

Rock Prairie Cemetery

Halltown, Missouri

May 1, 2022

Memorial Week - May 23rd - 30th, 2022



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! This is a **Red-Letter Day** for Rock Prairie as we turn on and light up our beloved historic chapel at the Annual Association Meeting on Saturday, May 28th, at 2:00 p.m. Yes, you read it right . . . the power of the chapel can now be seen and heard! Please make plans to join us as we report on and close out the past year and set our sites on the work ahead for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year. All board members will be present and available to answer any questions you may have.

BUSINESS: Our six-member board of directors each serve three-year terms that expire in yearly rotations of two seats — this year, those two seats belong to Mike Pyeatt (2019) and Roxie Sharpe (2016). If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on the board, please submit your names to any board member in advance so all can be considered and voted on at the annual meeting.

REMEMBER! The chapel will be open for all to visit and enjoy every day starting Monday, May 23rd through Memorial Day, May 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Small veterans flags donated by members Frances Duvall and Ronnie Lawmaster will be available on the Chapel porch each day that week. Jerry Tuttle works hard at getting the cemetery ready for this special week, so be mindful of his schedule: Wednesday and Thursday mowings all spring, including Memorial week; then, again, two weeks later. Please retrieve your flowers before that first mowing after Memorial Day. If you have any questions or need to coordinate times to access the chapel, whether for flowers, flags, or just to visit, please contact me, Roxie Sharpe, at 417-234-4077.



Financial Overview As of December 31, 2021

	Donations	Interest	SubTotal	Expenses	Year End Total
Maintenance	\$ 7,620.13				
Endowment	\$ 4,450.00	\$4,744.69	\$12,364.82	\$(14,098.18)	\$(1,733.36)

Rock Prairie had a record-breaking year for donations, and it never seems to fail . . . when folks feel the pinch personally, they always remember the cemetery. So, THANK YOU for your continued and unwavering support. You are the reason our cemetery continues to be relevant and beautiful — a testament to your family legacies and values.

TREASURER’S STATEMENT: A main goal of the Rock Prairie Cemetery board is to maintain the long term solvency of the cemetery for future generations and be transparent. In the past few months we have spent some of the maintenance funds to add electricity and update the Chapel. The board feels this is a long term investment in the cemetery and the Halltown community. A yearly report of the cemetery funds plus an updated quarterly report will be presented at the annual meeting. If anyone has any questions, please contact Sherry Neeley at 417-827-0831.

REMINDER! Last year Rock Prairie Cemetery officially became a 501(c)3 charitable organization and our EIN changed. If you need a receipt or our new EIN, please let us know.

For your convenience, there are 3 ways to donate:



- By mail at: **P.O. Box 45 Halltown, MO 65664**
- By dropping your check in the mail slot at the chapel
- By credit card using the PayPal Donate button on our website: RockPrairieCemetery.com

POWER TO THE CHAPEL: The Chapel continued to reign supreme as plans to



get electricity installed moved forward. In October, Ozark Electric Cooperative removed the old oak tree directly behind the chapel next to the fence and replaced the old, rotted telephone pole in preparation for a new transformer and wires. Don Sharpe, Roxie Sharpe, and Jim Carson supervised the momentous occasion. The tree’s trunk will be dried out and eventually made into a keepsake item for the chapel for posterity.



After Josh’s beautiful work last year, we imposed on him again to help make the chapel ready for wiring. An electrician was consulted and Josh built a utility closet. Jim Carson coordinated the effort, and after 95+ years in the dark, the Chapel is humming with electricity — radiating light and warmth over the cemetery from dusk to dawn like a protective beacon guiding lost souls home.

CHAPEL HISTORY: We believe that the chapel was most likely built in the late 1800s as a schoolhouse because Lawrence county had replaced all log schoolhouses by 1880 and one-room schoolhouses with the same floor plan as our chapel (see below) sprang up in unused corners of various farms — our chapel was on the Stewart farm two miles south of the cemetery. We know it suffered one fire and was donated to the Methodist church by John Mack Stewart (1834-1906) for the favor of naming it Stewart’s Chapel. By 1920, Stewart’s chapel had been abandoned and was more

2021-2022 Rock Prairie Cemetery Association Board	
Jim Carson, President (2003)	Jerry Tuttle, Vice President (2014)
Roxie Sharpe, Secretary (2016)	Sherry Neeley, Treasurer (1997)
Josh Noggle, Sexton (2015)	Mike Pyeatt, Director (2019)



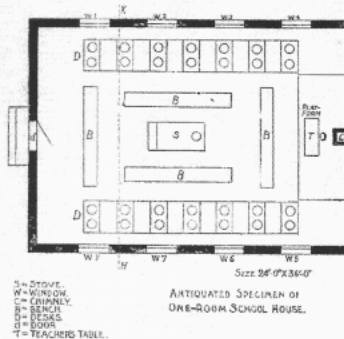
The headstone above is dated 1927, the year Amy Gaither died and the chapel was rolled to the cemetery on logs. Juxtaposed in the background, you can see the new pole sporting the new electrical service installed and ready to supply electricity to our Chapel after 95 years!

than suitable for Rock Prairie’s needs, so the board put together a committee to look into buying and moving the little chapel to the cemetery. Seven years and \$500 later, the chapel was rolled on logs to its current location. In 1998, sorely needed repairs were done before encasing the entire building in a protective metal housing. Now, in 2022, the chapel shines bright with lights illuminating its storied history — a tremendous milestone for our little cemetery!

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

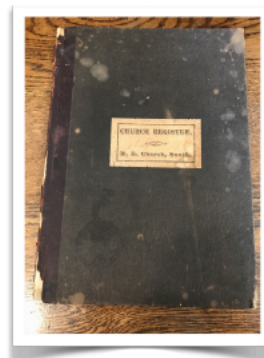
Section No. Figures Page 59 One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1978
State of Missouri

Figure 1: Example floor plans showing suggestions for modernizing existing one-teacher schools from *School Buildings: Plans, Specifications and Suggestions for School Buildings for Rural and Village Districts*. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Press, [c. 1911].



NOTE: The Methodist church Register dated 1893-1908 was found by Stewart Lee Richardson, great grandson of John Mack Stewart, and donated to the Lawrence County Historical Society several years ago. After discussing the history of the chapel at length with Stewart, he had a change of heart and felt that the book should be kept with the chapel. So, after some digging around the courthouse in Mt. Vernon, Stewart managed to retrieve the Register. It is his and his family’s wish that the Register be made a permanent part of the cemetery’s historical records. If scheduling permits, he plans to present this special gift to the board at this year’s annual meeting.

Thank you, Stewart Lee Richardson family!



CHAPEL: Our goal to make the chapel usable and attractive for our members and the community has become a reality. Funerals and functions will now have the lighting and power needed to ensure comfort and convenience. Music, microphones, slideshows, instruments, coffee, hot plates, computers . . . anything that plugs in and makes your function complete is now possible! Spread the word - the chapel is now polished up, powered up, and ready for funerals, celebrations, family reunions, special events, community meetings, etc. You will not experience a more beautiful funeral than one held at our chapel. The ambiance takes you back to a simpler time, creating a beautifully warm and intimate funeral followed by a slow and reverent walk from the chapel to the gravesite. Truly a fitting and memorable manner in which to say goodbye to your loved one.

BATHROOMS: The bathrooms also now have power and lights!

TRASH: Mike Pyeatt continues to provide FREE trash service and has become our on-site, on-call, instant security police patrolling the grounds on his way to and from work whenever things look amiss. Kudos to Mike!

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MO SALES TAX EXEMPTION: This year, Rock Prairie applied for and received a certificate for sales tax exemption from the State of Missouri! We will save 5.98% of every purchase by having this exemption.

VANDALISM: Mike Pyeatt twice reported vandalism in the form of graffiti on the workstations easily seen from I-44. Each time it was cleaned up, larger letters reappeared. We hope the vandals are deterred by our newly-lighted grounds and perhaps more so when the Veterans Memorial is erected because it, too, will fully light up the night sky.

VETERANS MEMORIAL/SCATTERING GARDEN: Jim Carson tells us that we are breaking ground on the Veterans Memorial this year. He continues to obtain bids and “pro bono” type donations. Also, we would like to display photos of our veterans in the chapel, so please submit your 5 x 7 or 8 x 10 photos in a simple, unobtrusive frame for this project.



RECYCLED FLOWERS! This is the last year for the Recycled Flowers project. We would like to clear them out of the chapel by Memorial Day. Please contact Roxie Sharpe, if you are in need of, or know someone who could use these flowers.

REMARKS, REMINDERS & TIDBITS

1. The days and weeks leading up to Memorial Day bring much activity by decorators and visitors to the cemetery. Courtesy and caution are requested when using the cemetery roads. Be mindful of others needing to get around you, and remember that some graves are closer to the road than they seem.
2. The wind often blows our beautiful flowers all over the cemetery, and we have no idea where they belong. They end up on the wrong headstone or in the chapel. Please consider attaching the headstone’s name and date to your flowers or saddle to ensure they get put back in the right place. Thank you!
3. We realize that the occasional instance arises when a vehicle must be driven into an area usually prohibited by the cemetery (i.e., extensive grave repair work, hauling off heavy headstones, etc.). We ask that a board member be notified and in attendance so that the risk of damaging other graves is negligible. Thank you for your kind cooperation.
4. Mike Pyeatt was made aware of a large, gaping hole in the ground in the New Part section. As always, he stepped up and made the necessary repairs immediately. The family was most grateful, as was the board.
5. Whenever there is a burial or headstone installation, we turn to Jerry Tuttle and his expertise in marking plots. This process must be done correctly so that spaces are always available as surveyed initially and sold. This is a job above and beyond the regular cemetery maintenance that Jerry does . . . a job that no one wants to be tasked with, so kudos to Jerry!
6. Don’t forget to contact Roxie Sharpe if you move or change your phone numbers or emails. We don’t want to lose touch!

Emails: Roxie@RockPrairieCemetery.com or RockPrairieCemetery@yahoo.com

417-234-4077 (call or text)

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DON'T FORGET!

AmazonSmile Generates Automatic Donations to Rock Prairie Cemetery

Follow these steps to make Amazon send Rock Prairie donations:

- Step 1: Go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device.
- Step 2: Login (you'll need to create one if you don't have an account).
- Step 3: After signing in, you will be directed to select (or change) your charity.
- Step 4: In the "Or pick your own charitable organization" enter "Rock Prairie Cemetery" then click "Search."
- Step 5: Click "Select" next to Rock Prairie Cemetery, and you will be redirected to the agreement page. Check the box next to "Yes" and click "Start Shopping."
- Step 6: You will be redirected to Amazon's homepage to help you add Amazon Smile to your toolbar. Adding a bookmark (or shortcut on your mobile device home page) reminds you to access smile.amazon.com before shopping.

That's it! You are now signed up for Amazon Smile! Just visit smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon.com to make sure a portion of the price of your eligible purchases gets donated to Rock Prairie! Unsolicited donations that just appear in the bank because we shopped — what could be better than that? Kind of like finding a quarter in a payphone or a ten-dollar bill in your coat pocket! This effort won't be worth the cost to print this sheet, if we don't all get on board and participate . . . but if we do . . . cha-ching!!!

If this is too daunting, or if you don't shop Amazon, please copy this sheet and give it to your kids and grandkids, neighbors, friends, and relatives or give me your list and I will send it out for you. You may reach me, Roxie Sharpe, at 417-234-4077 if you need help with this program. Thank you!

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