

# Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 25

December 2019

## **Dec. 14 'Wreaths Across America' to honor 74 veterans**

On Saturday, Dec. 14, the fifth annual "Wreaths Across America" at Red Oak Grove Cemetery will begin at 11:30 a.m. The 74 veterans buried or commemorated will be remembered in a brief service, and balsam wreaths placed on all markers.

The public is welcome. Wreaths honoring each branch of the military service and POWs, gift of founder Merrill Worcester, will be placed on easels in the church.

The 74 veterans represent the War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Tipton's VFW Post 2537, American Legion Post 1234, and Scout Troop 76 will participate. The new angelus bell will accompany reading of the veterans role of honor. A rifle salute and Taps will end the ceremony.

Coffee and cookies will be served in the church basement after the outdoor events. Daisy Wingert is organizer of "Wreaths Across America" at Red Oak Grove. The observance is nationwide.



*Pitt Herrington lived at Red Oak Grove as a child. He received the Medal of Honor for bravery in the Civil War.*



## **Soon 100 years old**

Ground was broken in 1920 for the Red Oak Grove Church building, completed in 1921. The centennial will be celebrated at the May 17 Red Oak Grove Reunion. More history will be given in the next issue of the *Reporter*.

Opportunity to honor, memorialize loved ones

***Flowering and shade trees beautify new Valley Drive***

The new 600-foot concrete Valley Drive winds gracefully across the lower area between Red Oak Grove’s North and South cemeteries. This project began in 2016 with planting of two red oak trees in memory of Cecil Mathias, inside the Robert Cousins gate.

In 2017, tree planting along the proposed route of the drive continued with 13 pink and purple flowering crabapple trees. In 2018, the drive was put in by Soper Construction of Olin. This year, six additional crabapples and nine shade trees completed the plantings.

The shade trees are four blaze maples, two Princeton elms, and one each of red oak, northern hackberry, and State Street maple. All trees are from Hughes Nursery and Landscaping in Cedar Rapids. (Owners Tom and John Hughes have Red Oak Grove family roots back to 1837.)

The Cemetery Board this year introduced the Reforest Valley Drive project, inviting friends of Red Oak Grove Cemetery to donate a tree along the drive in memory or in honor of a loved one. Ten trees have been donated. Another 21 are already planted, but available for donation. For more information, call Cemetery Board president Bob Rickard, (563) 886-6018, or send an email to [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net).

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**In Memoriam: Recent interments at Red Oak Grove Cemetery**

**Gary Alan Thomson**, 77, of Newhall died Dec. 31, 2017. Funeral: Jan. 4, Newhall. Burial of ashes: Sept. 8, 2019. His brother Dr. Lee Thomson of Cedar Falls, gave a prayer at the graveside. Also surviving are his wife, Joanne Seitz Thomson, and three daughters.

**Robert James “Jim” Brennan**, 86, of Tipton died Dec. 8, 2018. Funeral: Dec. 13, 2018. Burial of ashes: Oct. 16, 2019. Among survivors are his wife, JoAnn Winslow Brennan, and three daughters.

**Edna Mae Hartley Nelsen Ehresman**, 102, of Tipton died Sept. 12, 2019. Funeral: Sept. 16, Tipton. Survivors include two daughters and a stepdaughter. Her husbands, Walter Nelson and Carl Ehresman, predeceased her.

**Diane Kay Landry Thomson**, 60, of Indianapolis, Ind., a native of Tipton, died Sept. 19, 2019. Funeral: Sept. 21 in West Des Moines. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

## Monetary Donors, December 2018 through November 2019

Ahrendsen, JoAnn, Mechanicsville

Albaugh, Connie, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of Don Albaugh*

Aquilani, Ric & Barb, Clinton

Arendsdorf, Ed and Karen, West Branch

*In memory of Franklin Gault*

Austad, John & Dianne

*In memory of Isaac Carl*

Baker, Kathie, Mechanicsville

Bridge Community Bank

Barglof, Bill and Pat, Bennett

Beckler, Merlyn & June, Tipton

Beckmann, Tom & Ruth, Tipton

*In memory of Vernon H. Beckmann,*

*In honor of Mary Beckmann*

Bolton, Duane & Judith, Tipton

Booth, GwendaPeachtree Corners, Ga.

Brandenberg, Laura, Tipton

Brennan, Joanne, Tipton

*In memory of Jim Brennan*

Brennan, Dick & Linda

*In memory of Mearl & Virginia Laing*

Brown, Wayne & Joan, Stanwood

Campbell, Paul, Tipton

Carl, Larry, Des Moines

*In memory of Robert F. Carl*

Chambliss, Diane, Tipton

*In memory of Ronald L. Chambliss*

Clark, Ruth, Tipton

Crowley, Pat, Tipton

*In memory of Jack T. Crowley*

Densmore, Diane, Johnston

*In memory of H. Lee & Muriel Miller*

Duncan, Neil & Kara, Darien, Conn.

*In honor of Robert Rickard*

Dusheck, Kay, Anamosa

*In memory of Isaac Carl*

Dykstra, Dennis & Linda, Tipton

Edwards, Larry & Fae, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of Alice & Tom Edwards*

Eggert, Brett, Tipton

Ehlers, Shirley, Tipton – *In memory of*

*Robert Ehlers and Richard & Anne Thomson*

Eichhorn, Gary, Tipton

Eliason, Linda, Tipton

*In memory of Donald & Mary Challis*

Fear, Glenn & Ellen, Tipton

Flory, Hobart & Terry, Stanwood

*In memory of Elmer Flory*

Gault, Donna, Tipton

*In memory of Franklin Gault*

Gadelmann, Shirley, Clarence

Gesling, Roberta, Tipton

Goetz, Mike & Denise, Tipton

Hanon, Larry, Tipton

Hargrave, Julie, Tipton

Harmsen, Dennis, Iowa City

*In memory of Harold & Dorothy,*

*and Maryann Harmsen*

Harmsen, Kevin, Tipton

Harmsen Steve & Beverly, Papillion, Neb.

*In memory of Harold & Dorothy Harmsen*

*and Maryann Harmsen*

Harmsen, Tom & Teresa, Norwalk

*In memory of Harold & Dorothy Harmsen*

*and Maryann Harmsen*

Harris, Betty, Frankfort, Ky.

*In honor of the Rickard family*

Hegarty, John & Kay, Swisher

*In memory of Donald & Frances Hegarty*

Hegarty, Joanne, Stanwood

Herring, Ken & Carolyn, Tipton

Herring, Mike & Brenda, Mechanicsville

Holets, Robert & Glenda, Tipton

Hopper, Jenny, Dunwoody, Ga.

*In honor of Robert Rickard*

**Page 2 – Monetary Donors, 2019**

Huebner, Velma, Clarence

*In memory of Orval Huebner*

Hughes, Tom & Megan, Cedar Rapids

Hughes, John & Hillary, Cedar Rapids

Johnson, Mark & Susan, Tipton

*In memory of Virtus and Mark Reiling*

Kaufmann, Jeff & Vickie, Wilton

*In memory of Samuel Yule*

Keller, Dean & Leslie, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of Max & Judy Keller*

Kern, Bruce & Myrl Ann, Mechanicsville

*In memory of Clarence & Vesta Kern*

Ketelsen, Margaret, Tipton

Knepper, Cathy, Kensington, Md.

*In memory of Robert Frick Dee*

Knutsen, Geme & Connie, Mechanicsville

*In memory of Walter Chappell, Ed & Emma*

*Meyers, Roland Meyers, and Ed Ross*

Kooistra, Jeff & Holly, Gretna, Neb.

*In memory of Clifford & Marilyn White*

Kuhnle, Bob & Joyce, Marengo

*In memory of Diane Landry*

Kuhnle, Joyce, Marengo

*In memory of Vernon & Verna Kimberling*

Laing, Dan & Kathy, Tipton

*In memory of John H. Laing*

Laing, Jeff & Tari, Tipton

*In memory of Mearl Laing*

Laing, Larry, Tipton

*In memory of John Laing*

Laing, Mark, Stanwood – *In memory of grand-  
parents James & Lila Laing and great-grand-*

*parents Bill & Mary Laing*

Laing, Merlin, Tipton – *in memory of John H.*

*Laing, Marie Ardith Laing, and Joyce Laing*

Laing, Mike & Marlo, Riverside

Laing, Ronald, Tipton

*In memory of John Henry Laing*

Licht, Dennis & Karen, Carmel, Ind.

Mathias, Larry & Sheri, St. Charles, Ill.

*In memory of Norma, Cecil, and Randy Mathias*

Mathias, Ron & Carol, Davenport

*In memory of Cecil and Randy Mathias*

Meyers, Alecia, Stanwood

Moreland, Ron & Sandi, Lisgon

Moylan, Marty, Tipton

*In memory of Don & Mary Challis*

Oberfrank, Drew, North Liberty

*In memory of Betty Rickard*

Olson, Colleen, Windsor, Conn.

*In memory of George Carl Straub & Evelyn*

*Gaul Straub*

Ovel, Steven & Susan, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of Don Weih & Virginia Bolton*

*Weih*

Penningroth, Mark, Tipton

Quinn, Shelly, Tipton

Regennitter, Kim, Tipton

*In memory of Rick Rochau*

Reiling, Joanne, Clarence

Rickard, Bob & Barb, Tipton

*In memory of Betty Rickard*

Rickard, Darren & Wendy, Greeneville, S. C.

*In honor of Robert Rickard*

Rummells, Larry & Susan, West Branch

Schmidt, Roger & Gloria, Clarence

Schmidt, Pam, Norway, Iowa

Schroeder, Don, Olin

*In memory of Clarence Koontz*

Schroeder, Scott & Diane, Mechanicsville

Simmermaker, Velma, Ames

*In memory of Alberta Dugger*

Smith, Keith & Virginia, Farmington, Mo.

Smith, Neil & Judy, Stanwood

Staton, Mack & Mary, Santa Barbara, Calif.

*In memory of Arthur & Grace T. Rigby and*

*Alice Rigby*

Sternberg, Richard, Roland

*In memory of Robert and Socrates Safley*

Stiff, Sharon, Tipton – *In memory of Don Stiff*

Stonerook, Marjorie, Tipton

*in memory of Ben Penningroth*

Storjohann, Eric, New Liberty

## **News notes from Red Oak Grove**

**PIE, ICE CREAM, HORSES** – Red Oak Grove’s ice cream social Oct. 6 raised over \$1,000 for “Wreaths Across America.” Daisy Wingert was organizer. Beside pie and ice cream, there were delightful buggy rides behind Dwight Hughes’ team of big, beautiful Percherons.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18** from 9 a.m. to noon will be Red Oak Grove’s annual cleanup day. Volunteers will be gratefully welcomed to make the church interior and the cemetery look their very best. And there’s free lunch, too! Please mark it on your 2020 calendar.

**A VERY WARM THANK YOU** to all donors of monetary or in-kind gifts to Red Oak Grove. In-kind donors are listed on Page 4. Monetary donors are on the special insert page – and also below, because there are too many names to fit on the insert! Truly, you are a blessing.

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### **Monetary donors – continued from insert page**

Stueland, Mark & Karen, Tipton

*In memory of Paul Stueland*

Stutzel, Ron & Bonnie, Tipton

*In memory of Mearl Laing*

Swift, James & Lori, Edina, Minn.

*In memory of Don Weih &*

*Virginia Bolton Weih*

Tate, Marsha, Muscatine

*In memory of Deane & Patricia Tate*

Tauber Frank & Lorraine, Iowa City

Taylor, Karen, Springville

Thomas, Dale, West Branch

Thomson, Joanne, Newhall

*In memory of Gary Thomson*

Tripp, David & Bev, Tipton

Troop, Jack & Jan, Green Valley, Ariz

Urban, Rich & Kiaya, Tipton

*In honor of Robert Rickard and*

*In memory of Betty Rickard*

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Weih, Jeffrey & Phyllis, Portland, Ore.

*In memory of Don Weih &*

*Virginia Bolton Weih*

Wharton, Dorothy, Cedar Rapids

*In memory of John Whiteley Davis*

White, John, Jesup – *In memory of*

*Clifford M. White & Marilyn White.*

Whitlatch, Keith, Stanwood

Williams, Lisa, St. Louis, Mo.

*In memory of Don Weih &*

*Virginia Bolton Weih*

Wingert, Ron & Daisy, Tipton

Woode, Roger & Tina, Lake Mary, Fla.

*In memory of Mearl & Marvel Woode*

Woode, Robert, Davenport

*In memory of Forest D. Woode*

Wurr, Julie, Washington, D. C.

Wurr, Anne, Petaluma, Calif.

*In memory of Alice Rigby*

\*

**End of monetary donors list**

## **In-kind donors, Dec. 1, 2018, through Nov. 30, 2019**

Lee Biene  
Linda Brennan  
Josh Crist  
Becky Crowley  
John Crowley  
Pat Crowley  
Family Foods, Tipton  
Pam Freet  
Sherry Hall  
Reece and Race Hall  
Mike & Brenda Herring  
Carolyn Herring  
Myron & Jan Holden  
Dwight Hughes  
Tom and John Hughes  
Jeff Kauffmann  
Margaret Ketelsen

Kris Kuehl  
Joyce Kuhnle  
Kelly Lamb  
Ron Lashmit  
Crystal Lavin  
Heather and Halle  
McCullough  
Lee Myers  
Steve Nash  
Drew Oberfrank  
Marilee Oldorf  
Andrew, Julie, and  
Isaac Ormsby  
Mark and Matt  
Penningroth  
Chris Pruess  
Shelly Quinn

Randy Redington  
Bob & Barb Rickard  
Kathy Schott  
Scott, Diane, and  
Noah Schroeder  
Deb Sjkora  
Eric Storjohann  
Troy, Ty, and Sydney  
Stutzel  
Karen Taylor  
Jenni and Addi Tholen  
Mary Thomas  
Dick Urban  
Rich & Kiaya Urban  
Ron & Daisy Wingert  
Roland Zimmerman

**THE RED OAK GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, Inc.**, comprises a historic church and perpetual care cemetery dedicated to its upkeep and preservation. 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 Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove was founded March 1, 1841, by ten immigrants from Scotland: John Chappell, Elizabeth Sturrock Dallas, Robert and Elizabeth Pirie, Robert Dallas, Miss Sarah Dallas (later Mrs. Elza Carl), John and Isabella Sturrock Ferguson, John Safley, and Samuel Yule. In 2007, the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association assumed care of the church building.

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:

Phone: (563) 886-6018 -- Email: [bbrick@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bbrick@iowatelecom.net)

U.S. mail: P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

Web site: [www.redoakgrovecc.com](http://www.redoakgrovecc.com) -- Facebook: [facebook.com/rogcc](https://www.facebook.com/rogcc)

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*Karen Safley Taylor, Editor*

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