



# CONNECTIONS



## February 2020

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207 W. Church Street    Mason, Ohio    [www.masonhistoricalsociety.org](http://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](mailto:mason.oh.historical@gmail.com)

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### **Alverta Green Museum Open By Appointment Only The Month Of February**

The board members of the MHS are committed to the maintenance of the Alverta Green Museum and updating our displays. Because of this the museum will be closed to the general public to make minor repairs and update our displays. We realize this is short notice, so we will accommodate anyone by appointment only. Just call the museum @ 398-6750, leave your name, contact information and date that you would like to visit the museum and someone will get back to you. We will return in March with new displays and warmer weather.

Thank you for your supports.  
Mason Historical Board Members



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### **Message from the Prez:**

How about the mild winter thus far? I can clearly remember the incredibly cold & snowy winters of 1977/1978 & 1978/1979. The talk at that time was that the next ice age was just around the corner. I got my driver's license in the winter of 1977/1978 and drove on ice until April when finally, the ice melted and the roads cleared. I still envision driving down Mason-Montgomery Road to the high school in what seemed to be a tunnel since each side of the road had about a 10 – 15-foot-high snow wall. Hopefully, those long, bitterly cold and snowy winters are a thing of the past!

After a nice holiday break our new board met in January to kick-off 2020. The board did agree to have the museum open in February by appointment only. We will use this time to work on developing some new and exciting displays. Our March museum open hours will go back to normal. As always, thank you for your continued support of MHS. Stay warm and remember that Spring is just around the corner!

Submitted By Jay Meibers

## RAPID TRANSPORTATION

In recent years many groups have discussed the possibility of a light rail system between Dayton and Cincinnati and even further. Little do many know that a successful "light rail" once was the primary means of travel from downtown Cincinnati passing thru Mason, to Kings Mills, South Lebanon (Deerfield at the time) into Lebanon.

As early as 1900, rail companies were approaching the Mason Town Council for a street franchise with their plans to run their line through Mason. In August of 1901, Council studied bids from The Dayton, Lebanon, and Cincinnati Traction Company and The Interurban Railway and Terminal Company. Their decision was based on the fares planned by the two companies. They chose the latter. The line running from Cincinnati to Lebanon was the Rapid Railway and was one of 3 lines operated by the IR&T Co.

Fares were 4 cents single cash fare, 8 tickets for 25 cents and 33 tickets for one dollar. Children under ten years old could ride for 2 cents. The ticket office in Mason was located in part of the bakery. The bakery was at the corner of West Main and South East Streets where Barnes Service is now.

The tracks, which started in Cincinnati, were laid up Pike Street (Reading Road) then eastward at the bank corner (5/3 Bank) on Main Street to Dawson Street. They continued on Dawson Street to its end where a trestle was constructed to cross Muddy Creek. Some of the abutments and piers can be seen in the creek bed. The route followed Kings Mills Road to the S curve where it headed overland. It crossed Columbia Road near where the schools are now. Then it entered Kings Mills and traveled behind the houses on the south side of Miami Street and emerged at the ticket office on King Avenue. There, employees of Peters Cartridge Company and King Powder Company would disembark and walk down the hill to their employment. The traction line continued on with a stop in Deerfield (South Lebanon today) into Lebanon.

Besides carrying the workers to the factories in Kings Mills, the cars also carried hundreds of gallons of milk, assorted fowl, and livestock. Sometimes the freight occupied so much space that south bound passengers had to stand. Runs were often scheduled late at night to accommodate those from outlying areas who attended socials, dances and parties in Mason.

Since there were no car barns in Mason, the cars were parked on the street near Dawson Street overnight. That way those who needed to be in Kings Mills for their jobs would be on time and those headed in the other direction could get an early start.

Signs were placed at either end of Mason posting speeds of 8 miles an hour for both motorists and traction line motormen. Most modern-day motorists, traveling over the same route during rush hour will agree that this speed is much greater than they can attain.

The Rapid Transit conducted a successful business in the area for a number of years and provided much needed services. The reason and the date it ceased operation is not available.

Those conducting the feasibility of "light rail" travel might agree that the venture of 100 years ago, with modifications, could work well today. Take the time to visit the corner of East Main and Dawson Streets to see an Ohio Historical Marker which commemorates the Rapid Railways existence serving Mason residents and others from 1903 to 1922. Applying for the marker was a partnership project of the City of Mason and the Mason Historical Society in 2017.

*Submitted by Jerry Mullins*



## President's Day Facts

Presidents' Day falls on the third Monday in February in the United States. It is also known as Washington's Birthday, after George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day is meant to celebrate George Washington and all the presidents of the U.S. It became a federal holiday in 1879. Although there was an attempt in 1968 to officially call the third Monday in February Presidents' Day, it failed. It eventually came to pass that in 1971. Still many states choose to call this day Presidents' Day instead of Washington's Birthday. Some states also celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday at this time as well.

The holiday was first implemented as a day honoring George Washington by an act of Congress in 1879, and in 1885 it was expanded to include all federal offices. Up until 1971, it was celebrated on the actual date of his birth, February 22. In 1971, the observance of the holiday was shifted to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. That allows federal workers and others observing federal holidays to have a three-day weekend, and one that doesn't interfere with the normal work week. But, that means the federal holiday for Washington always falls between February 15th and 21st, never on Washington's birthday.

The holiday is held on or around President George Washington's birthday, which is on February 22nd. President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12, is also near this date and is often honored on President's day.

Thomas Jefferson was also an accomplished architect. He designed his famous home at Monticello as well as buildings for the University of Virginia.

James Madison and George Washington are the only presidents who signed the Constitution.

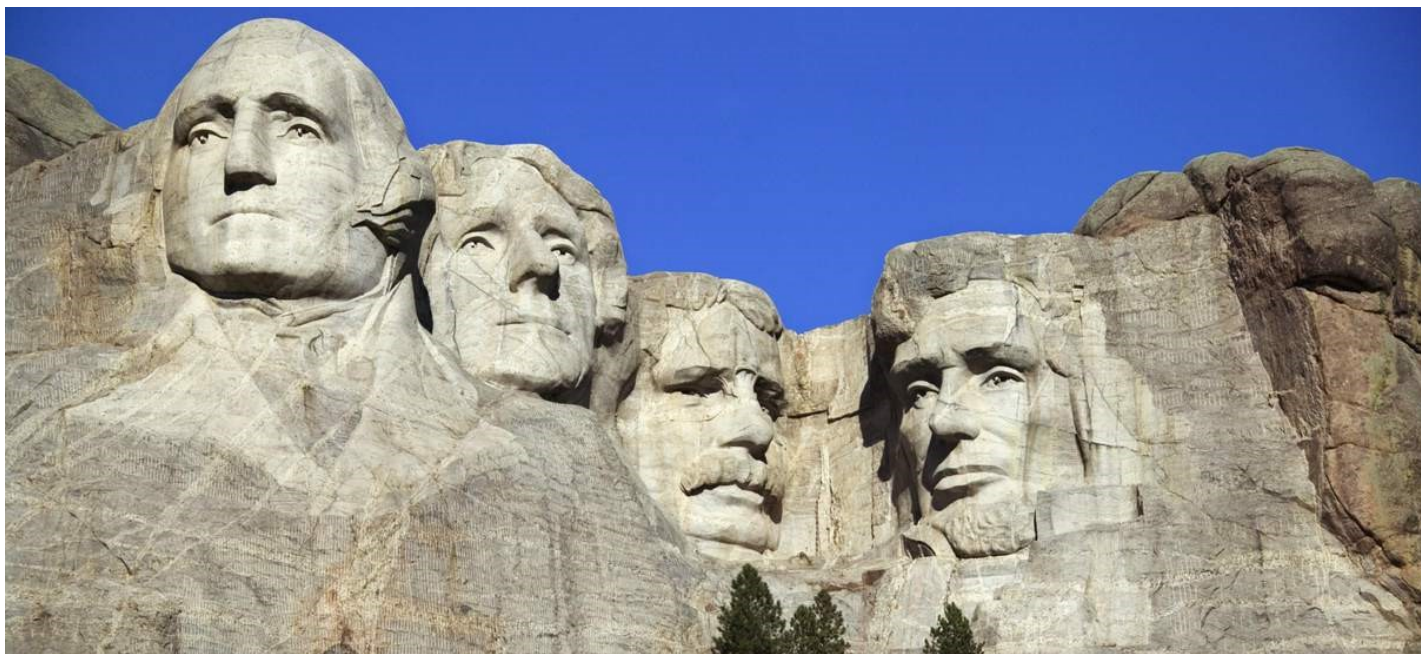
James Madison was the shortest president at 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed 100 pounds. Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president at 6 feet 4 inches tall (Lyndon B. Johnson was also 6' 4").

James Monroe was the 5th president, but the 3rd to die on the 4th of July.

On the day he was shot, Lincoln told his bodyguard that he had dreamt he would be assassinated.

Abraham Lincoln often stored things like letters and documents in his tall stove-piped hat.

Franklin D. Roosevelt met President Grover Cleveland when he was five years old. Cleveland said "I am making a wish for you. It is that you may never become president of the United States".







**Happy Valentines Day**

*Valentines from the 1940's. Who will be your Valentine!*

## **Around Mason, Ohio: A Story Bicentennial Edition Rose Marie Springman**

**1920-**"The new census record showed that 816 people lived in Mason in 1920. The village streets were in very bad condition but building was going on. Jack Rebold got permission to build his new store on Main Street and the Mason Milling Company planned new construction. O.H. Woodard, who was a councilman, a school board member and the village fire chief, moved out of town, so Harry Palmer took his place on the school board and as fire chief and R. H. Cox replaced him in council."

"Seven students graduated from Mason High School in May and at the alumni meeting on May 22 forty seven members paid \$1 each for themselves and their guests to attend the festivities in the school auditorium."

"Bert Scofield bought the Modern Hotel on Main Street and he and his wife operated it as a boarding house until 1966. On June 30th Lois LaMar and Tom Baysore were married. The couple were to have one daughter, Marilyn."

"The village council had scant business to transact during the summer. They had to remind the marshal to mow the grass around the town hall and it was necessary to borrow \$1,000.00 to pay for the oil needed for the power plant. In September the mayor met with officers of other municipalities "in order to get their share of the 2 mill road levy" and then it was planned to gravel the village streets again."

*Submitted By Denise Landise*

## **LEGO City Hall Building On Display**

The Mason Historical Society is excited to host Mark Clark and his LEGO creation beginning in March. It will look very familiar to most Mason residents. Stay tuned for more details.  
*Submitted By Perry Denehy*



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## **The Mason Veteran's Memorial**

" The Mason Veteran's Memorial now has its own mobile phone app! You can learn more about the memorial and search for a brick honoring a veteran.

Just search " Mason Veteran's Memorial" on the Android Play Store or the iPhone App Store and download the app today."

*Submitted By Vedarsh Shah*

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## **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](mailto:www.mason.oh.historical@gmail.com)

513-850-3780

[deniselandise@yahoo.com](mailto: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 your 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](http://www.masonhistoricalsociety.org)

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

### **Types of Membership:**

**Non-Profit Org.** \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **REGULAR**

Student \$ 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Gold 250 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lifetime 500 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **CORPORATE**

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**(Lifetime can be paid in 4 quarterly installments  
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I Prefer Receiving The Newsletter Via US Mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_

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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U.S. Military \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs. served \_\_\_\_\_ Rank when discharged \_\_\_\_\_

## **BRICK ORDER FORM**

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### **BRICK TO BE ENGRAVED AS FOLLOWS:**

(Limit of 13 letters including spaces on each line.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

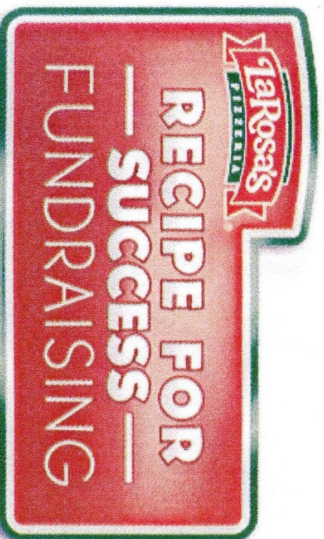
**Make checks payable and return to:**

**MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Mason, Ohio 45040 DONATION **\$50** Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Forms- Member/brick 2020



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FUNDRAISING EVENT

### Mason Historical Society

2020 FUNDRAISER

3rd Wednesdays

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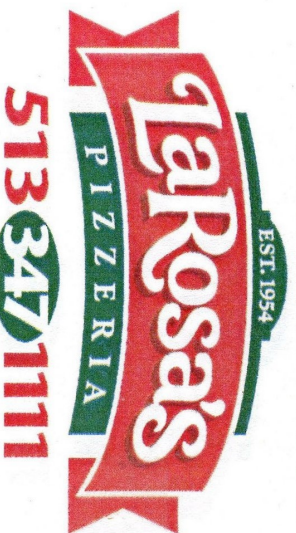
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**We love to help the neighborhoods we serve!**



2020

## Events Reminder

If You Have Not Already Done So  
Please Sign Up At Kroger Community Rewards  
Mason Historical Society Number Rewards #HE524

MUSEUM CLOSED THE  
MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Yoga- @7pm: February 3, 10, 17, 24.  
YOGA WILL CONTINUE DURING  
FEBRUARY

## **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.  
Jeff Hill Video  
Mitsubishi Electric Automotive  
People's First Savings Bank  
R.E. Middleton Constriction LLC  
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Shorten & Ryan Funeral Home  
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Walldogs the Mason Sign Company  
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Chris Champ—STATE FARM AGENT **2020**  
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Mason Bowl, Inc.  
Mason Health Care Center  
Minuteman Press of Lebanon  
Mueller Funeral Home **2020**  
Terry's Lawn Care, Inc. **GOLD 2020**  
Warren County Historical Society  
16 LOTS Brewing Co.

### **PARTNERS**

City of Mason  
Culver's of Mason  
LaRosa's Mason  
Mason City Schools  
Mason Community Grange No. 1680  
Mason-Deerfield Chamber  
Mason Public Library

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**207 W. Church St.**  
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