

# VALLEY HISTORIAN

## Greater Monessen Historical Society

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Vol.15 Issue 3 SUMMER 2015 (August)



**Col. James Schoonmaker**

**Join us for Founders Day!**

**Sat., August 15, 2015**

**10 AM to 5 PM**

**Monessen City Park**

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will hold their annual Founders Day of Living History on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 10 AM until 5 PM at Monessen City Park, 1918 Grand Blvd. The festival is a tribute to Monessen Founder, Colonel James Martinus Schoonmaker, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his services

during the Civil War and the hero of the Third Battle of Winchester. The year 2015 also marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the ending of the Civil War.

Re-enactors from the 11th P.V.I. Company K, Inc. and the 11th Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry Company F will set up authentic Civil War camps to showcase a living history view of camp life during the War of the Rebellion.

The festival will include food vendors, booths, local authors, displays and family fun, along with great photo opportunities.

There will be an opening ceremony at 12 noon at the new Monessen Amphitheatre.

View displays of Civil War relics, cooking demonstrations over open fires, fife music, demonstrations of encampment, soldier life, their equipment, tents and uniforms, as well as children's activities.

Living History Schedule for August 15:

Soldier drills: 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM., include inspection of arms, loading in 9 times, firing by company, file and rank.

Children's activities: Immediately following Soldier Drills will include drilling with the soldiers using wooden guns, demonstrating the accuracy of Civil War bullets using round and spherical balls, old time games and Victorian dress up for photos. Don't forget your camera.

Two musical groups have been scheduled to perform in the amphitheatre for Founders Day: “Bearfoot Neighbors” from 1-2 PM and “Hear Tonight” from 2-3 PM.

### NEW EXHIBIT



The “Alice Brown”, named after the first wife of Col. Schoonmaker

The Autumn Exhibit at the Monessen Heritage Museum will focus on the rivers and boats that transported passengers and cargo up and down the waterways of the Mon Valley region.



The Board of Directors of the Historical Society recently met to discuss a revamping of the volunteer program. Part of the discussion involves the need to

request Background Clearances for those wishing to volunteer with GMHS. Also, we are now looking for select individuals who wish to pledge to work on certain select days each week, such as every Thursday, etc. We are also still interested in those who may only want to come here and there, as time allows. In addition, we want those of you who can “adopt” a certain job as your own, such as “photography”, “grant writing”, “cooking demos”, “scrapbooking”, etc. Vern Nelson is a perfect example to showcase. A “newer” volunteer, he “adopted” the Archives and has done a great job reorganizing and repacking the boxes of memorabilia. Please contact the Museum at 724-684-8460 to sign up, if interested.

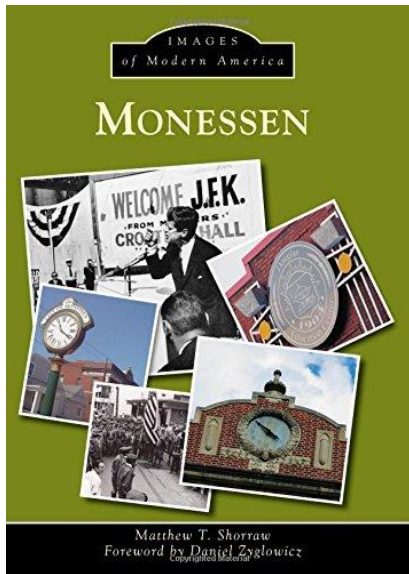


### Historic Actors Wanted

The Historical Society continues to search for individuals with acting ability willing to study and perform as historic characters at GMHS functions. Contact the Museum at 724-684-8460, if interested or for further information.

### Model Builders Needed

GMHS is also looking for interested individuals to build models of Monessen buildings, churches, schools, etc. for display. Use your creative skills to help the Heritage Museum.



## New Monessen Book Published

GMHS Volunteer, Matt Shorraw has compiled a new 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.

## One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers August -- October, 1915

The Jewish cemetery established by the local congregation will be consecrated on August 8, 1915 by Rabbi Levendorf. (08-06-1915) Monessen News

The Page Woven Wire Fence Company has installed a complete pure water drinking system in their plant for the use of their employees. The water is sterilized by electricity and will be available in five gallon containers placed in coolers throughout the plant. It is the most modern installation in the country. (08-19-1915) Daily Independent

Enrollment for Monessen schools will reach 3000 for the coming term. Domestic science has been added to the curriculum in the new high school. (08-24-1915) Monessen News

Monessen has 1100 telephone subscribers in the new Bell Telephone directory being released. (09-03-1915) Monessen News

Michael Giba, the Wireton Grocer, accompanied by Steve and Mike Gaspich, were in Pittsburgh on September 15, 1915 to make application for seventeen Croatians who wish to become citizens. (09-17-1915) Monessen News

Adolph Goldberg, of McKeesport, is probably the largest owner of business property in Monessen. (09-17-1915) Daily Independent

Emancipation Day was celebrated, along with the county convention of the Afro-American Protective League, in Assembly Hall. Civil War Veteran, Gabriel Butler, led the Emancipation Day parade, which featured a float carrying the Emancipation Queen, Miss Frances Ferguson. (09-23-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. Meyer Miller has donated a beautiful centerpiece to be sold for the benefit of those suffering from the war in Europe. It is on display in the window of Janavitz Store. (09-24-1915) Monessen News

Pancook's Orchestra has changed its name to the Imperial Orchestra. (10-02-1915) Daily Independent

The Philadelphia Candy Kitchen will celebrate its fifth anniversary. Milton Mirandy, the Proprietor, arrived in this country from Greece in 1906. He is taking out his citizenship papers. (10-05-1915) Daily Independent

George Skurkay purchased the entire stock and fixtures of the C. A. Light Drug Store on Donner Avenue and will remove them to the Dr. George T. Barben Building on Fifth Street. The Donner Avenue store will supposedly become the McCrory Five and Ten Cent Store. (10-14-1915) Daily Independent

A Wurlitzer Pipe Organ-Orchestra is being installed in the Star Theatre. (10-22-1915) Monessen News

The Luna Theatre has been purchased by Jake Bornstein. (10-26-1915) Monessen News

Sam Lee has removed his laundry from the basement under the Parke Stamp Company on Sixth Street to the Opera House on Schoonmaker. (10-26-1915) Daily Independent

### **Summer and early Autumn weddings, anniversaries and engagements of 1915**

Miss Gertrude Newlin, of Cadiz, Ohio, will marry Rev. Brainard Jamieson, of Pittsburgh, next week. They will then sail to Egypt as missionaries. (08-03-1915) Daily Independent

Dr. Harry F. Craig, the local druggist and optician, married Miss Aurora Grunden, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 4, 1915. They will live in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. (08-09-1915) (Daily Independent)

Harry F. Craig, the Donner Avenue druggist, married Miss Aurora Grunden, of Minneapolis, on August 4, 1915. (08-10-1915) Monessen News

Miss Frieda Karlowsky and Tom Teeters were married on August 7, 1915. They will live at 853 Ninth Street. The groom is a bricklayer for the Tin Mill, and the bride was bookkeeper to Dr. W. D. Hunter. (08-10-1915) Monessen News

Thomas Teeters and Frieda Bertha Karlowsky were married on August 7, 1915. The groom is employed at the American Tin Plate Mill. They will reside at 518 Ninth Street. (08-10-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Lena Goffin, of Monessen, and Charles Collinet, of Charleroi, were married on August 11, 1915. The groom was a former employee of the W.M.B.V. & F. C. Street Railway Company. They will live at 724 Fallowfield. (08-12-1915) Daily Independent

Robert McPayne wed Mrs. Susan L. Gwyn on August 10, 1915. They will reside at Sycamore and Liberty Streets, McMahan Borough. (08-12-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Mayme Sickles, of Riverside Road married Ray Saterfield, a motorman on the street car line, according to a telephone message from West Virginia to the bride's parents. (08-13-1915) Monessen News

Miss Lena Goffin, of Monessen, and Charles Colinet, of Charleroi, were married on August 11, 1915, at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church, in Monessen. (08-13-1915) Monessen News (Spelling differs from above.)

Police Chief John Wheatley received an elk's tooth watch charm set with a diamond, at the Grand Hotel by his friends in honor of his silver wedding anniversary on August 9, 1915. (08-17-1915) Monessen News

Desk Sargent Jenkins celebrated his twentieth wedding anniversary on August 9, 1915. (08-17-1915) Monessen News

S. Braden Schrontz, of Monessen, and Miss Amelia Hughes, of Fitz Henry, received a marriage license on August 17, 1915, in Pittsburgh. The groom is principal of the local school. (08-18-1915) Daily Independent

Amelia Hughes, of Fitz Henry, married S. Braden Schrontz on August 18, 1915. Both are members of the 1910 Class of the Southwestern State Normal School in California, PA. They will reside at 641 Park Way. (08-19-1915) Daily Independent

Michael Conti, of Monessen married Miss Anna Weis, of Monongahela, at Wellsburg, West Virginia, on August 18, 1915. The groom is a barber for A. W. Reed. They will reside in the Johnson Building on Rostraver Avenue. (08-20-1915) Monessen News

Miss Amelia Hughes, of Fitz Henry, and S. Braden Schrontz were married on August 18, 1915. (08-20-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snyder, of Dutchtown, celebrated their twentieth anniversary on August 25, 1915. He is employed as a telegraph operator for the P. & L. E. Railroad in Fayette City. (08-26-1915) Daily Independent

To celebrate their twentieth anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snyder, of Dutchtown, hosted a large dinner for thirty guests on August 25, 1915. (08-27-1915) Monessen News

John Hanykulis and Elizabeth Fajt, both of Monessen, received a marriage license. (08-27-1915) Monessen News

Miss Edith Mervine, of Philadelphia, and Paul A. Kimmins, of Charleroi, were married in Philadelphia. They met in Atlantic City, when the bride lost her slipper while running for the elevator. The groom found the slipper and traced its owner, just like in Cinderella. (08-31-1915) Monessen News

Elizabeth Smith, of Belle Vernon, and Clarence Spicer, of Roscoe, both mutes, were married in Washington, PA this week through sign language. The groom is a printer. (09-03-1915) Daily Independent



Miss Bessie Worthington and Osborne Scott, both of Monessen, were wed on August 20, 1915, in Wellsburg, West Virginia. The groom is employed by Pittsburgh Steel. (09-09-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Bessie Worthington and Osborn Scott, both of Monessen, were wed on August 20, 1915 in Wellsburg, West Virginia. (09-10-1915) Monessen News

Miss Florence Mack, of Charleroi, and William Boddice, of Monessen, married on September 8, 1915, at Cumberland, Maryland. They will reside temporarily in the Westmoreland Hotel. The groom is employed at the Tin Mill. The bride was hired at Butler's Store and will work for a few days. (09-10-1915) Monessen News

Macey Orogan, of Monessen, and Marja Srymoiska, of Pittsburgh, received a marriage license. (09-10-1915) Monessen News

Bronislaw Tyborski and Stefania Skocjylas, both of Monessen, got a marriage license. (09-10-1915) Monessen News

Byron Taylor and Nora Nichelson, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg. (09-14-1915) Monessen News

Miss Bertha Scott, of Monessen, and Alfred Joseph Bonnett, of Lafayette, Louisiana, were married in Pittsburgh on September 21, 1915. The bride worked for the Racy Store, while the groom owns a vulcanizing concern in Lafayette. (09-22-1915) Daily Independent

Hryhory Bohrij and Pawhina Procyk, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg. (09-22-1915) Monessen News

Charles Hodai and Mary Sobran, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (09-22-1915) Monessen News

John W. Wise, of Washington, PA. was granted a divorce and got married in the same day. He was stricken with paralysis during the marriage ceremony. (09-22-1915) Monessen News

Miss Bertha Scott, of Monessen, and Alfred J. Bonnett, of Lafayette, Louisiana, were married in Pittsburgh on September 21, 1915. The bride was head sales lady at the Racy Store. (09-24-1915) Monessen News

Harriet Catherine Steen, of Belle Vernon, married Dr. Eli Cope Phillips on September 15, 1915. They will reside on Fayette Street, Belle Vernon. (09-24-1915) Monessen News

Miss Lucy Holder and James Vance, of Belle Vernon, were married on September 23, 1915 in Cumberland, Maryland. They will live in Belle Vernon. (09-24-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Meyers, of Pittsburgh, and Frank Madden, of Monessen, were married on Sept 27, 1915, at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church, in Monessen. They will live in the Grand Hotel. The groom is employed at the open hearth of the Pittsburgh Steel Plant. (09-28-1915) Monessen News

Miss Anne Risher, of Monongahela, is engaged to Walter Carson, of Washington. The wedding will be held on October 12, 1915. (09-30-1915) Daily Independent

Alfred Bamford, of Monessen, wed Miss Hattie Lang, of Allenport, on September 30, 1915 in the chamber of Judge J. A. McIlvaine, of Washington County. (10-01-1915) Daily Independent

Alfred Bamford, of Monessen, and Miss Hattie Lang, of Allenport, were united in marriage on September 29, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Joseph Kalman and Susie Danko, of Monessen, got a marriage license in Greensburg. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Harry E. Logan, of Monessen, and Miss Ethel Simms, of Finleyville, were married at Monongahela on September 30, 1915. (10-05-1915) Monessen News

Edward Keefer, of California, has filed for divorce against Annie Keefer. They were married on October 6, 1887. (10-08-1915) Monessen News

Hannah J. White, of California, has filed for divorce against George White for cruelty and barbarous treatment. They were married on September 30, 1911. (10-08-1915) Monessen News

Haywood Bowden and Miss Julia Turner, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (10-09-1915) Daily Independent

Mrs. Jennie Sibbett, of Monessen, was granted a divorce from Wilbur C. Sibbett, on the grounds of desertion. (10-21-1915) Daily Independent

Correction made to Sibbett divorce. The divorce was granted on the grounds of infidelity and "other charges not fit for print". (10-13-1915) Daily Independent

Walter Scales and Miss Mary Carnes eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia on October 14, 1915. The groom is employed in the office of the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company. The bride is a student at the Douglas Business College. (10-14-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Carnes and Walter Scales eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia on October 14, 1915. The groom is employed at the Tin Mill. (10-15-1915) Monessen News

Mrs. Marion Mackey and Every Lucewer married on October 14, 1915. They will live on Second Street. (10-15-1915) Monessen News

Miss Mary E. Flading, of Pittsburgh, and Frank Daynor, of Belle Vernon, will marry on October 26, 1915. The groom is employed by the Motz Lumber Company. (10-19-1915) Monessen News

David Brown and Miss Jennie Anderson married on October 9, 1915. (10-19-1915) Monessen News

Mary L. Ford, age 20, of Monessen and Culmer L. Anderson, aged 24, the weighmaster at Harwick Mine, received permission from Christian Liebrum, who is in the county jail for contempt of court, to marry. The bride is the ward of Mr. Liebrum. (10-21-1915) Daily Independent (Name differs from below)

Miss Leona Ford, formerly of Monessen, and Culmer L. Anderson, of Harwick, were wed on October 20, 1915 at Harwick, PA. The bride was a milliner at the Janavitz Store for several years, while the groom is employed in the mines at Harwick. (10-22-1915) Monessen News

Miss Paula Weinberger is engaged to Harry Harris, of Monessen. The groom owns a meat market. The wedding will occur during the holiday season. (10-25-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Pauline Weinberger, of 163 Schoonmaker Avenue, and Harry Harris, of Monessen, are engaged. (10-26-1915) Monessen News

Edward Nash, of Monessen, and Miss Mary L. Francisco, of McKeesport, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on October 26, 1915. (10-27-1915) Daily Independent

Edward Nash, of Monessen, and Mary L. Fransisco, of McKeesport, obtained a marriage license. (10-29-1915) Monessen News (Spelling differs from above.)

### **Summer and early Autumn Births and Birthdays of 1915**

Loma Shepler celebrated her seventeenth birthday with a yellow and white color scheme for her party on August 1, 1915. (08-02-1915) Daily Independent

Loma Shepler celebrated her seventeenth birthday on August 1, 1915 (08-03-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Clark, formerly of Monessen and currently living in Cleveland, had a seven pound daughter on August 1, 1915. (08-04-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Cassius Duvall had an eight and a half pound son on August 3, 1915. (08-04-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Friedhoff had a daughter on August 7, 1915. (08-09-1915) Daily Independent (date differs from below)

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Freidhoff, of Knox Avenue, had a baby girl on August 8, 1915. (08-10-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Swanson, of 1128 Reservoir Avenue, had a ten and a half pound boy on August 12, 1915. (08-12-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy weighing twelve and a half pounds on August 10, 1915. (08-13-1915) Monessen News

Eva Corter celebrated her sixth birthday on August 13, 1915 at her home, 358 Schoonmaker Avenue. (08-16-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davidson, of McKee Avenue, had an eight and a half pound daughter on August 15, 1915. (08-16-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davison, of McKee Avenue, had a baby girl on August 15, 1915. (08-17-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Bush had a daughter on August 19, 1915. (08-19-1915) Daily Independent Date differs from below.

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Bush, of Knox Avenue, had a baby girl on August 18, 1915. (08-20-1915) Monessen News

Frank Newton Cummings, a newsboy, celebrated his eleventh birthday at his home on McKee Avenue on August 26, 1915 (08-27-1915) Daily Independent

James McLaughlin had a twelve pound baby boy on August 27, 1915. (08-28-1915) Daily Independent

Alberta Bates, of Sixth Street, celebrated her fifth birthday on August 28, 1915 with a girl party. (08-30-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fairley, of Belle Vernon, had a son on August 26, 1915. (08-30-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Dilori, of Third Street, had a twelve pound son on September 2, 1915. (09-03-1915) Daily Independent

James McLaughlin, of the Duquesne Hotel, had a baby boy a week ago, which weighed twelve pounds. (09-03-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bigerton, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on September 4, 1915. (09-06-1915) Daily Independent (Spelling differs from below)

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bickerton, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on September 4, 1915. (09-07-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Newman had an eight pound daughter on September 6, 1915. She has been named Dorothy Ellen Newman. (09-07-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fellenbaum, of Donner Avenue and Second Street, had a son, Howard J. Jr. (09-14-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pancook, of McKee Avenue, had a son. (09-15-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Theis, of Donner Avenue, had a daughter on September 15, 1915. (09-17-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Panto, of 941 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy on September 15, 1915. (09-17-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Smith had a daughter on September 20, 1915. (09-21-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Morse Ney had a baby boy on September 24, 1915. (09-24-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dean, of Donora and formerly of Monessen, had an eight pound baby boy. The child has been named Albert Jr. (09-24-1915) Daily Independent

Ralph H. Thatcher and his wife had a son on September 27, 1915 in Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Thatcher, formerly of Monessen, was the general sales agent at the Page Woven Wire Fence Company and is now president of the Springfield Spring Co. (09-28-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Speck, of Donner Avenue, had a fourteen pound daughter on September 27, 1915. (09-15-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Thatcher, of Springfield, Ohio, had a son on September 27, 1915. (09-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. Damasky, of First Street, had a twelve pound baby boy on September 27, 1915. (09-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Speck, of 264 Donner Avenue, had a daughter on September 27, 1915. (09-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Toole had a son on September 25, 1915. (09-28-1915) Daily Independent

Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Herron, in the Giba Building, had a baby boy on September 28, 1915. (09-28-1915) Daily Independent

Julius Smith, the janitor of the Monessen Savings and Trust Company, had a ten pound boy on September 29, 1915. (09-30, 1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Colas had an eight pound baby boy on September 29, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Herron, of Third Street, had a son on September 28, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Toole, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on September 25, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. H. Damasky, of First Street, had a son on September 28, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Smith, had a ten pound baby boy on September 29, 1915. (10-01-1915) Monessen News

Gladys Leone Beery, of McKee Avenue, had a party for her seventh birthday on September 28, 1915. A photograph was taken of the forty guests. (10-01-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tucker, of Graham Avenue, had a son on September 30, 1915. The baby died on October 2, 1915. (10-02-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Engle, of Pittsburgh, had a baby girl this week. (10-08-1915) Monessen News

Hazel Alice Goodwin, of 35 Knox Avenue, celebrated her tenth birthday on October 6, 1915 with an evening of games and contests. (10-08-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Engel, Jr., of Pittsburgh, had a daughter. The mother was formerly Miss Mercedes McGinty, of Knox Avenue. (10-08-1915) Daily Independent

Professor and Mrs. J. E. Emler, of the Independent Apartments, had an eight pound son on October 9, 1915. (10-09-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James Hagerson, had a daughter on October 12, 1915. (10-12-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hagerson, of Reed Avenue, had a baby girl weighing eight pounds on October 12, 1915. (10-12-1915) Monessen News

Joseph Joseph, the Borough Building janitor, had a son on October 14, 1915. (10-14-1915) Daily Independent

Harry Dale celebrated his tenth birthday on October 14, 1915 with thirty guests. (10-16-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Deitrick, of Tenth Street, had a daughter on October 16, 1915. (10-19-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dietrich, of 410 Tenth Street, had a daughter on October 16, 1915. The baby was named Alice Lettia Dietrich. (10-18-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Rosalie Schoffstall, of Morgan Avenue, had a surprise party for her birthday on October 22, 1915. (10-25-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Entinger, of Ninth Street, had a son on October 27, 1915. (10-28-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Dewalt, had a twelve pound baby boy on October 28, 1915. (10-29-1915)

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Entinger, had a baby boy on October 27, 1915. (10-29-1915)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mackinson had a son on October 26, 1915. The father is a mail carrier. (10-29-1915) Monessen News

## Memorials

**In memory of Richard M. Dudas II  
by Richard and Donna Dudas.**

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

**In memory of Richard M. Dudas II  
by Donald and Gloria Hayes.**

**In memory of Jennie Melissas  
by Kay Melissas Valko and Bob Valko.**

**In memory of Jennie Melissas  
by Nadine, Natalie, and Frank Bertazon.**

**In memory of Lee Jones  
By Donald and Gloria Hayes.**





## **Save 500 Donner, Create a Music Center**

Matt Shorraw, a young volunteer and the author of the new Monessen book by Arcadia Publishing, is attempting to save the old Monessen Savings and Trust Company Building at 500 Donner. The historic building was once home to the A&P Grocery Company, Thrift Drug and Health Mart. Currently, it is being targeted for demolition by the city.

### **Matt's message:**

**“Much of the historic architecture in the downtown area has been demolished, or is falling apart. There is a building in the heart of the downtown district that is crying out to be saved. This building known as '500 Donner Ave.' was a former bank, in Beaux Arts style. It was converted into offices and retail, with an auditorium on the third floor. It has been vacant for nearly 30 years, along with the majority of the once bustling street that it stands on.**

**The building is being threatened, as certain city politicians want to see it demolished for another vacant lot (the city has innumerable vacant lots, more than it can take care of, or afford). I would like to acquire the building from the city with the funds raised for this campaign. Once the building is acquired, I would like to begin to renovate it and restore it.**

**After the renovation is complete, I would like to convert the first floor into a café where live, original music can be played, the second floor into offices and a music center that would offer lessons and classes, and the third floor into an auditorium which is the use that it once served. Students from the music center could perform in the auditorium, as well as other local musicians. Since there is not much business in the downtown area, there is not a venture like this one in the city of Monessen, nor are there any places in the immediate area that hold all of these things in one building.**

**It is my hope that something like this will inspire the youth of Monessen and the surrounding communities. I hope to get them involved in music and their community, and to keep them off the streets. The music lessons would be structured so that children and their families that can afford to pay, do so, and those who cannot afford to pay, as long as they put in the work, will be offered free lessons. The youth in the city desperately need somewhere like this to go, and I hope to provide that for them.**

**It is also my hope that this building will become a centerpiece for the city and for its downtown, and that it will spark business and inspiration in the community.**

**I hope you can help me make this a reality, before this beautiful structure is lost forever!”**

**Matt**

**If interested in donating to save the historic Monessen Savings and Trust Co. building, log into:**

**<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/save-500-donner-create-a-music-center#/story>**

**The last day to donate is during the last week of August, so time is short!**