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Hello Historical Society Members,

The coronavirus has affected all aspects of our lives, including public access to the museum. In response to this health issue the History Museum will be closed to the public from March 14th through April 1, 2020. We will re-evaluate the situation at that time.

The welfare of our volunteers is of utmost importance and weighed heavily in this decision.

Notification of this temporary closure has been posted on the museum doors and on Facebook. In the meantime, please take your own preventative measures to stay safe and healthy.

The February Black History month exhibit was updated and displayed again this year. Our thanks to Wanda Norton and Pat Gore for continuing to support this important exhibit.

Pat Gore is shown here discussing this exhibit with thirty-five 6th graders from Lee's Summit Elementary School. The students asked good questions and were pleased to learn Arthur Willis, the first black student in Lee's Summit, attended their school.



Thanks to John Wisniewski and Stephanie Leary the History Museum is now linked with the [Visit Missouri](#) website, potentially attracting additional tourists to the museum. Check it out.



History Museum of Missouri

Behind the Scenes



Our museum volunteers continue to make improvements at the museum. Steve Sage, Mike Wallace, Rick Wasson and John Wisniewski installed new floor covering in the basement Lee's Summit Journal room. The original floor covering was removed after water damage in the basement. The new floor covering was donated by Ed Lipowicz of Flooring and More. Our thanks for Ed's generous support of the History Museum through his membership and donations.

Our behind the scenes crew were also busy this month preparing and installing the antique columns in the museum entry. Mike Wallace, Rick Wasson and John Wisniewski are seen here working on these columns.



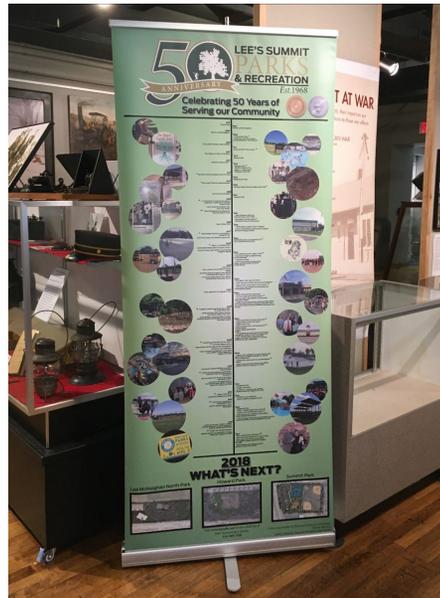
Rick Wasson provided this description of this addition to the museum's collection:

These columns are original to the Luther Mason house, widely believed to be the oldest, continuously-occupied family home in all of Jackson County, Missouri. Records indicate that Mr. Mason first homesteaded on the site around 1840, two decades before the Civil War.

The house still stands at its original site near the intersection of Colbern Road and Highway 7, about one mile directly north of Lake Lotawana.

We are grateful to Mark Lehnoff and family for their generous donation of these columns to the History Museum.

Another recent addition to the museum is this 50 year timeline from Lee's Summit Parks and Rec. The Parks and Rec staff researched this in our Journal room and donated the completed exhibit. It is currently on display in the museum.



Mark Your Calendar

Our next membership meeting is Friday, April 3rd, 6:30 p.m. at the History Museum. The guest speaker is Jim Ogle from Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area, speaking on The Quindaro Historic Site. This site was a link to the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves during the late 1800's.

Our thanks to member Ben Martin for his presentation in February on Cuba today and during the Spanish American War. Ben's pictures and discussion were well received with positive comments from all attendees.

Watch future newsletters for more upcoming events later in the year.

Our sincere sympathy to members and volunteers Pat and Bob Tucker. Pat's brother, Tom Johnson, passed away recently. Tom was a 1971 graduate of LS High School.

Anne Smith's nephew, Shenandoah Myers, also passed away recently. Our

sympathy to Anne and her family.



Sue Hart
Membership & Volunteer Chair



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