

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 24

May 2019



The old and new

The old and new Valley Drive in Red Oak Grove Cemetery starts at the arch presented in 1905 by U. S. Representative Robert Cousins, a native of Red Oak Grove. Valley Drive was completed 113 years later, in 2018.

Photo by Bob Rickard

Red Oak Grove Reunion to be Sunday, May 19: All are welcome

The thirteenth annual Red Oak Grove Reunion will take place Sunday, May 19. All are welcome; a tie with the church or cemetery is not required. An 11 a.m. interdenominational service will be conducted by Pastor Ron Lashmit, historian Jeff Kaufmann, and Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard.

Special music will be furnished by great-great-grandchildren of William and Mary Laing, who settled in Red Oak Grove in 1863. Many of their descendants still live in the area.

The 128th annual meeting of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association will be held briefly, immediately after the service. This will be followed by a potluck dinner in the church basement. Those attending are asked to bring a dish of food to share, and their own tableware. Coffee and other beverages will be provided.

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

***In Memoriam: Interments and inurnments,
Red Oak Grove Cemetery, May 1, 2018-April 30, 2019***

Ronald Lee Chambliss, 72, of Tipton died Nov. 15, 2017. Funeral Nov. 20, 2017, Tipton. Inurnment May 2, 2018. Survivors: his wife of 46 years, Diane Mueller Chambliss; children Angela Chambliss (husband Rob Penningroth) and Timothy Chambliss; sisters Shirley Grunder and Patricia Parker; brother Robert Chambliss, and two grandchildren.

Mark David Reiling, 54, of Cedar Rapids died Dec. 28, 2017. Funeral Jan. 7, 2018, Tipton. Inurnment June 9, 2018. Survivors: his daughter Kalynn; mother, Joanne Reiling, Clarence; and sisters Rhonda Paul and Susan Johnson, both of Tipton.

Verna Olive Hale Kimberling, 103 (almost 104) died Aug. 12, 2018 – the last surviving member of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. Funeral Aug. 18, First United Church of Christ, Tipton. Survivors: three children: Virginia Osborn, Midland, Ohio; Joyce Kuhnle, Marengo; and Victor Kimberling, Mechanicsville; seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren. Her husband, Vernon P. Kimberling, died in 1982.

Michael James Smith, 66, died Nov. 22, 2018 Funeral Nov. 27, 2018, Tipton. Survivors: his wife of 18 years, Connie Keller Smith; six children: Chad, Todd, Ben, Joel, Curtis, and Kelly; 10 grand-children; sisters Suzanne Nelson, Connie Wolfe, and Laurie Simpson; and brother Mark Smith.

Other events at Red Oak Grove, May 1, 2018-April 30, 2019

May 20, 2018: 12th annual Red Oak Grove Reunion; 127th Cemetery Assn. meeting

June 9, 2018: Marriage of Darrel Shreve and Lori Ostritch

Aug. 18, 2018: Funeral luncheon, Mrs. Verna Kimberling

Aug. 25, 2018: Presentation by Bob Rickard to Tipton High School Class of 1968

Oct. 7, 2018: Pie-ice cream social

Dec. 15, 2018: Fourth annual “Wreaths Across America” ceremony

April 27, 2019: Annual church and cemetery cleanup

160 Years Ago: First Church Built

Old church



Present church dedicated 1921



Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, founded March 1, 1841, had no building until 1859. The first church, built by John Chappell and Jacob Snyder, cost \$1,000. The first worship service was held in it Aug. 7, 1859, by the Rev. George D. Porter.

Angelus bell would be special addition to Red Oak Grove

Red Oak Grove hopes to acquire an Angelus bell for solemn occasions such as “Wreaths Across America.” At this ceremony, a reader speaks the name of each veteran interred or commemorated at Red Oak Grove. As each name is read, the Angelus bell would toll.

Historically, the Angelus bell dates to the 11th century, when Franciscan monks said three Hail Marys as the bell rang during night prayers. Over time, the bell became associated with evening prayer. By the late 1500s, the Angelus bell was connected with various prayer vigils. When it sounded, all other activity stopped for prayer.

The Angelus bell considered for Red Oak Grove is solid brass with a 14-inch diameter. The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association Board is seeking a donor. The cost is \$550. If interested, please contact Bob Rickard at (563) 886-6018 or bbrick@iowatelecom.net.

Maj. Gen Sentman spoke at 2018 ‘Wreaths Across America’ ceremony

On Dec. 15, 2018, the fourth annual “Wreaths Across America” ceremony was held at Red Oak Grove. Maj. Gen. Robert Sentman, U. S. Army Ret., gave a fitting tribute to honored veterans interred or commemorated in Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Present were veterans and guests from the VFW, American Legion, and the Red White and Blue Chapter of Cedar Rapids; the towns of Bennett, Cedar Bluff, Clarence, Iowa City, Lowden, Tipton, and West Branch; and Illinois. *This year’s date for “Wreaths Across America” at Red Oak Grove is **Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m.***

2019 tree plan announced for Red Oak Grove Cemetery

The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Board has endorsed nurseryman Dwight Hughes' tree plan for Red Oak Grove Cemetery. The plan will add 18 new trees in 2019 – six along the new Valley Drive (completed in fall 2018), and 12 along the proposed North Drive, which will exit the cemetery from Red Oak Park Road. The plan comprises:

- Six crabapple trees: two Pink sparkle trees and four Purple prince trees. These will complete the Valley Drive landscape.
- Twelve shade trees: four Blaze maples, two American hackberries, one State Street maple, four Princeton elms, and one Kentucky coffee tree. (to clarify: the Kentucky coffee tree does not yield beans for a beverage.) These shade trees will be placed along the route of the proposed North Drive.

The Cemetery Board is offering friends of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery an opportunity to donate trees. Donated trees may be dedicated in memory of deceased relatives or friends, or in honor of special persons who are living.

Crabapple trees cost \$320 apiece, shade trees \$410 apiece. These prices cover purchase of the tree, planting, fertilizer, mulch, and if desired, a plaque to designate “In memory of” or “In honor of.” Donors may also choose to “adopt” one or more of the crabapple trees already planted along Valley Drive, for the standard price of \$320.

For more details about tree donation, please contact Cemetery Board president Bob Rickard, P. O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772, or bbrick@iowatelecom.net or (563) 886-6018.

[See Page 5 (facing page) for map showing specific tree placement.]

Memorial trees donated to Red Oak Grove as of April 15, 2019

- In memory of Ronald L. Chambliss: Crabapple tree west of King Avenue, second tree north of Valley Drive.
- In memory of Cecil Mathias: Red oak tree west of King Avenue, first tree north of Valley Drive; another west of King Avenue, first tree south of Valley Drive.
- In memory of Norma Mathias: Red oak tree west of King Avenue, ninth tree north of Valley Drive.
- In memory of Max and Mary Schroeder: Red oak tree west of King Avenue, ninth tree south of Valley Drive.



Keys to Tree Plan Map 2019

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| #1. Existing Red Oak Trees (4) | #10. Hackberry |
| #2. Existing Crabapple Trees (14) | #11. Blaze Maple |
| #3. Proposed Crabapple Trees (6) | #12. Hackberry |
| #4. Blaze Maple | #13. Princeton Elm |
| #5. Princeton Elm | #14. Blaze Maple |
| #6. Coffee Tree | #15. Princeton Elm |
| #7. Princeton Elm | |
| #8. State Street Maple | |
| #9. Blaze Maple | |

Cleanup day volunteers are appreciated!

Due to inclement weather on April 27th cleanup day was postponed until **Saturday May 4th**. The church's interior was cleaned upstairs and down despite the weather. In the cemetery, a monument's foundation was replaced, that of pioneer John Ferguson (1804-1884) and his family members (*photo, right*). Chair people for the cleanup day are; Myron Holden - church cleaning, Daisy Wingert - monument cleaning, Eric Storjohann - straightening monuments, and Rich Urban - grounds. Bob Rickard declared, "My hearty, sincere appreciation for all the donated time and effort!"




THE NAME OF James G. Johnston is commemorated in Red Oak Grove Cemetery on the monument of his sister, Isabella Soper. James came to the U.S. in 1881, but returned to Scotland in 1884 to marry his fiancée, Hannah Hall. Sadly, there was no wedding; James became ill and died at 27. His grave is in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

SAVE THE DATE! It's not too early to mark your calendar for "Wreaths Across America" on Dec. 14, 2019, 11:30 a.m., at Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. This annual ceremony is a time to remember and honor the veterans interred and commemorated in our cemetery. In our busy lives, we need to take some time to be grateful to those who dedicated their service for all the freedoms that we enjoy today.

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.org  Facebook: redoakgrovechurchandcemetery