CONNECTIONS

October 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

Mason's Cemetery Walk Brings History To Life

The Mason Historical Society's annual fundraising Cemetery Walk at Rose Hill Cemetery is Tuesday, October 9th at 7pm. Featured this year are Mason residents who contributed to Mason Athletics on and off the field.

There will be a review of player accomplishments and coaches who supported booster programs and helped the development of the athletics programs we see today.

Tickets are $20 for non-members, $15 for members and $10 for students. You can purchase your tickets by calling or visiting the Alverta Green Museum. Neither costumes nor pets are permitted.

For more information call us at 513-398-6750 or visit www.masonhistoricalsociety.org

Top Gun JD Wetterling-Sept.17

We would like to thank JD Wetterling for taking us inside the cockpit of his F-100D during the Vietnam War. In 1968-69, he flew 268 combat missions and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, fourteen Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was Top Gun in every fighter squadron in which he served in the USAF. JD has written five books and had over 250 articles written in newspapers all over the country. He graciously donated the sale of his books to our Society. You can read more about Mr. Wetterling at www.jdwetterling.com

Not only did JD agree to speak on short notice but brought along quite a following of friends and family to fill all of our chairs. Welcome to Mason JD and Karen and thank you for your service.

Braided Rag Rug Group

Centuries ago the making of Rag Rugs was a way to make use of scraps of leftover materials that would otherwise be thrown away. Multiple scraps of material would be braided together. The braids would then be sewn together in a desired shape. We have one of these rugs in the children's room of the museum.

K. Paul Johnson sent us from his home in California scraps of material to make a Rag Rug. We are looking for a group of folks who would like to make one of these rugs. All are welcome! If there is someone out there with experience making rag rugs and would like to lead the group please let us know by calling the Alverta Green Museum 513-398-6750.

October's Month At The Museum

Gay McCurley

September was full of visitors; to let you know what you missed here is a little review.

The Alverta Green Museum Trivia Night was the first of its kind, but I am sure it will not be the last. Over 30 visitors attended with Karen Gilbert Bodenbender being the winner of the night with the most correct answers. Congratulations Karen. The creator and emcee for the night was board trustee Jay Meibers. Great job Jay!

Our most popular display, The Veterans Display, is now up and running Oct.4th thru Nov.9th. Our veterans are honored with many military exhibits taking two rooms for viewing. The photos are an enjoyment to view and many visitors will say "I know them." I am just amazed at the early photos we have such as Henry Hackman from the Spanish American War, also three local men from the Civil War, and not to forget six locals who served in the First World War. Stop in and give **ALL** our veterans a salute to honor their service.

On Tues. August 28 City of Mason Department Heads and their assistants arrived at the museum for a guided tour. The 21 employees were divided into three groups and went on their merry way through the Alverta Green Museum. I do believe all enjoyed their tours and time away from the office. Thank you for coming and come back any time. We love our city and its employees.

Some items donated to the museum were several boxes of a collection of slides from Bill Gilbert, a life long resident of Mason. These slides were donated by his children Keith Gilbert and Karen Bodenbender, thank you. John Reilly donated a doll once owned by Doxie Spangled B. 1880-D. 1977 this doll is from Germany made of kid-glove body and jointed legs with a ceramic head, again thank you. Remember our museum is here because of donors like you.

Kid-glove Doll from Germany

Uniforms & memorabilia that make up the Veteran's Display

CAN A BUILDING BE A CHARACTER OF A TOWN?

Part 3

Submitted By Gay McCurley

This is taken from the Enquirer Tuesday September 25, 1973

By Jim Rohrer Lebanon Bureau Chief

"Mason Rooming House Lacked Baths"

Mason, Ohio – The new and the old exist side by side in a strange juxtaposition of highway route markers, speed limit and directions signs to Kings Island, set beside the old Mason House building (also known for years as The Modern). One of the oldest buildings around, the Mason House Hotel was built when Mason was called Palmyra, and until 1966 it was a boarding house called The Modern.

A fast fading advertisement for The Modern still adorns the structure's side wall at the corner of U.S.42 and Mason-Montgomery (formerly Section Rd.). Look right above the Kings Island sign, and there it is:

THE MODERN-Boarding for the Week, Day, and Meal

"I don't know how they could have called it The Modern", noted Vernon Mount, who with his wife, Geneva, has owned the old Mason House since 1966, when they bought it from Elbert Scofield. The Scofields operated the old Mason House as The Modern boarding house from 1920 until 1966.

"There never were any bathrooms or water. There was a common sink in the seconded floor hall which attached to a 300-gallon tank in the attic. The tank was filled by hand pump in the kitchen which ran to a cistern," Mount noted. A student of the old building, Mount traced its origin to 1832, when it was built by Andrew Morrison, later a mayor of Mason.

"It couldn't have been called the Mason House then, because old Palmya wasn't renamed until 1835 when the town got its first postmaster," Mount said. "But by 1841, it was advertised as the Mason House with the "finest in accommodations for man and his beast." There was a time, old timers have told him, when peddlers came to Mason, stayed over at the Mason House, rented a horse to hit the outlying territory, then returned to the hotel.

"There haven't been any big structural changes in the hotel except for one stairway being blocked off and front windows being replaced," Mount said. Also, each of eight guest rooms on the second floor once had fireplaces, but now only one room still boasts a fireplace. "That's the murder room, where one of the early owners, James McClung, murdered his wife," Mount said. Mount has verified that the murder happened in one of the guest rooms through several sources. The Presbyterian Church kicked McClung out of the church for it, for one. Stains on the floor in that room are now shown as "bloodstains."

The 1832 construction date makes the old Mason House older than the current Golden Lamb Inn structure in Lebanon. When the Mounts took over the building, The Modern still existed with an antique registration desk and several older boarders, some of whom still live in the area. "People come through here all the time and remember when so and so lived here," Mount said. "Every once in a while, someone stops by the old wall sign outdoors and comes in to ask when the next meal will be served."

Because of this, Mrs. Mount has tacked up a sign on the front door declaring the building to be a private home. All the original woodwork still graces the hotel, and the walls are solid stone, usually about 12 inches thick. There are stone steps to the basement, cherry banisters, solid wooden floors and 12-foot-high ceilings. The old carriage house and stables out back have long since been torn down. From the front porch or the "widow's walk" above the porch, a look to the left reveals almost the entire length of Main Street in Mason. "We don't plan to sell this place, but if the right price came along we would. We would hate to see somebody tear it down and then have people say they missed the old building," Mount said.

Haircut

By Dave Anderson

If you have ever moved to a new place, then you might understand what sometimes appears to be a little thing lasts in your memory forever. I moved to Mason at age 16 from New Jersey. I lived in North Jersey which had a large Italian population. I used to say that at least half my friends' names ended in a vowel. For some reason all the barbers I knew were Italian and all the shops were named Giuseppe's, Antonio's, Giovanni's, or Luigi's. I'm not sure if some of them even spoke English. I remember they only talked to each other in Italian. My mother would give me a dollar (or whatever a haircut cost) and I would walk around the block, sit in the chair until called and they would cut my hair. No talking about what I wanted or what my mother wanted. They just cut your hair. That is why I part my hair on the right and not the left like other boys. Later on, they had a poster that had different style haircuts, so you could say you wanted a "Tony Curtis", a "Flat top", a "James Dean", or a "Hollywood".

When I moved to Mason my dad would usually gently remind me that I needed a haircut by asking if I would like a "dog collar" or some such "Dad witticism". So I asked some of my classmates where to get my haircut (you only ask guys with good haircuts). I was told that the best haircuts in town were from Danny Fisher's. I had noticed this shop in the back of Yost's Drugs when you came in from the back parking lot. There always seemed to be people waiting so I figured that he must give good haircuts.

I stopped in when there was only 4/5 people waiting. When the fellow got out of the chair Danny looked at me and said "You're next". I looked around and Danny said, "They're just talking sports". When I sat down the first thing Danny said to me was, "You're the new guy, right". Right there, I was amazed, and I answered in the affirmative. This was the "Sports Central" of the 50's.

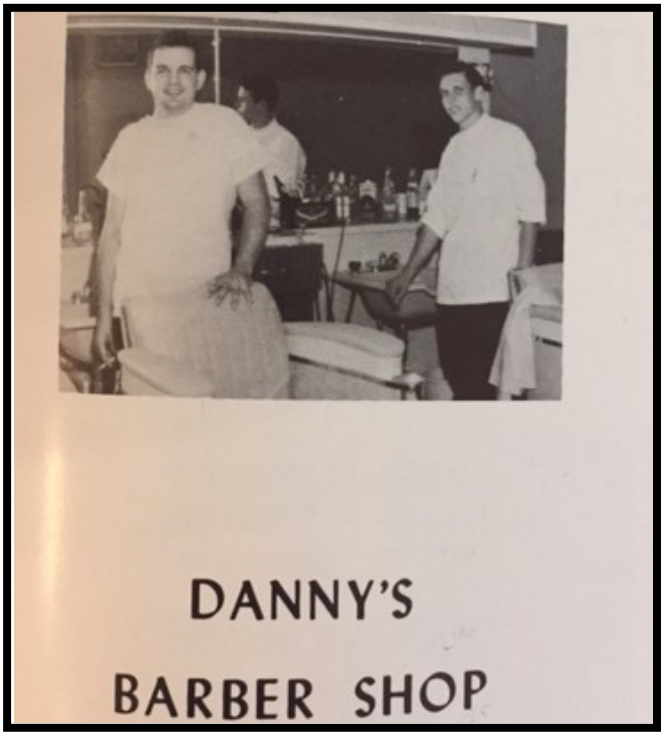
"How would you like your haircut?"

Well, I was never asked that before.

"Can you just trim around the edges and not very much off the top and sides? Make it look like to my dad that I got my haircut without cutting much off."

"Not a problem" Danny answered. And that is just what he did.

I was happy, and my dad was happy and it was a win/win. Needless to say, I returned to Danny's from that day forward. About every two months. When we move to Cincinnati, when I went away to Miami University and after that when I got married. That little bit of kindness shown to a new kid in town that I wasn't expecting has stayed with me for almost 60 years. Danny's life was cut too short but I always will remember him as someone who helped make me feel welcome in the little town of Mason, Ohio.



"MEMORIES" *Have always enjoyed the Society's newsletter, particularly August article "Mason Post Office" which highlighted rural route delivery. My father Merrill (Beebe) Johnson was one of two carriers starting in 1921. His first auto was a model T Ford for which he was paid a mileage allowance in addition to his salary. By the mid 1920's & the Great Depression, both routes were combined into one & dad was chosen to be the carrier. This prompted his upgrading to a larger & more comfortable Oldsmobnile. He would sit in the middle of the bench seat, operate the clutch, brake & accelerator with his left foot while steering with his left hand & poke mail out the passenger window with his right, at each box.*

Christmas time was of course a joyous time but also challenging, since in the 1930's we had snow that would often drift over wire & rail fences. Dad often put chains on all four wheels to assure staying on the road as he pulled up to each box. The Postal Service often made late afternoon deliveries on Christmas eve & dad would load up a second time that day to make sure every package was delivered by Christmas.

In 1942 we were all experiencing many changes as WWII was in full swing. Since my parents had divorced many years earlier dads draft classification became 1A, as did mine, and on 8 Dec 42 dad left for Ft. Campbell, Ky., & I (having enlisted) reported to Patterson Fld., Dayton. At 42 yrs old & 205 lbs dad endured full Army basic training, then assigned to Army Postal Service. He traveled across the Atlantic ocean, the Mediterranian Sea, Suez Canal to India, where they established a number of APOs before having to fly over the Himalayan mountains to Chengtu, China where the first B-29 air strip was constructed. He and his older buddies were sent home for release in the summer of 1946 and dad picked up where he had left off 4 yrs earlier.

His route was now some 55 miles with approximately 250 boxes to serve for another 19 years. Merrill (Beebe) Johnson & Sadie B. Johnson remarried in 1946, re-uniting our family once again. Dad was extremely proud of his service to his country & his profession but even more so of his home town Mason, Ohio. After all, "That's Gods Country".

In Loving Memory
Ken Paul Johnson
Lancaster, Calif.

Merrill (Beebe) Johnson sorting mail. Merrill & his son Ken Paul Johnson both served during WWII.

Tick-Tacking

By Jay Meibers

There has always been something special about the month of October. The changing colors of the leaves, the typically nice weather with a hint or two of winter, the World Series, Halloween and of course, in the best of days, Tick-Tacking. Many years in the 60's and 70's the month of October started with the invasion into nearby corn fields to gather as many ears of corn as we could carry. Friends would join the gathering in a celebratory atmosphere to shuck the corn from the cobs and garner those precious kernels. Hands suffered as blisters formed but that would never stop the group from removing every kernel from every cob. Well worth it knowing what fun was to come in the next few weeks in the Meadows subdivision.

Tick-Tacking, if you didn't know was the throwing of corn at houses. Groups of young rebel rousers would stand about 20 feet from a house and heave a handful of corn kernels at the front of the house. Typically directed at the large family room window where most families sat or the bottom of the screen doors to get the maximum sound impact possible. The goal was to startle the home owners and get them to show a reaction. Most of the hardened neighbors were aware of what was happening, and they ignored it. We made a mental point of not going back to those houses in the future since they were no fun. We always identified newbies to the neighborhood to target since they probably had no idea what was going on. In some cases, reactions could be as simple as the porch light coming on or someone looking through the curtains or windows. These were noted as possible locations to return and Tick-Tack again in the nights ahead. If someone came to the door that was a clear signal that we would definitely be returning to corn their house again in the near future. We had more serious reactions where we would have people chase us either by foot or even by car. When that happened the adrenaline rush was awesome. Whenever we had a serious reaction from a home owner you can bet the bank we would Tick-Tack that house every night we went out until Halloween. Many nights we would be moving around the Meadows sub-division only to run into other groups out Tick-Tacking as well. We would quickly trade notes on the best homes to revisit then we would be on our way. One night that stands out we were revisiting a consistently hostile neighbor. We quietly moved into the front yard to get into perfect position for impact. We threw and ran as usual. Within seconds we heard police sirens blaring and we quickly hid behind some hedges on the corner of Holly and Boyd Lanes. Our hearts pounded as we expected the police to be coming around the corner. To our surprise the police never arrived. Very odd since we clearly heard police sirens. We continued tick-tacking that night and decided we were going to go back to the house where we heard the police sirens. On our way there we ran into one of the other groups out tick-tacking and we told them what had occurred that evening with the police sirens being heard but no police cruiser was ever seen. Incredibly the same thing happened to the other group. Clearly something was very strange so both groups went back together to pound that house with corn and see what happened. We arrived at that house and slowly at least a dozen of us got in position to unleash copious amounts of corn. We counted to three and the rain of corn perfectly placed for maximum impact was unleashed. We ran and sure enough the sirens started again so we hid. As we hid we noticed that the sound of the police siren was not coming from down the road but from the house! The homeowner was playing a record of a police siren after being tick-tacked and had a speaker on the roof. Once we realized what was going on we decided that we would continue to tick-tack their house that night until the police showed up. We worked our way into the yard and unleashed our corn barrage. Right on que the siren sound started. However, this time instead of running we defiantly stood in their yard and continued to rain corn on the house. Five minutes later a police car came around the corner with their headlights off. We then took off in all directions through many front and back yards dogging dogs and hopping fences. Besides one of our group almost getting decapitated by a clothes line we made it home safely. We had numerous crazy nights tick-tacking including one night where a lady came out the front door with a gun and another where someone was on their roof with a hose to soak us. We were cussed, chased, and had dogs sent out on us but we never stopped. The good thing was the corn never damaged the house but simply startled the homeowners.

I was lucky to grow up with great friends who spent many hours outside playing together throughout the year. There were no video games, cable TV or social media to keep us from getting together. We played sports without parents needing to be involved. We got along, we fought, we made up and our friendships became stronger. I look back with a smile and wish kids growing up today could have the same experiences and friendships that last a lifetime. Great memories indeed!

2018 Heritage Day

Heritage Days was celebrated September 15 after a lively parade at the Mason Municipal Center Grounds. The day was sunny and hot, but did not seem to discourage the Mason families from brining the kids out to enjoy all the festival had to offer. When I was a kid our festivals offered rides that in today's standards seem almost dangerous. They were made of metals, and we all know how hot metal gets in the sun. If you were lucky enough not to get burned while sitting in the ride, the "safety bar" would almost always pinch your waist while trying to lock it in place. The rides themselves looked very old and their safety was highly questionable, as were the people operating them! But this was not the case at Heritage Days. There were inflatable rides providing a soft landing, cool seats and above all safety! There were games, face painting and live music. Who doesn't love the food trucks! The Lion's Club was selling brats, there was soft serve ice cream, shave ice, cotton candy, and many other treats for "foodies" to enjoy!

The City had multiple booths explaining and displaying the services they offer to the community. The Girl Scouts had a booth, as well as The Community Players Theater Group who will be portraying individuals in our Cemetery Walk this month. The Historical Society booth stayed busy selling raffle tickets, a few of our history and cook books. Many attendees stopped to look at the photo displays we had of the 1974 tornado and it's effects on Mason. Many expressed much interest in coming to the museum, we look forward to seeing them!

We ended the day with a couple of boys who attended the festival with their mom. Brothers, Anthony (9yrs) and Andrew (7yrs) Bradu Pascal drew the winners of our raffle. First prize of $500.00 went to Debora S Carpenter who very graciously donated her winnings to the Society. We truly appreciate her gesture and the money will be used towards restoring the museum's player piano. Thank you Debora! Second prize of $250.00 went to Janet Slater. Third prize, a Mason Book of Photography went to Greg Meibers. The fourth prize, a copy of *Around Mason, Ohio: A Story*, went to Eileen Mount.

Congratulations to all and Thank You for Your Support.

Anthony and Andrew Bradu-Pascal, drew the winning tickets for 2018 Summer Splash Raffle.

Tornado Photographs

Facts Just FYI …

October 10, 1968 World Series: The Detroit Tigers defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in 7 games (4-3) after being down 3 games to 1, completing an unlikely comeback against the heavily favored Cardinals led by the overpowering right-handed pitcher Bob Gibson.

Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for $50,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.

"Slow Food"

Someone asked the other day, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?"

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him, "All the food was slow." "C'mon, seriously, where did you eat?" "It was a place called At Home," I explained!

"Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so… "I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table!"

Picture from 1955. Notice the price of gas and how it's broken down. Everyone got their piece didn't they!

Mason Through The Years

On Christmas Eve **1874** J. Lee Thompson, the son of John and Ellen Thompson, married Mary F. Scull, the daughter of William and Alvira Scull. He was 23 years old and had been born on a farm near Mason. The couple were to have two children, Nettie and Leonard Earl. Thompson was a salesman, a farmer, an insurance broker and a local banker.

By August **1877** the stone foundation at the foot bridge across Muddy Creek to the cemetery was completed and Walter Oatley was paid $7.69 for the labor and supplies.

The census figures in **1880** for Deerfield Townships showed 2011 inhabitants. Four hundred and thirty one people lived in Mason, 155 in Fosters, 59 in Socialville and 47 in Twenty Mile Stand.

Kroger Community Rewards

From May 1 through July 31, donations for the 21 households registered brought in $116.42. If you have not registered, please do so. Thank you for supporting your Society through this means.

Condolences

We extend our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Judy Mason, MHS Class of '63, who passed away September 1, 2018 and Ann Hill, MHS Class of '48 who passed away September 6, 2018.

Ann and her late husband Art, were Society Charter Members.

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

MAKE FIRE PREVENTION SOMETHING YOU PAY ATTENTION TO EVERYDAY – ALL DAY

June 11, 2018 – The latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) show that if you have a reported fire in your home, you are more likely to die today than you were a few decades ago. This startling statistic is behind this year's Fire Prevention Week theme:

"Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere.™"

Fire Prevention Week Is October 7-13, 2018.

Through three simple calls-to-action, this year's theme identifies basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire and be prepared in the event of one:

Look for places fire can start

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm

Learn two ways out of each room

CITY OF MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Open House

Station 51, 4420 North Mason Montgomery Road – October 13, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 PM

Station 52, 5500 Cedar Village Drive – October 14, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 PM

LaRosa's PIZZERIA

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS FUNDRAISING

Piece of the Pie
FUNDRAISING EVENT

Mason Historical Society
2018 Fundraiser

3rd Wednesdays
From Open to Close
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LaRosa's Will Donate 20% Of
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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

Fire Prevention Week – October 7 – 13;

Visit City of Mason Fire Department Stations 51 and 52

OPEN HOUSE Details on Page 9

October 9 – 7:00PM – Cemetery Walk

Yoga – October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ Museum, 7:00PM

October 17 – Eat at LaRosa's; Remember your flyer!

November 3, Saturday Museum Open 10:00AM – 1:00PM

November 21, Eat at Laosa's; Remember your flyer!

Leftovers at Home after November 22 You Know!!!

December 7, Museum Open House 6:00PM – 9:00PM

BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Air Authority Heating & Air Conditioning-**New**

Al's Heating and Cooling

American Legion, Post 194

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194

Brunk Excavating, Inc.

Jeff Hill Video

Mitsubishi Electric Automotive

People's First Savings Bank

R.E. Middleton Constriction LLC

Senour-Flaherty Insurance

Shorten & Ryan Funeral Home

Voorhis, Slone, Welsh & Crossland, Architects

Walldogs the Mason Sign Company

Yost Pharmacy, Inc.

2018 CHURCHES

Grace Baptist Church

2018 MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason

Lt. Robert N. Mount V.F.W. Post 9622 Auxiliary

Marion's Piazza

Mason Bowl, Inc.

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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Culver's of Mason

LaRosa's Mason

Mason-Deerfield Chamber

Mason Public Library

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207 W. Church St.
Mason, Ohio 45040

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2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE

Please detach and mail this form to renew your membership today.

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Mason, OH 45040-1607
www.masonhistoricalsociety.org

Membership Type

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Student	$10 ___	Regular -	$100_____
Individual	20 ___	Silver -	250_____
Family	30 ___	Gold -	500 ____
Silver	100 ___	Lifetime -	1000 ____
Gold	250 ___		
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(Lifetime can be paid in 4 quarterly installments within 12 months)

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Join the Society or Renew Your Membership Using your Credit Card
Call The Museum Thurs. or Fri. 1-4 PM or Thru the E-commerce Link on Our Website

MAY WE CALL ON YOU TO HELP PRESERVE MASON'S HISTORY BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME _____?
MEMORIAL GIFTS OR DONATIONS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

The Mason Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALEREADY DONE SO PLEASE RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW USING THE FORM ABOVE.
OUR EXPENSES WILL BE REDUCED IF YOU WILL PLEASE RENEW USING THIS FORM.

Last year at this time we talked about moving into the new addition and were now able to display items which had been tucked away for many years. That has not changed much except we are working to expand and add displays. Many of you still have not come by to take a look at what has been done, so we hope you will add that to your "TO DO LIST." A few visitors who have come by to see us said visiting the museum had been on their "BUCKET LIST" for a while. Your Membership, the Annual Raffle, Ice Cream Social/Auction and Cemetery Walk are the four primary Society fundraisers. The success of these four help us receive Matching Funds from the City of Mason. For every two dollars we raise from your support the City will contribute one dollar to a maximum of eight thousand dollars ($8,000.00). The funds we receive are used to maintain and improve museum and property. Take a few minutes to check out the Society website and look over the E-commerce link while you are there. 2019 is the year we will be celebrating 40 Years of existence and we hope you will be part of the celebration. Thank you for your continuing support through Kroger Community Rewards and Third Wednesday of the month, Eat at LaRosa's. YOU our faithful members are the Mason Historical Society. Thank you.

The Mason Historical Society Executive Board