CONNECTIONS

July 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

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30-YOGA

July 7-Sat., Museum Open 10-1pm

July 17-Program-Amusement Parks, Presented by Cincinnati Museum Center

July 18-Eat at LaRosa's; Take a Flyer

August 4-Sat., Museum Open 10-1pm

August 6, 13, 21-YOGA

August 15-Eat at LaRosa's; Take a Flyer

August 20-Program-Mason Trivia

Popular Cemetery Walk Needs Musicians And Actors/Actresses

The theme for this year's October 16th evening Rose Hill Cemetery Walk is "Mason Athletes From The Past". We are in need of folks interested in:

1) Portraying one of the selected former athletes,

2) Musicians that can still play the Star Spangled Banner and The Mason High School Fight Song!

Of course , you could really help us out and do both! For more information and to volunteer, please contact

perrydenehy@gmail.com or call the Historical Society: at 398-6750. Tickets go on sale in September.

A New Website Comes To Our Society

We invite you and your friends to visit The Mason Historical Society E-Commerce Website.
Go to our website, masonhistoricalsociety.org and "click on" the E-Commerce link.

This website was designed to allow our membership along with the community of Mason to gain information about The Mason Historical Society and the Alverta Green Museum and support us in many ways without leaving your home. You can renew your membership and purchase items from our gift shop online, using your credit card. These items make great gifts that you can give or ask for. You can even make donations online. This can all be done by selecting your interest and following the prompts.

Our website will tells you about upcoming events, our monthly programs and our weekly donation based yoga class. You will be able to get information about our fundraisers, the Annual Cash Prize Raffle and The Cemetery Walk. You will also find information about Mason Historical Tours. There is also information about the Alverta Green Museum.

Our hope is to make information easily obtainable and to allow you to support The Mason Historical Society in your own home via the computer. Please check out our new E-Commerce Website and let us know what you think !

A Month at the Museum

By Gay McCurley

I would like to inform all of our members of some events and donations. Of course the Ice Cream Social and baked goods auction was, as usual, a success with plenty of goodies enjoyed by all. Gene Steiner and his son Derik, our auctioneers (that's correct I said OUR) were as happy as the day is long and everyone had their fill of the calorie free baked items! If you missed it be sure to come in 2019.

Dee Wilt, our artist member, is at it again with another donation of a framed water color. Her choice this time was the Mason School on Northeast street, built in 1911. Keep up the good work Dee.

Theresa Tener, daughter of Margaret Hagood, donated some 1950-1960 dresses and hats. We are now into the mid century in our clothing collection but still enjoy our early 1900's so keep looking in your attic for any additions you may find for our collection.

Our next display will be the Art Show displaying our museum collections and any paintings on loan to us for the months of July and August. Again, our favorite veterans collection will be on display September and October, ending around November 9th.

Our latest Brick order has arrived! If you ordered a Brick this year, they have been installed in the walkway and have made a great addition to the Bricks already laid in the walkway. Wouldn't it be great if our entire membership was represented with a Brick? Stop by and see your Brick, we think you will be pleased.

Dee Wilt is pictured with Gay McCurley donating her latest water color painting to the museum. It is the Mason School on Northeast Street built in 1911. Thank you Dee for sharing your talent with us! Dee has donated other works of art which are hanging in the museum , please stop in and see them, you are sure to be impressed!

"Helpful Hints"

The Dow Drug Co. Diary 1930

While looking through our library for something to put in the newsletter I came across **The Dow Drug Co. Diary of 1930.** It offers many tips on health, beauty, living a long life, household hints and general information. But keep in mind these tips were written in 1930!!! I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did.

"Do You Choose To Live To Be 100?"

"Take an abundance of fresh air, especially in your sleeping room at night. Avoid drafts; shut them off or move aside. Take a full bath in moderately hot water and soap, followed with cold water and a vigorous rub once or twice a week for cleanliness. Do not neglect to finish the bath with cold water to give vigor, close the pores and insure against taking cold. Take a cold plunge every morning, wipe dry and then induce a perfect reaction by a friction rub with a coarse Turkish towel, by slapping and by exercise. Have regular meals of wholesome, nutritious, well prepared and well cooked foods and give strict attention to the right combinations of foods. Exercise daily in the open, in the performance of useful labor or on some worthy mission; walking just for the sake of walking is not the best exercise. Never be idle when well. Stand, sit and walk erect with the chest up, the chin held in and practice full, deep breathing through the nostrils, not through the mouth."

Is that all it takes to live to 100?

1969 Ad for shopping in Mason.

Word Of Mouth

By Denise Landise

The students of Mason have just started their summer vacation from school and are enjoying their time off sleeping late and spending time with friends. But two students were still interested in learning more about the town they live in, Mason. So on May 31st two Mason High School students, who just completed their sophomore year, Lauren Stacy and Ty Kerr, came into the Alverta Green Museum to learn some history of Mason and see some antiques from a time period they have only heard about.

I asked them how they heard about our museum. Lauren's sister attended Christmas in Mason and after the tree lighting ceremony came to our Christmas Open House. Knowing Lauren's interests she told her she would really enjoy touring the museum. Lauren's mother had also been to the museum and told her she would really enjoy seeing it. (Wow! Sometimes our children do listen to us!) Knowing her friend Ty's interests she brought him with her. Ty really enjoys history, and hopes to become a history teacher. When Lauren suggested they come here he was just as excited to tour the museum as she was.

Lauren's interests are in handmade items, like our quilts, and she has a great appreciation for antiques. Lauren really admired the craftsmanship and quality of the items we have on display. She also thought the doctor's office was really interesting. Ty liked the maps that show Mason in 1962 and Mason in 2015. He located his neighborhood in the 2015 map but in 1962 there was nothing there but fields and wooded areas. They both said they would definitely be back and would recommend to their friends that have the same interests to put the museum on their summer to do list. Ty also believed that Mason High School history classes would benefit from coming here and learning more Mason History.

This is a perfect example of how "Word of Mouth" can increase the number of visitors we get at the museum. So help spread the word! Tell your friends and relatives about us, you would be surprised how many people don't know we are here!

These are pictures of the maps of Mason as it looked in 1962 and 2015.

Mason In 1870's

Article From The Pulse-Journal, Mason, Ohio
Wednesday, May 14, 1980; Author Unknown

By the 1870's the population of Mason was about 387 people and the town's government was on a salaried basis—the mayor was paid $9.80 a year, the marshal $15.00, the street commissioner $21.00, the solicitor $12.00 and members of the council $9.00 per year.

The first jail in Mason was built in 1874 at a cost of $143.00 and was located at the end of Northwest Street and Burkle Drive. That same year the council purchased its own printing press at a cost of $28.60, complete with supplies.

In 1875 the complete expenditures for the town's government was $372.59 and this included a 20cent a year raise in the mayor's salary to $10.00 and the rent of $5.00 per year for a meeting room for the council. The first jury trial in Mason was held in 1876.

Twelve street lights were installed on Main Street in the summer of 1877. The recorded costs were:

12 lamps and burners	**$89.20**	**50 gallons gasoline**	**$7.00**
12 mounting brackets	**3.00**	**12 cedar posts , 16 feet long**	**8.64**
1 50 gallon barrel	**7.40**	**installing lights**	**3.50**

The lamp lighter was paid $4.00 per month for his daily job. That same year the first pound was constructed—to keep stray hogs, cattle, horses and mules.

The condition of the roads in Mason (as noted before) in the 19th century left a lot to be desired. The Main Street was humorously referred to as the "Mason Jars" because of the jarring about that the citizenry accepted as part of the road system. However, there was a law requiring all men in the town to donate two days' work per year on the streets and this practice continued well into the new century.

Historic East End Fire Of 1930

By Ken Thompson

Saturday July 19, 1930 began as a sweltering, lazy day in the tiny village of Mason, (population—854).

In the short space of three hours Saturday afternoon, three homes, a blacksmith shop, paint shop, garage and vacant store room were destroyed and a dozen or more other buildings in the neighborhood were seriously threatened by the flames.

The fire is believed to have started in the rear of George Kohl's paint shop located at or near where Tucker's Whippy Dip is today. The fire spread rapidly and the adjoining blacksmith shop and garage were soon ablaze. Efforts of the Mason fire department to fight the blaze were hindered by a constantly diminishing water supply and calls were sent to Lebanon and Morrow for assistance.

By that time however, the fire cistern near the blazing garage had been pumped dry. Over the course of the afternoon over half a dozen wells and cisterns were pumped dry and it was necessary to pump water from nearby Muddy Creek in order to refill the fire cisterns.

The flames spread from the top of garage buildings to the residence of Albert Dill and from there to Henry Beckman's home and wagon-works shop located at the corner of the Kings Mills Road and Main street. All of these buildings were completely destroyed.

Fanned by a brisk wind the flames spread across the street and a two story frame building owned by Albert Bennett was next to go. The building was a total loss.

Sparks in the meantime had ignited the roof of the two story residence owned by Herman Hendricks and located on the south side of Main street three doors east of the Beckman home. The house was badly damaged. Herman Hendricks was the grandfather of Mason Historical Society Charter Member Bruce Hendricks. That building is at 207 East Main Street and is now the site of the Wildflower Café.

Historic East End Fire Of 1930 (Continued)

Jumping over two more houses the blaze next hit the Kohl home, a two-story brick house occupied by Andrew Neufarth. It was practically destroyed.

Other houses in the neighborhood caught fire at various times but damage was slight in each case.

The origin of the fire was believed to be when Mr. Kohl had driven a car up a steep incline heading to the paint shop when a spark from the muffler may have ignited the oil soaked flooring on the incline. Mr. Kohl maintained that the fire had to have been arson as he asserted there was no fire as he left the premises.

With the exception of the Dill home, the Kohl garage, blacksmith shop and paint shop, all of the losses were covered by insurance. Mr. Kohl estimated his loss would possibly exceed $20,000.

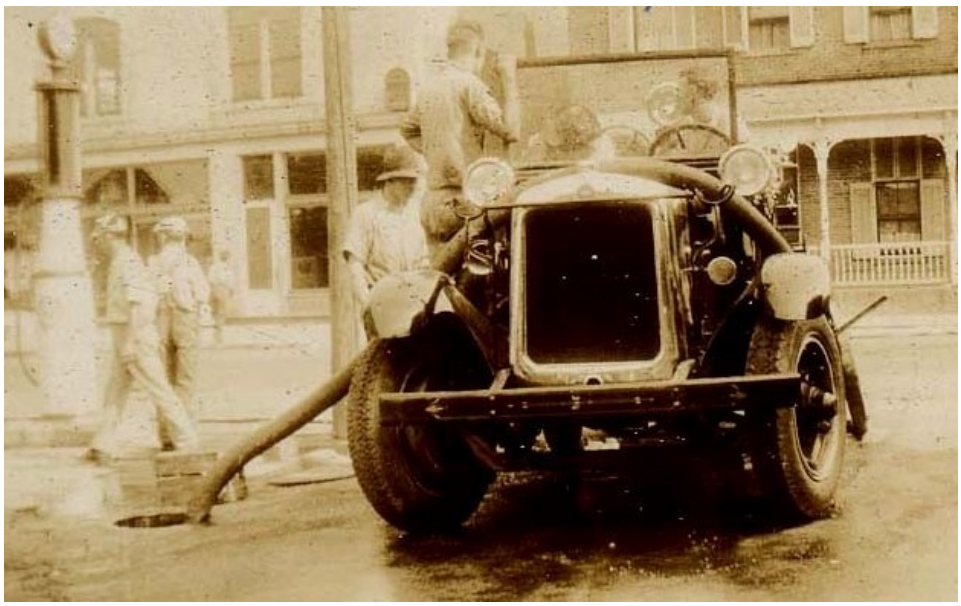
During the height of the blaze it was necessary to detour traffic over Route 42 around Mason. Soon after news of the fire had spread the roads leading into the village were crowded and throughout Saturday night and most of Sunday the village was thronged.

At the very forefront of the battle the day of the great fire stood the village's new GMC Howe piston pumper capable of pumping 350 gallons of water per minute, if there was a supply of water available. Purchased less than two years prior, in 1928, "Old Betsy" as she would come to be known as, was a huge asset replacing the villages 1921 Model T Ford fire engine.

Firemen did everything in their power to arrest the spread of the blaze and in view of the water shortage their work in getting it under control without further loss was commended by everyone.

In the council records were listed the names of the firemen who participated fighting the disastrous fire- James Dumford, Charles Laymon, Vernon Emley, Tom Baysore, William Pickering, Leslie Franz, Wymer Drake, Harry Snell, Herbert Richards, Vernie Spaeth, Leslie Spaeth, Howard Snell and Eugene Kaucher.

In an ironic twist, Mason Village Council had been locked in legal matters which delayed the construction of an updated waterworks and water distribution system in the village. The "pro waterworks crowd" led by Mayor Joe Davis had a good start on construction one year prior to the fire until the "anti-waterworks crowd" led by George Kohl achieved getting an injunction in Common Pleas Court to stop the construction. We can only imagine the outcome if the waterworks was up and running on that sweltering 98º day in July, in the East end of the village.



"Old Betsy" drafting water from the fire cistern located at the Northeast corner of Mason Montgomery and Main Streets. The cistern was one of several located throughout the village.

Mason Through The Years

The Civil War

From Mason Public Library Vertical File

Reported by Pulse-Journal, Mason OH, Date and Author Unknown

In April, 1861, when Fort Sumter had been fired upon and the Civil War was inevitable, there was a mass meeting held in Lebanon for the county. As a result, a telegram was sent to Governor Dennison of Ohio advising him that Warren County would raise a full quota of men as required by President Lincoln's call. It was to Warren County's credit that seldom was the draft method used during the four years of war between the states; its quota was almost always filled by volunteers. All able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to "muster" at frequent intervals. The total muster-roll of the county was 5352. By the end of 1862, 2140 Warren Countians had enlisted in various regiments; Deerfield Township sent 212 men into the military ranks.

Historical Facts Of Mason

Ken Thompson

The Mason Fire Company had the members of the Morrow Fire Company as their guests at their October 6, 1930 meeting. It was a celebration of Morrow's assistance with the east end fire on July 19, 1930. All were served ice cream and "smokes".

In 1944, 26 seniors who graduated from Mason High School had their commencement on May 19. The officers of the class were Donald Young, Harold Weisman, Mildred Meinking and Al Voorhis.

The Mason High School Varsity Basketball team were runners up to Middletown in the 1963 Southwestern District AA Tournament play. Dick McCurley and Hub Wilburn were co-captains of the team. In the county track meet Charles Simons set two new county records in the low and high hurdles.

You can read more "tidbits" such as these in **AROUND MASON, OHIO: A STORY,** a book written by ROSE MARIE SPRINGMAN. The book can be purchased at the Alverta Green Museum for $40.00.

Historical Facts

July 17, 1968-Saddam Hussein becomes Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in Iraq after a coup d'état.

Amusement Parks In Cincinnati

The Ice Cream Social—Baked Goods Auction is our monthly program in June. Not to worry though, we have one scheduled for July 17th at 7pm. This program is sure to please everyone! It tells the history of amusement parks in Cincinnati. The thrill rides of today's amusement parks were not found in Cincinnati amusement parks of yesteryear. Travel back in time to learn about the swimming beaches on the Ohio River and the city's trolley amusement parks. Enjoy a stroll through yesterday's Coney Island and LeSourdesville Lake, then decide if today's King's Island will be the amusement park of the future.

A New Way To See Mason

We are looking into offering a new way to see 25 historical sites in Mason. You can currently pick up a Historical Tour guide outside the museum and at the Mason Public Library. The tour can be done on foot or by car and you can always contact the museum and arrange to do the walking tour led by our historian. We are now looking into offering the tour on a SEGWAY! We are really excited to offer this way to see Historic Mason. We are anxious to know what our membership thinks of this mode of transportation. If you're not familiar with a SEGWAY we hope to have one here at the museum to allow you to look it over and try it out. Watch and check for more information in future newsletters and on our website.

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.

Contact me at 513-398-6750

www.mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

513-850-3780

deniselandise@yahoo.com

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

Thank you.
Denise

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

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(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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Events Reminder

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Presented By Cincinnati Museum Ctr.

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August 20 – Program - Mason Trivia

(Programs & Yoga @ Museum Begin at 7PM)

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2018 CHURCHES

Grace Baptist Church

2018 MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason

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Marion's Piazza

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Mason City Schools

Mason Health Care Center

Minuteman Press of Lebanon

Terry's Lawn Care, Inc.—**GOLD**

Warren County Historical Society

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Mason Historical Society
207 W. Church St.
Mason, Ohio 45040

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2018 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

HIND SIGHT – What is hind sight? If you missed the 25th Annual Ice Cream Social and Baked Goods Auction on Tuesday June19th and wished you had been there, that is hind sight. WOW, what a great and fun evening you missed!!

Thanks to our two auctioneers, all of the bakers, the bidders, the many helpers during the event and those of you who stayed around to put things away at the end, during the rain no less, the evening was an overwhelming success.

The frozen custard donated by Culver's, ice cream cups donated by United Dairy Farmers and ice cold water donated by People's First Savings Bank kept everyone cool so they could enjoy the music of Jim Teepen. The extreme heat and a 3 hour power outage prevented slushies from being made. Equipment and the mix to offer this treat was donated by Mason Bowl. Maybe next year?? Not only did everyone get to enjoy free goodies but also the pleasure of enjoying the auction antics of Gene Steiner and his son Derik. What a duo!!

You fantastic bakers always come through when we call you. Not only that after baking and donating one or two baked goods, when the auction got underway you jumped in on the action and bid until you won. You provided an ample supply of cakes, pies, brownies, cinnamon rolls, cookies and fudge. That is supporting the Society at its best. January 2019 Mason Historical Society will be 40 years old so we hope to have the best Ice Cream social/Baked Goods Auction Mason has ever seen.
Thank you for your unending support. Gay McCurley

The 2018 Ice Cream Social

Dave Anderson

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 the atmosphere was electric, hot and heavy (and that was just the bidding). The evening started with folks bringing in homemade baked goods for the pastry auction. The items were brought into our new meeting room and exhibited on provided tables. The ice cream (from United Dairy Farmers) and frozen custard (from Culvers) with topping were laid out on tables in the middle of the room. There were cookies, brownies and other goodies spread on the next tables. Taking some chocolate custard and a cookie and one of the best tasting brownies I ever had I decided that now was a good time to get a bidding number and see what I might want to bid on. I also picked up my Summer Splash Raffle tickets ($2 each, 3 for $5). There were some beautiful pies and cakes up for auction. Making my way to the back yard and sitting under the tent provided by Dan and Larry Jeffers, I finished off my custard. While chatting with some of the other guests and listening to the music of Jim Teepen I was ready to go.

Ron Macy brought a SEGWAY that will be offered for historical tours of Mason.

About 7:00, Gene Steiner and his son Derik began the auction. The auction is one of our most fun fundraisers each year and Gene knows how to keep it lively with folks laughing as they got out their wallets. One of the most beautiful chocolate cakes had two very vocal bidders and when it was over the winning bidder said she would give the cake to the other bidder if he was willing to also pay the winning bid. So one cake went for double the winning bid. All for a good cause.

I won a Key Lime Pie that Carole and I had a piece of when I got home. It was delicious (thank you, Mick Wright).

It was nice to see all of the officers and board members in their new green shirts and name badges.

The auction just ended when the rains decided to join the party. We would like to thank all of you who jumped in to help put away the tables and chairs and thanks to Gay McCurley for chairing the event for the 4th year in a row.