

# VALLEY HISTORIAN

**Greater Monessen Historical Society**

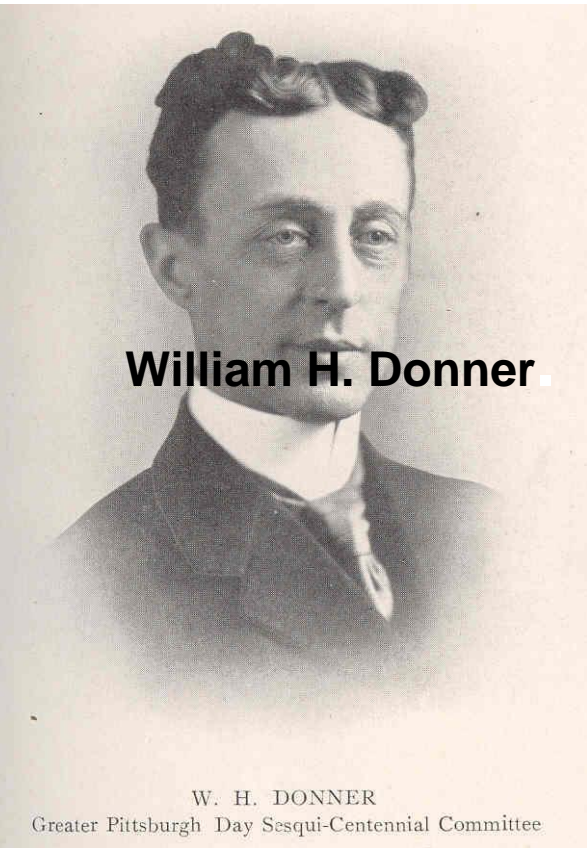
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Vol.15 Issue 1 WINTER 2015 (February)



**William H. Donner**

W. H. DONNER

Greater Pittsburgh Day Sesqui-Centennial Committee



**Former St. Luke's Finnish Church on Reed Ave.**

## Finnish Exhibit & Public Meeting

**March 22, 2015**

The Annual Meeting of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and the opening of the spring exhibit saluting the Finnish Immigrants of the Mon Valley will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015, 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.

The Finnish Exhibit will be officially opened following the Public Meeting. Light refreshments

will be served. The Exhibit will be on display until the end of June.

At the same time on display in the Museum, there is also a mini exhibit showcasing Monessen wedding photos from the archival collection. See who you recognize!



## Lusitania Dinner

**May 30, 2015**

The Historical Society will hold a Lusitania Dinner in memory of the one hundredth anniversary of the sinking of the luxury liner by the Imperial German Navy. Two Monessen residents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Agnew perished on the voyage. Samuel Proudfoot, of Pricedale, was also a passenger on the

liner. As 2015 is also the twentieth anniversary of the Greater Monessen Historical Society, the dinner will serve a dual purpose of commemorating our anniversary. The event will be held at Jozwiak Hall in the St. Vincent DePaul Society Building on Grand Blvd, on Saturday, May 30, 2015, starting at 5 PM. Tickets are \$25 each and feature a menu of dishes served on the Lusitania. The dinner consists of hors-d'oeuvres, roast beef, chicken, browned (roasted) potatoes, salad, dessert and beverage. We encourage everyone to wear their Edwardian finery, as we travel back in time to the early years of World War I. Tickets are available at the Heritage Museum by calling 724-684-8460. Reserve your ticket today, as only a limited number will be sold.



“Bells Across the Land: A Nation Remembers”

The Historical Society is partnering with California University of PA and the Frederick Douglass Institute to take part in the nationwide event, “Bells Across the Land: A Nation Remembers”, on Thursday, April 9, 2015. GMHS is asking Mon Valley churches, schools, and public buildings to ring their bells at 3:15 PM, on April 9, for four minutes, in remembrance of the symbolic ending of the Civil War at Appomattox Courthouse one hundred and fifty years ago. The event is also a call for basic human rights in the world today.

Monessen’s main link to the Civil War is through Monessen Founder, Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. In addition, Abraham Lincoln’s

bodyguard, Colonel Charles Derickson, was a Monessen businessman and Postmaster in his later years. Gabriel Butler, an African American Civil War soldier, lived in Monessen during the early years of the twentieth century. Several Grand Army of the Republic soldiers would also retire in Monessen during its early years, with some being buried in Grandview Cemetery.

### Civil War Railroads Lecture

Gary Strelick, GMHS Vice President, will speak at Donora Public Library on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at 11 AM, on the history of the railroads in the Civil War.

### Community Foundation Day of Giving 2015

**The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County will hold the Westmoreland County Day of Giving on May 5, 2015, from 6 AM until midnight. All donations during the Day of Giving will receive a pro-rated share of the match pool. The minimum gift donated per organization is \$25. The match is capped at \$1,000 per donor per organization. Please remember the Greater Monessen Historical Society on this day!**

### Donation Week

As spring cleaning kicks in, we are designating the week of April 15-18 as “Donation Week”. We ask you to look through your attics, cellars, closets, trunks, and storage places for items you wish to donate to the Greater Monessen Historical Society. Bring in your old photos, historic items and material that tell the story of the ethnic groups, businesses, and local history of southwestern Pennsylvania. Bring your “stuff” to the Heritage Museum.

**Greater Monessen Historical Society**

**January-December 2014 Financial Report**

General Operating Fund

Income

Day of Giving Donations	\$3,033.11
Donations/Fundraising	\$7,753.00
Events/Exhibits	\$4,851.00
Interest Earned	\$12.94
Membership Dues	\$6,730.00
Memorials	\$1,310.00
Misc. Income	\$314.94
Museum Shoppe	\$1,381.07
Schoonmaker Grant	\$10,000.00
Tourism Grant	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$37,386.06</b>

Expenses

Advertising	\$1,996.32
Copiers	\$395.98
Electric	\$2,572.11
Equipment/Software	\$2,565.97
Events/Exhibits	\$1,030.93
Gas	\$1,528.28
Insurance	\$2,991.50
Library Archives	\$1,187.85
Loan Payments	\$1,920.00
Maintenance	\$7,429.72
Misc. Expense	\$282.61
Museum Shoppe	\$997.00
Office Supplies/Printing	\$4,006.38
Pest Control	\$232.89
Phone and Internet	\$1,403.36

Postage	\$321.33
Professional Dues	\$445.00
Royalties	\$21.95
Security System	\$318.00
Sewage and Garbage	\$1,235.00
Water	\$728.28
Website	\$475.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,085.46</b>

In-Kind Donations

Goods	\$694.13
Services	\$2,286.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,980.31</b>

Museum Building Fund

Income

Donations/Fundraising	\$1,455.00
Memorials	\$100.00
Interest	\$153.13
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,708.13</b>

Endowment

Income

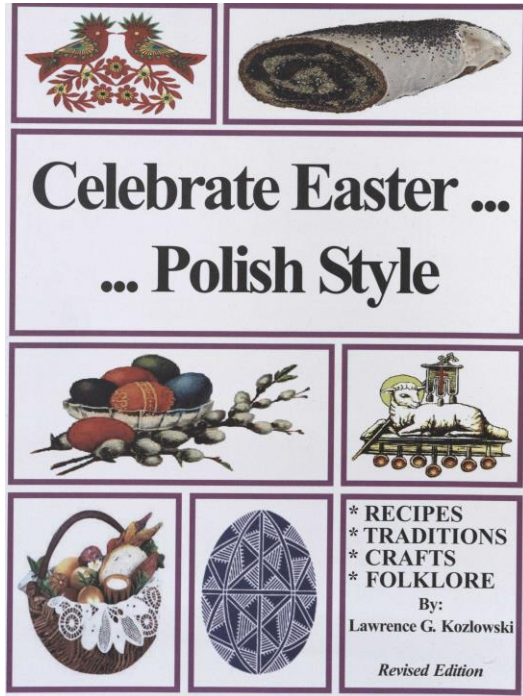
Donations/Fundraising	\$175.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>

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

Vito C. Beneccio,  
Board Member and Treasurer

Log into our webpage and set it as one of your favorite sites: [www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com)

Also, we are on Facebook under “Greater Monessen Historical Society”. Spread the word. “Like” us and help us grow!!!!



**For Easter, we have a new booklet added to the Museum Shoppe, which is available for a donation of \$12. A Slovak-themed volume is also available.**

The Museum Shoppe also has a selection of colorful Easter basket covers and religious table runners in stock for your holiday table.

### **Memorials**

In memory of Bob Leone given by Kathleen Steffey.

In memory of Willard Krasick given by Ruth Wolfson.

In memory of Willard Krasik given by Thomas Dalton.

In memory of Willard Krasik given by Rosalie Krasik.

In memory of Willard Krasik given by niece, Ellen Krasik.

In memory of John & Millie Gaydos given by son, William Gaydos.

### **One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers February – April, 1915**

Books and materials were transferred from the old Jefferson High School to the new Monessen High School Building. Nine rooms and a chapel, on the second floor of the new building, will be in use at this time. (02-04-1915) Daily Independent

Monessen schools have enrolled 2984 pupils and employ 72 teachers. (02-12-1915) Monessen News

A Child Welfare Circle group, a branch of the National Congress of Mothers, was organized with Mrs. G. H. Thomas, as president. They will meet in the Jefferson Building. (02-20-1915) Daily Independent

A new lighting system has been installed in the Luna Theatre by Manager Fred Bleuel. (02-24-1915) Daily Independent

Gus Homan, of Homan’s Shoe Store, has purchased the entire stock of the Economy Shoe Shop, at 523 Donner Avenue, and will close it out. (03-16-1915) Monessen News

Mitchell Iatros has accepted a position with the Monessen Savings and Trust Company as a teller. He can speak seven languages and will take care of the foreign business transactions. (03-23-1915) Monessen News

An application for a charter for “The Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, No, 47 of Monessen” will be presented to the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County on June 7, 1915. (03-26-1915) Monessen News

Monessen Photo Studio has opened at 442 Donner Avenue. (04-02-1915) Monessen News

Charles S. Schrader, President of Monessen Borough Council, has suddenly departed for Gary, Indiana and left a note saying he will not be back. Financial obligations with his contracting business seem to be the reason. (04-09-1915) Monessen News

Aaron Goldberg, who owned a men's furnishing store, on Schoonmaker and currently owns a business block on Donner Avenue that he built, visited Monessen from his home in Baltimore. (04-15-15) Daily Independent

Monessen Council Boy Scouts of America has been formed with H. Dallas McCabe as president. (04-16-1915) Monessen News

The new Giba Building, at the corner of Third and Schoonmaker, is ready for occupancy. It was built by the Westmoreland Lumber Company and has steam heat, hot and cold water, laundry, combination gas and electric lighting with large apartments and sound proof floors. (04-19-1915) Daily Independent

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, at 221 McKee Avenue, is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. (04-20-1915) Monessen News

#### **Late winter and early spring weddings, anniversaries and engagements of 1915**

Miss Blanche May McBride, of Second Street, will marry Michael A. Herald, of Pittsburgh and formerly of Monessen, on February 16, 1915, in Braddock. The groom is Manager of Sales for the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (02-12-1915) (Monessen News)

Leo Joseph Claybaugh and Marie Alberta Bertram, both of Charleroi, received marriage licenses in Cumberland, MD, on February 15, 1915. (02-16-1915) Daily Independent

M. A. Herald, former chief shipping clerk of Pittsburgh Steel, married Miss Blanche McBride, of Second Street, Braddock, on February 16, 1915. (02-17-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Amelia Victoria Seanor and Dedrick F. Stearns were married. The groom is connected with the Crocker Wheeler Electric Company of East Orange, N. J. (02-23-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Amelia Victoria Seanor, of Bellevue, formerly of Monessen, married Dedrick F. Stearns, of East Orange,

N. J. on February 14, 1915. They will live in New Jersey. (02-23-1915) Monessen News

William Lundy and Mrs. Annie Guiler, both of Belle Vernon, were married on February 24, 1915, in Belle Vernon. (03-02-1915) Monessen News

Elias Nahas and Lulu Carney, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license on March 2, 1915 in Greensburg. (03-05-1915) Monessen News

Emil H. Lehtoner and Elen Alice Rantala, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on March 2, 1915. (03-05-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Osborne celebrated their forty-first wedding anniversary on March 5, 1915, in Charleroi. The evening's entertainment was Victrola music, while the house was decorated with pink and white decorations and cut flowers. (03-08-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Anna Sprager, of East End, Pittsburgh, and Leon Sperling, of Charleroi, were united in marriage on March 16, 1915. The groom is the new manager of the Peoples Store in Charleroi, where they will reside. (03-18-1915) Daily Independent

Carl Mills, of West Monessen, and Miss Freda Griffith, of Carmichaels, eloped to Cumberland, MD and were married on March 18, 1915. The bride is an operator with the Tri State Telephone Company, at Brownsville. She is known as "Billie". The groom is a clerk with the Greensboro Natural Gas Company of South Brownsville. Their romance began over the telephone. (03-19-1915) Daily Independent

Conway Hogg and Miss Dora Whitelaw, both of Belle Vernon, eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia and were wed two weeks ago. The groom is employed at the Page Woven Wire Fence Company and is a pitcher with the Page Baseball Team. They will live in Belle Vernon. (03-20-1915) Daily Independent

Moses E. Pangburn and Martha Crabtree, both of Monessen, received a marriage license at Washington, PA, on March 22, 1915. (03-23-1915) Daily Independent

Samuel S. Wilson, of Washington, has filed for divorce from his wife, Jennie Nesbit Wilson. They were married on September 29, 1881. (03-24-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Sarah F. Baldwin and Daniel Wallace, both of Monessen, were married in Monessen on March 25, 1915. They will reside in Belle Vernon. (03-26-1915) Monessen News

Miss Josephine Rodgers, of Charleroi, and Bartley Coleman, of Monessen, were wed on March 23, 1915, in Wellsburg, West Virginia. They will live in Charleroi. (03-26-1915) Monessen News

Dale Warman married Mrs. Josephine Hall Wolsey Gottschalk, of Monmouth, Illinois, on February 2, 1915, in Sheridan. The groom is a bookkeeper for the Warman Grocery. They will live at 372 Donner Avenue. (03-26-1915) Monessen News

Miss Alpharetta Gregg and Clayton Martin are engaged. The bride has been a Monessen school teacher for three years. Both graduated in the same class at California Normal. (03-27-1915) Daily Independent

Lulu Carney and Elias Nahas were married on March 19, 1915, in Ellsworth. The groom is employed in the Tin Mill, and they will live in Monessen. (03-27-1915) Daily Independent

B. Herbert Strickler, of Monessen, and Miss Florence Mond Coglon, of St. Louis, were united in marriage on March 25, 1915. (03-30-1915) Daily Independent

B. H. Strickler, Monessen architect, married Miss Frances Mond Coglein, of St. Louis, while on a "business trip" on March 25, 1915. The wedding was moved from summer, due to the serious illness of the bride. The couple will build in Belle Vernon. (03-30-1915) Monessen News

Miss Sarah Johnson, of Donner Avenue, will marry Robert E. Lee. (04-02-1915) Monessen News

Miss Sara Johnson will marry Robert Lee, of Monessen, in early spring. (04-02-1915) Daily Independent

William Graeser, of Pittsburgh Steel, and Miss Mary Hare, of Uniontown, were married on April 3, 1915, in Pittsburgh. The couple will live in Monessen. (04-06-1915) Monessen News

Miss Violet Rose Leonard, of Monessen, and William Matthew White, of Chester, West Virginia, were married on April 6, 1915. The groom was formerly employed at the local Tin Mill, but now works in Chester. (04-08-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Violet Learnard, of McKee Avenue, married William M. White, of Chester, West Virginia, on April 6, 1915. They will live in Chester, where the groom is employed at the Tin Mill. (04-09-1915) Monessen News (Spelling differs from previous)

Axel Egrahn and Mary Friman received a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (04-14-15) Daily Independent

Lorenzo Persiko and Enecanga Presto received a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (04-14-15) Daily Independent

Ivar Tuanie and Anna S. Lehtonan applied this week in Greensburg for a marriage license. (04-14-1915) Daily Independent

John Kohnnik and Julie Biley were in Greensburg to get a marriage license. (04-14-1915) Daily Independent

John Figlor and Meri Otarika received a marriage license in Greensburg. (04-14-1915) Daily Independent

Thuden Dygan and Mariga Asroska received a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (04-14-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Sarah Johnson, of Donner Avenue, and Robert E. Lee, of Smock, were wed on April 14, 1915. The bride is the bookkeeper and stenographer for Dr. E. B. Slotterback. The groom is a machinist at the American Steel and Wire Company of Donora. They will live in the Larguer Building on Reed Avenue. (04-16-1915) Monessen News

Miss Grace Anna Owens, of Graham Avenue, and H. Knight Tower, of Bentonville, Texas, were wed on June 15, 1914, in Wellsburg, West Virginia, but kept it a secret. The bride is a Monessen teacher, while the groom is an engineer for the Pittsburgh Steel Company. They will live in Monessen. (04-06-1915) Monessen News

Miss Grace Owens and H. Knight Tower were married several months ago in Wellsburg, West Virginia, but kept it a secret, as the bride is a Monessen school teacher. (04-16-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Sara Johnson and Robert Lee, both of Monessen were married in Pittsburgh on April 14, 1915. They will reside in the Laguire Apartments at Fourth and Reed. (04-16-1915) Daily Independent

Miss Emma Dodge, of Belle Vernon, and James Cleary, of Pittsburgh, were married at Canton on April 20, 1915. They will temporarily live in Canton, where the groom is employed by the Casey Construction Company. Her parents were not told she was getting married. The romance started last summer, when the groom rescued Miss Dodge from drowning in the river. (04-27-1915) Monessen News

Arthur Eckerman, local agent for the Brighton Laundry Company, married Miss Katherine Lohr, of Osterberg, PA, on April 28, 1915. They will reside in Monessen. (04-30-1915) Monessen News

Miss Florence Hunter, of Pittsburgh, married William V. Steytier, of Monessen, were wed on April 28, 1915. The groom is employed by the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (04-30-1915) Monessen News

### **Late Winter and early Spring Births and Birthdays of 1915**

Anthony Balderoni, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a surprise fiftieth birthday party on January 31, 1915. (02-01-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Schiffer, of Reed Avenue, had a baby daughter on February 2, 1915. This will be their seventh child. (02-03-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Newell, of Sharon, had a two pound baby daughter on February 1, 1915. They are using the oven as an incubator. (02-03-1915) Daily Independent

August Karlowsky, proprietor of the Monongahela House, celebrated his forty-first birthday on February 4, 1915 at the hotel. (02-05-1915) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Schiffler, of Reed Avenue, had a baby girl on February 2, 1915. (02-05-1915) Monessen News

Miss Stella Simpson celebrated her birthday on February 2, 1915. (02-05-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. Perry Charles, of Leeds Avenue, had a ten and a half pound baby boy on February 16, 1915. (02-17-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Perry Charles, of Leeds Avenue, had a baby boy on February 16, 1915. (02-19-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Keifer, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby girl on February 19, 1915. (02-22-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. John Gibson, of 205 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby girl on February 22, 1915. (02-22-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. John Gibson, of Second Street and McKee Avenue, had a daughter at noon on February 22, 1915. (02-23-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. L. I. Nesselrode, of Lock Four, had a baby girl on February 20, 1915. (02-26-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Thompson, of Park Way, had a baby boy on February 26, 1915. (03-05-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Leone, of Dutchtown, had a ten pound baby daughter on March 1, 1915. (03-05-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. George Rogaliner, of Park Way, had an eight pound son on March 8, 1915. (03-08-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Rogaliner, of Park Way, had an eight pound baby boy on March 8, 1915. (03-09-1915) Monessen News

John Cooper, of 14 Graham Avenue, celebrated his nineteenth birthday with a surprise party on March 6, 1915. The color scheme was red and green. (03-09-1915) Daily Independent

Rev. & Mrs. A. T. Wallace had an eight pound son in Chicago on March 8, 1915. (08-11-1915) Daily Independent

Attorney and Mrs. W. T. Dom, of Westmoreland Avenue, Greensburg, had twin daughters on March 10, 1915. (03-11-1915) Daily Independent

Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Wallace, of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Monessen, had an eight pound baby boy, on March 8, 1915. (03-12-1915) Monessen News

Mildred Hileman, of 436 Reed Avenue, celebrated her thirteenth birthday on March 12, 1915 with thirteen guests. (03-13-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Shupe, of 429 Reed Avenue, had a ten pound baby boy on March 14, 1915. (03-16-1915) Monessen News

Colonel & Mrs. W. T. Dom, Jr., of Greensburg, had twin daughters. (03-16-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Tickle, of Jeannette, had a baby girl. They formerly lived in Monessen. (03-22-1915) Daily Independent

G. T. Weston was surprised on his birthday with a visit from the M. E. Church Sunday school class, who presented him with a Bible, on March 30, 1915. (03-31-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Brautegam, of Sutersville, had a ten pound baby girl on April 6, 1915. (04-07-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Brautegam, of Sutersville, had a baby girl, at 1 PM. on April 6, 1915. (04-09-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. R. Ginsberg, of Donner Avenue, had a six pound baby girl. (04-14-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. R. Ginsberg had a six pound baby daughter. (04-16-1915) Monessen News

Mr. & Mrs. Delmont P. King, of Belle Vernon, had a daughter on April 15, 1915, who they have named Elsie Marion. (04-16-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Steen, of Belle Vernon, had a baby daughter, on April 18, 1915. (04-21-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smith, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy, on April 22, 1915. (04-23-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Lurt Martz had a seven pound baby girl, on April 23, 1915. (04-26-1915) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Steen, of Belle Vernon, had a baby daughter on April 18, 1915. (04-27-1915) Monessen News

Eleanor Farquhar, celebrated her fifth birthday with a pink and white birthday party at her home on Reed Avenue on April 28, 1915 (04-29-1915) Daily Independent

Thomas Feehan, Jr., of Fourth and Donner, received a surprise party for his seventeenth birthday, on April 28, 1915. His father presented him with a gold watch and chain. (04-29-1915) Daily Independent

## **GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Daniel Zyglowicz, President**

**& Editor of Valley Historian**

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**KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
CURRENT! RENEW TODAY!**

**Thank you for your continuing  
support for the Museum and  
Historical Society!**