

# VALLEY HISTORIAN

## Greater Monessen Historical Society

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[www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com)

Vol.15 Issue 4 AUTUMN 2015 (November)



**The Time Has Come!  
Help us Grow!**

## Annual Membership Renewal and Fund Drive

The Greater Monessen Historical Society is holding their annual fund drive and membership renewal. Single memberships are \$15 per year with family memberships priced at \$20. A business membership is \$50. Membership is based on a calendar year and includes four issues of the "Valley Historian" newsletter. Fund drive donations are used to operate the museum and plan future projects. Donations for the Building Fund go toward the renovation of the Museum Annex, which will provide additional display space and a permanent Monessen exhibit. Consider gift memberships this holiday season! Show your support for the Historical Society!

## Donate Local Memorabilia to the Museum

Don't throw away local history! Donate local memorabilia to the Museum. Here is a partial list of what we are looking for:

- \*Church anniversary booklets and directories.
- \*Local city and county histories.
- \*High school yearbooks.
- \*Oral interviews.
- \*Family portraits.
- \*Local photographs.
- \*Postcards.
- \*Local maps.
- \*Family genealogies, both published and non-published.
- \*City directories.
- \*Census records.
- \*Cemetery compilations.
- \*Church memorabilia.
- \*Organization records & minute books.
- \*Business ledgers.
- \*Local advertisements.

- \*Ethnic group memorabilia.
- \*Local industry items.
- \*Vintage clothing.
- \*Local sport team uniforms.
- \*Class reunion memorabilia.

If unsure about an item, please contact the Historical Society before throwing something away. 724-684-8460.

### **Thank You to Our Founders Day Sponsors**

Our sponsors mean so much to us!

The following are a list of individuals, businesses and organizations that stepped forward and provided a sponsorship for our Monessen Founders Day Weekend of Living History. We appreciate each and every one of them. Please let them know that you too appreciate their teaming with GMHS to support a great event.

#### **William Henry Donner Benefactors:**

Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas

#### **Greyhound League:**

Adelene “Lena” Alvarez

C. Harper Auto Group

#### **Black and White Society:**

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Andy Dzurinko, CLU

Valley First Community Federal Credit Union

Bill Shuster for Congress

George Christy

Mon-Valley Health Resources, Inc.

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Arte of Framing (724) 684-4242

### **Current EXHIBIT**

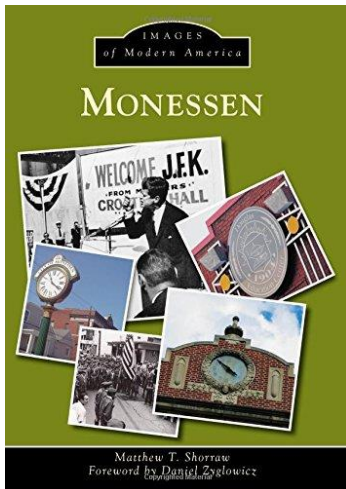


**The “Alice Brown”, named after the first wife of Colonel James M. Schoonmaker**

The exhibit at the Monessen Heritage Museum showcases the rivers and steamboats that transported passengers and cargo up and down the waterways of the Mon Valley region. See photos and memorabilia saved when the old steamboats were dismantled. It will be on display until sometime in January.

## Holiday Shopping

During the holiday season, do your gift shopping at the Museum Shoppe. There is a wide variety of nationality cookbooks and local history materials available. Postcards can be obtained to send in Christmas cards. Monessen themed throws make excellent gifts. Three new cookbooks have been added to the store: African American, Scots/English and Ukrainian.



### New Monessen Book Published

GMHS Volunteer, Matt Shorraw has compiled a book on the City of Monessen. Part of Arcadia Publishing's new series: "Images of Modern America", the book is a photo history covering the years 1950-present. The book retails for \$22.99 and is available in the Museum Shoppe. It would make a wonderful gift to that special someone!

### Donate Antique Christmas Decorations to the Museum

Please donate old antique Christmas decorations to the Museum for use in our front show windows.



### Monessen Community Christmas

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will participate in the Monessen Community Christmas event on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center. From 2-4, Santa Claus will be on hand to have his photo taken courtesy of the Historical Society.

### Holiday Open House

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will hold their annual Open House celebration on Saturday, December 19, 2015 from 12-3 PM at the Monessen Heritage Museum. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us!

### Facebook & Webpage

Check us out on Facebook under "Greater Monessen Historical Society". Keep abreast of events and see photos of previous ones. Also, the webpage has been updated: <http://monessenhistoricalsociety.com/>

### One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers November, 1915—January, 1916

Victrolas were installed in six of the grade school buildings last week by D. Krasik, the jeweler. They will be used to teach music and folk dances. (11-05-1915) Monessen News

John Husher donated four raccoons to the Elks Raccoon Supper on November 11, 1915. (11-09-1915) Daily Independent

The new Monessen Italian Band will perform for the first time on November 13, 1915 along Donner Avenue with new uniforms. John Jannotta is director with P. Americo as president and Joseph Monack as treasurer. (11-13-1915) Daily Independent

The gymnasium of the new Monessen High School will be open each Thursday for the use by the young men of the town. They will be able to take dumb bell exercises, drills, basketball or any other exercises. Each person joining the class will pay a fee of \$1.00 for the season. One night will be set aside for the girls' classes, with Tuesday reserved for the Boy Scouts. (11-19-1915) Daily Independent

Joseph Check, Mike Geregach and Andy Nosal, all of Monessen, received their naturalization papers in Pittsburgh on November 29, 1915. John and Adam Check accompanied the men and acted as witnesses. (11-30-1915) Daily Independent

The Historical Literary Society of the Wayman A. M. E. Church will hold memorial services for the late Booker T. Washington on December 5, 1915. The public is invited. (12-03-1915) Daily Independent

Manager McShaffrey is installing a new electric sign and storm doors on the Star Theatre. A new steam heating system is being installed that will heat the lobby and provide excellent fire protection. (12-09-1915) Daily Independent

Christmas trees arrived from Maine to the dealers on December 17, 1915. Prices will be ninety cents, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50 according to size. Holly rope is \$1.00 a string, and holly wreaths are \$1.00 a dozen. (12-18-1915) Daily Independent

The Salvation Army is distributing over a hundred baskets to the needy. Each basket contains a chicken, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, beans, syrup, coffee, rice, ginger snaps, corn, soup, milk and bread. The children will receive their annual treat of candy and toys on New Year's Day. (12-24-1915) Daily Independent

Michael J. Goldberg, a young businessman of McKeesport, has leased the Monessen Five, Ten and Twenty-five Cent store in this city and expects to open a

shoe store. He is a brother of Mrs. Joseph Safier. (12-30-1915) Daily Independent

A number of foreign men are asking the court to grant a charter for a "Sibelius Club" to study and render music and to mutually develop the social, literary and patriotic education of the members. (12-31-1915) Daily Independent

Following a ten day holiday vacation, Monessen schools opened on January 3, 1916 with an enrollment of over 3,200 students, the largest number in the history of the school. (01-04-1916) Daily Independent

J. T. Young, an African American, was elected justice of the peace at West Monessen. (01-05-1916) Daily Independent

#### **Autumn and early Winter Weddings, Anniversaries, and Engagements of 1915-1916**

Mrs. Jacob Horner, 111 Knox Avenue, celebrated her fifteenth wedding anniversary with a surprise party on October 29, 1915. (11-01-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Grace Coleman, formerly of Monessen, and Frank Foster, of Mingo, PA, were married on October 30, 1915 at Lima, Ohio. The bride formerly worked at the F. W. Woolworth Store. (11-02-1915) Monessen News

George A. Bickerton, of Alliquippa Avenue, married Miss Hallie Isaacs, of Monongahela, on October 28, 1915. The groom is a clerk at the P & LE Freight Station. (11-02-1915) Monessen News

Mrs. Jacob Horner, 111 Knox Avenue, celebrated her sixteenth wedding anniversary, on October 29, 1915 with a surprise party. (11-02-1915) Monessen News

Ida Mae Newhaker, of Wilkinsburg, announced her engagement to Frank H. Nicholson, of Lynd, Minnesota, on October 30, 1915. The bride is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. John Menefee, of Monessen. (11-02-1915) (Daily Independent)

Alexander Labin, Jr. was married on September 29, 1915, but died the following day in Silverton, West Virginia, while on his honeymoon, from acute indigestion. Word is that Mrs. Labin, age 17, has collapsed and is not expected to survive her grief. (11-02-1915) Daily Independent

Marietta Michener, of North Charleroi, filed for divorce from her husband, Oliver B. Michener, of North Charleroi on November 3, 1915. She charged him with cruel and barbarous treatment, and states he was quarrelsome, abused and beat her. In return, he charges his wife with infidelity. (11-04-1915) Daily Independent

Oliver Mitchener, a motorman on the streetcar line, and his wife, Marietta Mitchener, both filed for divorce. They live in West Monessen. (11-05-1915) Monessen News (Spelling and town vary from above.)

Janet B. Hollowood Miller, of Donora, is asking for a divorce from Clarence C. Miller. They were married on September 29, 1903 in Donora. Desertion is alleged. (11-05-1915) Monessen News

Rabbi and Mrs. H. Levendorf, of the Hebrew congregation, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary, at their Park Way home, on November 4, 2015. The couple received a bag of silver as their gift. (11-06-1915) Daily Independent

W. C. Bumbaugh and Miss Sylvia Maddison, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on November 11, 1915. (11-13-1915) Daily Independent

Emanuel Lindskog and Miss Clara Anderson, both of Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on November 12, 1915. (11-13-1915) Daily Independent

Dick Van Marter and Miss Lena Peifer, of Pittsburgh, eloped on October 9, 1915 and were married in Wellsburg, West Virginia. They will reside in the Joseph Building, at Ninth Street and Knox Avenue. (11-16-1915) Monessen News

Miss Sara Mallabone, of Charleroi, married Dr. L. C. Gabriel, of Pittsburgh, on November 12, 1915. In Pittsburgh. (11-16-1915) Monessen News

Miss Emma Huebner, of Webster, married William Davey, of Monongahela on November 17, 1915. The groom is a street car conductor. The couple will live in Charleroi. (11-19-1915) Daily Independent

Peter Rodmar and Miss Eva Rietrousin, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on November 18, 1915. (11-20-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Rose Jacob, of Monessen, and Alias Hadda, of Monongahela, were married on November 21, 1915. They will reside in Monongahela, where the groom has a business. (11-23-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hevrick, of First Street and Donner Avenue, observed their fifteenth anniversary on November 18, 1915. Mr. Hevrick gave his wife a diamond ring. (11-23-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. George Engle, of Oneida Street, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on November 29, 1915. They were presented with a silver cake tray by the Ladies Auxiliary of the A. O. H. (12-03-1915) Monessen News

Samuel Edward Allen, of Donora, and Miss Dolphine Marie LeClair, of Monessen, were married on December 1, 1915. The groom is a Donora baseball player. (12-07-1915) Monessen News

Earl Hagerson, of Monessen and Miss Francis Thornley, of Monongahela, eloped on December 8, 1915 to Wellsburg, West Virginia. The groom is employed in his brother's feed store at Eighth and Donner. (12-08-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. Frances McMahon has filed for divorce from T. Lafayette McMahon. They were married on April 12, 1902, but separated on January 1, 1907, due to cruel and barbarous treatment, as well as drunkenness. (12-10-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. Frances McMahon has filed for divorce from T. Lafayette McMahon. (12-10-1915) Monessen News

Miss Pearl Sheetz, of Monessen and Charles Fulton, of New Eagle, are engaged. They will marry on December 23, 1915. (12-14-1915) Monessen News (Date differs from below)

Elmer Hogg, of Belle Vernon, and Bertha Wells, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg, on December 10, 1915. (12-14-1915) Monessen News

Miss Pauline Weinberger and Harry Harris, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on December 14, 1915. (12-15-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Pearl Sheetz, of Monessen, and Charles Fulton, of New Eagle, are engaged and will marry on December 25, 1915. (12-15-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Bertha Wells and Elmer L. Hogg were united in marriage on December 15, 1915, at the bride's home, 47 Reed Avenue. The home was decorated in colors of pink and white. The bride was the exchange operator at the Page Mill. The groom is a pitcher for the Page Baseball Team. (12-16-1915) Daily Independent

Dr. George Everall Nickel, of Belle Vernon, and Miss Hilda Caroline Knoll, of McKeesport, were married in Cumberland. (12-17-1915) Monessen News

Miss Bertha Isabel Wells, of 47 Reed Avenue, and Elmer Lawrence Hogg, of Belle Vernon, were married on December 15, 1915. (12-17-1915) Monessen News

Miss Pauline Weinberger and Harry Harris, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on December 14, 1915. The wedding will take place December 26, in Kneseth Synagogue. (12-17-1915) Monessen News

Miss Josephine Stonage and F. F. Mankedik were united in marriage on December 16, 1915. The groom is the bartender at the Monongahela House, and the bride is the dining room girl. (12-17-1915) Monessen News

Miss Elsie E. Kunig, of Monessen, and Andrew W. Scott, of Lock Four, were married on December 20, 1915. (12-21-1915) Monessen News

Edward Shepherd, the Manager of the Olympic Bowling Alley, married a Braddock girl several months ago in secret. They are now living at Second and Knox. (12-22-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Pearl Sheetz, of Monessen, and Charles Fulton, of Monongahela, were married on December 23, 1915. The bride has been employed in the home of Dr. E. B. Slotterbeck for fourteen months, while the groom is a pattern maker in Monongahela. (12-23-1915) Daily Independent

Albert Hopkins, of Monessen, and Miss Alice Rock, of Charleroi, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on December 22, 1915. (12-23-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Evelyn Stevenson and Leon Debarre eloped on December 24, 1915 to Wellsburg, West Virginia. The bride is seventeen years old, and the groom is twenty years of age. He is employed as a shearer in the Tin Mill. (12-27-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Sophie Debarre married Henry Kissler, of Monessen, on December 23, 1915 in Pittsburgh. (12-27-1915) Daily Independent

William Jordan and Rosie Williams, of Monessen, received a marriage license on December 25, 1915. (12-27-1915) Daily Independent

John Lenhart and Lizzie Kisidar, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on December 24, 1915. (12-28-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Jean Marie Findlay, of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Joseph W. Philippbar, formerly of the Duquesne Hotel, Monessen, were married on December 27, 1915. The groom is the dentist for the Pittsburg Public Schools. (12-29-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Frances Allsopp, of Charleroi, and David Sullivan, also of Charleroi, were married on December 30, 1915 at St. Jerome's Catholic Church. The groom was employed by the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. They will live in Charleroi. (12-31-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Vogle, of Webster, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on December 23, 1915. (01-01-1916) Daily Independent

Moyiech Drop and Bronisulaua Dziekan received a marriage license on New Year's Day. The groom is a twenty-two year old Monessen tube worker, while the bride is a twenty-one year old servant. Both were born in Austria-Hungary. (01-03-1916) Daily Independent

Walter S. Dean, of Monessen, and Miss Ethel Dick, of Donora, were married on January 14, 1916. The groom is employed by the Pittsburgh Steel Products Company, while the bride was formerly the Belle Telephone Company chief operator in Donora. (01-15-1916) Daily Independent

Al Williams, a farmer in Rostraver Twp., is divorcing his wife, the former, Mrs. Jennie Radebaugh. It is the third marriage for each one. They have been married five years. Mrs. Williams owned two cows, some chickens, a bed or two and necessary furnishings, while the husband is said to be wealthy. (01-20-1916) Daily Independent

Cornelius Ammon, of Webster, and Helen Pearl Ferguson, of Donora, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (01-21-1916) Daily Independent

William Lamey, Monessen baseball player, and Miss Elizabeth Bond, of Sturgeon, were quietly married on January 24, 1916, at St. Leonard's Catholic Church. (01-25-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Phoebe Boddice, of Reed Avenue, and John J. Howard, of Brownsville, were married on January 26, 1916, at the Seventh Avenue Hotel in Pittsburgh. The groom is a telegraph operator for the P.R.R. The couple will live in Charleroi. (01-27-1916) Daily Independent

Edgar C. Overland, of Webster, and Martha E. Moody, of West Newton, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh, on January 26, 1916. (01-27-1916) Daily Independent

William L. Graham, of East Pittsburgh, and Miss Mary Walbridge, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on January 27, 1916. Daily Independent

#### **Autumn and Early Winter Births and Birthdays of 1915-1916**

Mr. and Mrs. James McGowan, of Park Way, had a baby girl weighing eleven and a half pounds. (11-02-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Galloway had a baby boy on November 2, 1915. (11-03-1915) Daily Independent

Harry R. Pore, Jr. celebrated his fourth birthday on November 5, 1915 with a party filled with games such as Button-Button, London Bridge and the Bubble Contest. (11-06-1915) Daily Independent

Frances Cook celebrated her twelfth birthday at her home on McKee Avenue on November 4, 1915 following a visit to the theater. (11-06-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Miller had a nine pound daughter on November 6, 1915. (11-06-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rose, of McMahan Avenue had a baby daughter on November 9, 1915. (11-10-1915) (Street differs from below)

Robert Hughes celebrated his birthday with a seasonal party. (11-10-1915) Daily Independent

Vercellis Smock, of 635 Knox Avenue, celebrated his seventh birthday on November 10, 1915. (11-11-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bleuel had a baby girl. (11-12-1915) Monessen News

Robert Hughes, of Knox Avenue, celebrated his birthday with a party on November 09, 1915. (11-12-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Rose, of Knox Avenue, had a baby daughter. (11-12-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Woodward, of Reed Avenue, had a baby boy. (11-16-1915) Monessen News

Lewis Hirsch, of Schoonmaker Avenue, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on November 15, 1915. The home was decorated with pink chrysanthemums. (11-17-1915) Daily Independent

Ruth Eisenberg, of Rostraver Street, celebrated her third birthday at a party festooned with green and white decorations. (11-19-1915) Daily Independent

Ruth Eisenberg, of 32 Rostraver Street, celebrated her third birthday on November 18, 1915. (11-19-1915) Monessen News

Lewis Hirsch, of Schoonmaker Avenue, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on November 15, 1915. (11-19-1915) Monessen News

The Joseph Tunney home received a baby girl on November 24, 1915. (11-24-1915) Daily Independent

Helen Ryan celebrated her thirteenth birthday with a party on November 22, 1915. (11-24-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Giba had a baby boy on November 25, 1915. (11-26-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Glenn, of 121 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby girl on November 25, 1916. (11-26-1915) Daily Independent

Ocena Southern, of Donner Avenue, celebrated her fifth birthday on November 26, 1915. (11-29-1915) Daily Independent

James Francis Boag, of Donner Avenue, had a pink and white birthday celebration for his sixth birthday on November 30, 1915. (12-01-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, of Park Way, had a baby daughter. (12-02-1915) Daily Independent



Mr. and Mrs. A. Daugherty, of Reed Avenue, had a baby boy on December 1, 1915. (12-02-1915) Daily Independent

Virginia Claybaugh McMurtrie had a pink and white eighth birthday on December 2, 1915. (12-03-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Daugherty, of Reed Avenue, had a baby boy on December 1, 1915. (12-03-1915) Monessen News

Virginia Claybaugh McMurtrie celebrated her eighth birthday with a party on December 2, 1915. (12-03-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Baker, of Motheral Avenue, had a baby boy on December 4, 1915. (12-07-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Dodwell, of Franklin Avenue, Vandergrift, had a son born on November 26, 1915. (12-07-1915) Monessen News

Albin and May Dematty, of Monessen, petitioned the court to adopt Melvina Neff, which was granted. (12-08-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. William Jones celebrated her birthday on December 8, 1915 with a surprise party. (12-09-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGeary had a son. (12-11-1915) Daily Independent

Mary Meyer, of 1021 Knox Avenue, had a surprise party for her ninth birthday. (12-14-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gilmore, of Oneida Street, had a ten pound baby boy. (12-15-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Konopski had a baby girl on December 19, 1915. (12-21-1915) Daily Independent

John P. Reagan, of the Monessen Plumbing Co., had a surprise party to celebrate his birthday, at his home on McKee Avenue, on December 20, 1915. On behalf of the employees, he was presented with a Victrola. (12-22-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Malcom Frew, of Ninth Street, are the parents of a baby girl that arrived on December 27, 1915.

The father works at the Tube Mill. (12-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Williams, of Knox Avenue, are the parents of a baby boy, who was born on December 28, 1915. The father works in the Tin Mill. (12-29-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Marti, of 294 Rostraver Street, had a twelve pound son on December 31, 1915. (12-31-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Allen, of Knox Avenue, near Ninth Street, had a baby girl on December 30, 1915. (12-31-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. J. H. Sullivan, formerly of Monessen, gave birth to a nine and a half pound baby girl on December 29, 1915, in Springfield, Ohio. (12-31-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Roberts, of Donner Avenue, had a ten pound baby boy on December 31, 1915, at 7:30 PM. The father is manager of the P. H. Butler Store. (01-01-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Protzman, of St. Petersburg, Florida, had a twelve pound son. The boy was named J. Wesley Protzman, Jr. They were former residents of Monessen, where the father was employed at the G. F. Wright Furniture Company. (01-12-1916) Daily Independent

Milton Murdock, of Avella, in Washington County, will celebrate his ninety-second birthday on January 18, 1916 at the family reunion. His daughter in law is Mrs. A. L. Murdock, of Gibsonton. (01-17-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Prewitt, of Second and Linden, are the parents of an eight and a half pound baby boy, who arrived on January 16, 1916. (01-17-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. Charles Edward Keller, of 631 McKee Avenue, celebrated her birthday on January 18, 1916. (01-19-1916) Daily Independent

Grace Peterson celebrated her fifteenth birthday with a party festooned with pink and green decorations on January 21, 1916. (01-24-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Colas had a ten pound baby girl on January 21, 1916. (01-24-1916) Daily Independent



Mrs. Henry Betts, of Buffalo, New York, had a surprise birthday party at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jerry McKenzie, of First Street, on January 24, 1916. (01-26-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Hicks, 122 Oneida Street, had a nine pound boy on January 26, 1916. The father works in the Tin Mill. (01-27- 1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Strickler, of Donner Avenue, had a son on January 30, 1916. (01-31-1916) Daily Independent

### Memorials

**In memory of R. Lee Jones  
by Richard Victoria.**

**In memory of Floyd Kizzie  
by Tiffanie Rawlins Johnson.**

**In memory of Ida Visca Vukich  
by sisters, Tia Como and Tamara Bojsen.**

**In memory of Mary Ann Mollard  
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of parents, Julius and Josephine  
D'Alfonso and sister, Gemma D'Alfonso  
by Gina D'Alfonso and Lucille D'Alfonso.**

**Make change happen,  
volunteer!**

### Things I Learned As A Volunteer

By being a volunteer at the Monessen Historical Society I have learned many interesting facts about the city of Monessen that I had never known before:

**One of the most interesting was about William Henry Donner. He was the founder of the National Tin Plate Company in Monessen. Mr. Donner had a daughter Elizabeth. In 1932, she married Elliott Roosevelt, the son of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. They had a son William Donner Roosevelt. They were divorced in 1933.**

**This is just one of the little known facts about Monessen. There are many more that are just as interesting.**

**Gladys Kossel**

**The bell in the St. Leonard tower is named Elizabeth. Engraved on the bell is the name of its donor, Mrs. Elizabeth Kiefer, a founding member of the parish, who came to Monessen in 1898. The bell first tolled for the funeral of her husband, Matthias. Her granddaughter, Cecilia Kiefer Kasper, shared this family memory. It was in 1910 that the thousand-pound bell first called St. Leonard parishioners to worship. The manufacturer was the McShane Bell Foundry Company of Baltimore, Maryland. The bell was operated manually for many years and then was electrified.**

**These facts were published in the 1975 St. Leonard Parish 75th Anniversary Booklet.**

**Vito Benecio**

**Two Monessen high school graduates, Raymond Celli, Class of 1924, and Mario Celli, Class of 1926, designed the Monessen High Stadium. As youngsters, the brothers emigrated from Italy with their parents. Both young men were architecture graduates of Carnegie Tech. The stadium was built between 1933 and 1935. Since it was a WPA project, the labor costs were paid for by the federal government, but the local school district had to acquire the land and pay for all the materials used in the construction. The stadium was impressive enough that Gov. George Earle came to speak at the dedication.**

**Ginny Fisfis**

**If you look up at the side of our Monessen Heritage Museum building you will see a mural depicting a steel mill scene, a tribute to Monessen's industrial history. The mural was created by several talented students from the Douglas Education Center and installed on the building in 2012. It was the first mural to appear on a Monessen building in more than 50 years.**

**Marty Dudas**

### **Building Fund Donors**

- \*Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chiprich
- \*Nick Fisfis
- \*Richard Dudas
- \*Bill and Paula (Ciccarelli) Wamsley
- \*Vernon Nelson
- \*Dr. Mary Ann Daltorio Dailey
- \*Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home, Inc.
- \*Claudia Martucci
- \*Angela Covert
- \*Vito C. Beneccio
- \*Robert Yuhasz
- \*Elizabeth Phelps
- \*Susanna Swade
- \*Carl Swade
- \*Bunny & Bill Vitori
- \*Judy Yuss
- \*Louis Anstandig
- \*Thomas Weible
- \*Arlene Broslow
- \*MHS Class of 1950

Thank you to all our generous donors who support our efforts to restore the Milson/Endicott Johnson Building for use as the Museum Annex.



**The Board of Directors of the Greater Monessen Historical Society wish all of our members, supporters and benefactors a Blessed, Happy and Healthy Holiday Season filled with good will and many wonderful memories!**

### **Keep Your Membership Current!**



**Judge James H. Reed.**

**The spring 2016 exhibit at the Museum will showcase Monessen in days past.**