

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 20

May 2017

Two red oak trees memorialize Cecil Mathias (1918-2016)



The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board voted to plant two red oak trees in memory of Cecil Mathias, a 50-year member of the church. He also served 46 years on the Cemetery Association Board. The 10-foot trees were planted in December 2016. Photo at left looks north, toward the church, showing the new trees. The other photo looks east, toward the Robert Cousins arch with King Avenue beyond.

11th annual Red Oak Grove Reunion will be celebrated May 21

For the 11th time, friends of Red Oak Grove Church will meet for a reunion. On May 21, an interdenominational service at 11 a.m. will be conducted by Pastor Ron Lashmit, historian Jeff Kaufmann, and Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard. A potluck dinner in the church basement will follow.

Special music will be furnished by Dale Thomas' Adams Apple Quartet. The 126th annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association will be held briefly after the service. Those attending are asked to bring a dish of food to share, and their own tableware. Coffee and other beverages will be provided. This event is open to anyone interested.

Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was founded March 1, 1841, but the congregation did not have a church building until 1859. The present building was dedicated May 8, 1921. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, as is the cemetery.

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Virtus George Reiling, 85, died March 12, 2016, at his home in Clarence. Funeral: March 18, 2016, in Tipton; interment of ashes later. Survivors: his wife of 63 years, Joanne Murphy Reiling; children Rhonda Paul, Mark Reiling, and Susan Johnson; four grandchildren, three sisters, and four brothers. Mr. Reiling was a veteran of the Korean War.

Julie Ann Otten Vilhauer, 41, of Tipton died of cancer Dec. 2, 2016. Funeral: Dec. 5, Tipton. Survivors include her husband of 20 years, Keith Villhauer; a daughter Jordan; her mother, Laura Otten; a sister, a brother, a grandmother, and other extended family members

Marie Thoannes Maxwell, 81, of McLean, Va., died Jan. 2, 2016, at her home. Funeral: Jan 7, Tipton. She is survived by her husband of over 55 years, Dayton L. Maxwell; a son, David Maxell; a daughter, Diane Dreter; three grandchildren, five sisters, and one brother. Mrs. Maxwell was born in Hanoi, Vietnam. She and her husband were married in Thailand.

Keith Eldon Johnson, 84, of Tipton died Jan. 7, 2017, in a Wilton nursing home. Funeral: Jan. 13, Tipton Survivors are his children: Priscilla Plate, Goose Creek, S. C.; Lois Rees, New Paris, Ind.; Mark Johnson, Tipton; four grandchildren; an aunt, and special friend, Alberta Thein. His wife of 55 years, Donna Proctor Johnson, died in 2014.

Marilyn Milner White, 91, of Clive, widow of Clifford White, died April 23, 2017. Private family burial May 6. Survivors: a son, the Rev. John C. White; a daughter, Holly Kooistra; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A daughter, Laurel Gard, and a sister died in 2016. Red Oak Grove pioneers James and Margaret Ritchie Safley were Mrs. White's ancestors.

Updates: gutter-downspout project, cemetery monument preservation

The projected replacement of gutters and downspouts for Red Oak Grove Church has now been fully funded by friends of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. Bids are now being sought for the job, according to Bob Rickard, Cemetery Association president. Work should be completed during the summer.

Cemetery assistant sexton Eric Storjohann in April 2017 reset the monuments of Alexander Cumins (1799-1859) and John Scroggie (1829-1899). Daisy Wingert, a member of the Cemetery Association Board, has made application to replace the monument of Isaac Carl (1753-1847). A veteran of the War of 1812, he was born in Cayuga County, N. Y.; lived in Ohio; and moved to Red Oak Grove in 1839.



Seven volunteers cleaned monuments in the South Cemetery April 8. Kneeling is Daisy Wingert. Standing, from left: Shelly Quinn, Diane Schroeder, Scott Schroeder, Sherry Hall, Drew Oberfrank. Missing from photo is Kiaya Urban.

Thanks to all the energetic volunteers at cleanup day April 8!

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery received the diligent attention of 23 volunteers at the annual cleanup day Saturday, April 8. Indoors, the church was dusted and cleaned upstairs and down, a heavy safe was moved into the basement, and the old piano (beyond repair) was dismantled and removed from the basement. Outdoors, monuments in the South Cemetery were cleaned, and a general tidying up was done. Afterwards, all enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Volunteers were Phil Carls, Dalton Clark, Bryce Deerberg, Alyssa Elijah, Sherry Hall, Mike and Brenda Herring, Myron and Jan Holden, Drew Oberfrank, Shelly Quinn, Bob and Barb Rickard, Allie Ryan, Scott and Diane Schroeder, Eric Storjohann, KiaLeigh Urban, Rich and Kiaya Urban, Dick Urban, Mackenzie Waltz, and Daisy Wingert. Bob Rickard, Cemetery Association president, said, "It's really terrific to have all this great volunteer help. My appreciation and gratitude are boundless. Thank you, everyone!"

Second annual Wreaths Across America event Dec. 17, 2016

Red Oak Grove's second annual Wreaths Across America event took place Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016. At the 11:30 a.m. ceremony in the church, 14 veterans in attendance were recognized. Unfortunately, illness prevented the attendance of the main speaker, Maj. Gen. Robert Sentman, U. S. Army Ret., but the ceremony was dignified and fitting. Evergreen wreaths were then placed on the graves of the 69 veterans buried or commemorated at Red Oak Grove. Coffee, hot cocoa, and cookies were served in the church basement following. The 2017 Wreaths Across America is scheduled December 16 at Red Oak Grove.

ANOTHER RED OAK GROVE Church and Cemetery are located in Udolpho Township, Mower County Minn. (north of Austin, south of Blooming Prairie). Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church was founded in 1859. The earliest legible gravestone has an 1866 date.

❧ 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 dedicated to its 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 matters pertaining to the church or cemetery, contact Bob Rickard, Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association president:

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

Red Oak Grove Reporter, Issue No. 20
Published at Tipton, Iowa, May 2017
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