



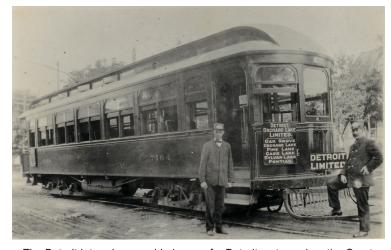
Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

# New Outdoor Exhibits at Orchard Lake Museum

Two new Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibits were installed last fall by Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) at Orchard Lake Museum. Along with the Green School Bell outdoor exhibit, an Apple Island outdoor exhibit panel was unveiled during the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society's 45th Anniversary Open House on September 8, 2019

(continued on page 3)





The Detroit Interurban provided a way for Detroiters to explore the Greater West Bloomfield area at the beginning of the 20th century..



## Oakland County Celebrates 200 Years in 2020

2020 is Oakland County's bicentennial year, and there will be lots of opportunities to explore the area's history. Visit oakgov.com/bicentennial/Pages/events.aspx for a list of events across the county in 2020, including some special GWBHS programs! Check out our Then & Now – Our Four Communities (1820-2020) events on April 22 @ 7pm (presentation at West Bloomfield Library) and April 28 (bus tour registration through wbparks.org).

## Save the Date!

Annual Meeting & Better Made
In Michigan Presentation
Saturday, January 25, 2020 • 10am-noon
Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Rd.
Dining Hall, Bldg. 15

Annual meeting with a presentation by Karen Dybis exploring the salty history of Detroit's best chip. At one time, Detroit had more than three dozen potato-chip companies -- men and women who used their knowledge and food magic to become the city's prized "chip-preneurs." Only Better Made is still around today. \$15 brunch ticket donation. RSVP to: rsvp@gwbhs.org or 248.518.0871. No annual meeting charge.











# From the Desk of President Gina Gregory



GWBHS President Gina Gregory gives remarks following the presentation of the Michigan Week Dr. Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award – GROUP in May 2019. She is joined on stage by board members and volunteers.

# We broke a few "45 records" in honor of our 45th anniversary in 2019!

- · Memberships increased
- Two on demand educational GWBHS event videos created by Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission
- Welcomed senior living residents to an open house and presentation
- Strongest sponsor support yet with increased opportunities!

#### We began new initiatives!

- Green School Bell outdoor exhibit, a first special project was constructed and made possible by the GWBHS Memorial Fund for John Benson Kazanowski, honoring a loved one with memorial denations
- Initial GWBHS and WB Parks bus tour partnership with three 2019 historical bus trips. Each sold out.
- Established a large donor thank you list display at the Orchard Lake Museum and online, and published a Donations & Planned Giving brochure.



#### 2020 brings milestone anniversaries all year long!

Oakland County celebrates a 200th anniversary of the founding of Oakland County, 1820-2020. Events are planned all year long! GWBHS will share "Oakland 200" events as they develop, in email blasts and social media posts. GWBHS has Oakland 200 service mark approval as GWBHS celebrates our local 200 year history with a GWBHS presentation and GWBHS/WBP bus tour: Then & Now - Our Four Communities (1820-2020). See inserts in each 2020 issue of *History Matters* for highlights of the histories of each of our four communities.

Later in the year we will celebrate other 2020 anniversaires: West Bloomfield School District ownership of Apple Island 50th anniversary, Pine Hill Congregational Church 60th anniversary, Roosevelt School 100th anniversary, thought to be the oldest operating public school in original building in Michigan!

As I look at these newsletter articles I see a connecting thread - each involves people supporting local history! Whether with memorial and tribute donations, exhibited donated historical archives, or volunteerism. We appreciate their support to help GWBHS grow, survive, and thrive.

I hope to see you soon at the Annual Meeting & Better Made in Michigan Presentation Saturday January 25th. It should be a good time as members gather over brunch, act on GWBHS annual business, hear 2019 accomplishments, and see an interesting presentation!



# **New Outdoor Exhibits at Orchard Lake Museum (continued)**

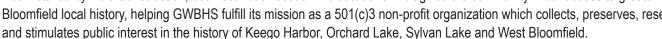
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#### Green School Bell Outdoor Exhibit

A Green School bell was donated to the Society by Gertrude and Fred Prince in 1986, and has been enjoyed as a museum exhibit since then. School group students enjoy ringing the bell and hearing the way students were called to class in earlier times. Now the bell is exhibited outside: hanging in a bell tower with an exhibit panel. The exhibit was made possible through generous donations from the GWBHS John Benson Kazanowski Memorial Fund 2019. Cara Kazanowski, GWBHS former vice president, shared.

"My daughter Kristin and I chose GWBHS as the designated nonprofit memorial for John because he loved everything about living on Orchard Lake. As a second grader at Scotch Elementary School, John and his class went on a GWBHS-led field trip to Apple Island that our home faces. So it seemed fitting to honor John's life with contributions to GWBHS, the volunteers who do so much to foster understanding of our area's history and natural resources."

We appreciate their memorial donations with funding support for this special project. The project was designed and the tower constructed by Rob Laskey of Rail Road Iron Works and the copper roof was installed by Reis Construction, both local businesses. The outdoor exhibit gives the community wider access to greater West Bloomfield local history, helping GWBHS fulfill its mission as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which collects, preserves, researches





### **Apple Island Outdoor Exhibit**

Apple Island Historic Archaeological Site, also known as Apple Island, in Orchard Lake, is now listed in the National Register of Historical Places. The National Parks Services, a branch of the United States Department of the Interior, approved Apple Island as a historic site in August 2018, with archaeological significance. To celebrate this designation GWBHS created an Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibit panel highlighting this designation, information about GWBHS annual public tours to Apple Island the second weekend in June, and island history. GWBHS board member and naturalist Carol Fink shared,

"People are always are interested in Apple Island in Orchard Lake and wonder when they can visit the island. It's great to have an outdoor exhibit highlighting Apple Island history and program information. The public can now view nine outdoor exhibits at the Museum anytime."

Other Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibits are a three sisters demonstration garden, an original Michigan Military Academy window, a doctor's carriage, a pickle crock, a sharpening wheel, a huge conglomerate boulder, and a local history exhibit panel through the MotorCities National Heritage Area, NPS.

The Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road, is open monthly during Open Houses, the second Sunday of the month from 1-4 pm, with a special topic highlighted each month. See gwbhs.org for further details. Enjoy temporary and permanent exhibits interpreting area history and culture. Hands on activities. No charge. Museum tours by appointment call 248.757.2451.



Congratulations to Linda Charter, Independent Melaleuca Consultant, who was awarded Chamber Member of the Year at the 2019 Key to the Township Awards Dinner. Linda will serve as President of Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce in 2020. Linda has been a GWBHS Programs Sponsor for the past two years. Learn more about GWBHS sponsorship opportunities at www.gwbhs.org/support/sponsorships/.



# Remembering the weight of the Apple Island and Orchard Lake Projectile Point Collection of James and Eva Lare

By Harold Webster Wood

Harold's experience recounted below illustrates the weight of this large collection:

My Grandfather and grandmother, James and Eva Coe Lare, were hired by the Ward family to work at their home at Orchard Lake. It is my understanding that James Lare was the Wards footman and his wife Eva was a cook. James, on his days off, would wander the fields around the Ward estate, looking for Indian artifacts. The Ward estate was located at the present corner of Pontiac Trail and Orchard Lake road. I'm sure his hunting grounds would have included Apple Island in Orchard Lake.

He constructed the frame box and secured the

various pieces using fine wire to hold them in place. I found out how daunting a process this was as I



decided to replace the velvet cloth behind the pieces. The original velvet was green which I replaced with the current red one. Each piece has four holes and they are behind the cloth. I had the help of a camera and labeled all four holes as well as the artifact so I could get them back in their proper place. After finishing the piece I hung it with new 1/4" steel wire to hold it up and to my surprise, two weeks later the wire had stretched, from the weight, to where it showed above the frame. After trying several different thicknesses of wire I found the only thing that wouldn't stretch was a hundred and fifty pound bow string.

My mother told me that she went with her parents (she was about eight year old), to Deward for two years in the early 1900's to close the mill there. The town is called Deward as the sign at the mill read D. Ward. I don't have any other facts and some of these may be only as I remember them. I wish I could go back and ask many questions that my youth never thought of.

## Remembering John Hartwig

By Gina Gregory

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Patti Hartwig and family with the unexpected death of her husband John, 1945 - 2019. John supported GWBHS as a member and served on the GWBHS Finance Committee since it's inception and helped shepard our financial accounts. His perspective and input were greatly appreciated. Also, his recent help in drafting the Donations & Planned Giving brochure and Tax-Free IRA Rollover was greatly appreciated. GWBHS Treasurer Sue Williams recalls "John Hartwig was a wonderful man, always smiling and upbeat with a great sense of humor. John's input on the finance committee will be sorely missed! He was a champion for us."

John and Helen Jane Peters shared local summer camp history in a presentation at West Bloomfield Library on May 8, 2019. Civic Center TV (CCT) recorded the event and created a presentation video. It is now updated with an in memoriam slide at the end of the credits: The History of Greater West Bloomfield's Summer Camps https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3H5XtHM1RI

We are fortunate John investigated the history of the stairway on his property; which lead him to learn that earlier the property was the Girls Friendly Society Holiday House on Pine Lake. John, his wife Patti, shared thishistory in the recent presentation. This tangible link to our local past history remains available to us all. We are so lucky CCT recorded the presentation and made it available to the public.





### Oakland County is celebrating its bicentennial in 2020. Learn more at oakgov.com/bicentennial

Here is our look back at memories of Greater West Bloomfield through the years.

# **Keego Harbor**

Keego Harbor's only school is beloved by the community.-Roosevelt Elementary celebrates 100 years in 2020.



Circa 1950s, Roosevelt School Roosevelt was once a K-12 school.



2019, Roosevelt Elementary

Today Roosevelt is a K-5 school in the West

Bloomfield School District.

# **Orchard Lake Village**

Voters decided to incorporate as a village separate from West Bloomfield Township in 1928. They voted to become City of Orchard Lake Village in 1964.



Circa 1920s, Wilkin's Corner

Traffic at the corner of Orchard Lake Road and Pontiac Trail was heavy even in the early days of automobiles. Here an unknown woman waits outside of Fred Wilkin's gas station.



#### Circa 1900, Michigan Military Academy

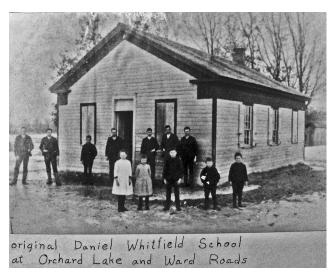
From 1878 to 1908, the Michigan Military Academy was the "West Point of the west" on the shores of Orchard Lake.

Today it's campus is the location of Orchard Lake Schools.

Here the Academy band poses near the lake.

# Sylvan Lake

After being incorporated as a village in 1921, Sylvan Lake became a City in 1947. A couple significant places in Sylvan have been Daniel Whitfield School and Sylvan Lake Inn.



1852 - 1894 Daniel Whitfield School

Fractional School District #6 Children attended from the townships of Waterford, Pontiac, Bloomfield, and West Bloomfield. Daniel Whitfield donated the land for the school.



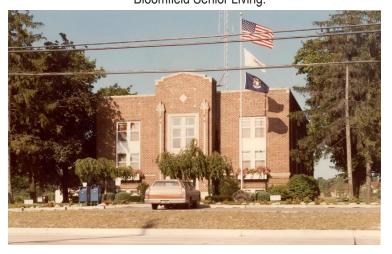
1893 - 1903 Sylvan Lake Inn

William B. Stratton was the architect for the Inn. It included a golf course, riding stable, bathing beach, bowling alley, and billiards. The Inn burned to the ground in 1903.

# West Bloomfield

West Bloomfield Township was formed in 1833. The township purchased a plot of land north of Pontiac Trail and east of Hidden Valley Drive in 1896. A wooden structure built on the site served as town hall, though nothing remains of it today. Now this area is known as Hickory Pointe subdivision.

A new, brick town hall was built at 4460 Orchard Lake Road in 1923 (below in1985). The building is now home to Townehall Place of West Bloomfield Senior Living





Today's West Bloomfield Township civic center opened in 1989, which includes the current Town Hall (above), Public Library - Main Branch (top right), Recreation Activities Center (bottom right), and West Bloomfield Police Headquarters (below).











# 2020 Programs

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society hosts and sponsors programs covering a wide variety of local history topics throughout the year. Visit gwbhs.org for more information and final event details.



## Curling premiered in West Bloomfield Open House

Sunday, January 12 · 1-4pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Curling has very local history: it premiered in the United States on Orchard Lake in the winter of 1831-32. Learn about a West Bloomfield curling Olympian, see curling exhibits, and lift curling stones. No charge.

# Annual Meeting & Better Made in MI Presentation Saturday, January 25 • 10am-noon

Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Commerce Rd., Dining Hall, Bldg. 15
Annual meeting with a presentation by Karen Dybis exploring the salty history of Detroit's best chip. For many, Detroit is the crunch capital of the world. More than forty local chip companies once fed the Motor City's never-ending appetite for salty snacks. Only Better Made remains. \$15 brunch ticket donation. Make brunch reservations by January 20. RSVP to: rsvp@gwbhs.org or 248.518.0871. No annual meeting charge.

# Vintage Valentines Open House Sunday, February 9 • 1-4pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Valentine cards reflect the times, through popular themes, poetry, humor, art and cultural values. Come and see a collection of 1930's Valentines and experience nearly 100-year-old love stories. No charge.

# The Antislavery and Underground Railroad in West Bloomfield, 1850–1865

Sunday, February 16 • 2pm

West Bloomfield Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road Professor Rochelle E. Danquah will discuss the history of the Underground Railroad movement in West Bloomfield and surrounding communities in Oakland County, 1850 – 1865. She will also examine West Bloomfield Township residents' roles during this era of social injustice. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Library. No charge.

### **Volunteer Opportunities Meeting**

Saturday, March 7 • 10am

Orchard Lake Museum. 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities? Come learn our needs - from one-time to long-term commitments. No charge.

## West Bloomfield 1976 Tornado Open House

Sunday, March 8 · 1-4pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Learn about the F4 tornado that damaged dozens of West Bloomfield homes and businesses on March 20, 1976. No charge.

For more details and a complete list of events, visit gwbhs.org/events.

\*Register online at wbparks.org.

## Traditional Maple Sugaring & Pancake Breakfast\*

Sunday, March 22 • 12, 1, or 2pm

Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Commerce Road

Celebrate early spring with a sap to syrup demonstrations over an open fire and then enjoy a hot pancake breakfast. \$8 per person. 45 minute outdoors. Register for a group tour at wbparks.org/maplesugaring or call WBP at 248.451.1900. Sponsored by Polish Mission of Orchard Lake Schools, Copperhead Craft Guild, WB Parks, and GWBHS.

#### **Rosie the Riveter Presentation**

Wednesday, March 25 · 7pm

WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road
Historian Bailey Sisoy Isgro will share the history and impact of WWII women
war workers, often known as Rosie the Riveters; how their name came
to be; and the scale of their heroic work on the American homefront. Her
award-winning book, Rosie, A Detroit herstory, will be available for purchase.
Sponsored with West Bloomfield Library. No charge.

## West Bloomfield Tax Rolls Open House

Sunday, April 12 · 1-4pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road Come see West Bloomfield historical tax rolls and learn more about the history of your property. No charge.

#### Spring Nature Walk

Sunday, April 19 · 2-3pm

Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 4700 Pontiac Trail

Join Naturalist Carol Fink and Herbalist Jen Green in discovering the hidden gems and herbal medicines in the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary. Sponsored with the City of Orchard Lake Village. No charge.

# Then & Now Our Four Communities: 1820-2020 Presentation Wednesday, April 22 • 7pm

West Bloomfield Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road Oakland County celebrates its 200th birthday and we're joining in on the festivities. We'll present an evening of pictures, stories, and the history of our four communities Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, and West Bloomfield. Presented by GWBHS volunteers. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Library. No charge.

# Then & Now Our Four Communities: 1820-2020 Bus Tour\* Tuesday, April 28 • 10am-3:15pm

WB Parks - Recreation Activities Center

Oakland County celebrates its 200th birthday and we're joining in on the festivities. During the hop-on hop-off bus tour you will visit our four communities: Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, and West Bloomfield. Italian buffet luncheon at Gino's Italian Restaurant included. Presentation materials will be available for purchase. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Parks and the Senior Resource Group. Register by calling WB Parks, 248-451-1900 or on-line, wbparks.org.

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

WWW.GWBHS.ORG





GWBHS could not do so much good work without the help of our wonderful volunteers.

Thank you to those who have recently given their time and helped out.

#### **Event and Open House Presenters & Volunteers**

Tom Bjorkland, Matt Chaffin, Josh Dagg, Carol Fink, Rob Gregory, Roy Kellerman, Anita MacSorley, Steve Missaghi, Helen Jane Peters, Karen Pushie, Christian Sonneville, DuAnne Sonneville, Sue Williams, Andrew Yost

#### 45th Anniversary Chairs and Volunteers

Chairs: Carol Fink and Linda Kidd Volunteers: Tom Bjorkland, Diane Eanes, Hannah Dagg, Gina Gregory, Anita MacSorley, Steve Missaghi, Sue Williams

#### **Green School Bell Project**

Bill Bertakis, Hannah Dagg, Gina & Rob Gregory, Paul Mellerowicz Project design/construction: Rob Laskey, Railroad Iron Works, LLC Copper roof: Bob Reis Construction Sign production: The GraphX Shop

## **New Volunteer Opportunities**

By Cory Taylor, GWBHS Office and Activities Coordinator

Hello! I began this position in January 2019 and part of my responsibilities is coordinating volunteers and the annual Apple Island Tours. Our society is run by volunteers and can only function with the help of our community members.

Though we are always looking for help with our various programs, we are looking to fill these specific volunteer positions at this time:

Collections Maintenance Volunteer assists the Collections Maintenance Coordinator to pull/return archives to storage, file materials, and maintain collections, using museum storage best practices. Work during agreed upon hours, possibly second Sunday monthly open houses from 1-4 pm after training period; flexible hours after that. Must demonstrate organizational skills needed to alphabetize and file. Training provided.



Cory Taylor checks in guests before the Apple Island Celebration.

When: Training is during second Sundays of the month open houses from 1-4 pm and can be adjusted as needed. How often: At least four times annually to help smooth operations

**Exhibit Planning & Design Assistant** works with our exhibit design transporting exhibit materials to and from storage as well as staging these materials in the museum galleries. This volunteer should have a creative instinct as well as the ability to travel up and down stairs and lift/carry artifact boxes.

When: Work during agreed upon hours, possibly monthly open houses from 1-4 pm

How often: As often as needed

**Files Maintenance Volunteer** assists the Collections Maintenance Coordinator to pull/return materials to files in the Museum basement.

When: Training is during second Sundays of the month open houses from 1-4 pm and can be adjusted as needed. How often: At least four times annually to help smooth operations

**Library Presentation Hospitality & Information Host** provides GWBHS literature to guests and encourage them to sign up for our newsletter, attend other events, or become a member.

When: 30 minutes prior to library event (held monthly in winter, spring, and fall)

How often: As many times as you would like to volunteer!

**High School students in need of volunteer hours**: volunteering with GWBHS can be used for National Honor Society or Community Service hours. If you need volunteer hours, please indicate that when you email or call me.

Please reach out to me via email at cory@gwbhs.org or by phone at 248-757-2451 if you are interested in volunteering and learning more about the opportunities. Training is provided for all positions.

## **Fundraising Update**

By Christian Sonneville, Fundraising Committee Chair

We thank all members, donors and supporters for helping make 2019 a successful year featuring open houses, special programs, the dedication of Apple Island as a Historical Site and our yearly Apple Island Tour. We also thank our volunteers for their efforts. We hope we can count on you for continued support. Please remember our Historical Society in your wills, living trusts, and estate plans because such gifts ensure the Society will be preserved and promoted for years to come. Donations & Planned Giving brochure will be mailed to 2020 members.

With increased support, we can increase our engagement in the community. Be a program sponsor!

## Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors!

Anonymous
Bellacinos - Sylvan Lake
bugs Beddow
Complete Insurance
Galaxy Graphics
Hite Photo
Rob Laskey - Rail Road Iron Works
Magnolia by the Lakes
Melaleuca.com/LCharter, Online Wellness Shopping Club
Michigan Chiropractic Specialists
Provision Living Senior Living Communities
Bob Reis - Reis Construction
The GraphX Shop
Townehall Place - West Bloomfield

## Thank you to our Supporters!

## **Annual Appeal Donations**

Elizabeth Angott, Bruce & Amy Annett, Leslie Clark, Teresa Emerine, Connie Hamner, Margie & Bob Mellen, Michael Patton, John Poster, Brian Pushie, Marilyn Speth, Coral Walling, Mike & Helen West

## **Orchard Lake Appeal Donations**

Anne & Ed Dziuba, Charles J. Andrews/Jen Moilanen, Beverly B. Boos

### **Memorial Donations**

In honor of Linda Voll: Sue Williams
In honor of Dr. Kenny Fink: Gina Gregory

In honor of John Benson Kazanowski: Cara Kazanowski, Charles Ugolino, Carolyn B. Levin, DuAnne Sonneville, FM Global, Sue Williams, Gina Gregory, Janice Engardio Boyd, Donald C. Exelby, Carole Stiller, Dolores Pieper, Claudia Thielman, Carla Iverson, Mark and Cindy Eliason, Shirley and Frank Piku, Jim & Jeanne Hammond, Sue Ellen Kaufman, Judy Asbury

In honor of Sam and Wadia Sitto: Lynn Fink
In honor of Eric Wiegand: Molly Rozycki





Orchard Lake Museum Phone 248.757.2451 3951 Orchard Lake Road Orchard Lake MI 48323

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#### **Board of Directors**

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Diane Eanes Recording Secretary

Carol Fink Corresponding Secretary

Sue Williams Treasurer Linda Kidd Historian

Hannah Dagg History Matters Editor
Karen Pushie Database & Presenter

#### **Committee Chairs**

Christy Forhan WBSD Liaison
Sue Grifor Membership
Barb Krause GWBCC Liaison
Don Newman Group Programs

Christian Sonneville Development/Fundraising

#### **GWBHS Mission Statement**

The Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.

Show your support of local history by becoming a Sponsor!

www.gwbhs.org/support/sponsorships



# **GWBHS Membership & Donation Form**

□ New Membership □ Renew Membership Name	·	□ Donation	
Address			
Email	Priorie		
*Gift membership from:	Phone		
Address			
□ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.			

Please make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at gwbhs.org. GWBHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.

Membership includes access to Time Travelers reciprocal membership network.

Please ask your employer if they match employee charitable donations. Please remember the Society in your wills, living trusts, and estate plans.

Membership • Jan. 1 to D □ Individual □ Family □ Premier □ Patron/Business □ Life	ec. 31 \$20 \$40 \$50 \$100 \$600		
Donation\$			
My donation supports:  ☐ General fund ☐ New carpeting ☐ Improved display for temporary exhibits ☐ Searchable Our School History files ☐ Display case for Military Academy sword			
☐ This donation is in honor Name: Address:	r of:		
Total Amount \$			

