

Red Oak Grove Reporter

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From left: Chris Pruess, Jan and Myron Holden, and the Holdens' grandson, Giavani, were among 18 persons working on the annual cleanup day April 21. *(Story on Page 3.)*

Annual Red Oak Grove Reunion-Celebration is May 20

On May 20, the 12th annual Red Oak Grove Reunion-Celebration is scheduled. An 11 a.m. interdenominational service will precede the 127th Cemetery Association meeting (brief), and a potluck dinner in the church basement. The public is cordially invited; it is not necessary to have a family connection with the church or cemetery.

Conducting the service will be Pastor Ron Lashmit, Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard, and historian Jeff Kaufmann, whose topic is "Old Warriors Never Die." Music will be by Richard Bohrn's trio, which also includes Bill Perkins and Randy Redington.

Daisy Wingert will be hostess, and Helen Gillette, Pam Freet and Kathy Schott of the Cedar County Attic Museum in Tipton will be greeters. Those attending the potluck are asked to bring a dish of food to share, and their own tableware. Coffee and other beverages will be provided.

Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was founded in March 1841, and the current church building was dedicated in 1921. The final regular church service was Dec. 17, 2006. The church has been lovingly preserved by the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association since May 2007, and is now known as Red Oak Grove Church.

In Memoriam: Recent interments in Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Marvin Evers, 69, of rural Tipton died Oct. 18, 2017. Funeral: Oct. 21, Tipton; private family inurnment. Survivors: Four children: Daniel and Kevin of Cedar Rapids; Kirk of Turlock, Calif., and Nancy Finch of Plano, Texas; 12 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. His wife, the former Marlene Nelson, preceded him in death.

Marie Alma Eilers Shaull, 98, died Dec. 24, 2017, at Cedar Manor Nursing Home, Tipton. Funeral: Dec 29, Tipton. Survivors: Two children, Linda Dykstra, Tipton, and Randall, Harrisburg, Pa, and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy K. Shaull, and an infant daughter, Diana.

Ed Ross, 74, formerly of Stanwood and Tipton, died March 10, 2018, at Davis Center, Bloomfield, Iowa. Funeral: March 14, Tipton. Survivors: Sister of choice, Alecia Meyers, Stanwood; nieces of choice, Kim Wyman, Central City, and Kristin Barker, Paw Paw, Mich.; and two great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Jane Ross Goursh, and foster parents Harvey and Helen Lund, and Ed and Emma Meyers.

Patricia Jane Canfield Tate, 95, died April 2, 2018, at Cedar Manor Nursing Home, Tipton. Funeral: April 6, 2018, Tipton. Survivors: three children, Marsha Tate, Muscatine; Judy McVay, Center Point; and Bill Tate, Lisbon, and a sister, Dorothy Daugherty, Ralston, Neb. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Dean Tate.

Fall wedding at Red Oak Grove Church

Jeff and Filescha Laing exchanged marriage vows Oct. 31, 2017, at Red Oak Grove Church.

Schroeder joins Cemetery Board

Scott Schroeder of Mechanicsville has been appointed to the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board. The appointment was effective March 1, 2018. Scott is president and agent of Schroeder & Associates insurance agency in Mechanicsville.

A Cedar County native and lifelong resident, Scott grew up on a farm in the Wald vicinity between Tipton and Stanwood. He succeeds Lori Ostrich, who resigned from the Board Dec. 31, 2017.

Red Oak Grove projects completed and awaiting completion

Replacement of gutters and downspouts on Red Oak Grove Church was completed in December 2017 by Tomlinson Cannon of Iowa City. The total project cost was \$5,261. This was a significant and much needed improvement.

By the end of 2018, a new hard-surface lane, Valley Drive, will link the Cousins gate with the existing drive in the South Cemetery. Fourteen flowering crab trees and a red oak tree to line the new drive were planted in 2017. The trees are from Hughes Nursery, Cedar Rapids, founded by Dwight Hughes Jr. It is now owned by his sons, Tom and John Hughes. They are great-great-great-grandsons of John Safley, a founding member of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. The red oak tree is a gift of Daisy Wingert and her brother, Donald Schroeder, in memory of their parents, Max and Mary Schroeder.

In late April, eight more unneeded trees in the timber area were felled by Mike Herring; his wife Brenda and Dwight Hughes collected debris for burning, using Dwight's articulated tractor. Afterwards, Mike reduced the remains of the burn pile with his tractor. *(Photo, Page 4)* A firm will be hired to grind the stumps.

A water hydrant was installed April 20 by Josh Crist and Mike Herring, near the northwest corner of the church. The old hand pump nearby, currently not working, will be left in place.

Cleanup day held April 21

Eighteen persons provided the people power to clean the church interior and cemetery grounds, as well as cleaning monuments, repairing monument bases, and preparing lunch for the crew, at the annual Red Oak Grove cleanup day April 21. The Weather Man cooperated nicely, sending a beautiful spring day.

Those who volunteered their time, effort, and expertise were Sherry Hall, Mike and Brenda Herring, Myron and Jan Holden and their grandson Giavani, Dwight Hughes, Gary Lillis, Chris Pruess, Bob and Barb Rickard, Scott and Noah Schroeder, Eric Storjohann, Rich and Kiaya Urban, Dick Urban, and Daisy Wingert.

A major, special thank you to everyone who participated! Your willingness to contribute your time to keeping Red Oak Grove looking its best, both inside and out, is greatly appreciated. Everyone else, be sure notice how nice things look when you attend the annual Celebration-Reunion on Sunday, May 20!



In April, Mike Herring works to reduce a burn pile near the Red Oak Grove timber area. The timber area will be a pleasant place for walks.

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, forming a unified site with Rock Creek and Red Oak Park (founded 1894).

The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., is a 501 (c) (13) organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery are on the National Register of Historic Places.

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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