

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 33

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

December 2023

Saturday, December 16, 2023: Wreaths Across America Will Honor Veterans

December is certainly a time for celebrations and we're inviting you to a VERY important one! We'll pay tribute to our Cedar County veterans at rest in this special event by placing live evergreen wreaths delivered from Maine, at the graves of those buried or commemorated at Red Oak Grove Cemetery! Following the service, family and visitors will place a wreath at the headstone of each veteran. Out of respect 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.

Please attend this honorary indoor/outdoor service on December 16th at 11:30 a.m. Dress warmly so you can join in the wreath placement outside and stay for some delicious cookies, cocoa, and coffee after the service to chat with friends. Each wreath now costs \$17. Thanks to those who have donated to this worthwhile project; if you wish to donate, please mail a check to Bob Rickard, P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772.



Daisy Wingert orders the wreaths each year and grandson Race Hall helped her unload them at Red Oak last year.

Cedar County Certainly Has Talent



It's said that talent runs in families, but we wonder if volunteering does too? Last year for Wreaths Across America, a local family played a prominent role in the event. The Owens were involved with Jack in Scout Troop 76, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and handing out brochures, his mom Bridget sang, and dad Andy played *Taps* on his trumpet outside in honor of veterans that have passed.



Similarly, at the spring 2023 "Annual Celebration and Reunion" in May, the Boddicker families' musical gifts were generously shared. Dan sang solo plus in a duo with son-in-law Karl Kofmehl, and Dan's wife Maureen's soprano voice rang beautifully throughout the church.

Pies and People Galore at the October Pie and Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

The fall day was crisp and clear and the pie and ice cream was scrumptious! Photos below show Dwight Hughes and horses Mike and Mark giving buggy rides. Pie cutting was fun and hectic with Barb Rickard, Wanda Whitmer, Kayla Kuehl, Kris Kuehl, Sherry Hall and Daisy Wingert (back to front) helping to serve them. Red Oak Grove Board Members Daisy Wingert, Scott Schroeder and Mike Herring, accepting free will offerings as others tasted pies.



In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Christina Vander Zee Betts, 33, Mechanicsville, Iowa was born Jan. 15, 1990 and passed away Sept. 17, 2023. Memorial services were held at St. John's Church of Christ in Clarence, Iowa. Her interment was held Oct. 16, 2023. She's survived by husband Mark Betts, parents John (Jennifer) Vander Zee and Johanna (Scott) Sloan and many siblings and relatives. She rescued many pets in Cedar County.

Kenneth L. Herring, 90, Tipton, Iowa was born Jan. 17, 1933 and passed away May 10, 2023. Celebration of life was held the United Church of Christ, Tipton, IA, July 21, 2023. Interment at Red Oak will be held at a later date. He is survived by wife Carolyn, and sons Douglas (Patty) and Michael (Brenda) Herring and immediate family.

Christopher Troupe, 25 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa was born July 2, 1998 and passed away Sept. 30, 2023. His Celebration of Life was held at New Covenant Church in Cedar Rapids Iowa. The interment with military honors was held Oct. 22, 2023. His wife Kalynn and daughter Willow Troupe and parents Steven and Valerie Troupe and many other relatives survive him.

Ron Wingert, 84 of Tipton, Iowa was born Feb. 23, 1939 and passed away Oct. 16, 2023. Celebration of Life was held at Fry Funeral Home in Tipton, Iowa with Rev. Ron Lashmit officiating. Interment was Oct. 24, 2023. Immediate survivors are wife Daisy, and children Scott Wingert (Dawn), Shelly Quinn, Randy Wingert (Dee), Sherry Hall and Sara Ralston (Jeff).

Don Yule, 85 of Arbor Oaks, Florida was born July 8, 1938 in Brookings, South Dakota and succumbed to Parkinson's Disease Sept. 3, 2023. His interment was Sept. 18, 2023. Surviving immediate family members include wife Kathleen, daughters Kellie Grimes (Robert), and Stacy Ellison, and sons David (Gina) and Bill (Carri) Yule.

FYI-James Rice, of Andalusia passed away Nov. 20, 2022. James was born in 1940 and was buried in Rock Island National Cemetery. Jim married Sharon Laing in Red Oak church May 21, 1966. Sharon grew up attending Sunday School and Church at Red Oak for years.

Monetary donors: Dec. 1, 2022, through Nov. 20, 2023

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. 1st. Your name will appear on the 2024 list of monetary donors.

Connie Albaugh, Cedar Rapids

In memory of Don Albaugh

Angela Alsup, Austin, TX

In honor of Beverly Ferguson Stimson

Ed & Barb Archer, Stanwood

Tom & Ruth Beckmann, Tipton

In memory of Vernon & Mary Beckmann

Phillip Benge, Tipton

Charlene Bixler, Lowden

In memory of Charles Wm Findlay

Dan & Maureen Boddicker, Vinton

Harry & Terrie Bohn, Naperville, IL

In memory of Betty Rickard

Laurie Brandenburg, Tipton

Randy Breese, West DesMoines

JoAnn Brennan, Tipton

In memory of Jim Brennan

Wayne & Jo Brown, Stanwood

In memory of Roland & Donna Zimmerman

Gloria Burton, Gainesville, MO

Larry & Jan Carl, DesMoines

Continued on next page...

Dean & Ruth Challis, Wilton
In memory of Don & Mary Challis

Ron & Maggie Challis, Tipton
In memory of Don & Mary Challis

Jim & Mary Clark, Tipton
In memory of Robert & Evelyn Clark

Krista Clark, Tipton

Jo Ann Crock, Stanwood

John & Carol Crowley, Tipton
In memory of Harold, Dorothy, & Maryann Harmsen

John & Carol Crowley, Tipton
In memory of Jack T. Crowley

Diane Densmore, Johnston
In memory of H. Lee & Muriel Miller

C. Kay Dusheck, Anamosa
In memory of Marshal Dushek

Dennis Dykstra, Tipton
In memory of Linda M Dykstra

Shirely Ehlers, Tipton

Lynn Penningroth Emrich, Marion
In memory of William Penningroth

Jan Esbeck, Tipton

Hobert & Theresa Flory, Stanwood

Jim & Patti Fonteyne, Tipton

Donna Gault, Tipton
In memory of Franklin Gault

Shirley Geadelmann, Clarence

GEICO, Washington, DC

Jeffrey & Michele Gipson, Bennett
In memory of Ed & Jo Dietz

Richard Hall, Tipton
In memory of Ron Wingert

Sherry Hall, Tipton

Steve & Beverly Harmsen, Papillion, NE
In memory of Harold & Dorothy Harmsen and Mary Ann Harmsen

Allan & Barbara Haynes, Tipton

Joann Hegarty, Stanwood

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In memory of Donald and Frances Hegarty

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Gary & Linda Hein Waseca, MN
In memory of Archie & Ethel (Gritton) Safley

Carolyn Herring, Tipton

Mike & Brenda Herring, Mechanicsville

Rosalyn Hill, Tipton
In memory of Harry & Amy Spear

Velma Huebner, Clarence
In memory of Orval Huebner

John & Hillary Hughes, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Dwight & Hazel Hughes

Merlin Hulse, Tipton

Mark & Susan Johnson, Tipton
In memory of Virtus Reiling

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Jeff & Vickie Kaufmann, Wilton
In memory of Ron Wingert

Chris & Angela Keller, Tipton

Dean & Leslie Keller, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Max & Judy Keller

Bruce & Ann Kern, Mechanicsville
In memory of Clarence & Vesta Kern

Victor Kimberling, Mechanicsville
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Cathy Knepper, Kensington, MD
In memory of Robert Frick Dee

Gene & Connie Knutsen, Mechanicsville
In memory of Walter Chappell

Calvin & Kris Kuehl, Tipton

Robert & Joyce Kuhnle, Marengo

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

Mike & Marlo Laing, Riverside
In memory of Veterans of no known Descendants

Phyllis Lenschow, West Branch
In memory of Elmer Flory

Dennis & Karen Licht, Carmel, IN

Jeff & Cheryl Little, Tipton

Larry & Sherri Mathias, St Charles
In memory of Cecil, Norma, & Randy Mathias

Ron & Carol Mathias, Davenport

Marcia & Nelson Meyers, Tipton

Wally & Pat Moeller, Tipton
In memory of James Stolte

Marty Moylan, Tipton
In memory of Don & Mary Challis

Wayne & Ann Neville, Tipton

Drew & Naty Oberfrank, North Liberty
In memory of Andy Oberfrank & Betty Rickard

Susan Olseen, Tipton
In memory of Gordon D Olseen
 Susan Olseen, Tipton
 Steve & Susan Ovel, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Duane & Judy Bolton
 Camille Penningroth, Nipomo, CA
In memory of Kent Penningroth
 Mark Penningroth, Iowa City
 Craig & Kim Regennitter, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau & Kay Miller
 Joanne Reiling, Clarence
In memory of Virtus & Mark Reiling
 Bob & Barb Rickard, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard
 Sharon Rife, Simi Valley, CA
In memory of Marlin Rife
 Caryn Ringoen, Albert Lea, MN
In memory of the Yule Family
 Kirk & Babetta Ruchotzke, Overland Park, KS
 Pam Schmidt, Norway
In memory of Clarence Koontz
 Scott & Diane Schroeder, Mechanicsville
 June Seligman, Mechanicsville
In memory of James R Fulwider
 Vella Mae Simmermaker, Ames
In memory of Alberta Dugger
 Craig & Judy Smith, Stanwood
 Richard & Jean Sternberg, Ames
In memory of deceased Safley's

Ken & Nancy Stewart, Tipton
 Eric Storjohann, New Liberty
In memory of Ron Wingert
 Ron & Bonnie Stutzel, Tipton
In memory of Mearl Laing
 Marsha Tate, Muscatine
In memory of Wm Deane Tate & Patricia Tate
 Karen Safley Taylor, Springville
 Michael & Carol Thomann, Clarence
In memory of Mary & Don Challis
 Joanne Thomson, Newhall
 Bev Tripp, Tipton
In memory of J. David Tripp
 Rich & Kiaya Urban, Tipton
 Dr. John Vander Zee, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Christina Betts
 Doug & Wendy Vincent, Windermere, FL
In memory of Paul Buchmayer
 Jeffrey & Phyllis Weih, Portland, OR
In memory of Duane & Judy Bolton
 Dorothy Wharton, Cedar Rapids
 Daisy Wingert, Tipton
 Roberty Woode, Davenport
In memory of Forrest Woode
 Ann Wurr, Petaluma, CA
In memory of Alice Rigby

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

In-kind volunteers, 2022-2023

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 Barnum	Reece & Klaudia Hall	Kelly Lamb	Robert Sentman
Lee Biene	Race Hall	Ron Lashmit	Nancy Stewart
Deb Bixler	Jim Hansen	Ace Ordone	Eric Storjohann
Marilyn Carney	Brian & Mary Jo Heil	Andy & Bridgett Owen	Karen Taylor
Bob Crawford	Mike & Brenda Herring	Don Parker	Joanne Thomson
Family Foods	Carolyn Herring	Mark and Keith Penningroth	Mark Thumma
Boddiker Music Group	Dwight Hughes	Kelly Pirruccello	Scout Troop 76
VFW Honor Guard	Jeff Kaufmann	Shelly Quinn	Rich Urban
American Legion Honor Guard	Chris Kuehl	Bob & Barb Rickard	Dick Urban
Sherry Hall	Kayla Kuehl	Scott and Noah Schroeder	Wanda Whitmer
	Joyce Kuhnle	Sue Schroeder	Daisy Wingert

Take a Hike at Rock Creek Preserve

Cedar County has an incredibly old and historically famous barn that is located one and one-half miles west of the Red Oak Church. Starting at the trail head to the right of the entrance of Rock Creek Preserve, on Jackson Road, you can meander a bit uphill to find it. In about one mile, on your left, the old Samuel Yule barn and farmstead known as, “North Nib,” is tucked in the trees. This was the grand residence of Samuel and wife Serepta and second wife Mary Ann Yule. Samuel arrived in Cedar County in 1837 and was one of the seven Scottish founders of the new Red Oak Community, including Red Oak Church. The area was full of tree stands filled with Red, Black, and White Oak trees and Hickory trees. Maple trees weren’t far away and provided maple syrup to early settlers.

The Scots described the land as beautiful with first rate soil, rolling hills, and prairie lands with spring flowers that Samuel enjoyed identifying and possibly used for ailments. Deer grazed the area and mingled among the hardwood, wild cherry, crabapple, and plum trees and blackberries. Yule himself was a fiddler at local dances, an organizer of the church, school and traveling library and regarded

as progressive in his farming business. He was also part of the Freedom Trail, or underground railroad during the Civil War, hiding runaway slaves in his granary. For this deed, if caught, he could have been hung for the high crime of treason. Many of the Yule family are buried at Red Oak Cemetery.

Local historian Mike Boyle said, “The old farmstead has a way to humble you with its peaceful quietness albeit nature’s sounds can be heard amongst the dense vegetation. I recall Mr. Jeff Kaufmann sitting on these grounds and reflecting on its historic role in providing a safe haven for slaves seeking freedom from bondage.”

The Yule barn is one of the scenes painted on the Cedar County Freedom Rock. Artist, Bubba Sorenson, painted, in silhouette, the Yule barn over the left shoulder of slaves

on a dark night with their lit lantern. The Freedom Rock is on the Courthouse lawn on Highway 38 in downtown Tipton. As a further piece of history, Red Oak’s Pitt Herrington is also featured on the Freedom Rock. He is the civil war soldier leading the honor guard down main street, USA on the front of the rock.



For information about purchase of plots, church rental, the wedding venue, 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 is: www.redoakgrovecc.com • Find us on Facebook: [redoakgrovechurchandcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/redoakgrovechurchandcemetery)

Mark Your 2024 Calendars So You Can Attend:

- **Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 27 at 9 am**
(email Bob’s address above to help-all hands welcome; bring a friend too)
- **Annual Celebration/Reunion/Potluck – Sunday, May 19 at 11 am**
- **Pie Social – Sunday, October 6 at 1 pm**
- **Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 21 at 11:30 am (dress warmly)**

Please consider making a lasting legacy to Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. by asking your attorney to include, in your will, a final gift to the Red Oak Grove Association.