

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 28

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

May 2021



On Aug. 10, 2020, the Tipton area and many other parts of Iowa were slammed by a destructive straight-line storm called a derecho, with winds exceeding 100 miles per hour for about 45 minutes. Red Oak Grove was relatively fortunate: the church was unharmed, and the only major tree damage was a large limb of a cedar tree that came down, knocking over three monuments. Many thanks to Mike and Brenda Herring (in above photo), who cleared away the limb, and to Eric Storjohann, who restored the monuments.

Red Oak Grove reunion back, without the potluck

On May 16, 2021, there will again be a Red Oak Grove reunion, after it was canceled in 2020. Because the threat of Covid-19 transmission continues, no potluck will be held (sorry!). The non-denominational service will begin at 11 a.m., with Pastor Ron Lashmit, historian Jeff Kaufmann, and Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association president Bob Rickard at the podium.

A very brief Cemetery Association meeting will be conducted at the end of the service. Face masks and sensible distancing in the pews are highly recommended, as not everyone has received the Covid vaccine yet.

Everyone is welcome at the service, whether or not they have connections with Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. We know people will miss the potluck greatly. An alternative suggestion: Bring a picnic lunch and lawn chairs, and eat outside. (This will work only if the day is fair, naturally!)

In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Barbara Ellen Birch Wallace, 84, of Tipton died Jan. 1, 2021, at Mechanicsville Nursing and Rehab Center. Funeral: Jan. 5 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Graveside service: Jan. 9. Survivors include her children: Michael, Billy, Robert, Deb, Merlin, David, Cynthia, and Kevin; siblings: Allan, David, Burton, Jerry, Elaine Harry, and Ellen Hitzler; 25 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Wallace was preceded in death by her husband William, son Colin Thomas, three grandchildren, seven sisters, and one brother.

Paul Buchmayer, 88, died March 19, 2021, at Solon Care Center. Visitation March 22, Iowa City. Private family services at Red Oak Grove. He was preceded in death by his wife of 17 ½ years, Clarice Rickard Buchmayer, and his second wife of 20 years, Peggy Lou Goff Buchmayer. Survivors include daughters Debbie Kinney and Wendy Vincent; five grandchildren; sister Dorothy Villhauer, and brother-in-law Bob Rickard.

LaVerne W. King Jr., 74, died March 28, 2021, at St. Luke's-UnityPoint Hospice in Cedar Rapids. Graveside service with military honors April 1 at Red Oak Grove. Survivors: his son Richard King of Clarence, six grandchildren; a sister, Bonnie Clausen; and four brothers: Sanford, Allan, Roger, and Tom. Mr. King was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Honey War participant buried at Red Oak Grove

John Wright Brown (1811-1901), who is buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery, was a member of the Iowa Territorial Militia in the Honey War. Many Iowans and Missourians are unaware of this small paragraph in history. Cemetery Board member Daisy Wingert made this discovery.

The “war” was a boundary conflict between Iowa Territory and the state of Missouri. The story is that Missourians felled some trees that contained honey bee nests, standing in the disputed area.

In December 1839, the “war” ended. No guns were fired, and no blood shed. But disagreement over the

border continued until 1851. A new survey was done, and Iowa’s claim prevailed.

At the time of the Honey War, Brown and his family were living in Davenport, Iowa. In February 1841, he and his family moved to Red Oak Grove Township, Cedar County. Brown died March 19, 1901, three days before his 90th birthday.

John’s wife, Mary Cook Brown, died in 1884. The couple had 11 children, but only three sons - Ebenezer C., Fred F., and Charles E. - survived John. John and Mary were both natives of New York state.

Did You Know that there was also a Red Oak Grove Methodist Church? It was founded in 1867 under the leadership of Elias Skinner. The church building, just west of the Wald railroad depot, was sold in 1910. It was moved to a farm just east of Wald, at that time owned by August Schroeder.



Other damage done by the Aug. 10 derecho that swooped down on Red Oak Grove: The cistern pump near the southwest corner of the church was uprooted. The pump has been set back in place; it will be preserved for its historic value, although the cistern will be filled in this year. (Another derecho damage photo on Page 1)

Another Little family also lived at Red Oak Grove

The December 2020 issue of the *Red Oak Grove Reporter* contained a story about Francis “Frank” Little, who lived at Red Oak Grove. Thanks to the research of Hugh Ferguson of Friendswood, Texas, we know that another Little family also lived there.

Frank’s older brother, **Joseph Little** (1827-1893) came from Bedford County, Pa., about 1866. Frank and his family had arrived from Carroll County, Ill., sometime before the 1870 census, possibly at the same time as the Joseph Little family.

Joseph’s wife was Mary Ann Drollinger. One of

their daughters, also named Mary Ann (nickname “Mane”), married James Ferguson. After his death in 1897, Mane married a widower, Alford S. Safely. He was the great-grandfather of Bob Rickard, president of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association.

Joseph and Mary Drollinger had 11 children; the youngest four were born at Red Oak Grove. Their third child, Florence Little (1859-1931), was a rural school teacher for 40 years. She is buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery, as are her parents.

Projects for 2021: filling in cistern, drilling first well

The 2021 projects at Red Oak Grove will be filling in the old cistern and drilling a well -- the first one Red Oak Grove has ever had. Water for the church’s kitchen and bathroom has always been piped from the former manse, just north of the church.

A cistern provides a system for catching rainwater. This water is not safe for drinking or cooking, but acceptable for watering trees and other plants in the cemetery.

More information on the two projects will be reported in the December 2021 *Reporter*.



Volunteers who helped at the annual Red Oak Grove cleanup day April 24 enjoy a Subway sandwich lunch outside the church, after the inside and outside work was done. The group includes (not in order) Sherry Hall, Mike and Brenda Herring, Myron and Jan Holden, Mark and Matt Penningroth, Bob Rickard, Scott and Noah Schroeder, Nancy Stewart, Rich and Dick Urban, and Daisy and Ron Wingert. They had a beautiful, warm spring day for the work.

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.

The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc., is a 501(c)(13) organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

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
E-mail: bbrick@iowatelecom.net
Mail: P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

Our web site: www.redoakgrovecc.com
Find us on Facebook: [redoakgrovechurchandcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/redoakgrovechurchandcemetery)