

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 21

December 2017



At left: Fourteen flowering crabapple trees were planted Nov. 14 to border the planned Valley Drive in the cemetery.

Above: Eric Storjohann, assistant sexton, installs a new flag holder base, one of 42 that he and Bob Rickard installed.

Annual ‘Wreaths Across America’ will be Saturday, Dec. 16

For the third year, “Wreaths Across America” will be held at Red Oak Grove. The public is cordially invited to this patriotic and inspirational event. It will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a short ceremony in the church. The speaker will be retired US Marines Sgt. Major Bill Van Waes, Lowden, Iowa.

After the ceremony, wreaths will be placed on 71 stones, marking graves of 66 veterans and memorials to four Civil War soldiers who are buried in other states, and one World War II sailor buried at sea in the Pacific. These 69 men and two women served in seven wars spanning more than 16 decades, from the War of 1812 through the Vietnam War. Following placement of wreaths, everyone is invited to the church basement for coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies, along with conversation and camaraderie.

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL in the church basement Oct. 8 raised \$1,515 toward “Wreaths Across America.” Daisy Wingert chaired the event. Thanks to all who attended. Many other donations for wreaths are also appreciated. Each wreath costs \$15.

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

James “Poss” Willert, 54, of Davenport died April 28, 2017. Funeral: May 4, Davenport. Private burial: Sept. 23. Mr. Willert was a former Tipton resident. Survivors include his companion, Ginny Goetz; mother, Sandra Woode Willert, Tipton; children Carly Willert, Kayleigh Thomas, Chelsea Gless, and Joe Batey; and three grandchildren; sister, Kristi Stafford; brother; Jon “Jake” Willert; and nieces and nephews

Robert Donald Whitlatch, 82, of Tipton, died July 10, 2017, at Cedar Manor Nursing Home. Funeral: July 15, Tipton. Survivors: his wife of 53 years, Alice Rammelsberg Whitlatch; four children, Sarah Gaeta, Brenda Whitlatch (husband: Dwain Feijo), Melaine Janssen, and Brian Whitlatch; brothers Keith and Al Whitlatch; and ten grandchildren.

Matthew John Fuhrmeister, 42, died Aug. 25, 2017, in Iowa City. Funeral: Aug 30, Tipton. Survivors: his wife of 11 years, Carmen Bischel Fuhrmeister; parents John and Diana Fuhrmeister; sisters Amy LaGrange, Lindsey Reimers, and Joanna Fletcher; two grandmothers; and three stepdaughters, Nicol Bramlett, Tiffany Priebe, and Amber See.

Spring and summer weddings at historic Red Oak Grove Church

Congratulations and best wishes to the following four couples who exchanged wedding vows at Red Oak Grove Church in 2017:

Mike Dauber and **Cari Gritton**, married May 13, 2017.

Austin Mulligan and **Relissa Dlouhy**, married July 8, 2017.

Wesley Schott and **Heather Evans**, married July 22, 2017.

Dakota Adams and **Tiffany Hoffman**, married Aug. 26, 2017.

Soldier who enlisted at Tipton survived 1865 Sultana disaster

Civil War Capt. William G. McElrea enlisted in the Fifth Iowa Cavalry at Tipton June 24, 1861. Captured in December 1864 at Pulaski, Tenn., he was incarcerated at Libby and Andersonville prisons. He and some 2,000 other Union prisoners were released in 1865 and boarded the sidewheeler steamship Sultana at Vicksburg, Miss., bound for St. Louis, Mo.

The ship’s legal capacity was 376. On April 27, 1865, near Memphis, Tenn., the boilers exploded and hundreds died. McElrea clung to floating wreckage 72 hours before being rescued. He returned to Tipton, married Sarah Jane Dilts, and moved to Marion County, Iowa. At 86, McElrea died Nov. 25, 1915 – last survivor of the Sultana disaster.

Valley Drive construction, monument work planned for 2018

Two improvement projects planned for Red Oak Grove Cemetery in 2018 were announced by Board president Bob Rickard at the 126th annual Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association meeting May 21, 2017. One is a new drive; the other is work on old monuments.

Work on the drive, to be known as Valley Drive, has already begun with the planting of fourteen flowering crabapple trees and a red oak along the planned route. The red oak tree is a gift of Board member Daisy Wingert and her brother Donald Schroeder in memory of their parents, Max and Mary Schroeder. Construction of the drive will take place in 2018.

Valley Drive will begin at the Cousins gate on the east edge of the cemetery, go west to the red oak tree (one planted earlier, not the new one), and connect to the existing east-west cement driveway in the South Cemetery. It will be 10 feet wide.

The other 2018 project, which will be ongoing, is straightening of about 300 cemetery monuments. Limited progress has been made on the once-a-year spring cleanup day. However, outside resources are needed to handle larger monuments and to install new cement bases for those which have either deteriorating limestone bases or no bases.

One of the 2017 projects not yet been completed is replacement of gutters and down-spouts on the church. As of early November, work was about 50 percent finished.

Red Oak Grove Legacy Endowment Fund

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery is a very special place to many, thanks to the amazing care given to the property. It costs money to maintain the 96-year-old building and the extensive cemetery in a condition we have all grown accustomed to. Please think seriously about remembering Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery in your will.

Know that the Board holds the property in highest esteem, and will use your bequest judiciously to keep the church and cemetery maintained as you expect. Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery is a 501(c)(13) non-profit entity; donations are tax-deductible. Please talk to your attorney and/or estate planner about leaving a bequest. The Board thanks you.

SINCERE THANKS TO Lori Ostrich, who left the Cemetery Association Board in November after 7 ½ years. She developed gravesite listings and maps for the kiosks, compiled an excellent cemetery directory including history, co-edited a book of veterans' biographies, and ably headed the Board's finance committee. Lori will be missed!

In-kind donations: time, expertise, loans/gifts of equipment, supplies
(For list of monetary donations, see supplement page in this issue.)

Biene, Lee
Carls, Phil
Clark, Dalton
Crist, Josh
Deerberg, Bryce
Elijah, Alyssa
Gadke, Chad
Gillette, Helen
Hall, Sherry
Herring, Mike & Brenda
Holden, Myron & Jan

Hughes, Dwight
Kaufmann, Jeff
Lashmit, Ron
Meyers, Lee
Nash, Steve
Oberfrank, Drew
Ostrich, Lori
Penningroth, Mark
Quinn, Shelly
Rickard, Bob & Barb
Schott, Kathy

Schroeder, Scott & Diane
Storjohann, Eric
Taylor, Karen
Thomas, Dale
Urban, Dick
Urban, KiaLeigh
Urban, Rich & Kiaya
Waltz, Mackenzie
Wingert, Daisy
Zimmerman, Roland

Sincere and grateful thanks to everyone who has helped Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery in 2017. Apologies if you were accidentally omitted from monetary or in-kind donor lists; please contact Bob Rickard. (Numbers at bottom of this page.)

Tipton Advertiser, May 30, 1913: “After having established a fund of almost \$2,000, income from which will insure the permanent care of Red Oak cemetery, Mrs. Margaret Safley, who for the past 17 years has held the office of treasurer . . . tendered her resignation . . . (She) has been instrumental in effecting a change in the cemetery from a hazel bush thicket to a graded and well-kept burial ground.” *[Alas, \$2,000 doesn't go far in 2017!]*

Margaret Ritchie Safley (1839-1919) was born in Scotland. She was the third wife of James Safley, 17 years her senior, who died in 1880. James and Margaret are buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Some of their descendants still live in the Tipton area.

*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

Monetary Gifts: December 2016 – November 2017 *(Both sides of page)*

Agne, Steve & Mary, Tipton

In memory of Isaac Carl

Ahrendsen, Jo Ann Pearson, Mechanicsville

Anderson, Karen, Tipton

In memory of James Fulwider

Barglof, Pat, Bennett

Beckmann, Tom & Ruth, Tipton

In memory of Vernon H. Beckmann

In honor of Mary L. Beckmann

Bixler, Charlene, Lowden

In memory of Findlay Family

Bolton, Duane & Judith, Tipton

Booth, Gwenda, Peachtree Corners, Ga.

Brennan, Dick & Linda, Tipton

In memory of Mearl and Virginia Laing

Carney, Dennis & Marilyn, Tipton – *In memory of Ronald and Dorothy Anderson*

Challis, Dean, Clarence

Challis Ron & Maggie, Tipton

Clark, Jim & Mary, Tipton

In memory of Robert and Evelyn Clark

Clark, Ruth, Tipton

Crowley, Tom, Mechanicsville

Davis, James, Washington, D. C.

Densmore, Diane, Johnston

In memory of H. Lee and Muriel Miller

Dykstra, Dennis & Linda, Tipton

Edwards, Lawrence, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Thomas and Alice Edwards

Ehresman, Edna, Tipton

Eliason, Linda, Tipton

In memory of Don and Mary Challis

In honor of Keith Whitlatch

Fear, Glenn & Ellen, Tipton

Ferris, Rodney & Rachel, Walcott

Garrett, Jean, Cedar Rapids

In memory of John Henry Laing

Gault, Donna, Tipton

In memory of Franklin Gault

Goetz, Mike & Denise, Tipton

Gould, Ken & Sylvia, Tipton

Hamdorf, Roberta, Hiawatha

Harmsen, Dennis, Iowa City

Harmsen, Steve & Bev, Papillion, Neb.

In memory of Harold, Dorothy, and

Maryann Harmsen

Harris, Betty, Frankfort, Ky.

Hegarty John & Kay, Swisher

Herring, Ken & Carolyn, Tipton

Herring, Mike & Brenda, Mechanicsville

Huebner, Velma, Clarence

In memory of Orval Huebner

Hughes, John & Hillary, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Dwight and Hazel Hughes

J & L Pipeline, Tipton

Johnson, Mark & Susan, Tipton

In memory of Virtus Reiling

Kaalberg, Don & Barb, West Liberty

Kaufmann, Jeff & Vickie, Wilton

Keller, Dean & Leslie, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Max and Judy Keller

Kettenbrink, Ed & Gail, Tipton

Knepper, Cathy Dee, Kensington, Md.

In memory of Robert Dee

Knutsen, Gene & Connie, Mechanicsville

In memory of Walter Chappell

Kuhnle, Robert & Joyce, Marengo

In honor of Verna Kimberling

Laing, Don & Kathy, Tipton

In memory of John H. Laing

Laing, Ronald H., Tipton

In memory of John Henry Laing

Laucamp, Rodney & Sharon, Tipton

In memory of All Veterans

Lenschow, Phyllis, West Branch

Mathias, Larry & Sherri, St. Charles, Ill.
*In memory of Cecil, Norma, and
Randy Mathias*

Mathias, Ron & Carol, Davenport
In memory of Cecil Mathias

Meyers, Alecia, Stanwood
*In memory of Charles and Blanche Sisler,
Ed and Emma Meyers, Harvey and Helen
Lund, and Roland E. Meyers*

Miller, Marv & Kay, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau

Moeller, Wally & Pat, Tipton
In memory of James Stolte

Moreland, Ron & Sandra, Lisbon

Moylan, Marty, Tipton
In memory of Don and Mary Challis

Oberfrank, Drew, North Liberty
In memory of Betty Rickard

Olson, Colleen, Windsor, Conn.
In memory of Isaac Carl

Ostrich, Lori, Tipton

Ovel, Steve & Susan, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Virginia Weih Youngker

Penningroth, Mark, Tipton

Penningroth, Rosemary, Tipton

Regennitter, Craig & Kim, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau

Reiling, Joanne, Clarence
In memory of Virtus Reiling

Rickard, Bob & Barb, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard

Riedel, Gerald, Fort Wayne, Ind. – *In
memory of Mary F. Riedel (Hegarty)*

Rife, Sharon, Simi Valley, Calif.
In memory of Marlin Rife

Rohlf, Delores, Tipton

Sabourin, Tana, West Branch

Safley, Alan, Springville

Scherer, Scott & Diane
In memory of Clarence and Vesta Kern

Schroeder, Don, Olin

Schroeder, Scott & Diane, Mechanicsville

Schroeder, Ron & Liz, Wilton
In memory of Franklin Gault

Seebeck,, Paul, Tipton

Seligman, Dale & June, Mechanicsville

Simmermaker, Velma, Ames
In memory of Alberta Dugger

Smith, Keith & Virginia, Farmington, Mo.

Spangler, Marilyn, Davenport
In memory of Isaac Carl

Staton, Mack, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Sternberg, Richard & Jean, Roland

Stiff, Sharon, Tipton
In memory of Don Stiff

Stonerook, Marjorie, Tipton
In memory of Ben and Jessie Penningroth

Storjohann, Eric, New Liberty

Stueland, Mark & Karen, Tipton
In memory of Paul Stueland

Stutzel, Ron & Bonnie, Tipton
In memory of Mearl Laing

Swinton, Jerrod & Sherry, Des Moines

Tate, Bill, Lisbon
In memory of William Deane Tate

Tauber, Frank & Lorraine, Iowa City

Ten Pas, Harlan & Sandra, Lake Forest, Ill.

Thomas, Dale, West Branch

Thomson, Dr. Richard & Ann, Cedar Falls

Tripp, David & Bev, Tipton

Troop, Jack & Janis, Green Valley, Ariz.

Urban, Rich & Kiaya, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard

Whitlatch, Keith, Stanwood
In memory of Lois Whitlatch

Wilkerson, Dean & Pam, West Branch
In memory of Mearl and Marvel Woode

Wilkerson, Tom & Amy, Tipton

Woode, Robert, Davenport
In memory of Forest Woode

Woode, Roger & Tina, Lake Mary, Fla.
In memory of Mearl and Marvel Woode

Wurr, Juliet, Washington, D.C.

(In-kind donors on Page 4)