



CONNECTIONS



December 2019

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

Email — mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

Annual Board Election Results

President– Jay Meibers
Vice President– Jeff Raines
Secretary– Denise Landise
Treasurer– Larry Jeffers
Membership– Missy Courts
Trustee– Sue Rapp
Trustee– Perry Denehy
Trustee– Jerry Mullins
Trustee– Darlene Henn

Open Positions

Publicity Editor
Historian
Trustee

We hope to fill these position and complete our board. If you are interested in any of the above positions please call us @ 398-6750.

Don't miss out on an opportunity to be a part of Mason's history.

Annual Holiday Open House December 6, 2019

At 5pm

Once the City of Mason lights
the Christmas Tree,
Where better to warm up then the
Alverta Green Museum's Holiday Party!!!
Bring the family and friends to see
the museum at it's most festive time of
the year.

Many of Santa's elves have been busy
"Decking out the Halls"
of the museum and baking
lots of holiday treats!

This is an event you don't want to miss.



The House That Dodds Built

By Gina Arens

It has been said that every house has a story and the stately house at 4202 Hamilton Road in Lebanon, Ohio is no different. The land that the house and barn currently occupy was part of the first settlement in Warren County known as Beedle's Station. It was November of 1795 that William Beedle was deeded the Warren County property four miles west of Lebanon. The purchase price was \$250.

Through the years the property changed hands and was split up time and time again. Eventually a 112-acre section was purchased by Abraham and Ann Keever. For many years they lived and raised a family there. Their daughter, Lavina, was to marry E. Courtland Dodds or "Cort" as he was known. Ultimately, Cort and Lavina inherited part of the property in 1865.

Cort Dodds had humble beginnings. Cort's grandfather, Benjamin, at age 19, walked to southwest Ohio from Lancaster, PA. A mere 'stroll' of 484 miles. Eight years later in 1802, he married Martha Drake and had 11 children including Cort's father, William.

William Dodds, at a young age had been put out as a "bound boy" (a type of indentured servant) to study tailoring. Later he owned his own tailoring shop and this business gradually grew to become a general merchandising store. William passed his expertise on to his son, Cort, and the Dodds name in retailing stayed in the area for many decades.

Cort, in building his wealth, was an enterprising man, involved in multiple money-making endeavors. He proved to be a successful merchant, property manager and even purchased a brick works that eventually led him to construct the house on Hamilton Road.

In 1875 as a successful merchant, Cort kept precise records of all his 291 customers. What they bought and what they traded. From eggs, butter and bacon to produce and music lessons, much was accepted. In turn he sold everything imaginable; from a can of oysters for 15 cents to a half gallon of good whiskey for \$1.50.

Aside from fulfilling basic needs of food, clothing and whiskey, Dodds provided townspeople with entertainment. He opened a performance venue in the building that had been the Burch House Hotel, where Mason's 5th/3rd bank sits today. Known as Dodd's Hall, Cort rented space for lectures, minstrel shows, balls, fairs, concerts, etc. The hall was the epicenter of social life in the small rural town and kept its citizens occupied for many years.

In 1877 Cort Dodds purchased a brick yard for \$100. He quickly recovered his investment several times over. By midsummer that year he was in the process of constructing several buildings, including his family residence in town next door to his dry goods store. That house was completed in 1878. By 1883 he had completed a second house, similar in architectural style to his family residence in town, at 4202 Hamilton Road.

The country home was built with a summer kitchen, a luxury feature at the time. This wide-open room was used primarily for cooking and food preparation. This saved the main house from heating up in the hot summer months. A butler's pantry was included next to the summer kitchen. The butler's pantry was historically a small room used for storing the family silver and formal china and as a staging area for serving meals. The serving door between the butler's pantry and dining room still exists.

The Italianate architectural style of the house achieved great popularity in the United States from the late 1840s to 1890. The decorative cornice that crowns the house, the pedimented and arched windows and door and the low pitched, hipped roof, all illustrate this style. Wood working throughout the house, doors, floors, mantels, etc. suggest no expense was spared in creating Dodds' second home.

Sadly, five years after E. Courtland Dodds built his dream summer home, he died of "heart disease" at the age of 55. The farm remained in the Dodds family into the early 20th century.

While the summer kitchen still stands, a new updated kitchen in the house has been added, complete with stainless steel appliances, new cabinets and granite counter tops. A full bath has also been added to the first floor.

The 10-acre property includes a 50' x 100' horse barn with full concrete slab floor. The barn includes eight stalls with one large stall for birthing and a spacious 14' x 15' tack room for efficient barn management. Nine acres of fenced pastureland provides plenty of space for roaming and riding. A three car, 24' x 38' detached garage is a short distance from the house.

The Dodds house on Hamilton Road stands as a tangible reminder of a time not so long ago. A simpler time, a simpler life. Where, at the end of a long summer day, you can inhale a deep breath of fresh

country air, sit back, relax and enjoy the orange glow of a quiet sunset.

The property has been owned by the Hill family for more than twenty years and is currently for sale. Ann and Art Hill were charter members of the Mason Historical Society and Ann Hill was the museum's first curator.



Message from the Prez:

Hard to believe that we are already in the middle of the Holiday Season. Seems like only yesterday Spring Training was starting for the Reds! Things have been busy at the museum including our annual Elections & Business Review held on Nov. 12. Congratulations to the members who ran and were elected to the Board. I shared a lot of information at the Business Review including Income/Expense details thus far in 2019. Once the year comes to an end, we will summarize the Income/Expense results and include the data in the February or March Newsletter for your review. Thank you for your ongoing support of MHS and please remember to send in your 2020 membership dues. I wish all of you and your loved ones a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!

Best regards,
Jay Meibers

A Short Compilation of Historical Facts Gleaned by Lee L. Dodds, A Native of Mason

Submitted by Gina Arens

The only roads in the early days were mere trails or tracks through the forest and it was not until 1835 that the first macadamized road was built, now known as Route 42 from Cincinnati to Columbus. It was probably on these early trails that the term "hitch- hike" came into existence. Transportation was scarce and horses were few. So, for mutual protection from the Indians and to share the horse, it became the habit for two travelers to go together. In starting out, one would ride the horse for 1/2 mile then hitch it to a spire branch and start walking. Meanwhile, the other traveler would be walking and when he came to the hitched horse, he would mount and ride until he passed the other one and kept going for another 1/2 mile , where he would repeat the program. "Hitch and Hike".

Memories of Mason Residents...By Larry and Jan Jeffers

Searching For A Home Of Your Own - And Finding A Great Community

In 1973, my employment as a consulting civil engineer brought our small family to the Greater Cincinnati area. My wife Jan and I made the decision to move to Mason, OH to fulfill a dream we shared of owning our own home where we could raise our young son and any future family in an environment where we could instill similar values to what we experienced in our childhood in small town central Illinois. With the help of many established Mason residents and a motivated seller, we were able to buy our first home in the Sherman Terrace Subdivision south of Mason.

One of our first memories of Mason includes meeting and working with Mrs. Ruth Chesney at the Peoples Building Loan and Savings Company where we sought to financing our first home. We especially recall the first meeting Jan had with Mrs. Chesney to discuss the purchase of a home. Jan went to the meeting with our very active 3-year old son. He continually crawled on and off Jan's lap while she tried to conduct a serious meeting. Mrs. Chesney asked Jan what kind of assets we could bring to the deal, and she told her our greatest asset was our son. What we thought was a disastrous meeting turned out to be a blessing. Mrs. Chesney told us our first exchange helped confirm we were the kind of new residents that could help the Mason community grow and prosper. They were able to help a young family with limited resources finance and purchase our first home in Mason, a kindness we will never forget.

Another formative occurrence living in Mason was the tornado that swept through Ohio in the spring of 1974. We used most, if not all our savings to purchase our home, and found ourselves in the path of 3 funnel clouds resulting in major damage to the Mason area on the evening of April 4, 1974. It was a day of mixed blessings for us and many others. We were able to find shelter in the basement of a neighbor's home. While suffering some structural damage to our home and significant property damage, we were able to "camp" in our home unlike many of our neighbors. We will never forget the kindness of Mason residents who helped us with food and support as we assessed the damages and attempted to pick up and move on. Through the help of friends, family, and our relatively new community we were able to turn what looked like a terrible tragedy into many blessings that greatly improved our lives and property. The Mason community was outstanding in their compassion.

Over the years we look back on many fond memories. Here are just a few more:

Telephone service in Mason then was an interesting proposition. From party lines prevalent in those days to the interference from the high power radio operations of the WLW Radio Tower and the Voice of America radio operations, you never knew what you might overhear or what radio program or broadcast language might be heard though your phone lines. It's interesting to note it was a long-distance call to most phone exchanges in Cincinnati and surrounding areas except for Lebanon. Many of the roadways serving Mason in all directions were primarily rural roadways. Of course, Route 42 was a major highway, but Tylersville Rd. and Mason Montgomery Rd. were narrow 2-lane asphalt roads. A direct trip from Mason to Hamilton on Tylersville Rd. was a 30-40 minute drive - if you pushed it. I am sure most new residents of Mason could not envision that now because we have such well-developed roadway systems handling the large volume of traffic that has developed over the years.

One of the major reasons we moved to Mason was the school system. When we came to the area, Mason Schools were recognized as a small but sound local school system, and we were pleased to have our 2 boys go through all 12 grades. Over the years, the school system has grown tremendously while maintaining quality educational standards for the current large size of the district. During their early school years, our boys became very active in recreational and competitive soccer. In the mid-1980s, we were concerned that our school system did not offer a chance for our students to advance in this popular regional sport through their high school years. As a result, we joined with several friends and worked to help start the soccer program at the Mason School system. We have been grateful to see the success of the Mason boys and girls soccer programs over the years. We have enjoyed our many experiences with the local Jaycees and Kiwanis organizations and members that have been an important part of the history of Mason, and of course our interactions with our church families.

Our boys have now both grown up, gone to college, and moved on with their own lives and families. We are left with many good memories of our life in Mason. Our latest activity has been working with the Mason Historical Society to help preserve our own memories and those of Mason residents. We hope you will join us in doing so by contributing your own thoughts about Mason and memories of your lives here through an article in this newsletter.

Hopewell Chapter DAR Studies the Hopewell Culture of Fort Ancient

Members and guests of the Hopewell Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution met at the Mason Historical Society's Alverta Green Museum on Saturday, November 9, for a business meeting and special presentation by Mr. Jack Blosser. Mr. Blosser has been the site manager at Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature preserve for 31 years and is dedicated to preservation and education related to this archeological gem in Ohio. Thanks to Hopewell DAR American Indian Committee Chair, Donna Vanover, Proclamations were obtained from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the city of Mason proclaiming November 2019 as National American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Mason and the State of Ohio.

The meeting on the 9th focused on the preservation of history mission as well as providing our members with more information to understand the reasons for the assignment of the name Hopewell to our newly organized chapter. In addition to the business meeting, which included a discussion of future plans for donation and volunteer efforts in the community. Mr. Blosser presented a most informative program.

The Hopewell Earthworks are being nominated to become a part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Mr. Blosser explained the history of the discovery of these sites and the efforts to preserve and study these people who settled in the Ohio Valley between 1600 and 2000 years ago. Ft. Ancient is the largest of the Hopewell Culture's hilltop enclosures and contains numerous points of interest. One point especially of interest is the discovery of the placement of mounds to form gateways with the summer solstice and the winter solstice sunset.

Mr. Blosser brought a varied display of artifacts from the Ft. Ancient location to represent the daily life of these people as well as the extent of their apparently vast trading network. The dedication and efforts that went into the construction of these mounds that have lasted throughout all these years is considered a model for the Hopewell Chapter to mobilize and create programs within our community that will have positive and lasting effects.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Hopewell Chapter DAR is invited to contact :
Jan Mauch: regent@hopewelldar.org.



Jack Blosser shows Fort Ancient artifacts to Hopewell Chapter Members



Jan Mauch, Donna Vanover, and Jack Blosser with Proclamations

City Team One Submitted by Jenna Hurley, Mason City Manager Administrative Assistant

On November 20, the Historical Society hosted City staff that are participating in City Team One. City Team One is a leadership development program where selected staff from each department of the city come together once a month with the goal of developing leadership skills, interacting with others outside your department/job function, and building an organizational culture of communication, cooperation and collaboration. Prior to the November 20 session, the team was tasked with watching Future Shock, a short movie from the 1970's that discussed the impact to society when too much change happens in too short a period of time. At the session, The Historical Society shared a presentation on the history of Mason particularly how government services and facilities have evolved throughout the community's history. This presentation led to a discussion on what the future of government will look like in the age of rapid change and technological advances.



Emerson Brown's Birthday

On October 29, 1929, the United States stock market crashed in an event known as Black Tuesday. This began a chain of events that led to the Great Depression, a 10-year economic slump that affected all industrialized countries in the world. Also, on that day Emerson Brown was born. In 1956 Emerson Brown came to Mason school system as a mathematics teacher. In 1959 he was the principal in the brand-new high school on Mason Montgomery Rd. He left the Mason School system in 1968 to join the West Liberty schools. In this short time, he became friends with many of his students and returned to Mason for many of the class reunions (see November Connections). On October 26, 2019 a group of his former students traveled to Bellefontaine, OH to help celebrate his 90th birthday. He is still in robust health and remembering way too many stories of his time in Mason. He is a member of the Mason Historical Society, so we purchased a memorial brick for the sidewalk in his name. It reads:

Our Principal Emerson Brown Class of 1961

We had a wonderful time reminiscing with MISTER Brown (it is difficult to think of him as anything else) and his friends and relatives.



David Jayne, Bob Clingner, Emerson Brown,
Dennis Bogan



Susan Jayne Case, Jo Ann Clingner Carpenter, Emerson Brown,
David and Carole McCurley Anderson

William Mason High School Graduates

Mason High School graduates, class of 1979, visits the Alverta Green Museum. If your class reunion is coming up consider celebrating your reunion at the Alverta Green Museum. We have a nearly complete library of all the graduating high school class yearbooks, along with all kinds of Mason history. The Mason Historical Society will gladly open it's doors for one-hour for any Mason class reunion. Along with our yearbooks we have photographs (including aerial photographs), maps and many displays. If you're interested in using the museum for your class reunion, contact us by calling; 513-398-6750. We look forward to hearing from you!



Mason History

In June of 1966 Richard "Dick" A. Yost of Mason, Ohio, with a score of 90.2, topped all applicants on the examination to practice pharmacology in Ohio given by the State Board. He went on to work and later own the pharmacy his father founded on Main Street now run by a third generation of the Yost family.

This information appeared in the Cincinnati Post and Times Star on August 18, 1966.

The First Road

As early as 1790, an open way was made through this region (Deerfield Township) by General Harmar and several hundred men, who marched from Fort Washington (Cincinnati) to the Maumee for the purpose of attacking the Indians there. This trace entered the township on the west side, and running north and northeast, passed out of the township on the north side. The army encamped a short time at the bottom of Little Muddy Creek. This open way made by them was used as a road for a long time by the settlers after locating in their new homes. The trace made by the first-comers to Bedle's Station, crossed the township, passing just west of Mason, and then winding it's way northward.

The Centennial Atlas and History of Warren County, 1903

Submitted by Mike O'Bryant

First Bank

"Up until the year 1886 the necessary needs of capital to carry on the growing businesses had to be carried by the individual proprietors themselves. Necessity required that the extra sums were borrowed from private individuals who made a business of loaning money. At that time the Opera House building was built by Samuel Sprinkle, J.M. Thompson establishing the first banking business in that building. In the storeroom next to the bank was the first bakery established by William Zacharias. He had the first ice cream manufacturing business."

Paul W. Tetrick, 1936

Submitted by Mike O'Bryant

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



2020 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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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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Forms- Member/brick 2020



Piece of the Pie
FUNDRAISING EVENT

Mason Historical Society

2019 Fundraiser

3rd Wednesdays

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Dine In or Carry-out

Present Your Golden Buckeye Card

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We love to help the neighborhoods we serve!

2019

Events Reminder

If You Have Not Already Done So
Please Sign Up At Kroger Community Rewards
Mason Historical Society Number Rewards #HE524
We will be closed December 7

- Yoga- @7pm: December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.
- December 6th @5pm: Holiday Open House
@ Alverta Green Museum
- December 10: Board Meeting @6pm.
- December 14: DAR meeting @10am.

Happy Holidays



BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Air Authority Heating & Air Conditioning
Al's Heating and Cooling
American Legion, Post 194
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194
Brunk Excavating, Inc.
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Minuteman Press of Lebanon — **2019**
Mueller Funeral Home—**2019—New**
Terry's Lawn Care, Inc. **2019 — GOLD**
Warren County Historical Society
16 LOTS Brewing Co.-**2019 — New**
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