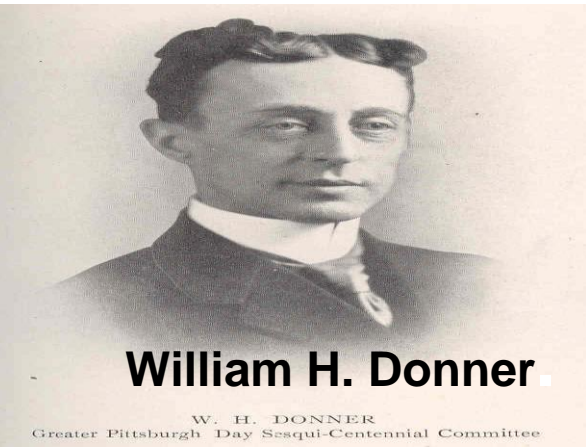


VALLEY HISTORIAN



Greater Monessen Historical Society

505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062

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monessen@verizon.net (email)

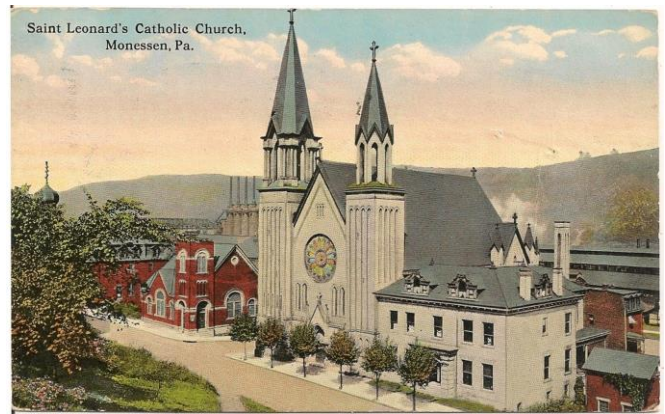
www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com

Vol.16 Issue 2 SPRING 2016 (May)



Roaring Twenties Dinner Saturday, September 17, 2016

To commemorate the ninety-fifth anniversary of Monessen changing from a borough to a city in 1921, the Historical Society will hold a Roaring Twenties fundraiser dinner on Saturday, September 17, 2016. The dinner will be held in Jozwiak Hall, in the St. Vincent DePaul Society building on Grand Boulevard. Tickets are \$30 each. The meal will consist of dinner favorites popular in the Roaring Twenties. Come dance the Charleston! We encourage everyone to dress in period clothing reminiscent of the twenties. Only a limited amount of tickets will be sold! Stop at the Museum today!



Autumn Exhibit

The Autumn Exhibit at the Heritage Museum will focus on the five former ethnic Roman Catholic churches of the city, which were consolidated together to form the Epiphany of the Lord Church twenty-five years ago. Monessen's Catholic heritage goes back to 1900 and the founding of St. Leonard's Church, which was built to serve the Irish Catholic population of the new borough. The other churches were: Most Holy Name of Jesus (Slovak), St. Cajetan (Italian), St. Hyacinth (Polish) and St. Anthony (Croatian). If anyone has photos of church events and parishioners, please bring them to the Museum during regular business hours or send scans to: monessen@verizon.net.

Do you have?

The Historical Society is still searching for photographs of the Linden and Washington Elementary schools.



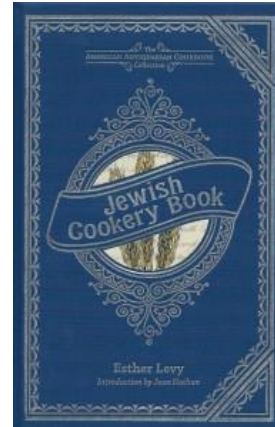
Annual Donner Family Message to GMHS and the City of Monessen

Check out our Facebook page to watch Tim Donner deliver his annual message on behalf of the William Henry Donner Family. Tim is the great-grandson of Industrialist W. H. Donner, who built Monessen's first industry, the National Tin Plate Company, in 1897. The Donners built a three story twenty-five room home on Parkway, which overlooked their tin mill. Tim holds an honorary seat on the GMHS Board of Directors.

Westmoreland Day of Giving, May 3, 2016 Difficulties

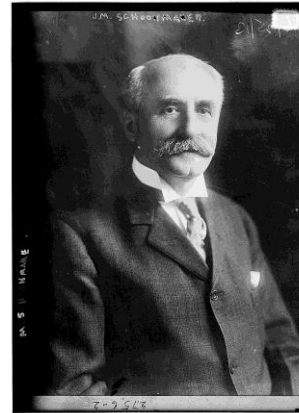
The annual Day of Giving on May 3, 2016 experienced problems with the firm contracted by the Pittsburgh Foundation to collect the donations and was forced to shut the fundraiser down before the end of the day. The Foundation will reschedule the event at a future date and apologizes for the confusion. Some donors were able to donate, but others were unable to complete their transaction. We thank everyone who attempted to participate.

New Museum Shoppe Item



Jewish Cookery Book \$15.00

**(hardcover) 200 pp with index.
First published in 1871 and reprinted in 2012.**



Founders Day Celebration – Aug. 13-14, 2016

The annual Founders Day celebration will be a two day event held on August 13-14, 2016 at Monessen City Park. There will be Civil War re-enactors, food booths, children's activities, a rock climbing wall, entertainment and wine tasting, which is new for this year's celebration. The annual event salutes Colonel James Schoonmaker, a Medal of Honor recipient during the Civil War and Our Founder. Mark your calendars.

Mon Valley Genealogy Forum

GMHS cosponsors the Mon Valley Genealogy Forum, along with Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center each month. The group meets at 5:30 on the third Monday of each month at the Library. New members are welcome. The meetings are free and cover new research sites and “genealogy” in the news, as well as group discussion on family trees.

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 May, 1916—July, 1916

Max Janavitz, manager of the Luna Theatre, announces he has installed a new curtain and machines, as well as repainted the interior and exterior. (05-05-1916) Daily Independent

S. C. Helzlsouer, the proprietor of the Union Hotel, the largest in the city, will install marble steps to the second floor, a tile floor in the office, and corridor with a drinking fountain. He will spend over \$1000 on fixtures for the first floor toilet and add six rooms to the building. (05-05-1916) Daily Independent

Workmen are building a foot bridge over the P&L.E. railroad tracks at Fourth Street for the use of mill employees. (05-09-1916) Daily Independent

The Monessen High School Mandolin Club gave its first annual concert with proceeds going to the high school library. (05-20-1916) Daily Independent

John Check has opened a new furniture store in the Independent Building on Sixth Street. (05-20-1916) Daily Independent

Thirty-three seniors received diplomas from Superintendent H. E. Gress. The eighteen female seniors wore white gowns and carried bouquets of pink roses. (06-01-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. Shertzinger, of Morgantown, has purchased the Luna Theatre. (06-08-1916) Daily Independent

Louis Stephens will erect a two story brick building at the corner of Fourth and Schoonmaker after tearing down the frame structure. The new building will adjoin the one erected last summer and form one block. Both will be used by the Eisenberg clothing establishment. (06-10-1916) Daily Independent

A petition will be presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County to form a corporation to be known as the “Greek Orthodox Church of Monessen”. (06-10-1916) Daily Independent

Thomas Brown, of North Belle Vernon, has purchased the farm from the estate of the late William Manown east of town. Mr. Brown paid \$1,000 an acre. He expects to have it surveyed and laid out in town lots. (06-15-1916) Daily Independent

A two hundred and ten year old oak tree was cut down on the Julian Racy lot that had been admired since the early days of the town. Efforts were made to save the dying tree, but it finally gave way to the ravishes of age. (06-14-1916) Daily Independent

A powerful gas explosion wrecked the real estate and foreign departments of the Monessen Savings and Trust Company, at 500 Donner Avenue. Papers, typewriters, desks and chairs were scattered, and two large plate glass windows were knocked into the street. (07-10-1916) Daily Independent

Spring and early Summer Weddings, Anniversaries, and Engagements of 1916

Margaret Campbell, of Lock Four, formerly of Monessen & Belle Vernon, has filed for divorce from Russell H. Campbell. They were married on December 4, 1905 at Youngstown, Ohio. (05-04-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Gycella Klein, of Swissvale, is engaged and will have a June wedding. (05-08-1916) Daily Independent

William T. Baldwin, of Belle Vernon, and Miss Ethel F. Campbell, of Charleroi, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on May 8, 1916. (05-09-1916) Daily Independent

Charles Campbell, of Webster, and Marie Danks, of Mount Pleasant, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on May 8, 1916. (05-10-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Ida Mae Newbaker, of Edgewood Park, and Frank H. Nicholson, of New Haven, Connecticut, were married on May 11, 1916. (05-12-1916) (Daily Independent)

Grace Lang and Harry Seehan, both of Monessen, were secretly wed on May 17, 1916. The bride was employed at the Charleroi-Monessen Hospital, while the groom works at Pittsburgh Steel. (05-22-1916) Daily Independent

George O. Rise and Miss Mary J. Bovill were married on May 23, 1916. They will reside at 713 Ninth Street. (05-24-1916) Daily Independent

Axel Simonen and Mary Heiskamen were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (05-25-1916) Daily Independent

Joseph Popovich and Annie Dulich received a marriage license in Greensburg. (05-25-1916) Daily Independent

Stanko Suchowich and Annie Machick were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (05-25-1916) Daily Independent

Thomas F. Crowe, of Monessen and Miss Augusta M. LeClair, of Charleroi, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on May 25, 1916. Daily Independent

Miss Margaret O'Toole, of Rostraver Street, and Fred Gockell, of Pittsburgh, were quietly married on May 30, 1916. (05-31-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Neva Ewing, of Monessen, and Charles Titus, of Donora, eloped to Uniontown on May 31, 1916. The groom is a constable in Donora, while the bride is the pianist at the Bijou Theatre. (06-01-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Pearl Stepsay, of Detroit, Michigan, is engaged to Samuel H. Herbert, of Monessen. (06-01-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Mabel Virginia Thornley, of Monongahela, wed Walter Jackson Kibler, of Monessen, on May 31, 1916. The bride was a school teacher and the groom works for the Pittsburgh Steel Products Company. They will live in Monessen. (06-02-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Augustine LeClair, of Rhode Island, and Thomas F. Crowe, of Monessen, were married on June 1, 1916, at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church. The groom works for Pittsburgh Steel Company and lives on McKee Avenue. (06-02-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Feehan were married on March 17, 2016. (06-07-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Nash, of McKee Avenue, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on June 2, 1916. A six course catered dinner was served in the basement dining room by Kuhns of Pittsburgh. Six waiters were in charge of the tables, which were decorated with roses, carnations and ferns. (06-03-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Hilda Ryan, of Monessen, and Raymond J. Taylor, of Monongahela, will wed on June 20, 1916 at St. Leonard's Church. The bride was formerly employed at the Parke Stamp Store. (06-06-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Percich, of Schoonmaker Avenue, quietly married Leo Reiner, of Linden Avenue, at 5 AM in St. Leonard's Church on June 7, 1916. They had a wedding breakfast before leaving for an extended honeymoon to Cleveland and Detroit. (06-07-1916) Daily Independent

Elmer Reese, of Monessen and Miss Ella L. Maser, of Johnstown, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on June 6, 1916.

James Percy Boore and Miss Oneta Trago, both of Monessen, were wed on June 8, 1916. They will live at First and Knox. (06-09-1916) Daily Independent

Lawrence G. Thomas, of McKeesport, and Ethel F. Penman, of Elizabeth, received a marriage license. The bride has been the bookkeeper for the Peoples National Bank. (06-13-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Lena Bonini and Gabriel Delzangle were united in marriage at St. Leonard's Church on June 15, 1916. The groom works for Pittsburgh Steel. (06-15-1916) Daily Independent

Leech Chas McCollough, of Franklin, wed Miss Rith M. Harvey, of Monessen, on June 15, 1916. The wedding was private. The couple will live in Franklin. (06-16-1916) Daily Independent

James Reese was granted a divorce from Jennie Reese on the grounds of desertion. (06-15-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Ethel Penman, of Elizabeth, and Lawrence G. Thomas, of Duquesne, were married on June 12, 1916. They will live in McKeesport. The bride is an employee of the People's National Bank of Monessen. (06-16-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Lulu McKenna, of Elizabeth, and Alvin J. Buechner, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license on June 15, 1916, in Pittsburgh. (06-16-1916) Daily Independent

Arthur Caville, of Monessen, wed Miss Anna Elizabeth Armbruster, of Beallsville, in Wellsburg, West Virginia, on June 17, 1916. They will live at 260 Donner Avenue, as the groom is employed in the Tin Mill. (06-19-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Hilda Marie Ryan, of Monessen, and Raymond J. Taylor, of Monongahela, were married in St. Leonard's Church on June 20, 1916. They will reside in a new house in Donora. The groom is employed in the electrical department of the Donora Zinc Works. The bride worked at the Parke Stamp Parlor. (06-20-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Ruth A. Clites, of Webster, married Russell James Faust, of Monessen, on June 21, 1916. "Banty", the groom, works as a driver for the American Express Company. The couple will live at 428 Reed Avenue. (06-22-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Cornwall, of Monessen, and Frank M. Bessels, of Cambridge, Ohio, were wed on June 22, 1916, in Sheridan. They will live in Cambridge. (06-23-1916) Daily Independent

Harry Coughanour, the timekeeper at the Pittsburgh Steel Products plant and second baseman of the baseball team, married Miss Flora White, of Uniontown. (06-23-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Ada White, of Uniontown, married William E. Bryson, of Uniontown, at a double wedding with her

sister, Miss Flora White. (06-23-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Gertrude Richards, formerly of Monessen, wed Samuel W. Garver, of Pittsburgh, on June 24, 1916, at Uniontown. The bride previously worked as a time bookkeeper for the A. Marple and Company, while the groom is a traveling salesman. (06-28-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Louise F. Salmon, of Elizabeth, and Bernard G. Ulrich, of West Elizabeth, were joined in matrimony on June 28, 1916. The groom is in the bakery business. The bride formerly worked as a stenographer for Hibbs and Woodward. (06-29-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Charlotte Edmundson and Arthur McCune will marry in Gibsonton on June 29, 1916. The bride is a local schoolteacher. The groom is superintendent of the Henderson Coal Mines. (06-29-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Cora Elliott will marry Frank Wiseman on June 29, 1916. The bride has resigned her position as a foreman for the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. The groom is employed as a roller for the Tin Mill. (06-29-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. Edna Gass Miller, of Charleroi, married Charles Wareham, of Kelley Station, on June 29, 1916. The bride carried a bouquet of sweet peas. They will reside in Oil City. The bride formerly conducted the Lindh Institute in Monessen. (07-01-1916) Daily Independent

Ben Maple, of Webster, filed for divorce from his wife, Maria Maple, in Greensburg. They were married in 1896, but have not lived together since 1914. (07-07-1916) Daily Independent

Luellen Davis, of Monessen, and Luella Sims, of Charleroi, were married in Monongahela on July 6, 1916. (07-08-1916) Daily Independent

James Scanlon, of Allenport, and Leah Jones, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on July 3, 1916. (07-07-1916) Monessen News

Miss Elizabeth Messaras and Joe Brunda, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg on July 5, 1916. (07-07-1916) Monessen News

Attilio Pelosa and Rosina Mandarino, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-11-1916) Monessen News

Mary Collins, age 18, of West Washington, eloped to Fayette County and was married to a carnival performer. She is now a ballet girl in the side show of the Con T. Kennedy Carnival. (07-11-1916) Monessen News

George J. Klein and Miss Elsie M. Bumer, both of Monessen, received a marriage license on July 11, 1916 and will marry next week. The bride is a teacher in the local schools. They will live in Detroit. (07-13-1916) Daily Independent

Alvin Wensel and Miss Jane Morgan, both of Webster, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on July 12, 1916. (07-13-1916) Daily Independent

Elsie Marie Bumer and George J. Klein will wed on July 17, 1916. (07-14-1916) Monessen News

Thomas Owsiany, of Woodlawn, and Catrine Sambrozka, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-14-1916) Monessen News

Elko Chatalpo and Paraska Sidia, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-14-1916) Monessen News

Editor George A. Anderson, of the Monongahela Daily Times, eloped with Miss Gene Claire Long, of Monongahela, to Irwin and were married on July 11, 1916. (07-15-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Elsie Bumer and George J. Klein, both of Monessen, were wed on July 17, 1916. The groom is a machinist for the Cadillac Automobile Company in Detroit. (07-17-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Fau, of Charleroi, and William S. Sweeney, manager of the Majestic Theatre, in Charleroi, were married on July 17, 1916. The groom formerly was employed in the hospital of the Tin Mill. (07-18-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Elsie Bumer, of 229 McKee Avenue, and George J. Klein, who formerly lived at 654 McKee Avenue, were wed on July 17, 1916. (07-18-1916) Monessen News

Andrian Bissiere, of Monessen's French colony, and Miss Juliette Arnand, of East Canonsburg, were wed on July 19, 1916. (07-19-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Barbara Bronson, of Homestead, and Robert Hindmarsh, of Fayette City, married on July 3, 1916 in Beaver. (07-19-1916) Daily Independent

Charles Peters, of Monessen, and Miss Dorothy McCann, of Scott Haven, received a marriage license in Cumberland on July 19, 1916. Daily Independent

Nanneta Shannon, of Charleroi, and Fred Ghrist, of Monongahela, were wed on June 5, 1916 at the Hotel Henry. The bride is a Monessen school teacher. (07-21-1916) Daily Independent

John Drobecky and Anna Vatanak, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-21-1916) Monessen News

Tony Pauchin and Julia Sperka, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-21-1916) Monessen News

George Hutchinson, of Elrama, and Miss Hazel Larimer, of Monessen, were married in Pittsburgh on July 18, 1916. They will live in West Elizabeth. (07-21-1916) Monessen News

Miss Anna C. Brightwell, of Fayette City, and Earl V. Marshall, of Monongahela, were married on June 24, 1916. The bride is a stenographer for the Page Woven Wire Fence Company. The groom is an electrician at the Donora Zinc Works. (07-24-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Kathryn Burns, of Leisenring, and John King, of Pittsburgh will wed in August. The bride is a teacher for Dunbar Township, while the groom formerly was a member of the firm of Soisson & King, Stationiers, of Monessen. (07-25-1916) Daily Independent

William K. Hamilton and Miss Eva L. Graham, both of Webster, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on July 26, 1916. (07-27-1916) Daily Independent

Dewey Gallatin, of Donora, and Miss Camille Amprim, of Donora, received a marriage license in Cumberland on July 26, 1916. (07-27-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Margaret Lowstutter, of Charleroi, and Walter Robertson, of Charleroi, were married on July 26, 1916. The groom is an employee of the Pittsburgh Railways. They will live at 518 Washington Avenue. (07-28-1916) Daily Independent

Charles H. Reed, of Pricedale, and Dorothy Ward, of North Belle Vernon, took out a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-28-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Margaret Lowstutter, of Charleroi, and Walter Herbert Robertson, of Charleroi, were married on July 26, 1916. (07-28-1916) Monessen News

Andy Skiba and Szofi Tunina, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-28-1916) Monessen News

Spring and Early Summer Births and Birthdays of 1916

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Keifer had a baby boy on April 29, 1916. (05-03-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. Janet Williams and Mrs. C. C. Hotchkiss celebrated their birthdays jointly. (05-05-1916) Daily Independent

Dr. John S. Van Voorhis, of Belle Vernon, celebrated his ninety-third birthday on May 8, 1916. (05-09-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes, of Knox Avenue, had a baby girl on May 19, 1916. (05-22-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Ruth Mitchell, of Reed Avenue, celebrated her fourteenth birthday with a surprise party on June 7, 1916. (06-09-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Clarke had a nine pound daughter on June 10, 1916. (06-12-1916) Daily Independent (On June 13, the paper said the child was not a female, but a male. The second article spelled the last name as "Clark".)

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Welsh, of Rochester, PA, had a baby girl. (06-13-1916) Daily Independent

Eleanor Shutterly celebrated her fifth birthday with a party. (06-13-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Peters, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a nine pound baby girl on June 15, 1916. (06-16-1916) Daily Independent

Florence Sherwin, of Essen, celebrated her eleventh birthday on June 16, 1916 with a five course dinner for her friends and neighbors. (06-17-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. Malisse Streets, of Motheral Avenue, had a surprise party for her forty-fifth birthday on June 20, 1916. (06-22-1916) Daily Independent

W. S. Sanders celebrated his sixty-second birthday recently. He received a watch from the U.P. Church Bible class, a leather rocker from his wife and a Morris Chair from his children. (06-27-1916) Daily Independent

Gladys Rose, of 632 McMahan Avenue, had a surprise party for her tenth birthday on June 28, 1916. (06-29-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snorr, of Knox Avenue, had a ten pound baby boy on July 1, 1916. To celebrate, Mr. Snorr purchased a 1917 Overland car. (07-03-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Nesselrode, of Lock No. Four, had a nine pound baby girl on July 5, 1916. Mrs. Nesselrode was formerly Miss Mary Keifer. (07-08-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Nesselrode had a baby girl on July 5, 1916. (07-07-1916) Monessen News

Dr. and Mrs. B. L. Herron had a baby girl on July 8, 1916. (07-11-1916) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leone, of Graham Avenue, had a nine and a half pound baby girl on July 14, 1916. (07-15-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Delbarre, of Graham Avenue, had a nine and a half pound baby girl on July 14, 1916. (07-18-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Boddice, of Knox Avenue, had a baby girl on July 16, 1916. (07-18-1916) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith, of 55 Reed Avenue, had an eight pound baby boy on July 18, 1916. (07-20-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had an eight pound baby on July 18, 1916. (07-21-1916) Monessen News

Jean Vernette Leonard, of 465 Knox Avenue, celebrated her birthday on July 26, 1916 at a party with her friends. (07-27-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Bull, of Park Way, had a ten pound baby girl on July 28, 1916. The father works at Pittsburgh Steel. (07-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Assel, of Second Street, had a baby girl on July 27, 1916. (07-28-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Asel, of Second Street, had a baby girl on July 27, 1916. (07-28-1916) Monessen News (The News differs from the Independent with the first name and spelling of the last name from above entry)

Memorials

**In memory of Ernest S. Wisyanski
by Richard Victoria.**

**In memory of Carl Swade
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Richard DiMascio
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Ernie Wisyanski
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Richard DiMascio
by Richard Victoria, Attorney at Law.**

**In memory of Lois Jones
by Candis Kelley.**

**In memory of Lois Jones
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Lois Jones
by Don and Gloria Hayes.**

Make **change** happen,
volunteer!

Building Fund Donors

- *Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Godla
- *Edward Kachmarik
- *Marilyn Pivarnik
- *Dr. Martin & Mrs. Madeline Dudas



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Tim Donner, Honorary Seat

The "Old Monessen" Exhibit at the Heritage Museum will be on display until the end of July, 2016. Free Admission!