Wiese Whitlatch, 82, of Tipton, died Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving Day), 2016. Funeral: Nov. 29, Tipton. She is survived by her husband of over 41 years, Keith Whitlatch; three daughters: Cindy Arntzen, Menominee, Wis.; Lisa Crawford, Bettendorf; and Valerie Clay, Anamosa; seven grandchildren, two sisters, and three brothers. A son and a granddaughter predeceased her.

Time to rejoice: weddings at Red Oak Grove Church

Trey Moree and **Madeline Leslie** exchanged marriage vows Nov. 19, 2016. The wedding day of **James Hougas** and **Beth Galloway** was Sept. 24, 2016. Congratulations and best wishes to both couples.

Whitlatch honored, Kaufmann re-elected, state meeting

Keith L. Whitlatch of Tipton was honored Aug. 20, 2016, by the Cedar County Friends of Historic Preservation, who declared “Sheriff Keith Whitlatch Day” at the annual Old Cedar County Jail celebration. His 34-year career in law enforcement included serving from 1977 to 1999 as Cedar County sheriff. He received a certificate of recognition from State Senator Bob Dvorak. Keith was on the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board 15 years.

Jeff Kaufmann of Wilton was re-elected Nov. 8, 2016, to a second term on the Cedar County Board of Supervisors. He is a college history professor who has delivered the main address at the annual Red Oak Grove Reunion since it began in May 2007.

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery served as the meeting location for the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries (SAPIC) on Oct. 8, 2016. About 40 persons attended. The program was about local cemetery preservation efforts.

2nd ice cream social: wonderful pie plus David's frozen custard!

The second Red Oak Grove ice cream social took place Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9, 2016, in the church basement. About 80 people attended, and \$836 was raised to help fund the second "Wreaths Across America" ceremony Dec. 17 this year (*see Page 1*).

Thanks to all who contributed many tasty pies, and also to David Gott, who donated a large quantity of David's Famous Gourmet Frozen Custard. This delicacy is created right in Tipton from a recipe based on one from Mr. Gott's grandmother. He himself served it.

The history of ice cream socials in the U. S. goes back to the 1860s, but ice cream has been around much longer. The first time it was served in this country (when we were still a British colony) was by Maryland Gov. Thomas Bladen at a dinner party in 1744.



Left: David Gott (left) serves his delicious frozen custard at the Oct. 9 ice cream social.

Above: Pieces of pie await consumption. Many thanks to all who donated pie. Daisy Wingert and Lori Ostrich, both of Tipton, organized the ice cream social.

A VERY BIG "THANK YOU" to all who donated for foundation and chimney tuckpointing, interior painting, and the "Wreaths Across America" ceremony. You are keeping Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery vibrant through the years.

DATES FOR 2017 CALENDAR:

April 1: Annual cleanup day, church and cemetery. **May 21:** Red Oak Grove Reunion, Cemetery Assn. meeting, & potluck.

LEAVING A LEGACY: If you would like to help protect the future of Red Oak Grove, please consider this goal as part of your estate planning. Charitable bequests are a good way to ensure that your specific intentions will be carried out. Details can be obtained from your attorney.

DO YOU WANT to receive your Red Oak Grove Reporter by e-mail? If so, tell bbrick@iowatelecom.net (That's Bob Rickard's address.)

In-kind donations: time, expertise, loans/gifts of equipment, supplies
(For names of those who made monetary donations, see supplement page.)

Barglof, Pat
Beine, Lee
Carls, Phil
Clark, Kris
Crist, Josh
David's Famous Gourmet
Frozen Custard
Fulton, Patrick
Hall, Sherry
Heil, Brian
Herring, Mike & Brenda
Holden, Myron & Jan
Hughes, Dwight
Kaufmann, Jeff

Lashmit, Ron
Lillis, Gary
Mohr, Karrington
Meyers, Lee
Nash, Steve
Oberfrank, Drew
Ostrich, Lori
Penningroth, Mark
Quinn, Shelly
Rickard, Bob & Barb
Storjohann, Eric
Taylor, Karen
Thumma, Mark
Urban, Rich & Kiaya

Wingert, Ron & Daisy
**Interact Club / Silver
Cord** (Tipton High School)
Hamann, Emilee
Hein, Aubri
Jauron, Mara
Nelson, Katie
Rickard-Urban, KiaLeigh
Schumacher, Erica
Treimer, Michaela
Waltz, Maceline
Waltz, McKenzie

A sincere and grateful thank you to everyone who has helped Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery in any way during the preceding year. If your name should have been on the monetary or in-kind donation list, but was inadvertently omitted, we are sorry. Please tell Bob Rickard; contact information can be found at bottom of this page.

THE REV. MICHAEL HUMMER led the founding of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in 1841, but did not remain as the regular minister. Later he got into spiritualism, tried to steal the bell from an Iowa City church belfry, received a judgment of insanity, was booted from the ministry in two states, and nearly died during Quantrill's Raid in 1863.

*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 or P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

Web site: www.redoakgrovecc.com  Facebook: redoakgrovechurchandcemetery