

William H. Donner

W. H. DONNER
Greater Pittsburgh Day Sesqui-Centennial Committee

VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society

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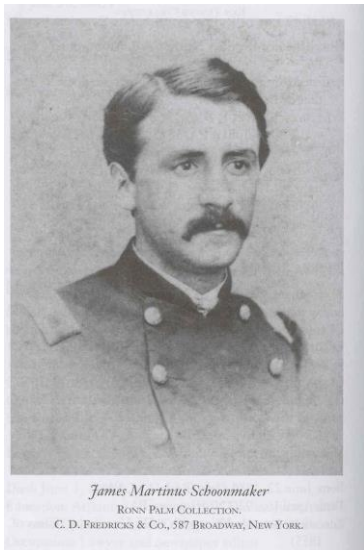
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**Join us for the 175th Birthday of
Monessen Founder,
Colonel James Schoonmaker**



James Martinus Schoonmaker

RONN PALM COLLECTION
C. D. FREDRICKS & CO., 587 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Colonel James Martinus Schoonmaker

Come to Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center on Saturday, June 24, 2017 for a slice of birthday cake to commemorate Colonel Schoonmaker's one hundred seventy-fifth birthday. An official cake cutting will be held at 10 AM, with free cake available until 1 PM in the lobby area of the Library. A special Storytime for children will be held at 11 AM in the upstairs Children's Room. There will also be outdoor games and prizes.

In this edition of the newsletter, read all about a forgotten Monessen medical facility! See pg.7



Dudas Maternity Hospital Baby Scale

Monessen Orthodox Church Exhibit Continues

An exhibit showcasing the history of the Orthodox faith in Monessen continues into the month of July. Visit the Heritage Museum, Wed. through Sat., from 10 AM until 3 PM to learn the history of Monessen's four Orthodox churches. Free Admission!



St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church. (Syrian)

St. Michael Church Closes

After being the keystone for the Syrian community in Monessen for the past one hundred and four years, St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church closed on Sunday, May 21, following final services. Originally located on Ninth Street, the church purchased the former St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church after it closed in 1991 as part of a consolidation of Monessen’s five Roman Catholic parishes. The Historical Society will preserve the significant contributions made by the Syrian immigrants, who came from the Ottoman Empire and helped build Monessen’s business district.



Make **change** happen,
volunteer!



GMHS can now be found on Twitter at @MonessenHistory! Follow us today!

Re-enactors needed

The Society is still searching for individuals interested in portraying historical persons from Monessen’s historical past. The actor would research the life of the person and dress in clothing representing that time period. The re-enactor would represent GMHS at events and engage in community outreach to other groups. Contact the museum for more information.

Museum Shoppe Cookbooks

The Museum Shoppe in the Heritage Museum features the largest selection of ethnic cookbooks in the area. They make wonderful gifts. Here is a sample recipe from one of the books in the Shoppe.

Fresh Mushroom Soup

- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 1 tbsp. oleo or butter
- 1 tsp. flour
- Sauerkraut juice, to taste
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 quart water

Wash mushrooms and cook in 1 quart of water, until tender. Strain and save the liquid. Put mushrooms through a food chopper. Add sauerkraut juice to the mushroom water, along with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Brown flour in oleo until light brown. Add ¼ cup water and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Strain. Add to contents along with mushrooms and simmer for a couple of minutes.

Electronic version of Newsletter

If you would like an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a paper copy, please contact Candis Elyanich Kelley at the Heritage Museum with your email address.

Grant Support

The Historical Society is the recipient of a \$5000 grant from the foundation set up by Colonel James M. Schoonmaker's daughter in law. The Board of Directors appreciates the support we receive from the Schoonmaker Family each year.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers May, 1917 – July, 1917

The Monongahela House hotel and barroom, owned by August Karlowsky, closed its doors. (05-01-1917) Monessen News

Application was made to the Court of Common Pleas for a charter for a corporation to be known as the "Slovak Home of Monessen". (05-10-1917) Daily Independent

Two thousand people heard Colonel James Schoonmaker deliver a patriotic address at the flag raising ceremony for the P&LE Railroad Station. (05-21-1917) Daily Independent

Monessen currently has 1300 telephones according to the new Bell directory. (05-29-1917) Monessen News

Ronald Reamer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Reamer, was honored by being presented to King George and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace on his way to service in France. (06-04-1917) Daily Independent

Mary Dudas has resigned her position at the Hooper & Long Shoe Store to begin training as a nurse at Uniontown Hospital. She had been with W. D. Cowan for six years. (06-19-1917) Monessen News

Three thousand people participated in the dedication ceremonies of the new Croatian Home at the corner of Eleventh Street and Schoonmaker Avenue. The Westinghouse Band along with the Russian, Slovak and Polish bands participated. (07-03-1917) Monessen News

Italian Beneficial Society of Monessen purchased two lots from the Monessen Savings and Trust Company to build a \$35,000 brick building on Schoonmaker Avenue. They have a membership of six hundred. (07-10-1917) Daily Independent

Eleven "girls" have been placed in the open hearth department of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, due to the scarcity of male laborers. It is the first time this has occurred in the history of the mill. (07-18-1917) Daily Independent

Mrs. George Nash has offered the basement of her home on McKee Avenue for use by the Red Cross as a workroom for supplies. Volunteers are asked to wear wash dresses of white with a large white apron and bring thimble, scissors and tape measure. (07-29-1917) Daily Independent

Spring and early Summer Weddings and Engagements of 1917

W. P. Kistler, Jr., of Monessen, and Miss Ruth A. Shepler, of Rostraver, received a marriage license in Greensburg on April 28, 1917. (05-01-1917) Daily Independent

Robert Kerscle and Miss Dela Rose wed last week. (05-01-1917) Monessen News

Samuel W. Gibson, of Monessen, and Miss Priscilla Orkney, formerly of Roscoe, were married on April 30, 1917 (05-02-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Jennie V. Donegan, of Second Street, married Robert F. Hughes, of Donner Avenue, on May 2, 1917. The groom works at the American Steel & Wire Co., of Donora. (05-03-1917) Daily Independent

Donegan and Hughes wedding. (05-04-1917) Monessen News

Nick A. Marions and Thespina Minetho received a marriage license in Greensburg on May 5, 1917. (05-08-1917) Monessen News

Joe Olsenicz and Maryann Helon obtained a marriage license in Greensburg on May 5, 1917. (05-08-1917) Monessen News

J. Marr McMahan, of Monessen, and Miss Bess Stroud, of Charleroi, married on May 9, 1917. (05-10-1917) Daily Independent

McMahan and Stroud wedding. (05-11-1917) Monessen News

Miss Grace Pitts is engaged to Edward Seals, of Monessen. They will wed in June. (05-12-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Winona McGill and H. B. Hudson eloped to Wellsburg, W.V. They will reside in Charleroi. (05-12-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Lillian Rogers, of Monessen, and Arthur Sampson, of Ohio, got married on May 14, 1917. (05-14-1917) Daily Independent

Guy J. Braddock, of Washington, PA, and Miss Clemmie Stevenson, of Monessen, received a marriage license last week. (05-15-1917) Monessen News

Pitts and Seals engagement. (05-15-1917) Monessen News

Miss Elizabeth P. Mistlebras, a Connellsville nurse, and Dr. Clifford E. Flannigan, of Monongahela married on April 26, 1917. (05-23-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Florence Eisley and Robert Hutchinson wed on May 23, 1917. They will live on Oneida. (05-24-1917) Daily Independent

William V. Reiner, of Monessen, and Miss Josephine C. Geyer, of Pittsburgh, received a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (05-29-1917) Daily Independent

William Minnie and Miss Margaret Carson, of Pricedale, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (05-29-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Louise Pearce and Thomas Felgar wed on May 29, 1917. They will live on First Street. (05-31-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Lena Kerner, of Charleroi and James Maxwell, of Monessen, were married April 24, 1917, at Wellsburg, WV. (06-01-1917) Monessen News

Clyde Austin and Miss Irene Hazelett were married on June 1, 1917. They will live in the Independent Building. The bride is employed at Monessen Savings and Trust. The groom is a painter at Motz Lumber. (06-02-1917) Daily Independent

W. E. Water and Miss Ella Taylor, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on May 31, 1917. (06-02-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Katz is engaged to Joe Salute, of Donora. They will have a wedding in the fall. (06-05-1917) Monessen News

Hazlett and Austin wedding. (Last name of bride spelling differs) (06-05-1917) Monessen News

Lewis Williams and Miss Elizabeth Jones, of Monessen, eloped to Wellsburg, W.V. on June 2, 1917. The groom works for the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (06-06-1917) Daily Independent

William Reiner, 38 Linden Avenue, and Miss Josephine Geyer, of Pittsburgh, were married on June 6, 1917, in Pittsburgh. (06-08-1917) Monessen News

Miss Irene McBride, of Crest Avenue, Charleroi, and John Conway were married on June 12, 1917. (06-14-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Ella J. Albright and Raymond R. Strickler wed on June 2, 1917. The bride is employed at the Joseph Safier Store. The groom works for the American Sheet & Tin Plant Co. (06-15-1917) Daily Independent

John C. Loesel, Jr. and Miss Virginia Edith George, of Swissvale, are married. The groom is employed at the Page Woven Wire Fence Co. (06-15-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Gaspich and George Penich were married on June 14, 1917. (06-15-1917) Monessen News

The following received marriage licenses in Greensburg: Frank Vagaretaky and Rosa Vioniska, along with John Mihalko and Annie Yusko. (06-15-1917) Monessen News

Miss Rebecca Winer, of Roscoe, and Samuel Jubeirer, of Republic, are engaged. (06-19-1917) Daily Independent

Russel J. Vernon and Miss Cora B. Reed, both of Donora, were married on June 21, 1917. The bride is a nurse. (06-22-1917) Daily Independent

O. C. Baker, of the Foundry, was married June 26, 1917 to Mrs. Agnes Wild. (06-26-1917) Monessen News

Miss Irene Herron and S. E. Demilio, both formerly of Monessen, married last week in Cleveland. (06-27-1917) Daily Independent

Pauline Williams, of Donora, filed for divorce from Charles Williams, who she married on November 4, 1913. She cites infidelity with Sadie Phillips and Miss Eddie Lockhart. (06-27-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Della B. Fell and Dr. Francis J. Carroll, both of Monongahela, were married on June 27, 1917. The groom is a dentist at Fourth and Donner. (06-28-1917) Daily Independent

Fell and Carroll wedding. (06-29-1917) Monessen News

Miss Irene Herron and Americaus E. Demilio, both formerly of Monessen, wed last week in Cleveland. (06-29-1917) Monessen News

Miss Bessie M. Bake and C. F. Frocheur, of Charleroi, married on June 27, 1917. The bride is a Monessen teacher. (06-29-1917) Daily Independent

Jack Mier, of Monessen and Miss Zoey Leroy, of Charleroi, got married four months ago. The groom works at Koch Barber Shop. (06-30-1917) Daily Independent

Bake and Frocheur wedding. (07-03-1917) Monessen News

Mrs. Robert McMahan, of Monongahela, and Bennet Blaine Hunter, of Webster, married on July 3, 1917. The

groom is cashier at the First National Bank of Webster. (07-05-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Amy Hitchens, of El Paso, Texas, and James Albert Ferren, formerly of Monessen, married on July 3, 1917. (07-06-1917) Monessen News

The following received marriage licenses in Greensburg: Howard Burgess and Ella Stahl, along with John Petro and Elizabeth Churlik, all of Monessen. (07-06-1917) Monessen News

David Klein and Miss Wilma Heatter, both of Donora, eloped on July 4, 1917 to Wheeling, W. V. The groom owns the new billiards parlor on McKean Avenue, Donora. The bride is bookkeeper for the Union Trust Company. (07-07-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Isabelle Monjot, of Rostraver Street, and Matthew Becker, of Newell, were married on July 10, 1917 in Pittsburgh. The bride was training to be a nurse. The groom is a butcher. (07-12-1917) Daily Independent

Thomas I. Newell, of New Castle, and Hazel D. Henderson, of Ellwood City, were wed on July 12, 1917 in Monessen. (07-13-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Nelle McMahan married William Huston on July 18, 1917. The bride is the daughter of Alexander McMahan. (07-18-1917) Daily Independent

McMahan and Huston wedding. (07-20-1917) Monessen News

Packhan and Fogel license. (07-20-1917) Monessen News

Miss Evelyn Nash is engaged to Frank Raymond Horner, of Columbia, Missouri. (07-20-1917) Monessen News

Harry Miller and Anna Benich, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. (07-25-1917) Daily Independent

The following have marriage licenses from Greensburg: Julian Mahnag and Annie Kohute, along with Charles Packhan and Elizabeth Fogel. (07-25-1917) Daily Independent

Mrs. Annie Manelle, formerly of Monessen, filed for divorce from Amadio (Frank) Manella, citing desertion. They were married in 1911. (Spelling varies on last name) (07-26-1917) Daily Independent

Andy Kozak filed for divorce from Alexandra Kozak saying she had been unfaithful, as she believes in free love. She also goes by the name Sarah Miller. (07-26-1917) Daily Independent

George Stewart, of Pittsburgh, wed Miss Juanita O'Reilly, formerly of Monessen, on July 23, 1917. (07-27-1917) Daily Independent

Elmer B. Brant, of Monessen, and Miss Belle Penney, of Pittsburgh, were married on July 28, 1917. The groom is employed at the Page Woven Wire Fence Company. (07-30-1917) Daily Independent

Elmer B. Brant and Miss Bell Penney, of Pittsburgh, were wed on July 28, 1917. The groom works for the Page Woven Wire Fence Company. (07-31-1917) Monessen News

Miss Hilda Kenyon, of Belle Vernon, and Herbert Nelson, of Monessen, were married in Cumberland, MD., on July 17, 1917. (07-31-1917) Monessen News

Late Spring and Early Summer Births of 1917

Mr. and Mrs. William Steytler, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on April 28, 1917. (05-01-1917) Monessen News

Baby Wall birth. (05-01-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Wall, of 484 Reed Avenue, had a nine pound baby boy on May 1, 1917. (05-04-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sutman, formerly of Monessen, had a baby boy. (05-04-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newport, of Smithton, had a baby boy. (05-05-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sapolne, of Schoonmaker Ave., had a baby boy on May 7, 1917. (05-10-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. August Frediana, of Lock Four, are the parents of a nine pound baby girl born on May 15, 1917. (05-17-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips, of 431 Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on May 23, 1917. (05-25-1917) Monessen News

Baby Phillips birth. (05-24-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lafferty, formerly of Monessen, had a baby girl, on May 29, 1917. (06-01-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Pore, of the Daily Independent, had an eight and a half pound son on June 25, 1917. (06-25-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Merritt, of Belle Vernon, had a son on June 27, 1917. The father is part-owner of the Monessen Laundry. (07-03-1917) Monessen News

Baby Ney birth. (07-16-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Morse Ney, of Knox Avenue, had a ten pound baby girl on July 16, 1917. (07-17-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Bracken C. Todd are the parents of a son born at Monongahela Hospital. (07-24-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Vickers had a baby girl on July 27, 1917. (07-28-1917) Daily Independent

Memorials

In memory of Josephine Pasqua Fayak by Dr. Martin Dudas.

In memory of Ed Daumit by Dr. Martin Dudas.

In memory of Charlotte Hunter by Dr. Martin Dudas.

In memory of Patricia and Robert Mayllen by Matilda Tobacco.

In memory of Matilda Tobacco by the Mowl Family.

Thank you for your continued support!



A Look Back at the Dudas Maternity Hospital

Written by Virginia Fisfis with photos by Vern Nelson

Monessen's history is full of fascinating stories and sometimes forgotten events that made the city an important leader in the Mon Valley. One example of those events was the opening of a maternity hospital in 1922 by two trained nurses, Mary and Anna Dudas. The two sisters had devoted study to maternity work, Anna having taken special instruction at Magee Hospital in Pittsburgh. A third sister, Catherine, later joined them at the hospital after receiving her nursing degree.

The local newspaper described it as being "one of the finest institutions of its kind to be found". Many leading doctors in Monessen and the surrounding areas had encouraged the nurses to open the much needed enterprise. Now, if a doctor's patient chose to use the Dudas Hospital, the doctor was called to actually perform the delivery. Otherwise, home births were the only realistic option.

The hospital opened in a newly renovated facility at 476 McKee Avenue, very close to the Jefferson School. It contained ten rooms with

accommodations for private and semi-private patients. The first arrival was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Pagonis, of Monessen, on September 26, 1922. It was noted in the announcement that Mr. Pagonis was one of the proprietors of the Fifth Avenue Market.

The following description of the hospital was written by Ruth Stern Schrag based on her recollections and those of her mother Hilda. "Once the pain of the delivery was over", Hilda declared, "the rest of the ten day stay was pure bliss, a perfect vacation". Her room was airy, furnished in Dudas family antiques, with a sunny bay window overlooking the street. She stayed in bed for most of those ten days, the baby in a large wicker bassinet next to her, taken out only at night, so that her sleep was not disturbed. Each meal was perfectly prepared and beautifully presented on a white wicker bed table and best of all, little Lenny could be walked over every afternoon for a visit. Hilda sometimes wondered if her desire to have more children was partly influenced by her desire to go back to the tender loving care of the Dudas sisters.

The list of birth announcements reveals that many women came to the Dudas Hospital from surrounding communities. There are records showing that women even came from Ohio and West Virginia. In one case, a patient came from Millvale, Pennsylvania, located near Bloomsburg. There Dr. James Gemmill had been a general practitioner before joining his brothers at the Gemmill Hospital in Monessen. He had delivered three children to one of his Millvale patients and she insisted that he deliver her last child as well. This became a reality because of the Dudas Hospital, where Dr. Gemmill granted his former patient's wish. There he delivered her last child, a baby girl, who grew up to be crowned Mrs. Pennsylvania in 1959.

Unfortunately, the much praised Dudas Maternity Hospital was forced to close in early 1934. With the Great Depression in full swing,

patients were unable to pay for the maternity services. Records show the last birth was a baby boy born on January 15, 1934 to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Simchik.

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Col. Schoonmaker in the Civil War

Mark the calendar: Founders Day will be Sat., August 19, 2017, at Monessen City Park!

LAST CALL

at Jules Albert's Closing Out Sale.

Pure Cane Sugar, 25 lb.	\$2.10
New Potatoes, per peck, 15 lb. ....	.60c
New Onions, per lb. ....	.4c
Sweet Oranges, per dozen ....	.20c
Loose roasted coffee from	12½c to 25c lb.
Hotel Astor Coffee, lb. ....	.29c
Albert's Best Coffee, lb. ....	.26c
Arbuckle's Coffee, lb. ....	.20c
Have a Cup Coffee, lb. ....	.20c
Pomco Coffee, lb. ....	.20c
Keystone 30c Coffee, lb. ....	.20c
Heinz Catsup,	2 for 25c
Heinz Mustard, glass ....	.8c
A. B. C. Mustard, glass ....	.5c
Heinz Sour Pickles,	2 bottles for 25c
Heinz 30c bottle Vinegar ....	.20c
Red Marrow Beans,	2 lbs. for 25c
Monarch Baked Beans, per can. ....	.15c
Fancy Red Salmon, 1 lb. can ....	.20c
Quart Jar Sweet Pickles ....	.25c
Large can milk ....	.12c
Peck's 50c pkg. tea ....	.40c
Loose Teas at per pound ....	.29c
Molasses	3 cans for 25c
Jelly Quick	2 pkgs. for 15c
10c can Baking Powder ....	.5c
Staley Baking Powder, per can. ....	.30c
Austin's Carpet Cleaner ....	.20c
\$1.25 Sismo Veneer Outfit. ....	.75c
Washing Powder,	6 pkgs. for 25c
Matches, large boxes	6 for 25c
Pettijohns' Breakfast Food, pkg. ....	.8c
Dill's 25c bottle Cough Syrup ....	.15c
Gloves, long cuffs,	2 pairs for 25c
Pickling Vinegar per gallon ....	.25c
Mixed Pickling Spices, per lb. ....	.20c
Walter Baker's Cocoa, ½ lb. ....	.47c
White Crown Jar Caps, dozen ....	.10c

NO C. O. D. ORDERS—ALL CASH

FIXTURES FOR SALE

1-30 Drawers Counter	\$35.00
1 Angdile Scale, like new	\$65.00
1 Cash Register	\$20.00
1 Keith System Size 200	\$35.00
1 Paper Bailer, new	\$5.00
1 Cheese Cutter	\$2.50
1 Coffee Mill	\$5.00

J. E. ALBERTS, 910 Knox Ave.
Monessen, Pa.

July 1917 ad