**The story of a boy named Mason, as told by Henry Williamson Jr.**

This is a story that begins with the love of a granddaughter for her grandfather, Henry Williamson Sr. Henry was born and raised in Mason, TN at Hawthorne Farm a mile north of Mason. As an adult, he and his wife lived in Memphis but were regular weekend residents for his lifetime at the ancestral home in Mason. Henry’s children and grandchildren grew up sharing the love for their ancestral home at Hawthorne Farm.

Henry Sr.’s first born great grandson was named Henry IV, continuing the name for four generations. When Henry Sr.’s eldest granddaughter, Jacqueline Williamson, and her husband, Dan Gibbon had their first-born son they knew what his name would be. Jacqueline, out of love and devotion for her grandfather, would have named her son Henry if not for the fact her nephew already had the name. Jacqueline knew how attached her grandfather was to Mason, TN, as it was the center of his family’s universe. Thus, her and her husband decided to name their son, Mason Gibbon.

Mason turned ten years old last November, and for his birthday his mom said she would take him on a mother and son trip anywhere in the United States. Without hesitation, Mason replied that he wanted to go to Mason, TN. His response was somewhat of a surprise to Jacqueline, as she had anticipated Disney Land, New York City or perhaps Washington D. C. But Mason was resolved to visit the town in which he had been named after. The trip from his home in Steilacoom, Washington to Mason, TN was set for the end of March.

When the newly elected mayor of Mason, Eddie Noeman, learned of Mason’s trip and his reasons, he was excited to meet him. He wanted to make Mason’s visit special and proceeded to make arrangements for his arrival.

The day of Mason’s visit arrived on March 30th, and he and his family were greeted by Mayor Noeman, Vice Mayor, Police Chief, officers and other representatives of the town. Mason was thrilled when a key to the city, with an honorary citizen certificate was presented to him. While his grandfather recounted his tales growing up in Mason, the young Mason had a thorough tour of one of our new police cars.

It was a full day for the family, as still planned was a trip to Bozos BBQ, Gus’s Fried Chicken and Trinity in the Fields Episcopal Church, built by his ancestors in 1840. They will spend some time on the farmland at Hawthorne and visit the Bank of Mason, which was founded in 1903 by his great, great, great grandfather, William T. Williamson and the McGraw family. There, he may get the opportunity to visit the board room where three generations of Williamsons served on the board and have their portraits on display.

Thank you for visiting us, Mason!