



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 44

Medina, Ohio

May 2021

Old Town's William Wallace

Old Town Graveyard, established 1818, sits a block east of the square and is Medina's oldest burial ground. Many of Medina's early settlers are buried there, including veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War and World Wars I & II. The last burial took place at Old Town in 1946. Many names on Old Town tombstones have faded away and the life stories of most of the folks buried there have also faded away as decades have gone by and families have passed on or moved away. One exception, however, is the tombstone and story of William Wallace, a Civil War soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice, and who is the great-great-great uncle of our own Friends of the Cemetery Trustee Rob Wilder. The 2018 Spring Grove Civil War Encampment and search for Civil War veterans buried at Spring Grove and Old Town is what inspired Rob to look further into the life of his Civil War soldier ancestor. Rob shares his Uncle Will's story below.

William Wallace's father, Robert Wallace (1807-1874), who was of the same Wallace Clan as William Wallace (Braveheart movie), emigrated to Medina from Scotland around 1820. His children included Nancy and William, however, both the 1850 and 1860 census list Nancy and William Wallace as being part of the Jeremiah Warner household,

William Wallace's tombstone at Old Town Graveyard and his Civil War rifle being held by ancestor Rob Wilder.

along with Cordelia Wells who will play a part in William Wallace's story later. It is not known why Nancy and William were not living with their father at the time of the censuses, but it is known that their mother had died and their father had remarried.

Nancy Wallace, listed in the Medina Village census of 1860 as a dressmaker, married John Hanchett, who fought in the Civil War (8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry), survived the war, and is buried in Michigan. Nancy and John's children included, Mary, who married Clare Tibbits and was my great-grandmother. We always referred to her as "Gamma Tibby." She lived on East Liberty Street when I was growing up. I just recently learned that Liberty Street was originally called Graveyard Road because Old Town Graveyard is located on it!

William Wallace, my great-great-great uncle, was born April 16, 1838. In the 1860 Medina Village census, Will was listed as "printer" which

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Medina, Ohio 44256

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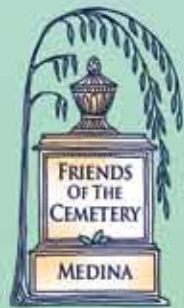
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could mean that he worked for the Medina Gazette (est. 1853). Four days before his 23rd birthday, Ft. Sumter was fired upon which began the Civil War. Uncle Will (he was actually Gramma Tibby's uncle) enlisted as a private on November 22, 1861, joining the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry of Logan County because Medina did not raise enough men at that time to have their own company. Will, along with 22 others from Medina County, ended up joining Company K and a similar number joined Company B, all of the 42nd OVI, led by Colonel James A. Garfield who later became the 20th President of the United States. The most notable battle for this regiment was the siege of Vicksburg, but Uncle Will did not survive that long. This regiment lost 240 men during the war, 59 to wounds and 181 to disease, including Uncle Will on February 19, 1863. His cause of death is listed as "camp dysentery," probably typhoid. He could have been saved today by IVs and antibiotics. Will was actually discharged in Memphis, Tennessee on a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability and made it back to Medina. It is not known how he made it home to Medina, nor if that hastened his death. He died at the home of Hiram Rice who ran a shoe business in Medina and Wellington and was married to Cordelia Wells mentioned above. Uncle Will was interred at Old Town. His father, Robert, followed him in death 11 years later and is buried right next to him.

Above the piano, where I practiced as a child, was a daguerreotype of Uncle Will in uniform, holding a musket. I, and some others, have used that musket to play Austin Badger in performances of Spirits of the Past, standing in Old Town Graveyard!

Editor's Note: Rob wishes to thank the Medina County District Library genealogy staff for their help in researching the Wallace family.

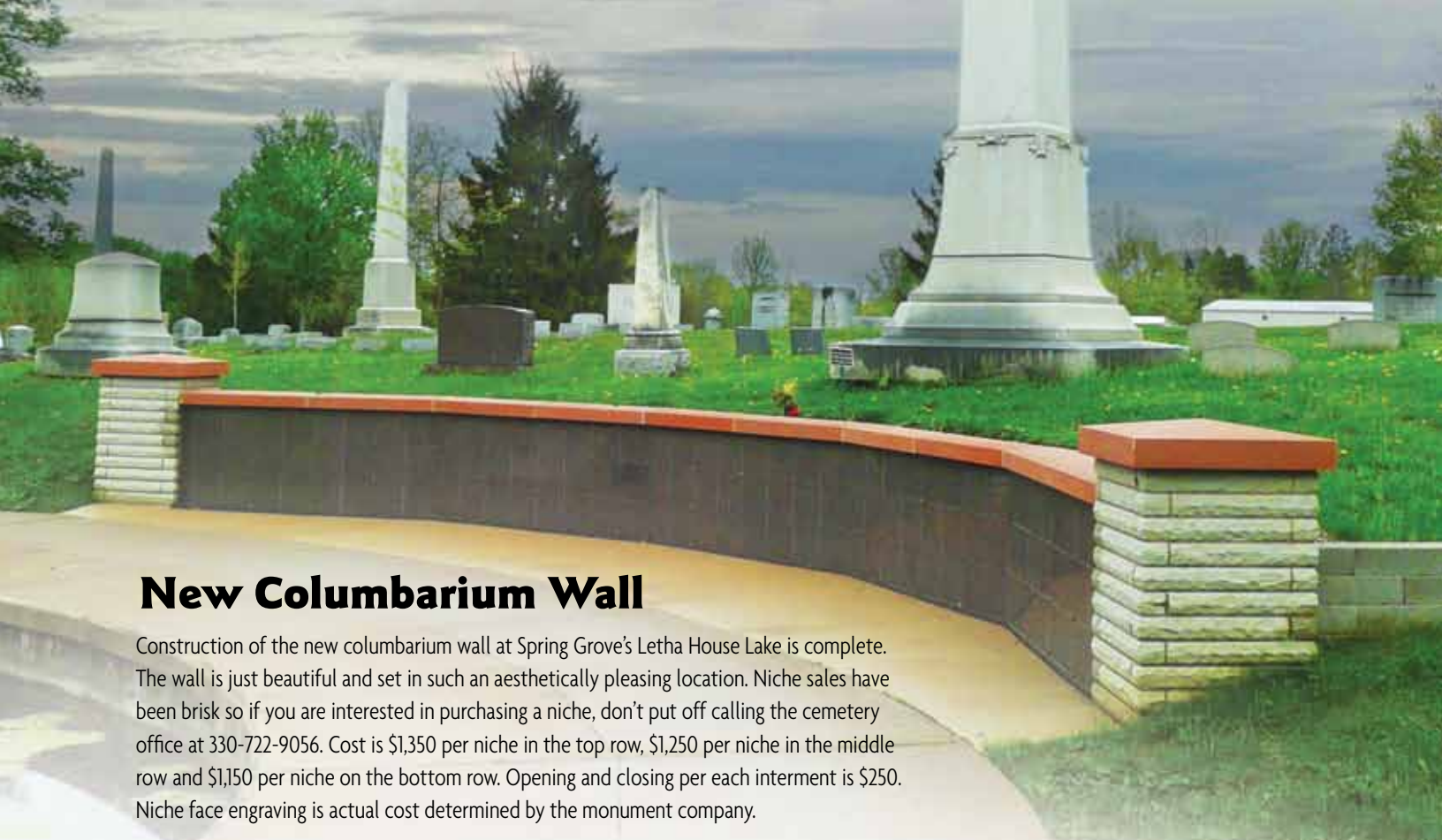
If any of our readers have relatives buried at Old Town, please let us know by emailing info@friendsofmedinacemetery.org – we'd love to hear your ancestor's story!

How appropriate William Wallace's story is as Memorial Day 2021 approaches. We honor William Wallace's service to our country and all our Medina veterans laid to rest at Old Town Graveyard and Spring Grove Cemetery. Sadly, due to continuing concerns about public gatherings, the City of Medina has cancelled the 2021 Memorial Day parade and the ceremony that traditionally follows at Spring Grove Cemetery. Even though the parade and ceremony will not take place, Boy Scout Troops 501, 507, 3508, 5137 and Girl Scout Troop 91646 are making sure the graves of each veteran at Old Town and Spring Grove receive a U.S. flag for Memorial Day. We thank and appreciate these young people, along with their troop leaders and organizer Bob Fenn, for coming out each year to perform the special service of flag planting to honor our veterans!

Upcoming FOC Events:

Friends of the Cemetery Member Meeting: All Friends of the Cemetery members are invited to our annual member meeting on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm at the chapel at Spring Grove. We will review the past two year's accomplishments since we didn't get to meet in 2020 and take a look at what's planned for the future. We look forward to seeing all our members there!

Spring Grove Arboretum Tree Walk: Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 1 pm – 4 pm. Meet at the Amos Mears Memorial Building at the east end of the cemetery (access from Rte. 18) to pick up a tree walk map. We look forward to seeing you there!



New Columbarium Wall

Construction of the new columbarium wall at Spring Grove's Letha House Lake is complete. The wall is just beautiful and set in such an aesthetically pleasing location. Niche sales have been brisk so if you are interested in purchasing a niche, don't put off calling the cemetery office at 330-722-9056. Cost is \$1,350 per niche in the top row, \$1,250 per niche in the middle row and \$1,150 per niche on the bottom row. Opening and closing per each interment is \$250. Niche face engraving is actual cost determined by the monument company.

Baby Section Spring Clean-up

Saturday, May 1 was a beautiful day for the Oddfellows to prepare the Baby Section for the spring/summer season. There was a great turn-out of 16 workers! We so appreciate the Oddfellows' dedication and long-time commitment to the beautification and maintenance of

the Spring Grove Baby Section. We also want to thank the Bob & Meme Bubnick family for providing coffee and donuts to the Oddfellows work crew. The Bubnicks have been doing this for a number of years.



Trustee Linda Fenn Resigns

After serving on the Friends of the Cemetery Board since 2010, Linda Fenn tendered her resignation in April. A long-time Medina resident and school teacher, Linda brought to the FOC Board a great knowledge and love of all things Medina. She has been an integral part of many important decisions and advances our organization has made in the past decade. Linda always carefully deliberated on

matters that came before the Board and could be counted on to attend and participate in every meeting and special event the Friends put on or were involved in. Linda also spent many years serving the community as a member of the Medina City Cemetery Commission. We will miss her smile and cheerful demeanor at our Board meetings but wish her and husband Bob the best in the future!

Spring Grove Drainage Project

This past spring, the Friends of the Cemetery contracted with Belsole Groundworks in the amount of \$22,251 to rectify drainage issues in Sections 11 & 12 and the nearby corners of Section 1, 16 & 18. This area is located near the mausoleum along the Rte. 18 side of Spring Grove. We are very pleased to have this particular drainage project completed, however much more drainage work is needed as Spring

Grove Cemetery has long suffered from standing water and poor drainage, especially during the spring when the winter snow melts or during prolonged rainy periods. The Friends, in accordance with the Spring Grove Master Plan, are committed to continue to tackle the remaining existing drainage issues at Spring Grove.

It's Official!

Spring Grove is Medina County's first and only accredited arboretum.

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program awarded Spring Grove Level II accreditation this past spring. With this prestigious designation Spring Grove is now recognized as an arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens! You may visit Spring Grove's listing on the Morton Register at: arbnet.org/morton-register/spring-grove-cemetery .



Spring Grove Arboretum is the result of a partnership between the Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina that spans over two decades of maintaining, preserving and planting trees and developing gardens at Spring Grove. The mission of Spring Grove Arboretum is to provide public access to green space through outreach and education of the historical and cultural importance and preservation of our valuable trees, shrubs and woody plants.

In May the Friends funded \$7,714 for the purchase and planting of 15 new trees at Spring Grove Arboretum. The varieties of species include European Hornbeam, Yellowwood, Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, Witchhazel, Amur Maackia, Swamp Chestnut Oak,

Chinkapin Oak, Great Wall Peking Lilac, Accolade Elm, Dark Tower Viburnum, two Shumard Oaks and three River Birch. All of these selections are new species to the Spring Grove collection, bringing the total of diverse species at Spring Grove to 81. We have hopes of reaching 100 species in the next year.

Thirty permanent arboretum tree signs were installed at Spring Grove this spring. These signs replaced the temporary signage that was at each of the 30 trees highlighted on last October's Tree Walk. We thank Trustees Jerry Gunner, Paul Wood, Karen Thorn and FOC member, Becky Shotwell, for their hard work placing these signs at each tree. Plans are to highlight another grouping of Spring Grove trees this coming October for the Spring Grove Arboretum Tree Walk. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 9, 2021 (1-4 pm) for a beautiful fall walk that will include tree information and professional advice along with giveaways and a scavenger hunt for the kids.

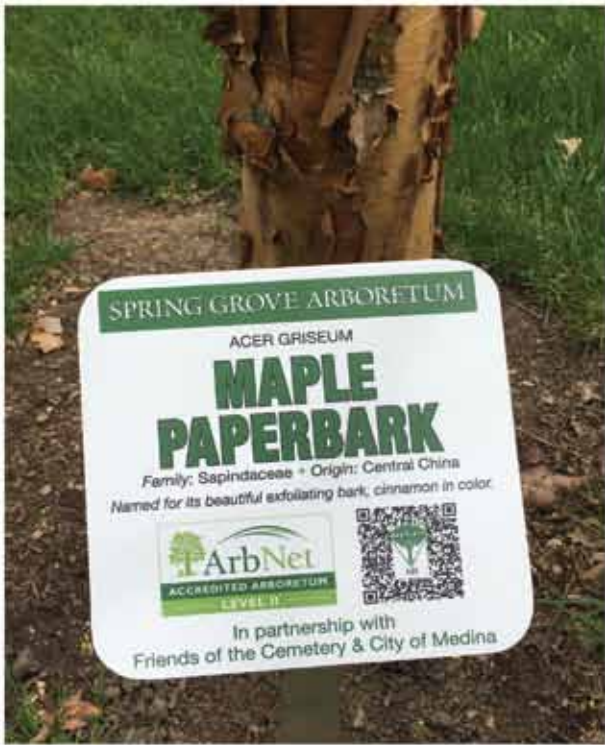
Regarding the education outreach facet of our arboretum's mission, we hit the ground running! In celebration of Arbor Day in April, the Friends of the Cemetery collaborated with Medina City Schools to produce a video for the district's 3rd graders to introduce them to Spring Grove Arboretum and to the importance and appreciation of trees. The video also instructed the 3rd graders on how to plant the seedling each one received from the annual Medina Kiwanis seedling giveaway. You may access this video through our website at <http://www.friendsofmedinacemetery.com/visit/spring-grove-arboretum>. Huge thank you's go to Medina City Schools' Jim Shields, Brian Condit, Jarrod Fry and Miles Reed and to our video star, Chad Clink of Bartlett Tree! We had a further education outreach opportunity when we showcased the Spring Grove Arboretum by participating in the Medina Community Recreation Center's Earth Day event on April 24.



Spring tree planting - by Bartlett Tree's Greg, Patrick & Chris.



Jerry Gunner, Karen Thorn and Paul Wood at the MCRC Earth Day Event.



Paul Wood & Jerry Gunner place permanent tree signs at Spring Grove Arboretum

National UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Network to Freedom

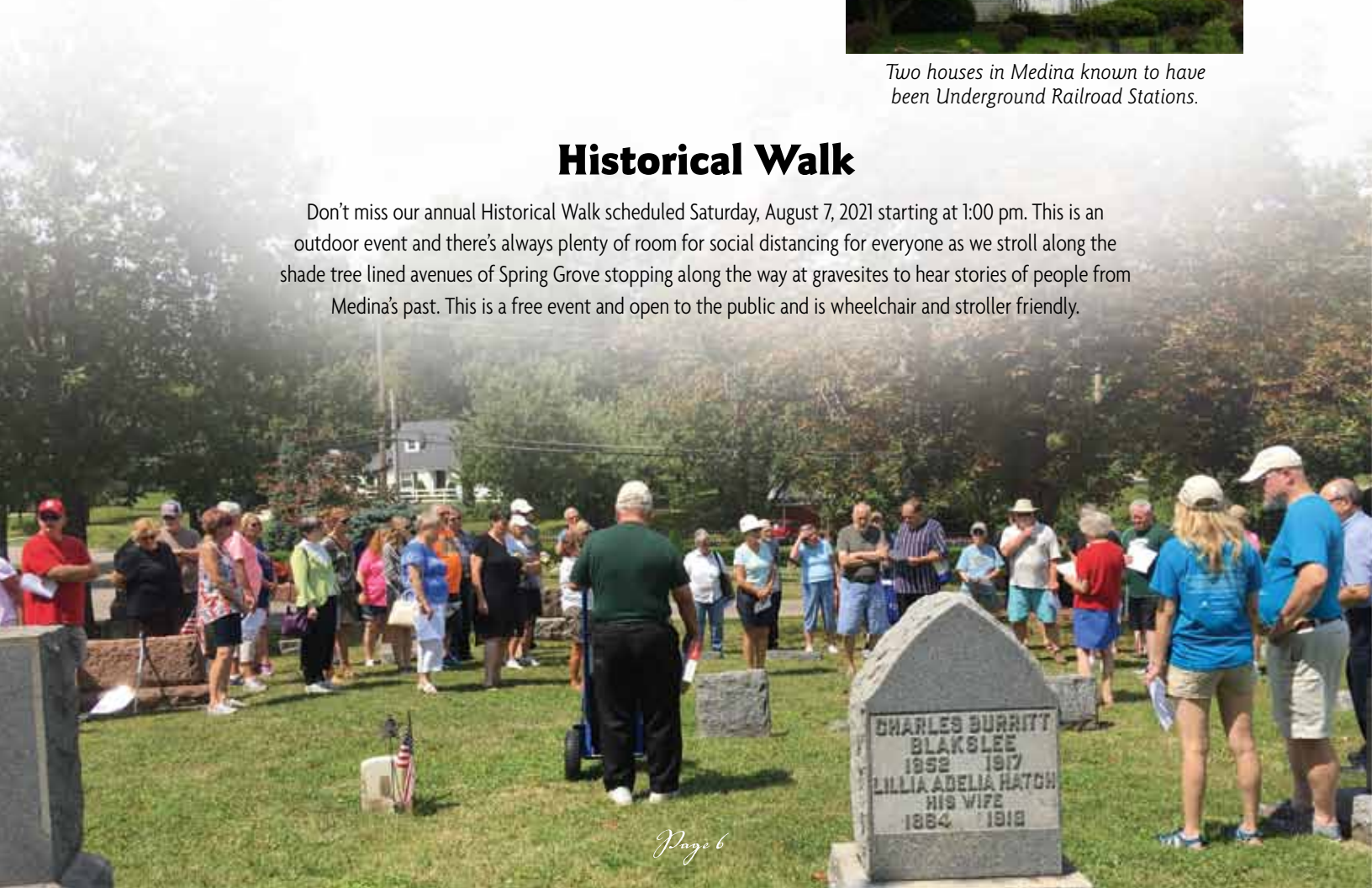
Efforts are underway to research people buried at Spring Grove Cemetery who had verifiable connections to the Underground Railroad and American Abolitionist Movement, including freedom seekers and/or descendants of freedom seekers. The Friends plan to apply to the National Park Service to nominate Spring Grove as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site. The National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom serves to "honor, preserve and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight." Medina has a rich history and played a significant role in the Underground Railroad and American Abolitionist Movement during the mid-to-late 19th century and Spring Grove is the final resting place for some of those good people who were conductors or stationmasters in the Underground Railroad and abolitionists and sympathizers who aided, guided, hid and financially supported the freedom seekers.



Two houses in Medina known to have been Underground Railroad Stations.

Historical Walk

Don't miss our annual Historical Walk scheduled Saturday, August 7, 2021 starting at 1:00 pm. This is an outdoor event and there's always plenty of room for social distancing for everyone as we stroll along the shade tree lined avenues of Spring Grove stopping along the way at gravesites to hear stories of people from Medina's past. This is a free event and open to the public and is wheelchair and stroller friendly.



Friends of the Cemetery

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 ◊ designates corporate member

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Janet Fiore	Jim & Joan Krejci	David Smead
Kathy Gerhart	Jeanne Pritchard	
Patrick & Karen Harrington	Michael Short	

New Lifetime Members since December 2020:

Brad & Kathryn Root

In Memory Donations

in Memory of Don Simmons

Ron and Cathi Carmany



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

Become a Friend of the Cemetery

If you have not yet joined the Friends of the Cemetery, we'd love to have you become a part! For your convenience, we have provided a self-addressed envelope in this newsletter. Our membership schedule is included on the envelope flap. If you have been a member in the past, but do not see your name listed on page 7, please take time today to renew your membership using the envelope.

"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the law of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."

William Gladstone

Don't forget to check us out on the web at:

www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org



Memberships are available as follows:

Senior _____	\$10.00	Supporting _____	\$100.00
Individual _____	\$15.00	Heritage _____	\$250.00
Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
Contributing _____	\$50.00	Corporate _____	\$1,000.00

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Membership enclosed _____

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