



MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and Alverta Green Museum

December 2023

THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND

Mason's One and Only Ralph Spaeth

Sally Sherman Caudill, editor

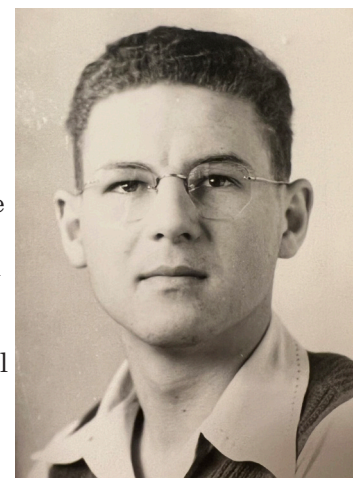
What is there to say about the indomitable Ralph Spaeth? Well, it turns out a whole heck of a lot! I've known Ralph for only a few years now, but he has definitely become one of my favorite people in town. If I ever have a question regarding Mason history, he is my first go-to, because he almost always knows the answer... and was likely there when it was happening! Ralph is a joy to sit and visit with. He's always quick to laugh and without fail has a great story to tell.

On April 28, 1927, in the small village of Mason, Ohio, Ralph David Spaeth came into the world... and he's never lived anywhere else in all his 96 years. Along with his parents, Les, Sr. and Allie, he joined two older brothers, George and Les, Jr. in their home at 306 E. Main St. Younger brother Donald would join the family the following year.

Growing up, Ralph idolized his father and was fascinated by his work. Even as a small boy, Ralph would get up every morning at 5:30 am with his dad. Mom Allie would make their breakfast and then off they would go on what was another new adventure for Ralph. On census records, Les Sr. is listed as a trucker, or a driver, but that doesn't even come close to what he was capable of doing. Ralph reminisced "I rode the trucks with my dad every day that I could, until I was about 14 years old." *I guess that pesky school got in the way sometimes.*

One job in particular that stands out to Ralph was when he was 5 years old. The WLW site was preparing for construction of their new tower in 1933. Les Spaeth, Sr. was hired for the mammoth job of delivering the parts from the Mason train depot to

the work site at the corner of Rte. 42 and Tylersville. To be able to accomplish this, he and another man designed a homemade-built crane which was mounted at the train depot site on Western Ave. Les, Sr. would use it to lift all of the steel off the railroad cars onto his Biederman truck. The truck bed was wide and the cab was narrow, so it allowed Les to carry two



Ralph Spaeth, ca. 1945.



Ralph, ca. 1937, giving a lift to his young neighbor, Frank Batsche, Jr. in front of the Batsche home at 210 E. Main St.

40' beams, one on each side. Ralph recalled, "(those beams) would stick way out in front and way out in back, and would have an escort on each side of the truck. I would sit to the left of my dad as he drove. This truck was huge with solid tires and 3-4" chain drive." Looking up at the tower now, and hearing about Les, Sr.'s contribution, it gives me a whole new appreciation for it. I can't imagine how many trips Ralph's father had to make. And as history was being built to the height of 831 ft., young Ralph was right there. I doubt there's any one else in town who can make that claim. In his own words, "I go back a long ways."

Ralph's phenomenal work ethic started early. At the age of about 12, he took over his older brother Les, Jr.'s paper route. It was the afternoon edition of the *Cincinnati Times-Star* (later the *Post*) so he could do it after school. "Les, Jr. was three years older, and he willed it to me." He went on,

story continues on next page

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 promote and preserve the history and heritage of Mason.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Join the Mason Historical Society at

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Call: 513-398-6750

Email: mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open from
2-5 pm every Thursday,
and by appointment.

Ralph Spaeth, cont.

“from that age of 12 or 13, I bought all my own clothes, my brother was the same way. There wasn’t that much money, (so) we were able to make money. I always had a dime in my pocket.” He chuckles, “I remember one time I bought a pair of shoes, Florsheim, very expensive shoes in those days. Well my mother HAD A FIT! I went to Lebanon on my own and bought my shoes. I was so proud of those things. When my dad came home at the end of the day, mom was still fuming. She said, ‘he’s gotta take those shoes back, he can’t afford them!’ Dad said, ‘Allie let’s leave him alone. He’s gonna learn, maybe he’ll learn the hard way, but he’s gonna learn.’” With a big smile, Ralph says, “I didn’t take the shoes back. One the few times that dad interfered with what mom wanted.”

At the age of 14, Ralph took over a trash hauling business. Before the town picked up garbage, townspeople were responsible for taking their own trash to the dump, which was located on S. Mason-Montgomery Rd. behind where Subway is today. Joe Barr had started the business a few years before. Joe hooked up his pony to a cart and made his “deliveries” to the dump. When Joe got older, he passed the business on to Les, Jr., who (unfortunately for him) didn’t have a pony, so he had to haul the cart with his own manpower. When Les got older, Ralph says, “he willed it to me.” *I’m starting to see a pattern here...* He recalls pulling the cart from house to house and then hauling loads to the dump. “I did it for several years. So many rats and mice, and it was always on fire from stove ashes.” The town dump was later moved (just) outside of town, because of complaints no doubt, to what is Heritage Oak Park today.

One of Ralph’s high school jobs was chauffeur. His neighbor, Dr. Frank Batsche, Sr. would call down to his mom that he needed a driver. He recalls of Dr. Batsche, “that guy, I don’t know when he ever slept. He had office hours until 8, but people kept coming in, so he often worked until 9pm. So Doc could get some rest, I’d drive him in his car to farmhouse calls, and sometimes down to Christ Hospital to deliver a baby. I would wait in the lobby doing my lessons until he was ready to go home.” Along with high school friend, Bob Middleton, Ralph also worked as a meat cutter (and in the slaughterhouse) for Nick Brewster at Brewster Meats (117 W. Main St.). He and Bob would arrive in the early morning, work for a couple of hours, go to school (taking the school lunchroom’s meat order with them), and then after classes would go back to work.

What you may or may not know about Ralph is that he has a wonderful singing voice, and has sung in numerous weddings and events around the area over his many years. Evelyn Wilkerson, the high school music teacher, was also the choir director at the presbyterian church. When he was about 12, she heard Ralph sing in church one day and told him that he needed to be in the choir. Ralph emphatically told her, “I’m not going to sit up there with all those old people!” Evelyn replied, “well, I think I’ll talk to Allie about this.” He pauses... “I ended up singing in the choir.” Then he laughs and says “You know how that works.” He goes on to say, “my mother was one tough lady, BUT she was fair. She was a good mother. Tough as nails.”

When Ralph was in high school, he played all kind of sports. He recalls that they had a really good basketball team. He also played catcher on the baseball team. Music was never far away though. Evelyn Wilkerson went to talk to Allie Spaeth once again about getting Ralph some formal voice training. They made arrangements for Ralph to interview with the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM) and he was accepted. *(CCM became part of UC in 1962)*. One night a week, he would take the bus down for lessons with teacher Robert Powell. He asked me if I remembered the names Colleen Sharp and Ruby Wright, who were there at that time. He wistfully recalls, “They were beautiful, beautiful musicians. I got to sing with them. Oh man, what a treat...” *(Colleen Sharp was a featured singer on the Paul Dixon Show and the Bob Braun Show. Ruby Wright was on the Bob Braun Show from 1967-1979, and sang on WLW radio, and Ruth Lyons 50-50 Club for 20 years.)* Ralph then goes on to say that it was not the life that he wanted. “I did it only for the fun, the enjoyment of it. I liked to sing.”

It may not have been the life he wanted, but if it weren’t for his singing, he would never have met the love of his life. As Ralph traveled to his CCM lessons each week on the bus, one of the other riders he would notice was a young lady named Gertrude “Gert” Romohr who worked downtown. She was four years his senior, and they would oftentimes sit together for the ride and became acquainted. Gert told her mother one day about the handsome boy from the bus. She said to her mother, “I have an idea he’s going to ask for a date one of these days, but I think I’m older than he is.” Her mother replied, “what’s the difference. It’s not like you’re going to marry the guy!” Famous last words.

Three years after his high school graduation, he and Gert were married in 1948. He recalls, “she always called me ‘honey.’ She didn’t like the name Ralph very well.” They soon set about starting their family, and they welcomed daughter Marcy, in 1950 and son David, in 1954.

In 1946, Ralph had started working at Deerfield Manufacturing and he later was one of the founders of Bilvern Products *(see story in May 2021 newsletter)*. He loved his job “as it was different every day. People would send me blueprints and I would make it.” One time while delivering parts to a customer in Norwood, he watched the workings of a huge machine that he made parts for. It was 8 feet in diameter, and had 8 working heads. It took employees a full minute to make



Gert and Ralph, c. 2006.

Ralph Spaeth, cont.

one part, as they had to turn it, and flip it throughout the process. Ralph thought, “holy smokes, this is antiquated.” He went to the owner and said he had an idea of how to improve assembly operation. Even though Ralph had never done anything like this before, the owner was very gung-ho, especially when Ralph told him he would fiddle with the idea at no cost. And fiddle he did. After 3 months of spare-time tinkering, Ralph built a new machine that dropped the time on making the part from 60 seconds down to an astounding 9 seconds. To say the owner was impressed would be an understatement. He paid Ralph \$86,000 for the machine and it’s still running today. Ralph is truly an engineer without a degree. He says that it’s just something that he got from his dad. Well into his 80s, Les Sr. would help his son with engineering snags at work. “My dad was one smart cookie. Man, he could come up with things...”

Ralph finally retired fully about 2001. Gert and her “Honey” would travel in their Pace-Arrow motor home down to Florida. They later bought a home in the St. Petersburg

area where they would spend the winters. He says, “the weather was great, and we loved it.”

In 2011, after 63 years of marriage, Gert passed away from pneumonia. If marital bliss was what Ralph had searched for, then he definitely found it. He tells me, “we were happy, never had any arguments about anything. My wife and I had an absolutely wonderful, wonderful marriage.”



Gert and Ralph at his retirement party, ca. 2001. His sign reads: “Will Golf for Money. Call Ralph. Please Call.”

When Ralph retired, he was able to spend a lot of time on the links. He joined a golf group that had been started by Walter “Brud” Schutte and Eugene Honerlaw many years before. He’s still involved with the group which currently has 28 members. Ralph plays twice a week from April through October. Back in the day, he was a force to be reckoned with on the course, sporting a 6-7 handicap. But the new hips he acquired over the years have changed his game a bit. He goes to Florida every January with his son David, and daughter-in-law Lin. Ralph says that he and David get out on the course once or twice a week in the sunny south. This way he can practice, so when his golf club starts in April, he’s ready to go!

These days Ralph lives on his own, drives where he wants to, and has a busy social life which includes spending quality time with family; he has 2 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He attends church, and does beautiful woodworking. He also attends a weekly dinner party with friends, where he sometimes cooks.

I asked this very youthful 96 year old, what was the secret to a long, fruitful life... His answer made me laugh: “Make sure you drink good, clean scotch!” Believe it or not, this was advice from his doctor over 60 years ago, who told him that scotch is the purest of all liquors. Then he thinks a little bit more and says, “genes, and luck. I’ve always tried to take care of myself. I’ve been a happy camper all my life. I think that’s got a lot to do with it.” Well said, Ralph.



Ralph Spaeth at the Alverta Green Museum, November 13, 2023

GRANGE PEANUT BRITTLE

After a 3-year hiatus, volunteers were back at the stove cooking up that delicious concoction known far and wide as the Grange’s Famous Peanut Brittle. Let me tell you folks, this is not a job for the faint of heart. It starts out slow with the measuring, as it heats up on the stove, the tension ramps up, then at the exact moment of “hard crack,” the mad dash to get it spread out begins. All the while trying your best not to endure 3rd-degree burns. Then the pans go to the all-important dishwashers, and the process starts again, and again...

This tradition was started ca. 1975 by Frances Gilbert, Lydia Zachman, and Gladys Weller, using Onda Melampy’s recipe from the *Presbyterian Church Cookbook*. It was a hit, and they were soon making 500# a year, and later up to 900# yearly. In 2012, Frances Gilbert challenged them to make an astounding 1200# (at 120# a day). *My back hurts just thinking about*

it. The Grange came through in spades, with Frances selling almost 400# of it herself!

This year’s new crop of volunteers were learning the ropes, taught by master cooker Shirley Chandler, so only 140# were cooked and bagged, but it was a respectable first-time effort. Unfortunately, for peanut brittle lovers, the supply is all sold as of this writing.

Well, there’s always next year...

Linda Crabtree, Sue Chace, and Jeanette Blust ‘peanut brittling’ at the Grange’s stove. November 9, 2023



JACK GRAY



Hero of Wireless History Preservation

Gina Burton Arens, Editor

The next time you ask Google or Siri to play music, your favorite podcast, or the news, consider that at one time Mason was the home to one of the largest collections of wireless memorabilia in the entire country. Jack Gray grew up in the infancy of wireless communication and was fascinated by it. So much so that he dedicated his life to the field. One can only imagine what Jack would have thought of the level of wireless communication we have achieved today.

A 1979 *Cincinnati Enquirer* article touted Mason as “a famous radio town” and indeed it was. The WLW Tower and the Voice of America (VOA) alone made Mason world-famous. With the launch of commercial broadcasting in the ‘20s, Crosley Broadcasting’s WLW signal could literally be heard coast to coast. The VOA complex, built in 1942 by the Crosley Broadcasting Co. and funded by the US government, was built less than two miles west of the famous tower to combat the German propaganda push during WWII.

But did you know our third claim to communications fame was the Gray History of Wireless Museum, originally located at 500 West Church Street, founded by George J. “Jack” Gray? Gray had served as a Navy radioman in WWI, a worker in the old Crosley radio factory, an engineer for WLW and a supervisor at the Voice of America station. However, before all that Gray had earned his commercial telegraph license in 1917 at age 17 and was a shipboard wireless operator for the Marconi Co.

Guglielmo Marconi was a pioneer in wireless technology, inventing the wireless telegraph or radio in 1896. This



Jack Gray changing a transmitter tube, ca. 1950.

led to him being recognized as the inventor of radio. He shared the 1909 Nobel Peace Prize with Karl Ferdinand Braun “in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy”.¹

In 1965, after 53 years of working in the wireless field, Jack Gray retired and started the museum using his own personal collection of wireless artifacts which he began acquiring in the 1930s. The museum was housed in his much-expanded garage that faced Frank Street behind his house.

Jack’s collection traced the history of amateur and commercial radio. Products and catalogues of several early tri-state radio firms were on display including Crosley Broadcasting Co., Cincinnati Kodell Co. (call letters WKRC stand for the Kodell Radio Co.), Doron Brothers Electric in Hamilton and the Dayfan line built by Dayton Fan & Motor Co.

Jack died in 1970 after devoting just five years of retirement to his museum; it was then turned over to its board of directors. But the story does not end here. In 1982 the museum was invited to move its collection to the newly constructed Crosley Telecommunications Center, home of WCET-TV and WGUC-FM, located at 1223 Central Parkway in Cincinnati across from Music Hall. There, twenty-nine display cases containing more than 10,000 items involving the history of radio found their home.

Unfortunately, the museum, with no income, operating budget or advertising received very few visitors. During the ‘80s the Cincinnati Historical Society considered moving it to their new location at Union Terminal but an agreement on the move could not be reached.

Then in 2002 West Chester Township leaders announced they had successfully negotiated with the Gray History of Wireless Museum to relocate its entire collection to the Voice of America Museum. The new location allowed the Gray Museum more accessibility and visibility to a larger audience while also providing a greater display area and artifact storage space.

The Gray Museum remains an independent, nonprofit corporation with its own board of trustees and retains ownership of all items in its collection. The Museum, located at 8070 Tylersville Road, is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4pm with docent guided tours at 12:30, 2 and 3 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for veterans and active military and free for those 16 and under.

Jack Gray, collector and enthusiast for all things wireless, will be remembered for preserving the history and development of the communications technology we all enjoy today. Recognizing his contribution to this effort is long overdue. To Jack Gray, aka W8JDV, we say “73”.*

**W8JDV were Jack’s call letters, a distinctive identifier each ham operator is assigned and “73” means “best regards”, a common sign-off unique to amateur radio.*

*The Cincinnati Enquirer, 8/13/67, 8/3/70, 7/14/95, 6/18/03;
The Cincinnati Post, 12/10/81; Wikipedia.*

Jack Gray, cont.

HIS MANY HONORS

Here are just some of Jack Gray's accolades:

1967 Dayton Radio Amateur of the Year

1969 induction into the Greater Cincinnati Radio Amateur Hall of Fame for "Outstanding Achievements and Devotion to the Art of Amateur Radio"

1970 Radio Historian Award



Jack Gray at the controls, ca. 1965.

A few notable items in the Gray History of Wireless Museum collection include:

- 1) One of the final amplifier tubes which powered WLW Radio's monstrous 500,000 kilowatt station (10x the present 50,000 kw limit!), photo *below left*
- 2) First model of the De Forest triode tube; this tube could take a weak electrical signal and amplify it into a larger one. The tube helped AT&T set up coast-to-coast phone service, and it was also used in everything from radios to televisions to the first computers.
- 3) Paragon receiver used in the first successful ham transatlantic transmission test; test was completed Dec 11, 1921.
- 4) First radio used by the Cincinnati Police Dept., photo *below right*
- 5) Exact copy of the Marconi magnetic detector (copied from the original in the Smithsonian Institute by Jack Gray & Jim Rockwell, former VP of Crosley Broadcasting)



BLACK WEDNESDAY

RSVP for April's Program on the 50th Anniversary of Mason's Tornado

On April 3, 1974, the people and the landscape of Mason changed forever due to the F4 tornado that swept through town like a freight train off its tracks. It brought devastation to everything it touched, and the memory of that day is seared in the minds of all of us who experienced it.

Join the Mason Historical Society for a special presentation on the 50th anniversary of the tornado, which has been two years in the planning.

Venue will be announced in upcoming newsletters, as location is dependent of the number of attendees. Please RSVP to join us for an unforgettable evening.

Admission is free, but donations appreciated.

Call: 513-398-6750, or

Email: masonhistoricalsociety.org

CONGRATS TO OUR RALLY AROUND MHS FALL RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Place – \$500
Ron Prater

2nd Place – \$250
Jill Kleinman

3rd Place – \$100
Peoples First

4th Place – book prize
Mason, Ohio,
A Photographic History
Greg Meibers

5th Place – book prize
Mason Ohio: A Story,
Bicentennial Edition
Marcia Farquer

Congratulations to all our winners
and thank you for your support!

OHIO STATE VETERANS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2023

Sally Sherman Caudill, Editor

Mason's own **John C. Looker**, a US Army veteran was recently inducted into the Ohio State Veterans Hall of Fame. Established in 1992, this prestigious organization recognizes the post-military efforts of outstanding Ohioans. Inductees have served their country honorably and continue to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge through volunteerism, advocacy, professional distinction, public service and advocacy.



From the HOF website:

While John Looker's dedication to his country was demonstrated by his military service during the Vietnam War, it is his post-military altruism that truly makes him stand out. John has dedicated his life to bettering his nation, his community and the lives of his veteran peers. John has done this through his involvement in a wide variety of committees, advocacy groups and other veteran service organizations, all of which provide insight into his leadership and selflessness. John is an American Legion National Committee Member for Veterans Employment and

Education, a position that focuses on improving veterans' education, employment and economic well-being. John has held many leadership roles in the Commanders Action Network for the Disabled Veterans of America, where his advocacy helped protect the benefits of ill and injured veterans and their families. In addition, John is involved in many other veterans' advocacy groups including the City of Mason's Veterans Board of Affairs, where he leads veterans' activities and programs throughout the Mason community; the Warren County Veterans Court Mentorship program; and the Warren County Suicide Prevention Coalition. John has been instrumental in many community initiatives in Mason, a snapshot of which includes its dedication as a Purple Heart City; developing the Military Banner Program; organizing the POW/MIA Memorial; and orchestrating annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. John's spirit of generosity and commitment is recognized by his local community, but his efforts impact and extend to others far beyond his city.

With this honor, John was recognized with a proclamation from the City of Mason. He received congratulatory letters from US Senator Sherrod Brown and Ohio State Senator Steve Wilson, along with other accolades.

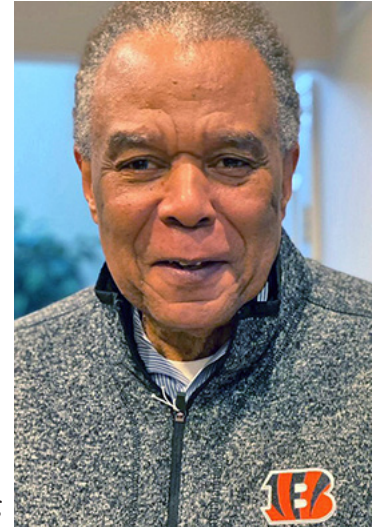
This is an incredible honor that is richly deserved. With a great amount of pride, we say **congratulations John**, and **thank you** for a lifetime of service.



Well-deserved congratulations are also in order for **Purcell Taylor, Jr.**, another member of the 2023 induction class who lives in Mason and is a member of Kiwanis:

From the HOF website:

Purcell Taylor Jr., an enlisted Marine Corps veteran, returned to Cincinnati following his military service



in Vietnam, Cuba and Quemoy-Matsu. In the face of adversity, he persisted, and became a lifelong researcher and educator. Purcell has earned prominence as a teacher, counselor, administrator, author and expert forensic psychologist. Throughout his career, he served numerous visiting and adjunct faculty positions in the southwest Ohio region. As a strong leader in his field, Purcell serves as a positive role model for inner city African American youth. Notably, in 1977, Purcell became the first African American at the University of Cincinnati to receive a doctorate degree in school psychology. He has authored or edited 10 books as well as dozens of articles published in professional journals and magazines. Purcell currently serves as Professor Emeritus of Psychology in Forensic Practice at UC. This title is awarded only to faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding service and achievements in teaching, researching and leadership. In addition to his teaching credentials, he has served as an administrator and supervisor in mental health and has served as an expert witness in court hearings, evaluations and trials. Local leaders appointed Purcell to the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and Hamilton County Task Force for Community Safety. His enduring legacy as founder of the DECLARE Therapy Center, Inc. in Cincinnati treats people suffering from chemical dependency. Among many other community engagements, and professional memberships, he volunteers his time as a peer mentor for the Warren County Veterans Treatment Court.

The Board Report

Jay Meibers, President



The holiday season is upon us as we roll towards the end of 2023. We have experienced a beautiful fall this year and I hope we experience a mild winter as we move into 2024. Always nice to have some snowfall but will take a pass on the brutally cold temperatures like we had at Christmas last year.

Congratulations to our Rally Around MHS raffle winners. The raffle was a huge success and continues to be one of our biggest fundraisers each year. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets!

I had the honor in joining the rededication of the Mason Veterans Memorial on Sat. Nov 11. The City of Mason did an incredible job in planning and executing the event which included many moving and motivational speeches, airshows, the Mason Orchestra and of

course the unveiling of the updated Veterans Memorial. Congratulations to John Looker who was one of 20 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inductees for 2023. The ceremony was held on Thursday, Nov. 9 at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center. John was also honored and spoke on Nov. 11 at the Mason Veterans Memorial rededication. Thank you to John and all the veterans who have served or continue to serve in order to protect our freedoms in this amazing country we call home!

We are now in the planning stages for our programs to be held in 2024. One program that is locked in is the 50th anniversary of the tornado which hit Mason on April 3, 1974. This program will be held on April 3 starting at 6:00. Location is TBD based on projected attendance. We ask that you RSVP by emailing or calling the museum by the end of Feb. 2024. This program will be a video presentation of interviews, pictures and stories from that day that we will never forget!

I hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season!

THIS MONTH IN MASON HISTORY

Excerpts (up to 1965) from *Around Mason, Ohio: A Story*, R.M. Springman

1866: Eliza Hall Nixon, the wife of Dr. John T. Nixon, recorded the flavor of the area in her tiny diary when she wrote that a local woman hanged herself, that one man killed another man after his wife had taken strychnine, that another woman left her husband but returned four months later, that on February 11, 1866, three soldiers funerals were preached by Mr. Rogers at Muddy Creek Church, and that on December 1 the poor house was burnt. (*Wow, what a terrible year!*)

1931: The Students Hall Mothers Club discussed in their November meeting the need for electricity in their school building. A special meeting was set for December 8 when a representative of the Union Gas and Electric Company of Cincinnati explained the cost of installing the electric and said the minimum cost per month for the service would be \$2.50.

1932: The firemen planted another Christmas tree in the public lot in early December and they paid \$20.30 for candies and nuts for the community holiday party and 45¢ for ornaments. On Christmas morning, at 4 a.m., a call came from Lebanon for aid in the fire at the Lebanon Opera House. Mason men spent four hours there, but the structure was a complete loss.

1965: Orville Parkhill died at the age of 90 in December. Parkhill, the last person in the area with that surname after 169 years, had never married but his keen interest in children's needs prompted him to leave his estate for the construction of a library building in Mason. His wishes were not executed immediately; it was 1980 before a library building was constructed. Despite the added value of the estate after so many years, the Parkhill money could not cover the cost of the land, the planning and the construction and it was necessary for the city of Mason to assume the debt for a period of 20 years. A meeting room in the library was named the Parkhill Room after the benefactor.

Holiday Gift Ideas



Make your shopping easier this year by giving one-of-a-kind gifts from the Alverta Green Museum to friends and family.

Mason history books, cookbooks, gift memberships and commemorative bricks are perfect for those hard to buy for on your list.

Call or visit our website's E-Commerce page located under "Support Us" tab.



BUSINESS MEMBERS *and* PARTNERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Air Authority Heating and Air Conditioning
Al's Heating and Cooling
American Legion, Post 194
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194
Brunk Excavating, Inc.
Chris Champ – State Farm agent
Jeff Hill Video
Mitsubishi Electric Automotive
Craig & Jamie Natorp
People's First Savings Bank
R.E. Middleton Construction LLC
Senour-Flaherty Insurance
Shorten and Ryan Funeral Home
Voorhis, Slone, Welsh and Crossland, Architects
Walldogs – Mason Sign Company
Yost Pharmacy, Inc.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason
Baysore's Flower Shop
Heritage Awards
Lt. Robt. N. Mount V.F.W. 9622 Aux.
Mason Community Players
Minuteman Press of Lebanon
Mueller Funeral Home
Warren County Historical Society

PARTNERS

City of Mason
Culver's – Mason
Mason City Schools
Mason Community Grange No.1680
Mason-Deerfield Chamber
Mason Public Library

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Tony Affatato
Nanette & Bob Berkemeyer
David Hutten
Kevin & Theresa Finnigin
Karen Terry

REMINDER

It's that time again! Membership fees for 2024 are due by the end of next month (January 31, 2024).

For your convenience, we've included a membership form you can use for your renewal on the next page of this newsletter.

As always, thanks for your support!



Affiliate Member



MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2024 Membership Form

Thank you to ALL of our members for your generous support this year. We sincerely hope you renew your membership, as we count on your dues to support our mission to preserve, protect and share Mason's incredible past for future generations.

ENROLL or RENEW your membership online at www.masonhistoricalsociety.org or fill in and mail this form.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:	
REGULAR	
Student	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Individual	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Silver	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gold	\$250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime*	\$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
NON-PROFIT ORG. \$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	
CORPORATE	
Regular	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Silver	\$250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Gold	\$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime*	\$1000 <input type="checkbox"/>

NEW **RENEWAL** (due Jan. 31)

New members who sign up between July-Dec 2024 also receive membership for all of 2025.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

*Lifetime memberships can be paid in (4) quarterly installments within (12) months

www.masonhistoricalsociety.org
513.398.6750
mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

Please make your check payable to the MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY and mail with this form to:

Mason Historical Society
Attn: Membership
207 W. Church St.
Mason, OH 45040-1607



NEW MEMBERS – which do you prefer?

mail –
hard copy

email –
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The Mason Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues, donations and memorial gifts in any amount are tax deductible.

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