

# Newsletter of the MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mason, Ohio

and Alverta Green Museum

September 2020

The Mason Historical Society and Alverta Green Museum are located in the heart of downtown Mason, Ohio. Established over 40 years ago, the Society's aim is to create, promote and preserve the history and heritage of Mason.

For more information, call 513.398.6750, visit our website at [masonhistoricalsociety.org](http://masonhistoricalsociety.org) or friend us on Facebook.

Visit us at:  
207 W. Church St.  
Mason, Ohio

**REGULAR HOURS**  
1 pm - 4 pm  
Thursday and Friday,  
First Saturday of the Month  
10 am - 1 pm,  
and by appointment  
**NOTE: Museum closed on  
Saturday, September 5th.**



Bub Dwire from his Mason High 1936 championship team photo.

## AN INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS

Sally Sherman Caudill, Contributing Editor

### The Father of Mason Football

With the arrival of September, thoughts naturally go to football. And thoughts of Mason football are synonymous with Walter "Bub" Dwire.

Walter Lorn Dwire was born in Mason in 1917 to Esther Cooper and Donald "Tiny" Dwire. Tiny and Esther were popular local tavern owners on West Main St. for many years.

At Mason High, Walter was a standout basketball and baseball athlete. In his senior year in 1936, he led his basketball team to win the Warren County Championship. He went on to excel as a triple-threat athlete at Wittenberg University playing football, baseball and basketball. After graduation in 1939, he took the civil service exam for a tavern liquor license, perhaps to follow in his father's footsteps. But sports won out and for three years he was a coach and teacher at Holloway High School in Belmont County, Ohio.

Walter, who was known to all as "Bub" for most of his life, met and married Grace Vanderbrink during this time and became a devoted father of two sons; Don and Jim. In March of 1943, his Wittenberg alma mater hired Walter as a PE teacher and swimming coach. However, WWII was in full swing and by August of that year, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His last year in the service was spent on the hospital ship "USS Repose," a casualty transport in the South Pacific.

For two years after his release from the Navy in 1946, Walter managed



Walter "Bub" Dwire, 1955.

the Warren County Aid for the Aged Office. However, his ultimate destiny came calling in 1948 when he was hired as a teacher/coach for his high school alma mater, Mason High School.

Bub coached the basketball, baseball and track teams at Mason High. He was also a beloved teacher and mentor to all of the students. In 1961, he stepped down as basketball coach to serve as Athletic Director. Bub was instrumental in starting the Mason football program in 1962, not just at the

high school level, but with the younger Pee Wee football players as well. He also helped form the Fort Ancient Valley Conference and the first athletic boosters club.

In 1963, Mason's new football field was christened "Dwire Field" in Bub's honor, to recognize all of his contributions to Mason athletics.



Fans cheering on the hometown team at Dwire Field in 1965.

In 1972, Bub Dwire passed away much too soon at the age of 54. His legacy lives on in the thousands of athletes he's inspired and three generations of family, friends and fans that have filled Dwire Field for almost 60 years.

# WALKING TOUR BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

If you have not taken the Mason Historical Walking Tour, you're missing out on one of the most interesting, hands-on activities that the Mason Historical Society offers. Created in 2015 by Herb and Sallie Wolfe Nally, Sally Sherman Caudill and Judy Wood Cox, the tour offers a wonderful visual experience of the history of Mason.

From a sleepy little village, to the bustling city it is today, the bones of this town still stand in the most unobtrusive places.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME...

Sally Sherman Caudill, Contributing Editor

I was recently told a family story that astounded me. When my father-in-law was born in a small cabin in the hills of Kentucky in the mid-1930s, the doctor inquired as to what name he should put on the birth certificate. The new mother replied that she had no idea, and told him to just pick a name. The doctor, who's first name was Eugene, thought that was a perfectly respectable name, so that's what he wrote down. (As my father-in-law grew up, I'm sure he was happy the doctor's name wasn't Balthazar or Zebedee...)

Unlike my husband's grandmother, most parents give a lot of thought into naming their children. This is a big commitment as a person's name will impact them throughout their life. Parents must decide between names that are classic, trendy, popular, unique, or one that honors a beloved family member or friend.

For the last 140 years, since the U.S. began keeping records on baby names, the most popular choices are:

1880 – Mary & John

1950 – Linda & James

2020 – Emma & Liam

While doing research for the Mason Photographic History book a few years ago, I was struck by the sheer volume of very unusual names of early Masonites. I kept a running list of my favorites, and just in case you or someone you know is in need of a unique name, feel free to gain inspiration from this list.

### Female

America Leafy  
Cythera Melsena  
Delight Narcissa  
Dorcas Permelia  
Eureka Pleasant  
Florella Selecta  
Iona

### Male

Bliss Nimrod  
Brazilla Pingree  
Erastas Rezin  
Goodsell Serotis  
Gurley Servetus  
Lamaree  
Leonidas

Around Mason, Ohio: A Story, Rosemarie Springman  
nameberry.com / babycenter.com / goodhousekeeping.com

Brochures for the tour are accessible 24 hours a day in front of the Alverta Green Museum. There are 25 locations noted with brief descriptions of each. A map is included for easy navigation of the city streets and most locations have a numbered granite ground marker. Some sites located on the outskirts of the map may be visited by car, especially if time or energy does not allow you to walk the entire tour.



First stop for the Historical Tour is at the Alverta Green Museum.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have any thoughts you would like to share regarding Mason history, please submit them to "Letters to the Editor." You can mail these to the museum or email them to [mason.oh.historical@gmail.com](mailto:mason.oh.historical@gmail.com)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Mason Historical Society.

Michael Burton  
Steve Burton  
Sally Sherman Caudill  
The Goldfeder Family  
Mark Jackson

# The Board Report

Jay Meibers, President



The days are becoming shorter signaling that Fall is quickly approaching. Crisp cool nights along with the leaves changing into a colorful tapestry will hopefully help us forget about the seemingly never-ending Pandemic.

I mentioned last month that the Board was considering cancelling the Cemetery Walk. We discussed this in great detail at our July Board meeting and in the end, we felt it was best to cancel this year. There were several concern factors, but the safety of our members and visitors was the main

reason for the cancellation. I have a glass half full mindset and fully believe that we will have a COVID 19 vaccine well in advance of next year's Cemetery Walk and we will be able to execute the event as we have in years past.

By now you should have received your Rescue Raffle tickets in the mail. Thank you for your strong consideration in either buying or selling the tickets you have received. This will go a long way in helping us balance our budget in this very challenging year. We also plan to kick-off a Membership Drive in October and I will provide you more information in the October newsletter.

Stay safe, stay well and thank you for your support of MHS!

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## THIS MONTH IN MASON HISTORY

Excerpt from *Around Mason, Ohio:*

A Story, Rose Marie Springman, ©1986.

**1795:** On the last day of September in 1794 John Cleves Symmes finally got his patent for 311,682 acres between the Miami Rivers and as the land was surveyed, part of it was sold at auction in Losantiville. Some land was forfeited, and other settlers moved in and lived in the most primitive conditions while they cleared the land, raised crude cabins, hunted for food, married and began their big families. Joseph Coddington, Peter Tetrick and William Beedle settled in the southwestern parts of Warren Country. William Mason bought 640 of these acres which ultimately became the foundation for the Village of Mason”.

**1879:** The township school board decided to adopt the Eclectic Educational Series, namely, McGuffey Readers ‘and Spellers, Ray’s Arithmetics, Harvey or Holbrook Grammars and Eclectic Geographies, for uniform use in the township schools.

**1883:** John McClung and other citizens wanted council in September to “prohibit the throwing and catching of balls on the street of the village.” An ordinance was drawn up and a fine was set at \$2 or 24 hours of imprisonment for the playing of ball on the streets of Mason.

**1901:** In September eleven women in Mason organized a literary group which they called the “Qui Vive Club”. This club was to become the longest continually functioning organization in the town and is still active today!

**1915:** In late September Foster Mote was hired at \$75 per month “to run the Electric Light Plant as in the past, to take care of the pole line, to read meters and to make collections on the meter readings.”

**1924:** On Saturday, September 27, a dance was held at Rebold’s Hall with music by Hockman’s Orchestra. Clifford Stitt and Will & Grover Green were the committee which planned the affair. The cost was 50¢ a couple.

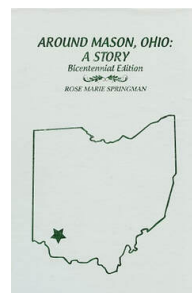
**1926:** Tiny Dwire purchased the building on Main Street that had been owned by the Ivins-Jameson Company and formerly occupied by the Hutchins Drug Store. Dwire was to remodel the building during September for a restaurant.

**1939:** The dedication services for the new municipal building at 202 W. Main were held.

**1965:** The official dates for the celebration of Mason’s 150th birthday were set for the first through the sixth of September. Activities honoring the event were planned for each day.

**1968:** Mason holds its first Community Unity Days in September.

**2001:** On September 11, Wendy Faulkner of Mason is killed in the terror attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. She was on the 104th floor of the south tower for a business meeting.



*Around Mason, Ohio: A Story* (Bicentennial Edition) is available for purchase at the Alverta Green Museum. This book is an invaluable reference for anyone interested in the history of Mason.

# LITTLE MIAMI RIVIERA

## The History of Hoppe's Island

Gina Burton Arens, Editor

As we attempt to hold on to the last warm wistful days of summer, we remember a place, perhaps a kind of resort to some, that many locals once frequented for recreation and relaxation.

Hoppe's Island was originally known as Greely Mills. Located on the Little Miami River in Foster, the gristmill and sawmill were built in 1858 by S.B. Greely. Greely's mill replaced a previous mill, built in 1806 by Brazilla Clark which burned in 1844. Farmers came daily with wheat, corn and logs and left with flour, cornmeal, boards and cash!



Bathing beach on Hoppe's Island, 1930.

large dance floor and a band stand that hosted many well-known bands of the day. Hoppe also cleared out part of the race, cemented the bottom, erecting a swimming and diving area.

A nearby train depot regularly brought hundreds of people to the resort on a train that ran from Cincinnati to Morrow called the "Morrow Accommodation".

After Edward Hoppe's death the property went to his daughter Bernice. She in turn sold the resort to a Mason man named Glenn Irwin. He renamed the resort Glenn Island. He and his wife Vivian, who was from Foster, tried for years to revive the magic that was once Hoppe's Island but never experienced the same level of success.

Ultimately, they sold the property in 1976 to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who developed the area into a picnic and canoe access site for the Little Miami River. Part of the old pavilion was restored and still stands for picnickers.

Located where Davis Road and Old 3-C Highway meet in Foster, the property is now called Rahe (Ray) Park, named for Carl Rahe, a conservationist active with Little Miami Incorporated.

As the sound of the orchestra music fades and the many memories of family fun dissolve into time, we're reminded of the simple charm of the summer retreat that was once known as Hoppe's Island.

Warren County Historical Society;  
"Deerfield Stories: An Anthology of Little Histories," Del Landis



Greely Mill, 1941. Built in 1858, the mill was a beehive of commerce for local farmers.

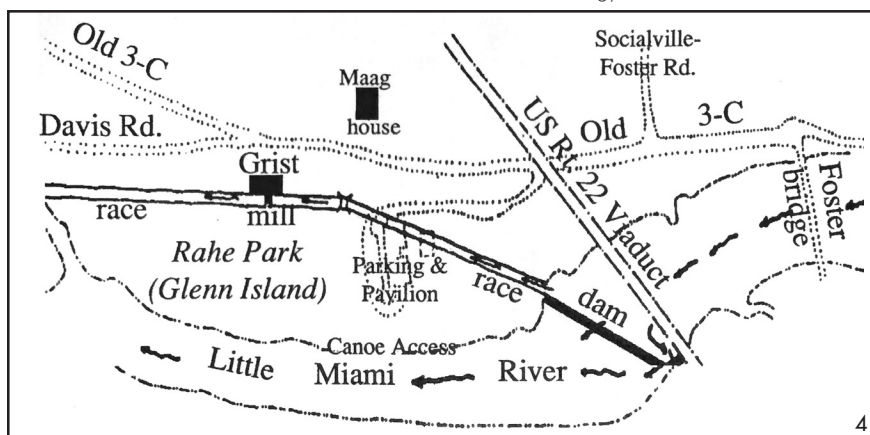
Greely sold his operation to Augustus Hoppe in 1886. Their premium product was "Pride of Miami" flour. Hoppe's son Edward ran the mill for more than 50 years ending in 1944 when he was fatally injured in a mill accident.

Hoppe's Island, a 13-acre tract, lay between the "mill race" and the river. The mill race was a manmade water diversion canal that powered the mill. The head race brought water to the mill, the tail race took it away.

It was Edward Hoppe who created Hoppe's Island resort. The facilities included a restaurant, a pop stand, a pavilion with a



Glenn Island ad, 1956.



# HONORING MASON VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY

The City of Mason in partnership with the American Legion Post 194 and the VFW Post 9622 has released a new program honoring Mason's veterans and active military.

This program is intended to provide the opportunity to salute Mason's brave men and women who are currently serving or have served in the military by displaying a median street banner in the City of Mason for patriotic occasions such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Currently military banners are on display along Mason Montgomery Road.

The cost to participate in the program is \$150. Participation includes the creation, production, and display of a 23.75" x 50.75" median street banner. The link to the program application is <https://www.imaginemason.org/masons-banner-program/>

Applicants are welcome to make an additional donation to assist in raising funds to fulfill the mission of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).



Questions regarding this program can be directed to John Looker at [jclooker1@gmail.com](mailto:jclooker1@gmail.com) or by calling 513-290-4511

## Your Historical Museum Collection

### Featured item of the month

The historical museum has in its collection, a rare two-piece garden urn attributed to the Mason pottery shop owned by Silas Ballard. His shop, located on the N. West St. lot directly behind the former Universalist Church, drew customers from surrounding villages. The grand size of many pieces suggest they were intended for larger estates like those found in Cincinnati.

Much pottery was produced in Warren County. The main focus was utilitarian household wares followed by garden pottery. Almost all were hand-thrown on the potter's wheel

but there is evidence that the Silas Ballard pottery from just after the mid-19th century was made from slab-formed dishes. This is an ancient technique where objects are formed around molds or by shaping them by hand.

It is speculated that Silas Ballard may have been trying to design his own unique style of pottery in response to the American Art Pottery Movement (1876-1915).

This distinctive piece was donated to the Mason Historical Society by Ann Hill.



## Did You Know...?

In mid-19th century Mason, council ordained that "the town's citizenry should not interrupt the peace and quietude of the town by hollering, quarreling, beating upon drums, pans or kettles, ringing bells, or making unnecessary noise." It was also unlawful to fly kites or throw a fireball.

# LAW AND ORDER IN MASON

## The Legacy of The Mason Horse Rangers

Gina Burton Arens, Editor

In 1840 at the first meeting of Mason's recently formed town council, an ordinance was passed creating the office of Marshall. William Walker was the first Marshall tasked with keeping law and order in the village.

Council gave him three ordinances to enforce. The first was to curtail the violent riding or driving of horses through town. It was a threat to citizen safety. The second law prohibited the hitching of horses along the sidewalks on Main and Turnpike Streets. Probably a sanitation issue. Lastly the third law prohibited residents from firing a gun or pistol for sport or otherwise within the town. Enough said!

Beyond the Marshall there was no other law enforcement. This allowed crime, especially theft, to grow and flourish as there was no one else to track down the offenders.



*The Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 13, 1879



left: Horse Ranger badge c. 1865

below: Horse Ranger sign c. 1850

Both artifacts on current display at the Museum.



According to the "Around Mason" book, "By 1849 the village of Mason and the surrounding farmlands were plagued by a gang of thieves who were taking horses, money and anything else of value that they could get their hands on. This oppressive action led the people to band together and form a protective society which they called the Mason Horse Rangers. Its object was "the maintenance of laws of our land by detecting villainy and outlawry in various form."

By 1850 the organization was ready for operation. Large rectangular blue and white signs identifying a homeowner as a member of the Horse Rangers were attached to buildings on the men's property. It was said that often the expense to recover a horse was many times the value of the horse, but these costs were always borne by the company.

In 1911 there were 322 members of the Horse Rangers. They continued to regularly round up thieves that escaped local law enforcement. But by 1931 the Horse Rangers formally disbanded as their membership had gradually diminished. Apparently, the Mason Horse Rangers had served a public need at a time where there were few other options. Many were grateful for the Horse Rangers vigilance in seeking justice.

## Then & Now

Fosters, Ohio



Fosters covered bridge over the Little Miami River – c. 1910



Fosters Bridge and 3-C Highway Viaduct – 2020

# RESCUE RAFFLE KICK-OFF

## Fall Fundraiser

By now you should have received tickets for our annual raffle fundraiser. As you all know, we were forced to close the Museum for three months and we will not be able to host our annual Ice Cream Social or Cemetery Walk this year.

Due to the unusually difficult year we've all experienced, we are especially in need of a successful Fall Raffle and hope we can count on your participation.

We will be awarding some nice prizes and hope that everyone will either purchase or sell their tickets. If you need additional tickets, please call, stop by, or email the Alverta Green Museum.

We appreciate and value our members and the support you provide to the Mason Historical Society's mission to create, promote, and preserve Mason's history.

NO. 1000	Name _____	NO. 1000
	Email _____	
	Phone _____	

**MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**RESCUE RAFFLE**

1st Prize: \$300; 2nd Prize: \$150; 3rd Prize: \$50  
 (20) additional prizes valued at \$20 or more

DRAWING – At MHS Election Meeting, November 17, 2020  
 Donation: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

*You do not need to be present to win*

## ORDER NOW!

Secure your place in Mason History with a memorial, commemorative or tribute brick that will be installed on the Museum's walkway.

Brick orders are only placed a few times a year so now is the time to order! Brick purchases not only honor an individual, family or organization but help support the Mason Historical Society.

Bricks may be ordered through our website; go to "Support Us," select "E-Commerce," then select "Gift Shop Items." Or call the Museum for assistance. Engraved bricks are \$50.



## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

You Can Help!



Every time you shop at Kroger funds will be donated to the Mason Historical Society if you sign-up for their Community Rewards program.

It's easy to enroll.

Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Create an account by providing your name, address, phone and preferred store.

You'll also need our organization program rewards number #HE524 and your Kroger Plus card number.

You can also enroll by phone by calling Kroger customer service at 800-576-4377.

Kroger never shares your personal information, and this will not affect your fuel points.

Last year we collected \$449 from Kroger, we think we can do better, and you can help!

## LAROSA'S FUNDRAISING EVENT

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH



DINE IN at Triway and Rte. 42  
 CARRYOUT by calling 513-347-1111  
 or VISIT [www.larosas.com](http://www.larosas.com)

PRESENT THIS AD  
 TO YOUR SERVER,  
 CASHIER OR DRIVER

LaRosa's will donate 20% of your pre-tax bill back to the Mason Historical Society.

Present your Golden Buckeye card and receive a 10% discount.

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We urge you to support our wonderful business members and partners, who have been so generous with their support of the Mason Historical Society.

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason  
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LaRosa's – Mason  
Mason City Schools  
Mason Community Grange  
No.1680  
Mason-Deerfield Chamber  
Mason Public Library



**Attention!** Friday, September 4th is “**National Eat an Extra Dessert Day,**” so plan to head over to Culver's on that special day.

Not only is Culver's a long-time partner of the Historical Society, but they serve delicious food.

In honor of this very important holiday, have a Reese's Concrete Mixer along with your regular frozen custard cone and Butter Burger. 🍦