CONNECTIONS

September 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

REMEMBER THE 2018 RAFFLE

DON'T BE SHUT OUT!!

September 15th is fast approaching and some lucky persons will be **WINNERS** of a cash prize! There is only a little time left for you to get your name in the pot. We want to THANK everyone who supports this important fundraiser by buying the tickets and making an extra donation. Your support in these fundraisers are needed for the maintenance and operation of the museum.

Drawing is September 15 at the Heritage Festival.

GOOD LUCK!!!

"Mason Athletes From The Past"

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at acting? Maybe you've acted in the past and would like to do so again. If you fit that description here is a great opportunity to do just that as well as help the Historical Society with an important fundraiser. We are looking for volunteers to portray Mason athletes of long ago in this year's Cemetery Walk at Rose Hill Cemetery, October 9th at 7pm! The scripts are only 5-7 minutes long and require nothing more than some enthusiasm and desire to represent a Mason athlete. If you and/or someone you know fits the description above please contact:

Perry Denehy: perrydenehy@gmail.com or call the Historical Society: at 398-6750.

WEST MAIN STREET BUILDINGS OF THE PAST

By Jerry Mullins

208 West Main Street was where Angilo's Pizza first opened and was as we recall home to at least three other businesses prior. There was Dan Baysores Barber Shop, Ralph Ramseys Jewelry Store and Bruce Hendricks Radio and TV shop. Bruce was the last business at that address prior to Angilo's. 206 West Main Street was home to John Hendricks grocery for many years, Bruce Hendricks Radio – TV shop and later to Bill Gottlieb, a plumber. That building sat next to the Municipal Building at 202 West Main Street.

The building which sat at 216 West Main Street where the Angilo's Pizza building, is today, built in 1967, housed the offices of Dr. Donald Christianson, Optometrist and John Zopff, Attorney.

Both men had their practices there in 1957. The Mason Post Office at one time was in a section of the house where the Quatman Café building is today, 224 West Main. The old buildings are gone but memories linger.

Angilo's, Mason's First Pizza Shop...is GONE! *By Jerry Mullins*

It was 56 years ago, 1962, when the Eickenhorst and Blevins families purchased the business at 208 West Main Street which had opened in 1960. Angilo's Pizza is listed in the 1960 phone book and there is an ad in the 1960 Mason High School yearbook, *MASONIAN*.

The building was wood frame and sat between 210 and 206 West Main Street. The brick residence at 210 remains but the frame building at 206 and 208 have been gone for many years. It was 1967 when the business moved to a new building at 216 West Main Street. For 58 years the business has pleased the palate of many at that location. It is interesting in 1960 the phone number was 91-5891. If you ever placed a phone order you know the last four numbers never changed in those 58 years.

When the two families purchased the business, the wives Sherry Eickenhorst and Sarah Blevins, operated the shop during the day. It was the husbands, Leroy Eickenhorst and Duke Blevins both having full time jobs on the railroad, who took on the evening shift.

The original menu included shrimp baskets, fish and chicken baskets, steak and lunch meat hoagies, cole slaw, french fries and of course build your own pizza. There was the "pee-wee," the medium and large sizes with the traditional pizza crust. There were no thin crust or deep dish pizzas. There was no delivery service. At some point the famous "Ziggy" sandwich and "cheesy fries" were added.
You called in your order or walked in and waited while your order was being prepared. The menu was expanded over the years and delivery service was added. What did not change was the crust.
It remained the traditional or thick crust until the day the business closed, Saturday July 28, 2018.

What made Angilo's different? It was operated by people who had strong ties to the community. They had been reared in Mason, graduated from Mason or had moved and lived here for a number of years. If you walked in, ordered and waited, it was very likely you talked about "old times" in and around the town and how things were changing.

Sadly to many of us who knew Angilo's for 58 years, Mason's first pizza shop is gone.
It is unlikely though, Angilo's, "Mason's First Pizza Shop" will ever be forgotten.

Notice Angilo's building to the right in this 1965 Sesquicentennial Antique Car Parade photo.

If you look closely in the foreground on the left, you can see one family who came to watch the parade dressed in sesquicentennial attire. The face of this part of West Main Street has changed over the last 53 years. Six buildings in this photograph are no longer there.

Month At The Museum

By Gay McCurley

Where does the time go? During the month of August our art show was on display for all to see, there was a challenge for visitors to view the show and come back with the total number of artists in the show and how many art pieces were out for display by each artist. I am happy to say that Barb and Mike Pask were winners of our challenge on Friday August 10th, congratulations to you both.

Our favorite display every year seems to be our Veterans Display which honors our men and women who served in the military from the Spanish American War to all those veterans currently serving our country. September 6th through November 9th will be your opportunity to view our Veterans Display and to bring your loved one's picture to add to the display. Don't miss this moment to salute our brave service men and women, many who have walked the streets of Mason in their daily lives.

The Truth??? At Last!!!

By Jerry Mullins

For many, many years, many, many people in Mason have wondered just how William Mason happened to fall head first into the well and drown on that fateful day in 1830. Finally after all those years, on August 10 2018 we have learned what happened. Knowing for a long, long time the trustworthy person who came forth on this date, we think the information is factual but…maybe draw your own conclusions!

A long time ago, a good friend of Major Mason, Bruce Hendricks, a lifetime resident and former businessman in Palmyra and Mason, revealed to one of our reporters what really went on that day. We learned, Bruce and Major Mason sat down next to the well with a fifth of Old Grand Dad whiskey. They proceeded to tell stories all the while passing the bottle back and forth until there was not a drop left to drink. Shortly thereafter Major Mason got up with Bruce's help and began to draw a bucket of water from the well. As he was leaning over to be certain the bucket was in the water he lost his balance and fell in head first. That is the information told to our reporter. This story is authenticated, in part at least, on page 18 of the book we sell, *AROUND MASON, OHIO: A STORY,* written by Rose Marie Springman. You can find some of the facts in the first paragraph under the year1830 in that book. If you want to hear the other part of the story firsthand, Bruce is the man. We can only share what we've been told.

Family Memberships

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Richard & Donna Swigert
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Mareena Strunk
Ron Macy
James Middleton
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You Can Support The Society
With These Two Fundraising Opportunities
Kroger Community Rewards

Once you have enrolled **it is not necessary to renew** your enrollment annually. Enroll today:

Mason Historical Society Rewards# is HE524

Eat LaRosa's

The third Wednesday of every month just take the flyer from the newsletter, present it to your server and we receive 20% of your bill before tax.
This reward is good for
dining in the restaurant or for carry-out.

We have repeated last month's article "Characters of a Town" just in case you had difficulty reading the story in the August edition. We apologize for the article being printed with such tight spacing.

"Characters of a Town" Part 1

The following article was first written by Mr. Robert Mong, date during the 1960's, it was found in the Alverta Green Museum's library.

Mason: "Yankee Bowyer breached the bounds of propriety in this town with his strangeness, bombast and complexities."

Mason city fathers could laugh with this man of reputed fine wit and the next instant be bent over as his assaulting words banged against their sensibilities. And what one did to the other was not always pretty-for vindictiveness and pettiness over a piece of junk is not a pretty sight in a tidy town.

Frank M. (Yankee) Bowyer Jr. was a junk dealer the likes of which you'll likely never see again. Very much a public figure, he was a sometime politician, a folk hero to some, an enigma to all and a sharp thorn in City Hall's side. Yankee died last April 30, 1973 and his controversial junkyard is about to be removed. Most say he possessed genius and a few frown and disagree. "If he was so smart," one woman remarked, "why was he a junk dealer?"

Some say he was his own man but a lonely man still; seemingly out of place in every situation, never quite fitting in. But to others he was convivial, a good guy. Yankee, the rebel. Never did relate too well to authority. He always loved a good scrimmage and the bigger the opponent the better he liked the scuffle. Part of his mystery was linked to his unpredictability. In 1934, he graduated as valedictorian from Mason High School. Record books at the school show Yankee's grade average 15 points higher than his nearest classmate.

But with all that talent, he sloughed off a handsome scholarship offer from Wilmington College –a move his friends never heard him regret.

A few years later, he became mayor of South Lebanon but soon abandoned that and returned to Mason where he dabbled in politics-running for Mason mayor in 1967 was his last race. He was a natural lawyer who loved to argue and whose forensic talent won most of his verbal battles. Even as he grew older, and wore the dingy uniform and makeup of the junk man he was, his high intelligence glistened through when he needed it, which was usually when he felt he was harassed by City Hall.

Yankee's last junkyard (he kept several over the years) was strewn along U.S.42 in north Mason and the city did not like it much, thinking it unsightly. "What annoyed Council was that Yankee would not compromise. The more they were after him to clean up the junk, the more he'd add. "They both were pretty stubborn", one city official said. From May 1967 until a few days before he died, Yankee was arrested 36 times by Mason police; 30 of those arrests resulted from junk related violations or what Yank interpreted as harassing arrests.

"They (Mason Council) broke him financially. That's the only way they could get through to him, just nickel and dime him to death. In the end, all he had was character," Yank's brother Julian said. Paul Weber, Mason City solicitor, often had to fight Yankee in court. He maintains the city wasn't "out to get Yankee," but just wanted the junkyards spruced up. When the city first started proceedings against Yank, his yard was downtown and one stack of ruined cars was piled four high, Weber said. Oil drippings from that old yard still stain the earth.

The fighting eventually caught up with Yankee last autumn. In October he was sent to Warren County jail on a 102-day sentence for running a junkyard without a license. He was released after 30 days. Once free, Yankee remained adamant and refused to bow to Mason Council. But his problems struck

"Characters of a Town" Part One

Continued:

again. He returned to jail a few months later to serve a 60-day term on the same charge. He was out in 45 days with the help of Lebanon attorney Ed Cranmer. Twenty-six days later Yankee was dead.

Those last days weren't pleasant. His mother died in February, his wife divorced him and his only child was placed in Mary Haven, the county's home for boys and girls. After his divorce Yankee often abandoned his house in town and slept at the junkyard, sometimes in the cars on the property.

He fired the engines on those cold April nights to warm himself. On April's last night, he did just that; started the engine and the muffled warmth put him to sleep he was found the next day. "Yankee was the kind of man," one of his buddies recalled at the Buckeye Lodge, "that didn't hide what he did behind some white shirt and tie. Most everything he did was done openly. He was the most honest man I ever met." One city official said: "I don't think the older Mason residents minded the junkyard that much. It was these new people in town that wanted everything just right."

Footnote Buckeye Lodge was a bar located across from Mason Bowl. Yankee was 56years old at the time of his death. The junkyard in town was located where the current All Smiles Family Dental Office is, 409 Reading Rd.

Submitted by Gay McCurley

There were 23 graduating seniors in the Class of 1934.

"Characters of a Town" *Part 2*

Uncertain as to which newspapers the following articles came from I can tell you this, they are out of a scrapbook donated to the museum by Donna Hendricks; 1979. They are quoted word for word.

"Warren County Title Goes to Jimmie"

James Cunningham, 10 Mason Ohio; is Warren County Marble Champion in the Sixth Annual Post Marble Tournament for three counties out-side Cincinnati. James is a student of the Mason School. He will go to Hamilton May 26 to represent Warren-Co. in the Post Tri-County Championship Games.

"Mason, O., Couple Are Presented With Twins"

The first twins to be born in the new Christ Hospital are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mulford Bowyer and weighed 4 ½ and 6 pounds at birth, Sunday, August 2, 1931 at 1:11 a.m. and 1:20 a.m.

Resident physicians Dr. A.B. Smith and Dr. Lee Riesenback, attended the mother. Of over 300 births at the new hospital since its opening, Dec 20, 1930 this is the first set of twins.

"Pioneer Carriage Maker Succumbs"

George Kohl, Mason Native, Found Dead in Woods Monday 1941.

Discovery of the body of George Kohl, well-known carriage maker, of Mason, at about 1:30 a.m., Monday, April 14, 1941, on the Will Green Farm near Mason, ended a search begun in the late afternoon of Sunday.

Mr. Kohl left his home early in the afternoon after informing Mrs. Kohl of his intention to take a customary stroll in the county. She became alarmed as the afternoon passed. Organized searching parties combed farm lands south of Mason until the body, crouched against a supporting tree, was discovered. Coroner H.M. William pronounced Mr. Kohl's death had occurred several hours earlier, due to cerebral hemorrhage. The deceased was born in Mason sixty-seven years ago, the oldest of four children of Andrew and Katherine Kohl. In 1898 he married Miss Maud Dill. The couple located in Miamisburg where their daughter, Helen, was born. With the exception of ten years' residence in Miamisburg, Mr. Kohl lived his entire life in the vicinity of Mason. He was preceded in death by Mrs. Kohl in 1927.

At an early age he became an apprentice in the carriage shop of his uncle, John Kohl. He conducted a well-established vehicle repair shop business for thirty-two years. He engaged in truck body building for the past fifteen years. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Minnie Hendricks Kohl, whom he married in 1928, his daughter, Mrs. Earl Bahr, one grandson and one sister, Mrs. Harry Keever of Cincinnati.

Funeral services were conducted at the Watkins-Gallimore Funeral Home at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday April 16, by Rev. Murray Drysdale, pastor of Mason Presbyterian Church. Interment was made in Rose Hill Cemetery.

All information printed about "Characters of a Town" Part 2 was found in our society collection of news paper articles donated to our research library in the Alverta Green Museum. They are quoted from these articles and sometimes the newspaper is not know as well as the reporters, I hope you are enjoying these stories of real people who walked the streets of Mason.

Gay McCurley

James Cunningham

Age 10

Marble Champion

Aug. 2, 1931 the 1st twins born at Christ Hospital are the sons of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mulford Bowyer.

"The Bus Station"

In 1957 the bus station was a place where you stopped on the way home from school, after a home basketball game or maybe after some other evening event at school. You may have even stopped in on the way to school and played the pinball machine. If you didn't like the school lunch you may head there since it was within a short walking distance from the school on Northeast Street. Those were the days when you could drop a quarter in the juke box and hear 6 songs of your choosing. More times than once when Francie, Bill or John, the owners at different times, had turned down the volume, some high schooler would reach behind and turn it up. If only walls could talk!!! The stories would be endless. The ad is about the Greyhound bus schedule and the business was known by most as the "bus station" but it was more than that. There was a soda fountain where you sat on a stool at the counter and there were booths on the opposite side of the room. You could get a "fountain coke", a sundae, a milk shake, a malted milk, a banana split or just a cone of ice cream. You could get breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dinner menu was not all that extensive but it was always good. Yep, you could get your smokes there too.

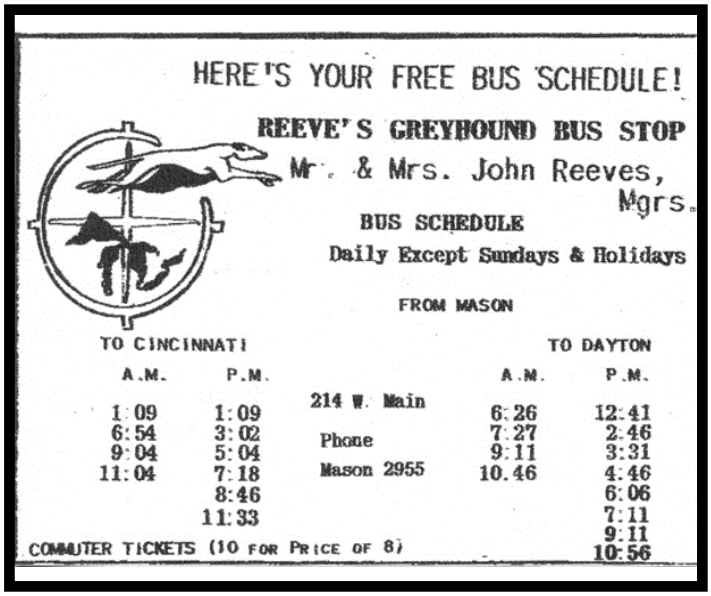
When the VOA antenna fields were being built some of those workers stayed at Henry Konrads Tourist Home, 219 West Main Street, next to The First Mason Bank. The workers who stayed there for many months had breakfast at the bus station which was just across the street, nearly every morning. The stately three story Victorian tourist home with an iron fence and gate in front has been gone for a long time.

Just think, there was a time when you could catch a Greyhound Bus on Main Street in Mason which would take you to Cincinnati and Dayton, something you cannot do today. It was straight down Route 42 into Cincinnati, and Route 42 and 48 to Dayton. Expressways may have been on the drawing boards but there was little if any talk about those in 1957.

The Mason High School Class of 1957 met at the bus station and boarded a chartered Greyhound Bus very late one evening in May and headed to Detroit, Michigan. There they toured the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village before boarding a boat to travel across Lake Erie to Port Colborne Canada. From there they traveled by bus to Niagara Falls where they spent the day visiting the sites around the falls. Three days later a chartered Greyhound Bus dropped everyone off at the 214 West Main Street Bus Station in Mason where it all started.

Today the building is home to Antonio's Violins and Ukes. No more booths, no more soda fountain, no more juke box, no more back room card games and no more pinball machine but the walls which heard so many, many things are still there hoarding all the stories and secrets shared over many, many years.

By Jerry Mullins



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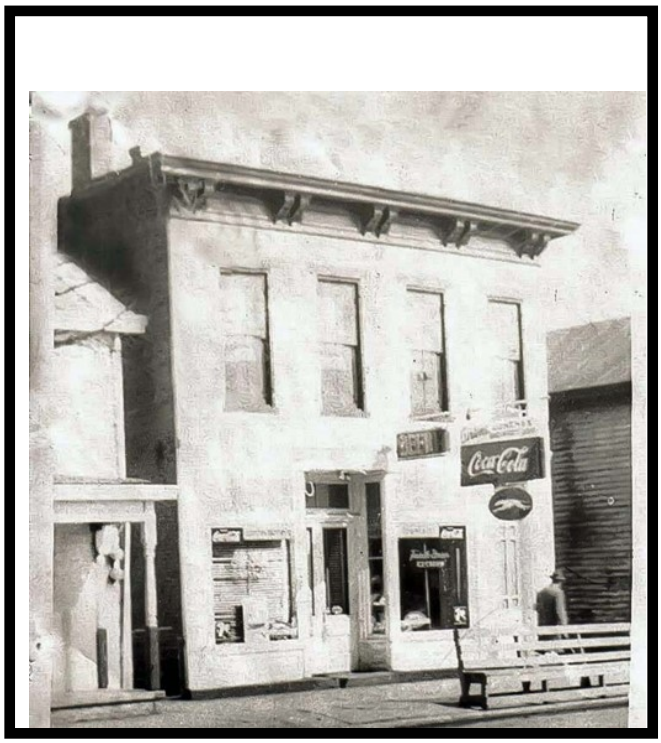
Mr. & Mrs. John Reeves, Mgrs.

BUS SCHEDULE

Daily Except Sundays & Holidays

FROM MASON

TO CINCINNATI			TO DAYTON	
A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
1:09	1:09	214 W. Main	6:26	12:41
6:54	3:02		7:27	2:46
9:04	5:04	Phone	9:11	3:31
11:04	7:18	Mason 2955	10.46	4:46
	8:46			6:06
	11:33			7:11
				9:11
COMMUTER TICKETS (10 FOR PRICE OF 8)				10:56



Segway Tours Come To Mason

Mason Historical Tour on a SEGWAY
Sept. 10 at 6:30PM: Rain Date - 12th 6:30 P.M. Limited to 5 people. $30.00 per person. Familiarization to the Segway prior to start of tour.
Email or call the Society to make a reservation.
513-398-6750
Masonhistoricalsociety.org

50 Years Ago-1968

September 7 – The Banana Splits Adventure Hour begins airing on NBC. It would go on for 2 seasons, ending on December 13

A Year Later in the middle of season 2.

September 14 – Detroit Tiger Denny McLain becomes the first baseball pitcher to win 30 games in a season since 1934.

September 24 – *60 Minutes* debuts on CBS.

Mason Mayors of 1968

1965-1968: Russell "Chick" Houghton
1968-1969: George Wilson

"School Days"

A poem from the book; *Poems For Fun, Thought, and Pastime By Dorothy Rednour Andersen.*
For all the kids who are going back to school this month and their parents who are possibly taking a big sigh of relief!

School Days

This is our school, our second home,
We come here on school days
To learn to read and write and spell,
To watch and work and play.
Children by the hundreds, and
The problems big or small
All find a welcome hand here
There's work for one and all.
We children are the countries tools
In us the future lies
We can make our aims, success, and
Reach them if we try.
The road of life's not easy
Good advice right from the start
Is concentrate and study
Do your best and do your part.
School days are precious days
We want to help them be
A wonderful group of children
Studying eagerly.

Mason Through The Years

In 1894, the narrow gauge railroad tracks which had been laid through Mason thirteen years before were replaced with a standard track.

In 1894, at the first council meeting in January it was decided to buy a street lamp for $3.75 to put in front of the new Town Hall.

In 1895, a Mason resident, George Tetrick, was hired to put in a cement sidewalk around two sides of the "Town Hall." The walk on the Main Street side was to be 5 feet wide and the walk on the East Street side was to be 4 feet wide. Tetrick's price was 18¢ a square foot.
It was the Mayor Van Fossen who had the expectation this would set an example for the citizens of Mason to follow suit on their property.
This and more fun and interesting information about Mason's 200 plus year history can be found in *AROUND MASON, OHIO: A STORY* by ROSE MARIE SPRINGMAN.
Tell your friends and neighbors the book may be purchased at Yost Pharmacy, the Alverta Green Museum or ordered by going to the Society e-commerce link on our website;
masonhistoricalsociety.org

Mason Police Department Citizens Police Academy
Tuesdays, Sept 13 – Nov 15, - 7 to 9pm

Open to adults who are residents of the City of Mason
Visit www.imaginemason.com to register

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.

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

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Non-Profit Org. $40_____

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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

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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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Grace Baptist Church

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Marion's Piazza

Mason Bowl, Inc.

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Minuteman Press of Lebanon

Terry's Lawn Care, Inc.—**GOLD**

Warren County Historical Society

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Alverta Green Museum
Mason
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ESTABLISHED 1979

Events Reminder

September 1 – Sat., Museum Open 10-1

Sept. 6 thru Nov. 9 - Honoring Veterans Display

Sept. 15 – Heritage Day at Mason Municipal Center Grounds — **Visit our Booth**

Last Chance to Buy a Raffle Ticket

September 17 – Monday – Program Guest Presenter
Captain Larry Plum, Vietnam Veteran

September 19 – Eat at LaRosa's; Take the Flyer

October 9 – 7:00PM – Cemetery Walk

Please Contact the Museum For Yoga Dates & Times In September & October

Programs @ Museum Begin at 7PM)