

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 31

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

December 2022

Wreaths Across America Will Honor Veterans on Saturday, December 17

Once again, the beautiful and serene background of Red Oak Church and Cemetery will host the bright evergreen wreaths with bold red ribbons, fresh from Maine, in honor of resting veterans for the December holidays. This is the 8th year that Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery will participate in this national event to honor and solemnly remember those who served so selflessly in the U.S. military over the years.

You are invited to the ceremony and celebration on Saturday, December 17 starting at 11:30 am. The theme for this year is, "Find A Way to Serve." Following the service, family and visitors will place a wreath at the headstone of each veteran. Out of respect



Thank You Veterans!

and honor, we ask that participants say the veteran's name out loud and take a moment to thank him or her for serving. In this way, they will live on in our memories. A rifle salute by Tipton VFW Post 2537 and American Legion Post 123 with Andy Owen playing Taps will close the outdoor ceremony.

Cookies and hot drinks will be served afterwards in the newly updated basement fellowship area. Enjoy an opportunity to reminisce, chat with neighbors, warm up and eat a few cookies. We believe the original ten founders who settled in Red Oak would heartily approve of this community celebration!

The Annual Pie Social Fund Raiser Was a Huge Success

Wow, we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful fall day for the 2022 Pie Social festivities! The leaf colors were spectacular, the weather was sunny and warm, the pies were plentiful and delicious, and Dwight Hughes' Percheron horse team, Mark and Mike, were ready to frolic; entertaining visitors with jaunty wagon rides.

It was a record setting attendance, a record number of slices of pies eaten and a record setting day for generous donations to Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. Thanks to all who baked, brought, served and ate pies/ice cream and for your overall support. Jim Hansen of Stanwood donated beautiful, large, potted mums of all colors and they were sold on a "make a donation basis." They were purchased within a half-hour. Many guests toured the new bridal and groom changing rooms and saw the new heating/cooling systems that were completed last summer. Guests seemed to be impressed with these major improvements to the church.



Charlotte 'horsing around' with Mark/Mike

Weddings at Red Oak Grove

Levi Heath and Tessa Lukarsky, May 14, 2022.

Reece Hall and Klaudia Basierak, Sept. 3, 2022.

Rob Penningroth and Angie Chambliss, Sept. 17, 2022.

In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Chad Patrick Flory, 38, of Mechanicsville died April 30, 2022. Memorial service: May 9 at First United Church of Christ, Tipton. Survivors: his wife of over 14 years, Tracy O’Brine Flory; two sons, Declan, 7, and Lachlan, 2; parents, Hobert and Terry Flory; sister, Dana Flory; brother, Travis Flory; grandmother, Cuba Flory; and other relatives. Chad was a veteran of the Iraq War and a Purple Heart recipient.

J. “Kay” Neil Miller, 84, died May 18, 2022, at her Tipton home. Funeral: May 21 at First United Methodist Church, Tipton. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Marvin D. Miller; two daughters Kimberly Regennitter and Michelle Lehmeier; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dwight and Mildred Neil; sister, Linda Kiene; son-in-law, Rick Rochau; and grandson, Christopher Rochau.

Linda Marie Shaull Dykstra, 74, died June 7, 2022, at her home in Tipton. Funeral: June 11 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. Linda is survived by her husband of almost 51 years, Dennis A. Dykstra; daughter, Denise Dykstra; son, Jeff Dykstra; and brother, Randall Shaull. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marie and Leroy Shaull.

Neal H. Smith, 81, died July 22, 2021, at Unity Point-St. Luke’s Hospital, Cedar Rapids. Interment: June 20, 2022. No service was held, at his request. Survivors include his wife of almost 58 years, Judy Vahle Smith; son Craig; and daughter Carmen Smith. Preceding him in death were his parents, James H. and Evelyn Eilers Smith. His brother, Keith J. Smith, died in 2022.

Patricia Ann “Pat” Chambliss Parker, 74, of Cedar Rapids died Sept. 27, 2022, at Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids. Funeral: Oct. 1 at Fry Funeral Home, Tipton. She is survived by her husband of 31 years, Don Parker; daughter, Kelly Peterson; son, Patrick Parker; sister, Shirley Grunder; brother, Robert Chambliss; and five grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents, Gerald and Norma Chambliss; sister, Janet Chambliss; and brothers Ronald and Richard Chambliss.

Monetary Donors: Dec. 2021, through Nov. 2022

Steve & Mary Agne, Tipton

JoAnn Pearson Ahrendsen, Mechanicsville

Scott & Karen Anderson, Tipton

Ric & Barb Aquilani, Clinton

In memory of Franklin Gault

Ed & Barbara Archer Stanwood

Edward & Karen Arensdorf, West Branch

John & Diane Austad, Marion

Bridge Community Bank, Mechanicsville

Bill & Pat Barglof, Bennett

Steve & Rita Becker, Stanwood

In memory of David E Becker

Tom & Ruth Beckmann, Tipton

In memory of Vernon & Mary Beckmann

Phil & Phyllis Benge, Tipton

Charlene Bixler, Lowden

In memory of Charles William Findlay

Duane & Judy Bolton, Tipton

Laurie Brandenburg, Tipton

JoAnn Brennan, Tipton
 Dick & Linda Brennan, Tipton
In memory of Mearl & Virginia Laing
 Wayne & Jo Brown, Stanwood
In memory of Roland Zimmerman
 Denny & Marilyn Carney, Tipton
In memory of Ronald & Dorothy Anerson
 Diane Chambliss, Tipton
In memory of Ron Chambliss
 Krista Clark, Tipton
 Jim & Mary Clark, Tipton
In memory of Bob & Evelyn Clark
 Tom Crowley, Mechanicsville
In memory of Carolyn & Jack Crowley
 Pat Crowley, Tipton
In memory of Jack Crowley
 John & Carol Crowley, Tipton
In memory of Jack T Crowley
 Diane Densmore, Johnston
In memory of H Lee & Muriel Miller
 Kay Dusheck, Anamosa
In memory of Marshal Dusheck
 Dennis & Linda Dykstra, Tipton
 Linda Eliason, Tipton
In memory of Donald & Mary Challis
 Jan Esbeck, Tipton
In memory of Gordon Esbeck
 Sharon Fall, Stanwood
 Glenn & Ellen Fear, Tipton
 Gail Fleming, Tipton
In memory of Gary L Fleming
 Hobert & Terry Flory, Stanwood
In memory of Chad Flory
 Jim & Patti Fonteyne, Tipton
 David Fulwider, Tipton
 Donna Gault, Tipton
In memory of Franklin Gault
 Shirely Gadelmann, Clarence
 GEICO, Washington DC
 Mike & Denise Goetz, Tipton
 John & Julianne Hall, Clinton
In memory of Harold & Dorothy Harmsen
 Sherry Hall, Tipton
 Wesley & Roberta, Hamdorf, Hiawatha
 Larry Hanon, Tipton
 Dennis Harmsen, Iowa City
In memory of Harold, Dorothy & Maryann Harmsen
 Larry Harmsen, Coralville
In memory of Harold, Dorothy & Maryann Harmsen
 Steve & Beverly Harmsen, Papillion, NE
In memory of Harold, Dorothy & Maryann Harmsen
 Betty Harris, Lexington, KY
In memory of the Rickard Family
 Richard & Karen Hass, Cedar Rapids
 Mike & Brenda Herring, Mechanicsville
 Ken & Carolyn Herring, Tipton
 Rosalyn Hill, Tipton
In memory of Harry & Anvy Spear & Gary Eichorn
 Robert & Glenda Holets, Tipton
 Velma Huebner, Clarence
 Merlin Hulse, Tipton
 Mark & Susan Johnson, Tipton
In memory of Virtus George Reiling
 Don & Barb Kaalberg, West Liberty
 Jeff & Vickie Kaufmann, Wilton
 Bruce Kern, Mechanicsville
In memory of Clarence & Vesta Kern
 Victor Kimberling, Mechanicsville
In memory of Verna Kimberling
 Kevin & Debra Kinney, Oxford
In memory of Paul & Clarice Buchmayer & Bernice Safley Sharp
 Todd & Shawn Kleppe, Tipton
 Fredrick & Susan Kline, North Liberty
In memory of Harry & Anvy Spear
 Cathy Knepper, Kensington, MD
In memory of Robert Frick Dee
 Karl & Cheyanne Kofmehl, Tipton
 Calvin & Kris Kuehl, Tipton
 Robert & Joyce Kuhnle, Williamsburg
In memory of Wayne Claud Ruzek
 Mark Laing, Stanwood
In memory of Great Grandpa Bill & Mary Laing
 Mark Laing, Stanwood
In memory of Grandpa James & Lily Laing
 Rose, Justine & Adrianna Laing, Wapello
In memory of James E Laing

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Dan & Kathy Laing, Tipton
In memory of John H Laing

Larry & Debra Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Laing

Jeff & Tari Laing, Tipton

Ronald Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Henry Laing

Rodney & Sharon Laucamp, Tipton

Phyllis Lenschow, West Branch
In memory of Elmer Flory

Denny & Karen Licht, Carmel, IN

Jeff & Cheryl Little, Tipton
In memory of Leroy & Ruth Ruchotzke

Ron & Carol Mathias, Davenport
In memory of Cecil & Randy Mathias

Nancy Mathias, Tipton
In memory of Randy Mathias

Penny Meyers, Tipton
In memory of Lee Meyers

Marcia Meyers, Tipton

Wally & Pat Moeller, Tipton
In memory of James Stolte

Lora Morrison, Lexington, KY
In memory of Betty Harris

Mary Lou Morrison, Emmetsburg
In memory of Washington Rigby

Marty Moylan, Tipton
In memory of Don & Mary Challis

Wayne & Ann Neville, Tipton

Sue Olseen, Tipton

Mark & Becky Penningroth, Iowa City

Shelly Quinn, Tipton

Craig & Kim Regennitter, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau

Challis Restoration, Clarence
In memory of Don & Mary Challis

James & Sharon Rice, Andalusia, IL

Bob & Barb Rickard, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard

Dan & Tamara Roberts, Tipton

Kirk & Babetta Ruchotzke, Overland Park, KS

Larry Rummells, West Branch

Alan Safley, Springville
In memory of Cecil Mathias

Roger & Gloria Schmidt, Clarence

Scott & Diane Schroeder, Mechanicsville

Don Schroeder, Olin
In memory of Carol Schroeder

Chris & Kiley Schultz, Tipton
In memory of Max & Ruby Phelps

June Seligman, Mechanicsville
In memory of James & Nora Fulwider

Lori Shreve, LeClaire
In memory of Veterans

Vella Simmermaker, Ames
In memory of Alberta Dugger

Craig, Judy, Corman Smith, Stanwood

Virgina Smith, Farmington, MO
In memory of Dr Keith J Smith

Mack & Mary Staton, Santa Barbbara, CA
In memory of Arthur, Grace & Alice Rigby

Richard Sternberg, Ames
In memory of the Safleys

Ken & Nancy Stewart, Tipton
In memory of R "Jimmy" Fell & Sally Christopherson

Sharon Stiff, Tipton
In memory of Don Stiff

Leroy & Cheryl Stolte, Stanwood
In memory of Jim Stolte

Eric Storjohann, New Liberty
In honor of Robert Rickard & Daisy Wingert

Mark & Karen Stueland, Tipton
In memory of Cletus Steffen & Paul Stueland

Ron & Bonnie Stutzel Tipton
In memory of Mearl Laing

Frank & Lorraine Tauber, Iowa City

Margaret Thomson, West Des Moines
In memory of Dick & Ann Thomson

Jack & Janis Troop, Green Valley, AZ
In memory of Gary Eichorn

Rich & Kiaya Urban, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard

Doug & Wendy Vincent, Windermere, FL
In memory of Paul & Clarice Buchmayer

Dorothy Wharton, Cedar Rapids
In memory of John Whitely Davis

Ron & Daisy Wingert, Tipton

Roger & Tina Woode, Lake Mary, FL
In memory of Mearl & Marvel Woode

Ann Wurr, Petaluma, CA

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

In-kind Volunteers, 2021-2022

The following individuals gave Red Oak Grove their work time and effort, knowledge and expertise, or loans or gifts of supplies/equipment. A hearty thank-you to all!

John & Mary Barnum	Mary Jo Heil	Drew Oberfrank	Eric Storjohann
Lee Biene	Brian Heil	Mark & Keith Penningroth	Karen Taylor
Mike Boyle	Mike & Brenda Herring	Paula Phillips	Mark Thumma
Marilyn & Denny Carney	Ken & Carolyn Herring	Chris Pruess	Dick Urban
Josh Crist	Jan Holden	Shelly Quinn	Rich & Kiaya Urban
Pat Crowley	Dwight Hughes	Bob & Barb Rickard	Wanda Whitmer
Family Foods	Jeff Kaufmann	Chris Sander	Ron & Daisy Wingert
Reece & Klaudia Hall	Kris Kuehl	Scott, Diane, & Noah	
Sherry Hall	Kelly Lamb	Schroeder	
Race Hall	Ron Lashmit	Sue Schroeder	
Jim Hansen	Steve Nash	Nancy Stewart	

Thank You, An Explanation

Many thanks to all the donors who help to keep Red Oak Grove a beautiful, unique and extremely well-preserved place. Without your generosity, we could not do it. You are appreciated! If you sent a gift and your name was not on the preceding list, your gift must have arrived after this issue of *The Reporter*, went to print around Dec. 1. Your name will appear on the 2023 list of monetary donors.

Calling All Creative Minds...

Use your imagination to finish a tale that the Red Oak Board begins! Annually, The “Our Iowa” magazine features the start of a whimsical short story and asks their readers to complete it. Two unique versions are chosen from the readers endings to the story that the magazine editor started; they appear in the holiday issue before Christmas. We are copying their clever idea. Here is a chance for The Reporter readers to do the same and our board will choose a version or two, to include in an upcoming issue of this newsletter. Those chosen will receive a treat from Tiffany’s Bakery in Tipton.

Background (and true story!): While remodeling the downstairs dining room and new wedding venue areas of the Red Oak Church in the summer of 2022, it was decided to make a groom’s changing area in a small obscure room located under the steps leading up

to the sanctuary. Basically, a door opened into a dark, concrete room that had a low/uneven floor. Contractors poured cement to raise the floor height. On that hot day in July, workers left the church having finished the new floor with the room’s four, old, cracking plaster walls INTACT.

Upon arrival for work the next day, much to the General Contractor’s shock, he found that a hole had been knocked out of the corner of one wall. The mysterious hole had jagged edges and measured about 18” x 18” x 6” thick. Low and behold, it led to another tiny room that was under the steps leading down to the dining room. Using a flashlight, he saw the room was empty except for the shattered wall debris that lay disheveled on the floor. Phone calls were made to the electrician, HVAC contractor, and Red Oak Board to see

Continued on next page...

who had knocked a hole in the wall and why. Everyone denied having done it and thought it was a prank question.

So, as with most mysterious true stories, minds start to race to fill it in. Who knew the old walls would soon be covered up? Who besides the board had a key to the church? What might have happened and who knocked out the hole and why? This was especially puzzling because only a few people knew the room



would be dry walled and they certainly did not know the exact day the contractors would do that part of the remodel. Take this scenario and run with it, giving us your wildest Sherlock Holmes tale! Tell us who created the hole, why he/she/they wanted into the secret chamber. Was there something that needed to be retrieved? If so, what was it and how long had it been there?

Here is the first paragraph of your tale:

“Having learned two days ago that work would soon be completed in the newly created groom’s room at Red Oak Church, it was now or never. We decided after waiting decades it was time to break through the 6” thick wall to recover our concealed bounty, hidden for oh so long! The breach was made ...”

Please write a 400-word maximum creative ending to finish this baffling story. We hope you have as much fun writing it as we will reading it. Send your response to: Mike Herring, 748 175th St, Mechanicsville, IA 52306.

For information about church rental, purchase of plots, or other matters pertaining to the church or cemetery, contact Robert 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.org

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

Mark Your 2023 Calendars So You Can Attend:

- **Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 22 at 9 am**
(email Bob if you can help-all hands welcome)
- **Annual Celebration/Reunion/Potluck – Sunday, May 21 at 11 am**
- **Pie Social – Sunday, October 1st at 1 pm**
- **Wreaths Across America – Saturday December 16 at 11:30 am**
(dress warmly)