CONNECTIONS

March 2018

207 W. Church Street Mason, Ohio www.masonhistoricalsociety.org 513.398.6750

Open 1 to 4pm Thursday and Friday; First Saturday of Each Month 10 –1pm, and by appointment

EVENT CALENDAR 2018

MARCH 3– Sat. Museum Open 10-1pm

MARCH 20– Tues.7pm Program at Museum

"Crosley Field Remembered"

MARCH 21– Eat at LaRosa's

APRIL 7– Sat., Mason Empty Bowls Benefit Luncheon at the Mason Grange 11– 2pm

APRIL 17 - Tues., 7pm Program at Museum

April 18 - Eat at LaRosa's

JUNE 19– Ice Cream Social / Baked Goods Auction on museum grounds

To Everyone Who Renewed Their Membership For 2018

Thank You!!!

Empty Bowls Benefit Luncheon Tickets Are on Sale Now

Mason Community Grange #1680 will host its fourth annual Mason Empty Bowls soup luncheon from 11am—2pm, Saturday, April 7, at the Mason Grange Hall. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Lebanon Food Pantry in Lebanon and the Little Miami Food Service in Morrow. Together, the two food pantries serve nearly 650 households per month who need help meeting food needs.

Guests select from hundreds of handcrafted bowls created and donated by local potters, artisans, and students. They dine on their choice of soups, bread and desserts, which were prepared and donated by area restaurants and bakeries. Guests take the handcrafted bowl home with them to remind them of all the empty bowls that need to be filled. Officials at Lebanon and Little Miami food pantries welcome the additional funds to purchase food and household items, as well as to help pay the bills associated with operation and maintenance.

The Mason Grange Hall is located at 209 N. Mason-Montgomery Rd, Mason, Ohio. Free parking is available in the lot across the street. In addition to the luncheon, the event includes a Silent Auction and additional donated pottery that guests can purchase to benefit both pantries. Adults $20, includes food and a handcrafted bowl. Food only tickets for children under 12 are $5. Seating times are: 11am —12:30pm or 12:30pm—2pm. Check the Mason Empty Bowls web site or Facebook page for where to buy your tickets. (www.Masonemptybowls.org) Tickets are limited so get them early!!

Tickets are also available at the Alverta Green Museum.

A Month at the Museum March

My shout out last month had a word missing from the information I was looking for. The keyword was OUT houses rather than our houses. What I would like is any old photos you may have that would include an outhouse or if you know where one may still be standing I will go and take a picture of it. So please let me know if you can help by calling the museum at 398-6750.

I would like to let you know that in 2017 we had a total of 786 visitors, and a grand total of 4581 volunteer hours seconded only by the number of hours it took during the Bicentennial thank you to all who helped us move forward in 2017. Our goal should be to keep it moving forward in 2018.

A small group of seniors from The Sheridan at Mason came to tour the museum even though some could not climb the stairs their interest on the first floor was enjoyed greatly.

When visitors tour the museum one question seems to be asked the most "are there any descendants of Wm. Mason still living in the area"? Well I thought about that and found some information.

Wm. Mason was born 1760 in Bedford County, PA. and died 1830 in Mason, Ohio. He had two wives, Mary McClelland and Sarah Murphy. From his two marriages came many descendants some born in other parts of Ohio but even more were born in western states such as California, Idaho, Washington State, Nebraska.

With only a small number born in Mason, to my surprise there was only one son born of Wm. and Sarah Mason who was named after his father. Wm. Mason Jr., born in 1817 was only 8yrs. old when he died in 1825 in Mason.

Names of other descendants who have passed away were Evelyn Wilkerson a Mason teacher and Band Director. Virginia Tetrick Randolph whose father Paul Tetrick was our local M.D. in earlier days. She reared her family in Mason. Her daughter Susan Randolph Livingston is deceased but her children and grandchildren still live in the local area. Gretchen Van Harlingen Wolfe, daughter of artist LuLu Wikoff Van Harlingen has children and grandchildren also in the area. I am sure I may have not been able to capture them all by name however we salute their heritage.

Now for the living our honored families are the Pickering family, Brown family, Wolfe family, Grathwohl family, Osborne family and Livingston family. Again, if your name is missing excuse us and drop us a line.

We found this baby photo of Tonya Dennon, who would be 53 years of age now, in a 1965 Western Star publication covering our Sesquicentennial. She is the daughter of Nancy Pickering Dennon.

By the way I have a number of brick orders and have set a date of April 30th as a deadline to get the forms to me. We have a target install date of May. Gay McCurley

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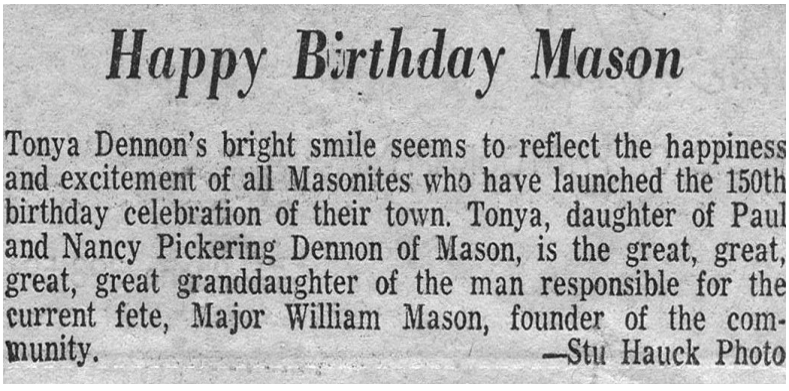
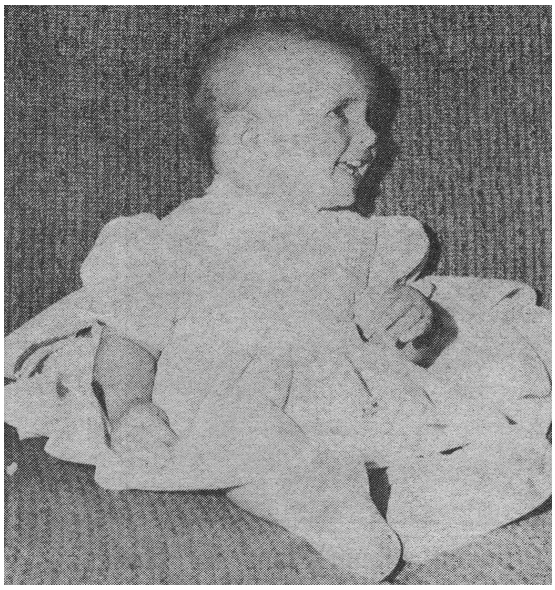


Happy Birthday Mason

Tonya Dennon's bright smile seems to reflect the happiness and excitement of all Masonites who have launched the 150th birthday celebration of their town. Tonya, daughter of Paul and Nancy Pickering Dennon of Mason, is the great, great, great, great granddaughter of the man responsible for the current fete, Major William Mason, founder of the community. —Stu Hauck Photo



Article From The Western Star

Mason's 175th Anniversary Issue:

Through The Years—Wednesday, August 22,1980

The Death Of Our Founder

Just about everyone knows that Mason was named for the man who platted the town—William Mason. Many know that the town's original name was Palmyra—and that the name was probably borrowed from the town of Palmyra, Tenn., where the Mason family had ties.

A monument honoring Mason's founder can be found in Rose Hill Cemetery, but few people know just how he died. It was not in the Revolutionary War for which he enlisted when he was only 16 years old nor in the War of 1812. He met his death on a wintry day in February 1830, when he fell into a well in his yard.

A granddaughter describes it in Rose Marie Springman's book, "Around Mason, Ohio: A Story." Mason had previously moved from his farm into a house south of town.

The new home was on Road Street, facing east toward Muddy Creek. The well in which he tumbled was equipped with a well sweep—one of those lever—like devices which raises or lowers the bucket.

"Grandfather was drawing water," Flora Tetrick explained in her journal. "And fell in the well head foremost, struck his head and drowned."

Curiously, another of Mason's granddaughters, Sarah Mason Baker—the wife of saloon keeper David Baker—died in a well-related death 44 years later.

This granddaughter plunged into the cistern to save the life of a drowning child. She contracted a cold and died.

There's not too much recorded history on William Mason. His first wife was Mary McClelland of Cincinnati. He was 38 years old when he married her in 1798, and 51 when he married his second wife Sarah Murphy in 1811. Miss Murphy was 21 years old.

When he died in February 1830, he willed his second wife land, of course, but beyond that the specifics—"one bay horse (Rock), three "milch" cows and eight sheep, the household and kitchen furniture, along with beds and bedding." She also got 12 hogs—"six for killing this fall and six for stock suitable to be kept over winter."

We know that one year after he plotted Palmyra, he sold his first lot for $25.

In 1835, five years after Mason's death, the town of Palmyra officially became Mason, honoring the man who had bought the land and platted the town.

Springman's history book had an interesting quote from Mason's granddaughter Flora Wikoff Tetrick, (daughter of Sarah and Peter Wikoff).

"I heard Ma say when she was first married, Pa would go uptown at night and leave her alone. "She would gather the money, mostly gold, together, tie it in a bag and go out in the orchard behind the house, climb up a tree and tie the bag to a limb and stay in the tree until Pa came home."

Flora also remembered her mother describing the Mason farm as "being much in forest and the wild state in the early 1820s."

Once, she said, when her mother and her siblings were playing in the creek with a homemade wooden wagon, one of them looked up and saw a number of Indians coming up the creek toward them. The children scampered up the bank to their home and pieces of the wagon were strewn all along the way.

William Mason's father, Philip, came to the colonies from England in the 1740s.

National Women's History Month Festival

New Festival Celebrates The Artistry Of Women

The Enquirer: February 1, 2018. By Luann Gibbs

March is National Women's History Month, and to celebrate, AlivenArts will host the first National Women's History Month Festival in Cincinnati. The festival will run from March 3rd through the 18th. It will feature five unique and distinct events celebrating the artistry of women and the legacy of pioneering women.

AlivenArts is a newly created arts collaboration incubator founded by Rachel Kramer, former accompanist and associate director of MUSE.

Each year of the festival, an organization is chosen to receive the proceeds from the festival to further assist their particular contributions fueling programming dedicated to the empowerment of women. The 2018 recipient is MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir.

The Festival Lineup

March 3, 9am—3pm: Community Matters Sanctuary, 2110 St. Michael St., Mount Adams. "Filiae Mundi", a Jr-High School Girls sing-in with guest conductors Robyn Lana, Lisa Peters and Dr. Catherine Roma.

March 4, 4pm: Hyde Park Community Methodist Church, 1345 Grace Ave., Hyde Park. Dr. Brenda Portman will present an organ recital of all women composers followed by a reception.

March 10, 12– 7pm: Community Matters Sanctuary, 2110 St. Michael St., Mount Adams. Women artists in music, art and word. Includes two concerts by MUSE.

March 17, 3pm, 5pm & 7pm: Harriet Beecher Stowe House, 2950 Gilbert Ave, Walnut Hills. Dr. Tammy Kernodle will give a lecture on women of the Civil Rights Movement.

March 18, 4pm: Hebrew Union College, Mayerson Hall, 3101 Clifton Ave., Clifton. The LUNAFESTWomen's Film Festival will be presented, followed by a closing reception and special performance by MUSE.

www.alivenarts.org for details and ticket information.

Poems For Fun, Thought, And Pastime

By Dorothy Rednour Andersen

One of our members was looking through our library and came across Dorothy's book of poems. After reading her poem **"HOMETOWN",** he asked me to include it in this month's **CONNECTIONS** because he felt it was a perfect description of Mason.

Hometown

A hometown is something special
To cherish in your heart
It can quickly occupy your thoughts
When despair and homesickness start.
It doesn't have to be so large
For just a house or two
Can harbor just as many dreams and
Precious things for you.
All through the years it still remains
While your goals in life you found, and
Many a heart can lighten, with
A thought of your own hometown.

St. Patrick's Day—By Becky Little, National Geographic

Though St. Patrick's Day originated in Ireland, the parades, parties, and practice of dyeing rivers green is a purely American tradition and celebration of Irish-American pride. The holiday was first celebrated in 18th- and 19th-century Ireland as a small religious celebration in honor of an important figure in Irish history. St. Patrick was a real person. He lived sometime in the fifth century A.D. and was British, not Irish. He ended up in Ireland because he was kidnapped and sold into slavery. After seven years of slavery, he escaped back to Britain ater returning to Ireland.

Do You Recognize Us?...

While going through a box of photographs, Gay found this one. Unfortunately the picture is not dated and the people are not identified.

That is where you our members come in!

If you recognize the people in this picture please call Gay McCurley at the Alverta Green Museum, 398-6750.

Any help you can provide to identify these people would be greatly appreciated.

We could fill newsletters for a few months with photographs of people we have who are not identified.

Thank You

The IR&T Rapid Railway: Mason's Trolley Line

Before cars were owned by most people, how do you think the residents of Mason got from place to place? Did they walk? Ride horses? Well, for a short time in the early 20th century they had another option. From 1903 to 1922, a trolley line ran through Mason. This line, built by the Interurban Railway & Terminal Company, was called the Rapid Railway. It ran from Lebanon to Cincinnati's Pleasant Ridge neighborhood (where, ironically, this Mason native currently resides). From there it connected with another line and continued on to Downtown Cincinnati where it terminated at a station on Sycamore Street. The total ride from Downtown to Lebanon lasted a total of 1 hour and 50 minutes. Though today that journey could be done in less than half the time, it was an incredible innovation for its era and it changed the way people lived their daily lives. Gone were the days where traveling into the big city had to be a multi-day trip. Now, people could travel wherever they wished in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area in a matter of hours. Businesses boomed all along the trolley line and populations in many small towns including Mason grew significantly.

Traveling north through Mason, the trolley would go up Main Street before turning on to Dawson Street and crossing Muddy Creek. To this day, parts of the rail bed remain at the end of Dawson and concrete piers from the bridge remain in Muddy Creek. During the First World War, the Rapid Railway became a crucial player in the war effort. The Peters Cartridge Company had opened a munitions factory in Kings Mills in 1916, just one year before the U.S. entered the war. The workers, many of whom were women traveled from all over Southwest Ohio to Kings Mills day after day to do their part and provide munitions for those serving overseas. Unfortunately, the IR&T began abandoning its rapid transit lines shortly after the war and in 1922 the Rapid Railway was shut down. Though it marked the end of an era for public transit, it changed Mason and the surrounding areas forever.

With warmer weather on the horizon we encourage you to check out the Ohio Historical Marker commemorating the Rapid Railway. It is at the corner of East Main Street and Dawson Street.

Tim Miller

FUN FACTS

Cost of Living in 1968

Year end Close D J Industrial Average — 943
The Federal minimum wage is increased to $1.60 an hour
Average cost of new house $14,950.00
Average income per year $7,850.00
Average monthly rent $130.00
Gas per gallon 34 cents
Average cost of a new car $2,822.00
Average cost of a movie ticket $1.31
The first Big Mac goes on sale in McDonalds costing 49 cents;
TODAY it is $4.19 at McDonalds near KI.
Inflation Calculator comes up with $3.56

Parker Pen Set $11.95
Yearly inflation rate **USA** 4.27%
Yearly inflation rate **UK** 4.7%

Below are some prices for **UK** guides in Pounds Sterling:
Average House price 4,344 pounds
Gallon of Petrol 5 shillings 5 pence or 28 new pence

And…
January 4—Mattel's Hot Wheels toy cars are introduced.

January 22—Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In debuts on NBC.

February 1—The Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central Railroad merge to form Penn Central, the largest ever corporate merger up to this date.

March 18—Gold standard: The United States Congress repeals the requirement for a gold reserve to back U.S. currency.

Historical Facts Of Mason

While we are well aware that the flu season has been severe this year; one hundred years ago in 1918 Deerfield Township closed all schools due to the influenza epidemic in the early fall. They reopened on November 11, 1918.

A third consecutive championship in the county was won by the high school varsity baseball team in 1945.

Undefeated team members were Louis Rapp, Gordon Tracy, Don Wolfe, Walter Tucker, Bill Mellish, Don Spaeth, Fred Ruscher, Don Allison, Bob Miller and brothers Dick Middleton and Bob Middleton.

On May 11, 1811 William Mason then age 51 years old married Sarah Murphy age 21. It was his second marriage and he had two children ages 9 and 11. William and Sarah were to have four children.

Elizabeth died at 18 months and William Jr. died at age 8. Cynthia and Sarah lived long lives, dying in 1891 and 1895 respectively. Ken Thompson: from *AROUND MASON, OHIO: A STORY*

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

We target to have the newsletters to the post office 5 days before the end of the month so it will be delivered to you by the first or second day of the month. We met that target date for the February newsletter.
When no one had received the newsletter by February 5 we called the Mason Post Office and confirmed the 3 trays left Mason on January 26. We were directed to a Post Office Department in Cincinnati to inquire further. After 3 more calls as to where the newsletters might be it was still a mystery.
On Tuesday February 6 members were receiving the newsletter. For the past several months the newsletters were delivered in 5 days. We learned it can take up to 2 weeks for the delivery of bulk mail.

Food for thought…

It only costs $0.49 to mail a First Class letter from Mason to California or any point in between. It only costs us $0.185/piece to mail the newsletter from Mason to California as bulk mail. At this price we must understand there may be some delays. We appreciate your support and patience and apologize for the delay in the delivery of the February newsletter.

Meet Our Student Volunteers

Hello! My name is Haley Dardis and I am a senior at Mason High School. I plan on attending Miami University this fall to study in the Farmer School of Business. Throughout high school, I've been involved in choir, water polo, swimming, Spanish National Honor Society, SIBS, and MBC (the school's news broadcast). Although I just recently started volunteering at the Mason Historical Society, I have already enjoyed my time here and I'm so thankful for the opportunity. I look forward to spending the next couple of months with the society!

Hello! I'm Soumya Jaiswal, a junior at Mason High. I've been running the Historical Society's website for over a year. I stumbled upon this opportunity after my friend, who originally created the website, thought I would be a great fit for this job. A few of my interests in school are Drama Club, National Honor Society, Spanish NHS, peer tutoring, and Mason Inclusion Club. I love writing and communication, which is why I absolutely love being the Webmaster here. I am also a theater journalist for the Cincinnati Enquirer and an author for Scholastic. In my free time, I enjoy volunteering at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and UC Medical center. My dream career involves a mixture of science, my favorite subject, and communication. I have only lived in Mason for two years but volunteering at the society has taught me more about Mason than I could have ever imagined – it has made this wonderful city feel like home.

Hi, my name is Suzy Troughton and am in my junior year of high school. History has always been a passion of mine, especially ancient world history. I also love to act and am actively involved with drama club. I am also in a club called SIBs, an organization that dedicates their time to make the freshmen feel welcomed as they take their first steps into high school. Helping the Mason Historical Society is amazing! I have learned so many things I didn't know about Mason and I can't wait to learn more!

Hi! I am Vedarsh Shah, a freshman at Mason High School. I am a part of the Mason Hack Club, Mason Model UN, Mason ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), and Mason TED-Ed clubs at the high school. I love working with technology, and computer programming is my most favorite thing to do. I am also very interested in history. I wanted to use my skills to help my community, so my Integrated Media teacher recommended me to the Mason Historical Society to help work on their website. Currently, I am also working on setting up the e-commerce website as well as developing an app for the Mason Historical Society. Working there has been a unique combination where I get to learn about the great wealth of history the Mason Historical Society has preserved while also getting to work with computers, my passion.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of; Richard Jones who passed away January 28. Richard was the husband of Lynn Humphrey Jones.

Note From the Editor

Remember this is your newsletter. If you have any contributions or suggestions for making the newsletter better I'm easy to reach. My contact information is;

513-398-6750,
www.mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

or

deniselandise@yahoo.com

513-850-3780

Remember the things that happen today, no matter how small, are tomorrow's history. Denise Landise

2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM … MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Become a NEW member of the Mason Historical Society or RENEW you membership TODAY!
Please make your check payable to the Mason Historical Society and mail with this form to the address below.

Mason Historical Society
MEMBERSHIP
207 W. Church Street
Mason, OH 45040-1607
www.masonhistoricalsociety.org

NEW____ RENEWAL____

Types of Membership:

Non-Profit Org. $40_____

REGULAR		**CORPORATE**	
Student	$ 10 ___	Regular -	$100 ____
Individual	20 ___	Silver -	250 ____
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Silver	100 ___	Lifetime -	1000 ____
Gold	250 ___		
Lifetime	500 ___		

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

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_____
Phone

_____
Email address

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Birthday(s) … month & day
(to be published in our monthly newsletter)

MAY WE CALL ON YOU TO HELP PRESERVE MASON'S HISTORY BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME _____?

The Mason Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code.
MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.**

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FUNDRAISING EVENT

Mason Historical Society

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January 17, February 21, March 21
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Thank You For Your Support

We love to help the neighborhoods we serve!

Alverta Green Museum Mason Historical Society ESTABLISHED 1979

Events Reminder

March 3 - Sat., Museum Open 10 - 1 and
Mason High School Student Art Show

March 20 - Tues., Program @ Museum

March 21- Eat at LaRosa's

April 7 - Sat., Museum Open 10 - 1

April 17- Tues., Program @ Museum

April 18 - Eat at LaRosa's

May 5 - Sat., Museum Open 10-1

May 15 - Tues., Program @ Museum

May 16 - Eat at LaRosa's

(Programs @ Museum Begin at 7PM)

2018 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living
Culver's of Mason
LaRosa's, Mason
Marion's Piazza
Mason Bowl, Inc.
Mason City Schools
Mason-Deerfield Chamber
Mason Health Care Center
Mason Public Library
Minuteman Press of Lebanon
Warren County Historical Society

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