

# VALLEY HISTORIAN

## Greater Monessen Historical Society

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## Old Monessen Exhibit Opens Sunday, March 13

### Annual Public Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and the opening of the spring exhibit highlighting Monessen's early years will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1 PM, in the Heritage Museum. The financial report will be presented by the treasurer, and the president will review the past year and discuss upcoming events. Board members will be introduced and talk about their areas of responsibility. A message from the William Henry Donner Family will be delivered to the membership. We invite all of you to attend this important yearly gathering. Light refreshments will be served. Election of Board members will also take place. Dr. Martin Dudas and Gary Strelick are running for reelection to the Board.

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Bylaws, which will be voted on at the Spring meeting:

Article V Section 2 and Article V Section 2 - the following sentence should be added at the end of Section 2:

In addition, notice of the Annual or Special Meeting of the membership shall be published on the Society's website and any of its social media sites, such as the Society's Facebook page.

That portion of Article V, Section 6 up to subsection a. shall read as follows:

An agenda for each meeting of the members of the Society shall be prepared by the President at the direction of the Board of Directors and include, among other items on the agenda, for:

Article VI, Section 2 in its entirety shall read as follows:

Elected Directors - The Board shall consist of seven members who shall serve for a period of five years. The election of directors shall be on a rotating basis, so that beginning at the March, 2016 annual meeting, two members shall be elected; at the March, 2017 annual meeting, two members shall be elected; and at the March, 2018 annual meeting, two members shall be elected and so on thereafter. The election of directors at the annual meeting of the society may be by written ballot. Directors elected to the Board of the Society may serve successive terms.

Article IX - Committees - Section 1 shall read in its entirety as follows:

Committees shall first secure approval of the Board for any anticipated expenditure of more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars that is not specifically provided for in the budget.

# WESTMORELAND GIVES.ORG

## Mark Your Calendars: Westmoreland Day of Giving, May 3, 2016

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County will host a “WestmorelandGives” Day of Giving for Westmoreland County nonprofits on May 3, 2016. The date is in conjunction with the National Give Local America event, in which more than 180 community foundations participate in a crowdfunding process designed to empower every person to give back to their local communities by supporting organizations they trust to tackle today’s most critical issues. The “WestmorelandGives” Day of Giving event also has that goal. From 8 a.m. to midnight, the public will be encouraged to support participating nonprofits through the pittsburghgives.org donation portal. Further information will be forthcoming. This will be a chance to make an online donation to GMHS and have it receive a pro-rated match from the Community Foundation.

## Museum Shoppe Items for Easter

With Easter fast approaching, the Museum Shoppe has items that make great gifts.



Easter Basket Covers or Table Scarves: \$15.00 each

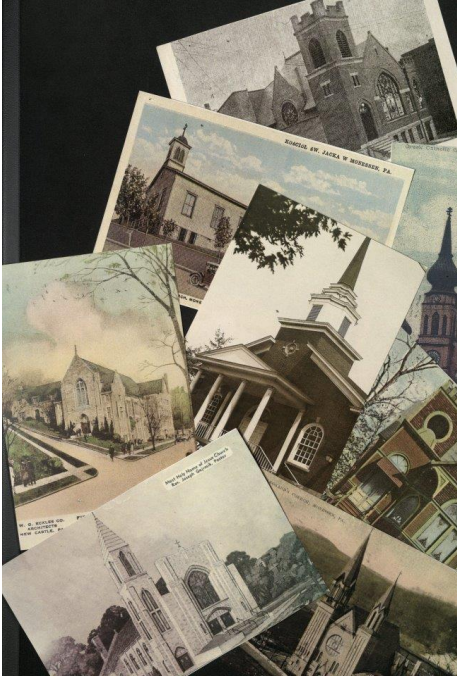


Slovak Easter Celebrations: \$12.00



Polish Easter Celebrations: \$12.00





## One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers February, 1916—April, 1916

Jasper Bonafed opened a new vulcanizing shop at 246 Schoonmaker Avenue. (02-22-1916) Daily Independent

The partnership of A. Hanakis and John Paradisis in the Luna Theatre is dissolved. (02-23-1916) Daily Independent

John J. Crowley, of Fayette City, opened a funeral parlor at 250 Schoonmaker Avenue. (03-07-1916) Daily Independent

The Jones Building, at the corner of Donner and Sixth, caught fire and was heavily damaged on March 17, 1916. It housed the Monessen Plumbing and Electric Company and the Max Janavitz Department Store. Formerly, it was the Hotel May. (03-18-1916) Daily Independent

Citizenship papers were granted in Pittsburgh on March 29, 1916 for Mike Desak, George Kacur, Mike Pacak and Andy Pacak. (03-30-1916) Daily Independent

The price of sugar has risen to a high of 7.1 cents a pound for fine granulated. (03-31-1916) Daily Independent

Dennis McCahill took charge of the Fifth Avenue Hotel from Mrs. Mary Seanor. (04-01-1916) Daily Independent

Judge Charles D. Copeland, of the PA Common Pleas Court, handed down a decree on April 10, 1916 restoring ownership of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church to Rev. Paul Ruttikay and his Greek Catholic parishioners from Rev. V. Levkanich, of the Russian Orthodox Catholic Church.

Max Janavitz purchased the Luna Theatre at sheriff's sale on April 12, 1916. (04-12-1916) Daily Independent

The Luna Theatre has reopened. Admission is five cents. (04-17-1916) Daily Independent

The Sibelius Club, at 394 Fourth Street, has a membership of one hundred and ten. (04-19-1916) Daily Independent

The Class of 1916 will purchase a statue of Hebe, which represents the goddess of youth and happiness for the High School. The sculptor is Thorwaldsen, of Denmark.

### Reprint Postcards of Churches: \$5.00 Pkg.

To order Easter items, visit our webpage: [www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com) or come to the Heritage Museum during regular business hours.

### 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/>

The art piece will stand nearly seven feet high with the pedestal.

Citizenship papers were granted in Pittsburgh on April 25, 1916 to Louis Tuskas, Joseph Kaldy and Frank Bolyog. They are all Hungarian. (04-26-1916) Daily Independent

### **Winter and early Spring Weddings, Anniversaries, and Engagements of 1916**

Vella Alva Manown wed Sidney Round on February 2, 1916. (02-03-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Ferguson, of Donora, and C. Ammon, of Webster, were married on February 2, 1916. The bride is employed at Land's Department Store, while the groom is a carpenter in the mill. (02-05-1916) Daily Independent

Agnes Mary Gilmour, of Belle Vernon, will marry Norman Alfred Vaughn on February 26, 1916. (02-12-1916) Daily Independent

Derevey Harper and Barbara Aitken, of Webster, were granted a marriage license in Cumberland, Maryland, on February 17, 1916. (02-18-1916) Daily Independent

A marriage license was granted to Miss Emma Wrey, of Charleroi, and William E. Sherwin, of Monessen, on February 17, 1916, in Pittsburgh. (02-18-1916) (Daily Independent)

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Keifer celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary at the Park Hotel. (02-24-1916) Daily Independent (On 02-25-1916, the newspaper said a mistake was printed, as it was only their fifth anniv.)

Norman Vaughn, of Monessen, and Miss Agnes Mary Gilmour, of Belle Vernon, married on February 26, 1916. (02-26-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Agnes Mae Gilmore and Norman Alfred Vaughn, both of Belle Vernon, were married on February 25, 1916. The groom works in the Belle Vernon glass works. (02-28-1916) Daily Independent (Bride's middle name differs from article on February 26, as well as groom's home town, and wedding date)

Joseph G. Weaver and Miss Sarah E. Dudgeon, both from Belle Vernon, were wed on March 1, 1916 in Uniontown. (03-03-1916) Daily Independent

Thomas Underwood and Miss Pauline Williams eloped on March 4, 1916 to Wellsburg, West Virginia. The bride is employed by Bell Telephone, while the groom is one of the best known athletes in the Valley through baseball and football. (03-04-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Rose Tuesche, of Schoonmaker, and Albert Reynal, of New Eagle, eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia, on December 23, 1915. The groom is a well known ball player around New Eagle. (03-06-1916) Daily Independent

Frederick William Price and Miss Cora May Saylor, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Cumberland, Maryland, on March 4, 1916. (03-06-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Lucy Daprilli and Pasquale Fontanzi, both of Monessen, were wed on March 6, 1916 at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church. (03-06-1916) Daily Independent

John W. Shumacher and Miss Elizabeth Shollaert, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh, on March 6, 1916. (03-07-1916) Daily Independent

Herman F. Clement, of Pittsburgh, and Miss Mary G. Cowan, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh, on March 7, 1916. (03-08-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Gertrude Cowan surprised her parents by traveling to Pittsburgh and marrying Francis Clement, a Pittsburgh musician, on March 7, 1916. (03-09-1916) Daily Independent

Policeman Philip Pascoe married Miss Mary Lilley, of 49 Donner Avenue, on March 12, 1916. (03-14-1916) Daily Independent

Basil N. Henry, of Sandusky, Ohio, was granted a divorce from Myrtle V. Henry, Newell, PA. They were married in Charleroi in 1911 and formerly lived in Monessen, where the husband worked for the Daily Independent. (03-28-1916) Daily Independent

John G. Boubaker and Carrie E. Steiner, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh, on March 27, 1916. (03-28-1916) Daily Independent

Carl Rothery and Elizabeth A. Brubaker, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on March 27, 1916. (03-28-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Mildred Irvin, of Punxsutawney, married Guy Vincent, formerly of Monessen. (03-29-1916) Daily Independent

Dan S. Smith, of Finleyville, and Miss Minnie Hobson, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg, on March 28, 1916. (03-29-1916) Daily Independent

Fannie McMahon was granted a divorce from Lafayette McMahon in Greensburg, on March 27, 1916. (03-29-1916) Daily Independent

Daniel S. Smith and Minnie Hobson, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg. (03-31-1916) Daily Independent (Home town of groom differs from above)

Norman Sanner, of Hamondsville, and his wife, Ada Sanner, who are first cousins, have filed for divorce. They were married on July 14, 1914. (03-31-1916) Daily Independent

Oscar Forsberg, of Monessen, and Miss Bertha Bowers, of New Castle, were wed in Pittsburgh, on April 1, 1916. The groom works for Pittsburgh Steel. They will reside at 1004 Morgan Avenue with the bride's sister. (04-01-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. Claude Shaw, of Sixth Street, celebrated her tenth wedding anniversary with a gathering of her friends. They had lunch and crocheted. The decorations were yellow and white. Each guest received a crocheted basket filled with eggs and "wee chicken". (04-11-1916) Daily Independent

Margaret Jones and Clyde Sickles, of Monessen, are engaged to marry in the next few days. (04-13-1916) Daily Independent

Robert Jones and Ody Phillips, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg, on April 18, 1916. (04-19-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Katherine Eggers, of Uniontown, and Paul K. Morris, of Johnstown, were wed in Greensburg, on April 15, 1916. (04-19-1916) Daily Independent

George Guest and Miss Emma Lloyd, of 219 Reed Avenue, were married on April 19, 1916. They will live at 30 Reed Avenue. (04-20-1916) Daily Independent

Lottie Lawson Tuesche, of New Eagle, received a divorce from Harry Tuesche, of Monessen, in Washington, due to desertion. (04-20-1916) Daily Independent

Carl Palmer, of Monessen, and Miss Ora Hill, of Charleroi, were married in Charleroi, on April 22, 1916. The groom is employed at the Tin Mill. (04-20-1916) Daily Independent

Miss Susan Davene Wheatley, of Belle Vernon and formerly of Monessen, and George Lawrence Bachr, of McKeesport, were granted a marriage license in Cumberland, on April 21, 1916. (04-22-1916) Daily Independent

Clyde Sickles and Miss Margaret Jones, both of Monessen, were quietly married on April 26, 1916. (04-27-1916) Daily Independent

Clem Dauvin and Miss Evelyn Jones eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia, on April 20, 1916. (04-28-1916) Daily Independent

### **Winter and Early Spring Births and Birthdays of 1916**

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Tulley, 167 Fourth Street, had their fifth son on February 1, 1916. (02-02-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Max Unikel had an eleven pound son on February 2, 1916. (02-05-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James Boag both celebrated their birthdays on February 9, 1916 with a surprise party. (02-10-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Reabe, of Ninth Street, had an eleven pound son on February 17, 1916. (02-18-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James Rifenberick, of Knox Avenue, had a daughter on February 27, 1916. (02-28-1916) Daily Independent

Mrs. William Hopkins, of 604 McKee Avenue, celebrated her fifty-second birthday on February 29, 1916. (03-01-1916) Daily Independent

Meda Randolph, of 650 Knox Avenue, celebrated her eighth birthday on February 28, 1916. (03-01-1916) Daily Independent

Mae Corwin, of Second Street, celebrated her twelfth birthday on February 29, 1916. (03-02-1916) Daily Independent

Frank Shutterly, of Fifth Street, celebrated his seventh birthday with a party on March 3, 1916. (03-03-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William McLaughlin, of McKee Avenue, had a twelve pound daughter on March 4, 1916. (03-06-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Taylor had a baby girl. (03-07-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Venneri, of Reed Avenue, had a daughter on March 7, 1916. (03-07-1916) Daily Independent

George Evais, of 155 Schoonmaker, celebrated his ninth birthday on February 7, 1916. (03-08-1916) Daily Independent

Melvin Boag, of 466 Park Way, celebrated his birthday. (03-20-1916) Daily Independent

Mary Ely, celebrated her twelfth birthday with a movie party at the Star Theatre on April 1, 1916. Each child received a fool's cap, Easter rabbits and eggs with favors. (04-01-1916) Daily Independent

Harold S. Robins, celebrated his twenty-first birthday in Donora on April 7, 1916. (04-10-1916) Daily Independent

James Douglas Spriggs celebrated his twelfth birthday on April 18, 1916. (04-19-1916) Daily Independent

Roy Easley, of Elm Street, celebrated his birthday with a party on April 18, 1916. (04-20-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Lowry, of Reed Avenue, had a nine pound baby girl on April 19, 1916. (04-20-1916) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Lowstutter, of Lock Four, had a twelve pound son. (04-22-1915) Daily Independent

## Memorials

**In memory of Lawrence Elyanich  
by Tom Jones.**

**In memory of Lawrence Elyanich  
by Virginia Fisfis.**

**In memory of Lawrence "Mooney" Elyanich  
by Richard R. Victoria, Attorney at Law.**

**In memory of Lawrence "Mooney" Elyanich  
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Dorothy Jozwiak  
by Dr. Martin and Mrs. Madeline Dudas.**

**In memory of Dorothy Jozwiak  
by Barbara, James and Linda Felak.**

**In memory of Dom and Vera Dimperio  
by Diane Poznick.**

**In memory of Mary M. Victoria  
by Tom Jones.**

**In memory of Jennie Melissas  
by Howard and Katherine Drew.**

Make **change** happen,  
**volunteer!**

**GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Daniel Zyglowicz, President  
& Editor of Valley Historian  
Gary Strelick, Vice President  
Virginia Mussano Fisfis, Secretary  
Vito Beneccio, Treasurer  
Dr. Martin Dudas, Fundraiser  
Candis Elyanich Kelley, Mailings  
Tim Donner, Honorary Seat

## Building Fund Donors

\*James M. Schoonmaker II  
 \*Gerald and Alice Barron  
 \*Celia Matesich  
 \*Dr. Martin Dudas  
 \*Enid Gantner  
 \*Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society  
 \*Dorothy Jozwiak  
 \*Colonel Thomas Tredici  
 \*Robert Maisano  
 \*Robert Belczyk  
 \*Perry Cozza  
 \*Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC on behalf of Michael  
 Tweardy  
 \*Carol Donnelly

## Greater Monessen Historical Society January-December 2015 Financial Report

### General Operating Fund

#### Income

Day of Giving Donations	\$4,000.00
Day of Giving Matching	\$332.19
Donations/Fundraising	\$4,303.07
Events/Exhibits	\$4,542.00
Interest Earned	\$17.73
Membership Dues	\$5,430.00
Memorials	\$2,105.00
Misc. Income	\$53.00
Museum Shoppe	\$3,627.12
Schoonmaker Grant	\$10,000.00
Tourism Grant	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$36,410.11</b>

#### Expenses

Advertising	\$2,002.75
Copiers	\$323.90
Electric	\$3,168.52
Equipment/Software	\$3,280.00
Events/Exhibits	\$2,648.17
Gas	\$1,319.96

Insurance	\$1,239.57
Library Archives	\$2,341.12
Loan Payments	\$1,920.00
Maintenance	\$1,214.16
Misc. Expense	\$580.00
Museum Shoppe	\$4,428.03
Office Supplies/Printing	\$2,369.40
Pest Control	\$239.76
Phone and Internet	\$1,749.34
Postage	\$934.86
Professional Dues	\$283.00
Royalties	\$186.45
Security System	\$983.00
Sewage and Garbage	\$1,255.00
Water	\$961.60
Website	\$180.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,608.59</b>

### In-Kind Donations

Goods/Services	\$2,301.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,301.00</b>

### Museum Building Fund

#### Income

Donations/Fundraising	\$3,715.00
Memorials	\$140.00
Interest	\$156.76
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,011.76</b>

### Endowment

#### Income

Donations/Fundraising	\$10.00
Memorials	\$100.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>

**Thank you for your continued support of the  
 Greater Monessen Historical Society and  
 Monessen Heritage Museum.**

**Vito C. Beneccio,  
 Board Member and Treasurer**



The Greater Monessen Historical Society is truly multicultural! Just as the City of Monessen was built by over two dozen ethnic groups, your Historical Society has Facebook Friends around the globe. Thank you for making us grow!

United States of America -- 2,065

Greece -- 416

Italy -- 149

Hungary -- 124

Croatia -- 118

Israel -- 33

Slovakia -- 19

Germany -- 8

Puerto Rico -- 6

Turkey -- 5

Albania -- 5

Iraq -- 4

Romania -- 4

Canada -- 3

Bulgaria -- 3

Sierra Leone -- 2

Nigeria -- 2

India -- 2

Pakistan -- 2

Philippines -- 2

France -- 2

Poland -- 2

Japan -- 2

Palestine -- 2

Egypt -- 2

Nepal -- 1

Myanmar -- 1

Cyprus -- 1

Syria -- 1

Belgium -- 1

Ecuador -- 1

Mauritania -- 1

Switzerland -- 1

Uganda -- 1

New Caledonia -- 1

Finland -- 1

Macedonia -- 1

Jordan -- 1

Haiti -- 1

Bosnia & Herzegovina -- 1

Mexico -- 1

## Dan's Archives

The year 1916 was a Leap Year, and the Monessen Daily Independent featured a front page article highlighting who they believed to be the most eligible bachelors in the area. They urged the young ladies to go after the single men and propose but keep within the laws of propriety.

The list included:

U. S. Smiley, who claimed he is too busy managing the local mill to be married. The newspaper felt, if he can manage an industrial mill, then he can manage a wife. They stressed he is always congenial and affable as his main points.

Dallas McCabe was number two on the list. They felt he can amply support a wife and is interested in literature, the arts, and fancy work. He has good habits and an ideal disposition. They also stressed he is a great outdoor enthusiast, so wouldn't be hanging around the house all day.

Fred Speers, of Belle Vernon, made the list. He saved up considerable money and was willing to share with the right female.

Tommy Dunlevy is a thrifty fellow and good hearted, with a responsible position in the Page Mill. They say he is too interested in his work to propose.

Watson Johns, the borough engineer, is fond of music and sweet things and has a very agreeable disposition.

Lastly, Pierce Johnson, of Johnson's Café, could take complete charge of a house and run it better than many people. He can cook or boss the cooking. Pierce is clean cut and isn't afraid of wagers. He is also a good loser.