

# Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 18

May 2016

## *10th annual Red Oak Grove reunion scheduled May 15*

The 10th annual Red Oak Grove reunion celebration will be held **Sunday, May 15**. An interdenominational service at 11 a.m. will be followed by a potluck dinner in the church basement. Conducting the service will be Pastor Ron Lashmit, historian Jeff Kaufmann (message: “Listen. You will hear them”), and Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard. “Heaven’s Callin’” gospel group will sing, as will Karrington Mohr, accompanied by Jamie Bahr. The 125th annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association will be held *briefly* between the service and the dinner.



## The story of a painting

For 60 years, this well-loved painting has hung in the chancel of Red Oak Grove Church. The artist was the late Alice Wilke Beranek, born in 1923 on a farm south of Tipton. She later lived in Davenport. Mrs. Beranek painted this in 1956, and also did copies for a few other churches. The picture was taken down and carefully protected while Red Oak Grove Church’s interior was being repainted this spring.

This is a variation of a work created in the 1850s by London artist William Holman Hunt (1827-1910). Titled “The Light of the World,” it is an allegory of Christ knocking at the door of the human soul. Hunt took his inspiration from Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock . . .”

**CECIL MATHIAS** devoted over 50 years to Red Oak Grove Church and the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association. He will be 98 May 13. Address: Cedar Manor (Room 1), 1200 Mulberry Street, Tipton, IA 52772. Phone: (319) 886-3582. Happy birthday, Cecil!

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

**Nora “Bea” Fulwider**, 79, of Tipton died Feb. 3, 2016. Funeral: Feb. 5, Tipton. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, James Fulwider. Survivors include her children, Karen Anderson and David Fulwider of Tipton and June Seligman, Mechanicsville; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and seven siblings: Mike and Rob Wolfe, John Griffin, Jo Lawrence, Darlene Benson, Ruth Jordan, and Marla Gregory.

**Elmer G. Flory**, 85, of Tipton died March 6, 2016. Funeral: March 11, Tipton. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Cuba Maynor Flory; four sons, Hobert of Stanwood; David, Goodyear, Ariz.; Bruce, Marion; and Wayne, Cedar Rapids; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Phyllis Lenschow, Elaine Fleanor, and Joyce Hayes.

**Frances Elaine Barkalow Gaunt**, 68, of Tipton died March 30, 2016. Funeral: April 1, Tipton. She is survived by her husband of almost 52 years, Willard L. Gaunt; six sons, Neil of Muscatine and Rick, Robert, Doug, Stanley, and Steve of Tipton; 13 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Paulette Salyars, Patty Burns, and Judy Nicol.

**Darlene Penningroth Demaree**, 85, formerly of Tipton, died April 2, 2016, in Peachtree Corners, Ga. Funeral: April 23, Norcross, Ga., and a private graveside service will be held at Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Survivors include a daughter, Gwenda Booth, and two sons, Kendall and Loren; four grandchildren; and four siblings, Marjorie Stonerook, Carolyn Schaper, and Darrel and Raymond Penningroth.

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**Milestones of 175 and 95 years:** The year 2016 marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of Red Oak Grove Church, March 1, 1841, by 10 Scottish immigrants guided with the guidance of the Rev. Michael Hummer of Iowa City. It was the first Presbyterian Church in Cedar County, and the 12th in Iowa Territory. (Iowa became a state Dec. 28, 1846.) The present church building was dedicated 95 years ago, on May 8, 1921. The dedication services had to be postponed twice because of snowstorms.

**“Wreaths Across America,”** the second annual observance at Red Oak Grove Cemetery, is scheduled Dec. 17, 2016. Wreaths may be ordered for \$15 each to honor veterans buried or commemorated at Red Oak Grove. Orders may be placed with Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard at [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net) or (563) 886-6018.

## ***Painting, tuckpointing completed this spring; come and see!***

Come to the Red Oak Grove Reunion May 15 and admire the two physical plant projects of 2016! Repairing and painting of the first-floor interior walls and ceiling were completed March 25, and tuckpointing the exterior brick foundation and chimney on April 18.

Mark Thumma repaired cracks in the plaster, and E & B Professional Painting repaired cracks in the ceiling and painted the interior of the church. The paint color is “Crisp Linen” (a soft cream). The project cost \$13,009, paid for by a \$2,000 grant from Cedar County Community Foundation and donations from friends of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery.

Tuckpointing was done by Maxson Masonry. This involved grinding out all old mortar and replaced it with new. All 15 basement window lintels were badly deteriorated and had to be replaced. The project cost was \$34,620, of which \$16,720 has already been donated by friends. This leaves a balance of \$17,900 to be raised by the end of 2016.



**Above left:** Four workers doing tuckpointing.

**Above right:** Mark Thumma repairs cracks in plaster.

**At left:** Matt Braddock, of E & B Professional Painting, in the Balcony of Red Oak Grove Church

## **‘Fugitive Moment’ is about Red Oak Grove native in Russia**

The Rev. Louis P. Penningroth (1888-1973), a Red Oak Grove native and former minister of Red Oak Grove Church, is the subject of a book by his grandson, Phil Penningroth. “Fugitive Moment: The True Story of an Unsung Hero” tells of his mission in Russia to free American and British prisoners in 1919. The 380-page book can be ordered from Barnes & Noble, or purchased online in print or Amazon Kindle.

The minister was the uncle of Darrel and Raymond Penningroth and Marjorie Stonerook, Tipton; Carolyn Schaper, Crystal Lake, Ill.; and the late Darlene Demaree of Georgia.

### ***Clean-up day April 2 was successful***

Red Oak Grove’s annual clean-up day April 2 was a success, thanks to 24 volunteers. Due to very windy weather in the 40s, monument cleaning/straightening was canceled, but church and cemetery were cleaned and timber area cleared. After the work, a tasty lunch was served by Barb Rickard, Daisy Wingert, Brenda Herring, and Sherry Hall.

Also volunteering were Patrick Fulton, Mike Herring Dwight Hughes, Gary Lillis, Karrington Mohr, Drew Oberfrank, Lori Ostrich, Bob Rickard, Kiaya Rickard-Urban, Rich Urban, Daisy Wingert, and Phil Carls, plus nine Interact Club-Silver Cord members from Tipton High School (*photo at right; two not pictured: Katie Nelson, Erica Schumacher*).



*Silver Cord Girls working at cleanup day were, front row, from left: Maceline and McKenzie Waltz, Aubri Heinz. Back row: Michaela Treimer, Emilee Hamann, Maura Jauron, KiaLeigh Rickard-Urban.*

*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

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