

Valley Historian



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(Recipient of the Arthur St. Clair Award)

Monessen Heritage Museum

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The Greater Monessen Historical Society
is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization registered in Pennsylvania

Vol.23 Issue 1 Autumn, 2023



**The Winning Logo by
Karla Spangler**

Monessen Events of the 125th Year

Since late last year, the Monessen
125 Committee and others have
been planning special monthly
events to commemorate the

**founding of Monessen in 1898. A
list of events for the year includes:**

**January 20 – Monessen Economic
Summit, Monessen High School
Auditorium**

**April 18 – Open House, Center for
Active Adults**

**April 22 – Monessen Community
Cleanup Day, Anthony Madison Sr.
Veterans Memorial Park, 9 AM to 1
PM.**

**May 13 -- Veterans/Volunteers
place flags at cemeteries.**

**May 20 – Armed Forces Day,
Monessen City Park, 10 AM – 5
PM.**

**June – December, Greater
Monessen Historical Society,
Monessen Heritage Museum, 125
Exhibit, Wed, Thurs, Friday, 10-2
PM.**

**June 16 – Juneteenth Celebration,
Mihalich Boat Launch, 2 -6 PM.**

June 24 – Remembering Monessen photo presentation. Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center, 12 noon.

July 29 – Celebrate Monessen (Cultural Heritage/NAACP, Mayor Mozer, Fireworks), 11 AM – 9:30 PM. Monessen 125 Parade starts at 5 PM.

August 1, 6-9 PM, Mon Valley Night Out, DiVirgilio Recreational Complex, Rostraver Twp.

August 4-5, Epiphany of the Lord Church Festival.

August 19 –Raise Your Voice Festival, Monessen City Park, 10 AM to 5 PM.

August 19 – Time Capsule Event, Heritage Museum, 2-4 PM, GMHS & Monessen Community Dev. Corp.

September 7 – Open House, Center For Active Adults (Senior Center) – Live entertainment, 9AM to 3 PM.

September 9, PAWS Event/Vendor Show, Monessen City Park, Ping Pong Ball Drop

September 24-October 5, Mon Valley Art Club Show, Monessen Public Library

September 30, Veterans Appreciation Day, Monessen Elks #773, 2-5 PM.

October 7, Monessen School District Wall of Fame Induction.

October 10, Friends of Monessen Public Library Luncheon, St.

Spyridon Hall, 12 Noon. (Monessen 125 theme)

October 21, Founders Day Banquet, Jozwiak Hall – St. Vincent DePaul Soc. Building, 5 – 9 PM.

November 4?, Monessen Shade Tree Commission fall tree planting, Anthony Madison/Ninth St. Park.

November 12, Veterans Day Service, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, 11:30 AM.

November 13-14, Removal of flags from the cemeteries.

November 16, VFW/Amer. Legion Flag Burning Ceremony, Mihalich Boat Launch

Xmas Wreath Making Class, Nov. 18, 11 AM (Will be at either GMHS Exhibition Hall or Monessen Public Library).

November/December? Pet Needs List Drive

Monessen Christmas, December 2, Downtown area, His Place, Monessen Library, Civic Center. All day.

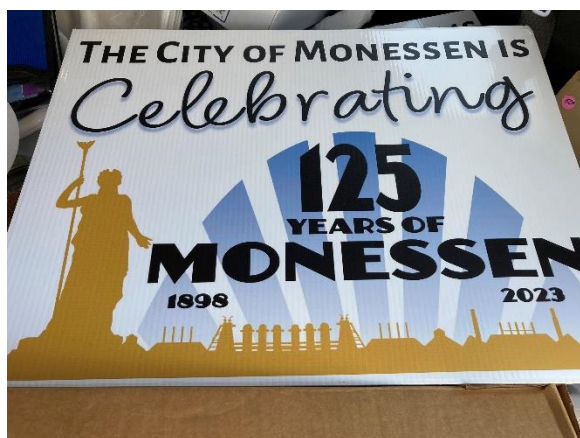
Monessen 125 Memorabilia Available



To order Monessen 125 clothing and memorabilia, go to the BeeGraphix online store at:

<https://stores.inksoft.com/MonessenHistoricalSociety>

We have T shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, water bottles, tumblers, totes and back packs.



Yard signs with the official logo are available for \$25 at the Heritage Museum.

Three inch buttons with the logo are also available for \$3.00 each. Contact the Heritage Museum.

A NEW Commemorative Book to be Published

Since 1923, a new commemorative book on the history of Monessen has been published every twenty - five years. We are currently working on one for the 125th anniversary and hope to have it ready for the holidays. Check the webpage or our Facebook page for updates. We need old photos of Monessen! See what you have to share! Scans can be emailed to: Monessen@verizon.net . Photos can also be dropped off at the Museum as a loan to be scanned and returned.

Founders Day

Mark Your Calendars!

The annual Founders Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 in Jozwiak Hall, Monessen St. Vincent DePaul Society building on Grand Blvd. Tickets are \$30 each. Happy hour will begin at 5 and dinner served at 6:30 after the welcome address. Call the Museum and don't miss out on our celebratory dinner for the 125th anniversary!

Annual Membership Renewal and Fund Drive Thank you!

You are the reason why we are here! We depend on your generosity to sustain us and help us grow! Thank you for your donations during our annual appeal. Letters will be sent out soon.

**Please Keep in Mind that We are
Always In Search of:**

- *Ledger books
- *Society minute books
- *Membership lists of organizations
- *Church bulletins
- *Funeral prayer cards
- *Advertising items for local businesses
- *Photos of ethnic celebrations
- *Photos of religious celebrations
- *Photos of old businesses
- *Photos of schools
- *Photos of industries
- *Event programs
- *Family genealogies

Social Media

The Greater Monessen Historical Society has a Twitter account. Follow us at @MonessenHistory. We are also on Facebook and have over 3000 followers worldwide! We can be located on Facebook under "Greater Monessen Historical Society". See our latest events, news and photos of previous events. Google us and find our webpage filled with all the necessary information to visit, donate, join or learn about us!

Planned Estate Giving

Make a Plan. Make a Difference. Create a Legacy.

Making a gift of estate assets can be simple to do and will provide lasting support for the Greater Monessen Historical Society's efforts to connect people to history. It will also ensure that the heritage and legacy left by our immigrant ancestors continues into the future.

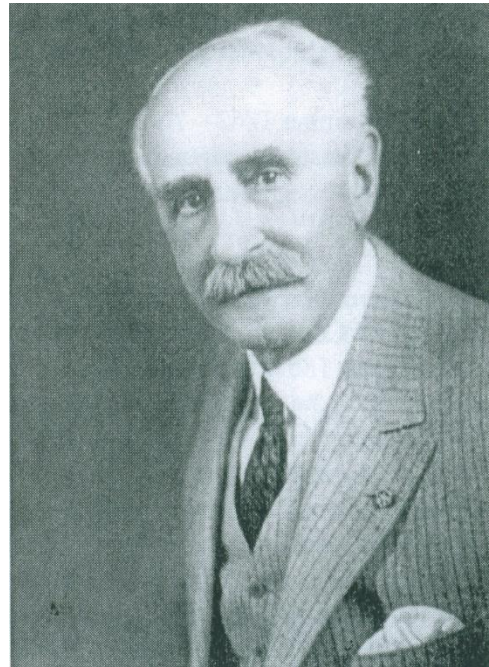
Volunteers wanted

Do you have talents to share? Do you have spare time? Do you want to give back to the community? Do you enjoy history? If so, please consider joining our

group and volunteering at the Museum. Call for details.

Museum Gift Shoppe

Check out our webpage to see items available in our Gift Shoppe. We have the largest collection of ethnic cookbooks available in the area. They make wonderful gifts.



**Schoonmaker Grants –
Thank You**

The Historical Society received a \$15,000 grant from the James M. Schoonmaker II Foundation. We thank Mrs. Treecie Schoonmaker for carrying on the legacy of the Schoonmaker Family and remembering the Historical Society.

In addition, the Society also received a \$5,000 grant from the fund established by Colonel Schoonmaker's daughter in law, Lucille Kay Schoonmaker.

**One Hundred Years ago in the
Newspapers
July, 1923**

Jasper Bonafed, the bicycle dealer, sponsored a bicycle race. John Kuzma won the gold medal. George Tablak won a watch; Frank Arrigo, a stickpin and cuff link set; Mike Janotta, a gold knife

and chain ; Pete Cherocci, silver medal; Bernard Samuels, bronze medal; Kenneth Geiselhart, bike tire; William Sanchey, pair of skates; Lindsey Tinegly, tool bag and James Bonafed, bicycle siren. (07-05-1923) Daily Independent

The twenty-fourth annual banquet of the German Beneficial Union will be held July 15, 1923 in the hall at Second and Donner Avenue and feature the burning of the mortgage. (07-06-1923) Daily Independent

The Star Theatre on Sixth Street has been remodeled at a cost of \$5000 with a new steam heating plant installed by Monessen Plumbing Company. The basement was excavated an additional four feet deeper. New dressing rooms were installed and a new Minens Gold Film Screen set in place. (07-07-1923) Daily Independent

Employees of the National Works of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company will get a 10% increase in wages. (07-09-1923) Daily Independent

Concetta Lamaro, age 14, was committed to the Home of the Good Shephard in Pittsburgh. Her parents charged her with incorrigibility. (07-13-1923) Monessen News

Monessen School Board hired Charles Hossmaster as the industrial arts machine shop teacher. Miss Kathryn Denniston was also hired as the cooking teacher. (07-13-1923) Monessen News

Sixty citizens will meet Thursday in Johnson's Banquet Room to determine a style and location for the soldiers' memorial in Monessen. (07-17-1923) Monessen News

A family quarrel broke out on East Schoonmaker Avenue several days ago. Yesterday, Mrs. Sepetsky had Mrs. Annie Lenhart arrested. Several hours later after a hearing, the two women met again. Mrs. Sepetsky choked Mrs. Lenhart, at which time, Mrs. Lenhart used a can on the back of Mrs. Sepetsky's head. The Police were called and both were arrested. Each was found guilty by

Mayor Woodward and fined \$2.00 and costs. (07-17-1923) Daily Independent

Tonight's newspapers report that Carlotta, the former Empress of Mexico and widow of Emperor Maximillian von Hapsburg, is dying at her castle in Belgium. She reigned from 1864-1867. (Her Majesty did not die until 1927) (07-18-1923) Daily Independent

The new Seagrave fire truck with attached pump will arrive next week. The firemen will parade down Donner and Schoonmaker with the new truck. The Firemen's Band will give a concert at the Freight Station. (07-20-1923) Monessen News

Harry Lebowitz's pool hall, Harry's Place" drew 5000 people to its opening last night. (07-20-1923) Daily Independent

For the new memorial, a statue of Victory was chosen. Jones Brothers, of Boston, submitted a price of \$5,200, which includes placement. The recommendation is to erect it on the grounds of the High School. (07-20-1923) Monessen News

Monessen City Council has received a petition to recognize Parkway as a residential street of sixteen feet from Fourth to Sixth. (07-20-1923) Monessen News

Monessen's Silver Anniversary celebration will be held on September 4, 1923 with an informal dedication of the new Junior High School. (07-27-1923) Monessen News

July Weddings, Divorces and Engagements of 1923

Professor W. F. Blackburn, Principal of the new Monessen Junior High School, wed Miss Nettie Barkman, a teacher. (07-10-1923) Monessen News

Miss Grace Falk, the bookkeeper for Wright Furniture Store, and John Stevenson, of Knox Avenue, married on June 15, 1923. (07-13-1923) Monessen News

Miss Leona Anderson, McKee Avenue, and Harrison Irwin, North Carolina, wed on Saturday. The bride is an employee of the Monessen Daily Independent, but will resign on September 13, 1923. (07-17-1923) Monessen News

The wedding of Miss Amelia R. Patrick, Monessen, and Joseph J. Graham, Uniontown, was held on Wednesday at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church. The bride is employed as a stenographer for the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (07-27-1923) Monessen News

Zealand L. Carter, Monessen, to divorce Nora Jane Carter. They wed on December 5, 1922. Adultery is the charge. (07-31-1923) Monessen News

Samuel C. Meckley, Monessen, and Mrs. H. Jennie Kemerer, Manor, wed on July 28, 1923. The groom works as a painter and paper hanger for Herbert Shambaugh. (07-31-1923) Daily Independent

Late Summer births of 1923

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Helzelzouer, of the Union Hotel, announce the birth of a baby boy on Wednesday. (07-20-1923) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sbrocco, 377 Schoonmaker Avenue, are the parents of

a baby girl born on Saturday. (07-24-1923) Monessen News

Dan's Archives

Eastside Land Company Closes Its Doors

February 24, 1923 marked the closing of Monessen's first Real Estate Office, the East Side Land Company. The Real Estate Department of the Monessen Trust Company will take charge of the company's business dealings. H. Dallas McCabe, the secretary and manager of the East Side Land Company will relocate to 331 Fourth Street, where he will operate as a civil engineer.

The East Side Land Company was incorporated on August 21, 1894, after which it acquired the farm land on which Monessen now stands. It comprised 525 acres.

The leading stockholders of the enterprise were Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, Hon. Philander C. Knox, who later became Attorney General in the McKinley Administration and Secretary of State under William Howard Taft, Judge James H. Reed, George O. Morgan, H. Sellers McKee and George B. Motheral. The main streets of Monessen bear their names.

The opening sale day, July 27, 1897, was possible by the building and opening of the National Tin Plate Works, known as the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. At that time, William Henry Donner, now president of the East Side Land Company and president of the Donner Steel Company, Inc. of Buffalo, NY, acquired an interest in the company.

M. J. Alexander was manager of the company from 1897-1899, after which

Sidney L. Lorenz took over until 1900. Mr. McCabe was then appointed to the office. Sales of property under his guidance totaled \$1,500,000.

A Recipe For You

From the table of Mrs. James M. Schoonmaker II.

Chicken breast with garlic and rosemary

8 cloves garlic

2 T. sugar

1/3 C. butter

½ C. dry vermouth

½ C. chicken stock

6 sprigs fresh rosemary

½ C. heavy cream

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts

In a saucepan, place garlic, sugar, ¼ C. butter and vermouth. Heat and reduce until garlic caramelizes, add chicken stock and 2 sprigs rosemary.

Simmer until reduced by half, add cream and let sauce thicken. Swirl in rest of butter. Grill chicken breasts, spoon sauce over each and garnish with rosemary.

Remove from oven and sprinkle with grated cheese. Cut and serve hot or cold.

GMHS Memorials, Autumn, 2023

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Robert & Kathie Basehore.

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Alice and William Engle

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Sherry Adamczyk

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Philip Faraci

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Ellyn and Jeffrey Wolfson

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Bobette Hostein

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Michael Kuvinka III

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by John Levings

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Yankosky

In memory of Nancy Kuvinka Gray donated by Lesley and Marc Osias

In memory of Charles Urbanowicz donated by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas

In memory of Charles Urbanowicz donated by Daniel Zygłowicz

In memory of Charles Urbanowicz donated by Virginia M. Fisfis

In memory of Stephen N. Major, Sr. donated by Margaret Major Cunius

In memory of Elmer and Irene Andrachek donated by Richard, Jim and Donna (Baker) Adrachek

In memory of Wayne Sepitko donated by Paul Tobacco

In memory of Wayne Sepitko donated by Lia Petaccia

In memory of Wayne Sepitko donated by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas

In memory of Wayne Sepitko donated by Frank Bruni

In memory of Nancy Penich donated by Mary Ellen Pastorkovich

In memory of All the fine people who lived on Highland Avenue in Monessen during the 1940's and 1950's donated by Dadid D. and Carol H. Uhal

In memory of Barbara Daumit-Till donated by the GMHS Board of Directors

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Zyglowicz, President & Editor of Valley Historian

Gary Strellick, Vice President

Virginia Mussano Fisfis, Secretary

Mary Lou Mussano Simkins

Dr. Martin Dudas, Fundraiser

Candis Elyanich Kelley, Member Emeritus

Tim Donner, Honorary Seat (Great Grandson of William Henry Donner)

George O. Morgan IV, Honorary Seat (Great Grandson of George O. Morgan I)

Your Family Genealogy

Have you donated a copy of your family tree to the Heritage Museum? Please consider donating material on your family to us?

Woodworking Hobbyists

We are looking for individuals to create copies of old Monessen businesses, churches, schools for display in the museum.

Monessen 125th Anniversary Book Advertising

If you would like to place an ad, memorial, dedication, or congratulatory ad in the 125th

Anniversary Book, please fill out this form and mail it to:

Greater Monessen Historical Society 505 Donner Ave. Monessen, PA 15062

If writing a check, please include “125th Ad” in the Memo Line.

For additional information, please call 724-684-8460.

Deadline is September 30, 2023.

Name (First and Last):

Address:

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business or Organization (if applicable):

Text to be included in the ad:

You may submit a printed version of your ad design on a separate sheet of paper.

Ad Prices are as follows. Please circle which ad you would like:

Premium Full Page (Inside front and back cover): \$2000

Full Page: \$499

Half Page: \$299

Quarter Page: \$179

Patron ad: \$10 (Just the name, such as “Mr. and Mrs. John Smith”).

You may submit a photo or artwork for any ad, memorial, or congratulatory ad. You may email ad artwork or digital versions of ads to monessen@verizon.net

Signature: _____ Date: _____