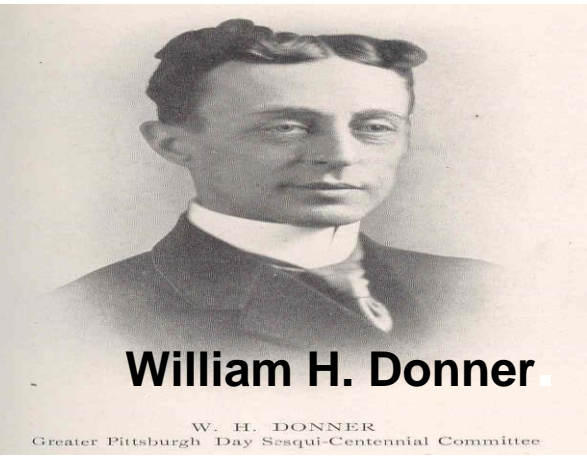
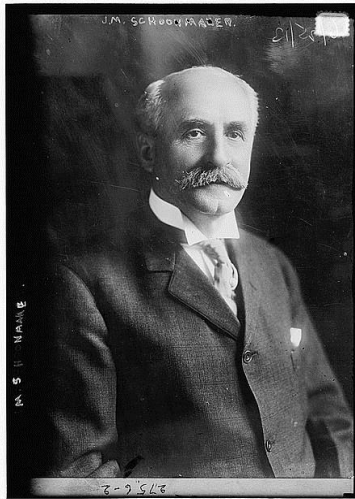


# VALLEY HISTORIAN



**Greater Monessen Historical Society**  
 505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062  
 (724) 684-8460  
 monessen@verizon.net (email)  
 www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com – NEW!!!!!!

Vol.13 Issue 4 AUTUMN 2013



## Annual Fund Drive and Membership Renewal

Colonel James M. Schoonmaker was always a staunch advocate for Monessen. He took a personal interest in the development of the town and contributed toward its early success. The Greater Monessen Historical Society carries on the Colonel's legacy. The Historical Society is all those wishing to preserve the industrial and ethnic history of the greater Monessen area. To accomplish that goal, members and friends need to step forward and become part of Schoonmaker's Army. Through your membership fee and donations toward the fund drive, we can continue preserving the history of Monessen. Membership is \$15 a calendar year for an individual. Twenty dollars for a family and fifty dollars for a business. Extra donations can be included for the general operating budget, the building fund or the endowment. While the outside

of the Museum Annex has been completed, the interior is still gutted and awaiting complete renovations. Heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical work is needed. Walls need to be rebuilt. Floors and ceilings need redone. A back staircase must be installed to meet codes for occupancy. The basement needs extensive work. Please be generous. We appreciate your donations in past years and have put them to good use.

### IRA note

For those 70 1/2 or older with IRA's, Congress has reauthorized for 2013 the provision that allows individuals to make gifts of up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA accounts to one or more charities, such as the Greater Monessen Historical Society, without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. Remember the Greater Monessen Historical Society and our future legacy.



### In Search of Antique Christmas Decorations

The Museum is looking for donations of antique Christmas decorations for our holiday displays. If

anyone has any antique decorations made from 1900 through 1960 they are not using, please consider donating them to the Museum.



### **Join us at our Holiday Open House celebration**

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will have our annual Holiday Open House celebration on Saturday, December 7, 2013 starting at 12 noon until 3 PM. Drop by the Museum for some light refreshments, goodies, cheerful music and fellowship. Meet the guest of honor, Santa Claus and have your photo taken. We hope to see you there.



### **Free photo with Santa Claus**

Children of all ages are invited to visit the Heritage Museum on Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 1 to 3 PM to have their photo taken with Santa Claus. The

photos will be processed and sent to the person's home address along with a letter from Santa himself. The photos are compliments of the Greater Monessen Historical Society.



### **First Historic Monessen Home Chosen**

The Greater Monessen Historical Society has chosen the Ted Kisor Home, as the first recipient of a Monessen Historic Home plaque. The house that sits at the very top of State Road is currently owned by Gus and Rita Aguilar. It was built in 1908-1909 by Ted and Pearl Mae Manown Kisor, who operated a dairy farm. Some of the land on which Monessen City Park is located was donated by the Kisors.

### **Have You Felt a Call to Acting?**

The Historical Society is looking for individuals to portray historic characters at society affairs. In the past year, we have been visited by "Mrs. Abraham Lincoln" for tea. We would like to expand our list of 'celebrities', so if anyone is interested in creating historic characters, please contact the Museum at 724-684-8460.

### **New Webpage**

Log in to our new 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!!!!

# THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to the following additional sponsors who made donations toward our Founders Day: Weekend of Living History on August 17-18, 2013. We appreciate every one of you:

**Bill Shuster for Congress** – Black and White Society

**DBA George Christy** – Black and White Society

**Suzy Williams Broadhurst** – Greyhound League

**Douglas Education Center** – Black and White Society

**State Representative Ted Harhai** – Black and White Society

Also, thank you to all who supported us on the Community Foundation Westmoreland County Day of Giving. Twenty-five individuals donated online to receive a pro-rated match.

## Spring Ethnic Exhibit

In honor of the centennial of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church in 2014, the Greater Monessen Historical Society will showcase the history of the Syrian immigrants in the greater Monessen area. Anyone having photographs or items they wish to loan or donate for the exhibit can contact the Heritage Museum during regular business hours.

## Winter Hours

The Heritage Museum will be closed between Christmas and New Years for a short holiday break.

Please check the new website or Facebook or call before visiting for the winter hours beginning in January 2014 and continuing until sometime in March. Also, the posted hours will be Weather Permitting.

## Last Chance to See the “History of Monessen Schools Exhibit”

The “Monessen Schools Exhibit” will be ending on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Visit the Heritage Museum and see the photos of the many former neighborhood school buildings, teachers, administrators, school plays, clubs, etc. The Heritage Museum is open Wed. through Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM.



## Yes! We Want That!!!

It has come to our attention recently that some people are confused as to what we want for our collection. They thought we only wanted photographs or paper items. The answer is NO! Yes, we want grandma’s wedding dress or perhaps the flapper outfit Great Aunt Elizabeth wore in the speakeasy in downtown Monessen. We want your prom outfit. We want anything that tells the story of the people of the Greater Monessen area. Household items, business items, organization minute books, quilts, grandfather’s pipe, the antique parlor lamp etc. If you aren’t sure, please call and ask a member of the board of directors.

## What Gift Should I Give Them?

The Museum Shoppe is filled with unique gift ideas. Ethnic cookbooks, Monessen throw blankets, local author works, historic prints, religious table runners, and historic postcards to tuck into the cards we send our friends. Shop Monessen. Shop the Heritage Museum!

## **Mon Valley Genealogy Forum**

As part of our community outreach, GMHS has partnered with Monessen Public Library and Cultural Center to co-sponsor the monthly Mon Valley Genealogy Forum Lecture series. Each month an interesting speaker will present a program at the library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. The programs will cover genealogy, local history, family life, PA history, etc. Light refreshments are served. Join us for an educational and interesting evening. Call if you wish to be a speaker.

### **Spotlight on Current Representatives of Our City's Rich Ethnic Heritage**

A suggestion was made to spotlight certain individuals, who are active in Monessen and representative of the many ethnic groups that settled in Monessen and contributed to its development. To that end, we will occasionally present the biography of a city resident, who stands as an example of their ethnic group. For our first spotlight, in the upcoming February newsletter, Jack Bergstein will be featured along with his ties to Monessen's Jewish community.

### **Plan a project?**

The Historical Society is always looking for individuals to spearhead different projects. Are you looking for something to do at certain times of the year? We need facilitators who will work with the Board of Directors and plan exciting and interesting events that showcase local history and our rich ethnic pride. Contact the Historical Society today, if interested.

# **Admission to the Heritage Museum is always FREE!**

## **Visit Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center for Genealogy**

Please remember to support our local library. Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center has a beautiful Pennsylvania Room on the second floor that is accessible by elevator. It contains Pennsylvania county histories, old atlases, and cemetery, marriage and birth records from many areas of the Commonwealth. Most of the volumes do not circulate if in the Pennsylvania Collection, so pages will have to be photocopied for twenty cents a page or notes taken. They also have a great set of Civil War regimental histories.

Downstairs, there are books on various aspects of Pennsylvania history that do circulate for a two week period. They also have census microfilm, as well as microfilm of the Monessen Daily Independent, the Monessen News Call, the Valley Independent and the Charleroi Mirror newspapers. There is also microfilm of the Sandborn Fire Insurance Maps for Monessen and Monongahela. They have Ancestry.com for use while in the library on the computers. Users will need a Westmoreland Library Network card. The Library is also an affiliate with the Salt Lake City Mormon FamilySearch Library and can borrow microfilm for a small fee from that facility for your in-library use.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed for various society projects throughout the year. Some volunteers donate their time weekly, some monthly and some for occasional events. If you have some spare time, we would love to have you as part of our family. Contact the museum today.

### **A gift idea for someone**

Consider purchasing a gift membership for a coworker, acquaintance, neighbor or relative. It's a great way to say thank you and help us preserve Monessen's ethnic and industrial history. Instead of

buying something that special person may or may not use, give the gift that keeps on giving.

## Memorials

In memory of Irene Shorraw given by Candis Elyanich Kelley.

### One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers November, 1913 -- January, 1914

Mr. Cherkin, has moved his grocery store from Third Street to the former Philips Wallpaper Store on Schoonmaker Avenue, between Fifth and Sixth Street. (11-06-1913) Daily Independent

T. W. Kisor received three fine cows from Washington County. Ted has twenty-six Guernsey and Jerseys on his dairy farm. (11-13-1913) Daily Independent

John Martin, Michael Giba, Martin Kozlik, Fritz Seko and John Check have applied for a charter to create an organization to be called "The Slavish Beneficial Union of Monessen". (11-13-1913) Daily Independent

An attempt was made to unionize the workers of the local motion picture and vaudeville houses into the Picture Machine Operators Union. As many of the same men also work in the local mills, ultimatums were given by the mills that if they valued their mill jobs, there should be no thought toward unionizing the theaters. (11-29-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Jessie Eckerman, globe trotter, scientist, author, lecturer and suffragist will lecture on "Equal Suffrage" on December 12, 1913. The newspaper said princesses and kings have deemed themselves honored to receive and hear Miss Eckerman. (12-09-1913) Daily Independent

Fifty Monessen citizens met in the Methodist Church, Schoonmaker and Fourth, and formed a permanent suffrage organization to demand a suffrage amendment for the constitution. (12-20-1913) Daily Independent

Patrolman Kit Wheatley was found dead in bed at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hugh McLaughlin, at 120 Knox Avenue. (12-21-1913) Daily Independent

Joseph Cherkin, of 529 Schoonmaker Ave., died January 2, 1914 at the age of 58 from pneumonia. He operated a grocery store in the former Frank Phillips Wallpaper Store. (01-03-1914) Daily Independent

Miss Helen A. Allen, secretary of the Allegheny County Woman's Suffrage Association, will speak in the Methodist Church on January 15, 1914. Instrumental and vocal music will also be provided. Men and women are urged to be present. Also, Miss Hannah J. Patterson, State Chairman of the Woman's Suffrage Association, will deliver an address on January 22, 1914 in Monessen. (01-13-1914) Daily Independent

The A.M.E. Church Literary Society issued an invitation to join them on January 19, 1914 for a debate on: "Resolved that the human family is degenerating". Amos Lucas and Alex Pangburn in the affirmative and Robert Philips and Mose King in the negative. (01-19-1914) Daily Independent

David Myers and Walter McLaughlin, two Monessen chicken fanciers, won honors at the Connellsville Poultry Show. (01-19-1914) Daily Independent

### Late autumn and early winter weddings, anniversaries and engagements of 1913-1914

Harold Frederick Teaton and Miss Maybel Elmira Nelson were wed on November 2, 1913. The groom is assistant paymaster at the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co. They will reside in Belle Vernon. (11-03-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Ruth Jeffries, of Monessen, and Frank Goshorn, of Woodlawn, were married in the East End of Pittsburgh on November 3, 1913. They will live in Woodlawn. (11-04-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Edith Cadugan and Samuel Wagner, both of Monessen, married on November 5, 1913 at the home of the bride's parent's on Reed Avenue. They will live in Monessen. (11-05-1913) Daily Independent

William C. Engel, Jr. says the report of his marriage to Miss Lillian Snyder, of Pittsburgh, was a practical joke. (11-07-1913) Daily Independent

The wedding of Anna E. Riley, of Charleroi, and Frank A. Elexander, of Monessen, was held at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Charleroi on November 5, 1913. They will reside in Monessen. (11-10-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Florence May Austin, of Monessen, and Clyde M. Fishel, of Canton, Ohio, were married on November 08, 1913. (11-10-1913) Daily Independent

Charles Teese, of Webster, and Miss Lizzie Brew, of Pittsburgh, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on November 10, 1913. (11-11-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Clara Reese and Richard Nelson, both of Belle Vernon, will marry on December 24, 1913. (11-28-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Gussie Stinner, of West Delason Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio and Dr. Harold H. Theis, of Youngstown, are engaged to wed in January. (11-28-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Virginia Stuckey, of McKeesport and formerly of Monessen, and William J. Dunn, of McKeesport, married on November 26, 1913. They will live in River View Park. The groom is a McKeesport businessman. (11-28-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Ellen Troupe, of Nestor Street, Belle Vernon, and Fred Clegg were united in marriage on November 27, 1913. They will live on Speers Street, Belle Vernon. (11-29-1913) Daily Independent

William Samsel, of Kreamer, married Miss Edna Fisher of Kratzerville on November 28, 1913 in Pittsburgh. They will live in Monessen. (11-29-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Sarah Roberta Trew, of Charleroi, became the bride of Lloyd G. Wagoner, of Charleroi. (12-09-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Annie H. Hamilton wed Carlos O. Mencer, of Stockdale on December 6, 1913. (12-10-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Florence Hazel, of Charleroi, is engaged to G. Harold Smith, of Charleroi. (12-10-1913) Daily Independent

H. R. Smith and Miss Anna Campbell, both of Monessen, were married in Cumberland, MD. On

December 15, 1913. The groom is an employee of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad. The bride was previously the night Bell Telephone operator and lately the clerk and bookkeeper with the Phillips Wallpaper Store on Schoonmaker. (12-16-1913) Daily Independent

Al Briggs, of Monessen, and Miss Elizabeth Sheets, of Fayette City, were intercepted by Officer Albright at the P&LE station this morning and prevented from eloping to Cumberland to be married. The bride's parents had phoned in the request to stop the couple. The groom-to-be owns the Pan-American Restaurant, corner of Schoonmaker and Fifth Avenue. (12-20-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Dorothy Ferren, of Monessen, and J. David Sherrill, of Tampa, Florida, will marry on December 25, 1913 in Tampa. (12-24-1913) Daily Independent

G. W. Benford, of Charleroi, and Miss S. McKean, of Washington, PA, were united in marriage on Christmas Day. The groom is the traffic manager with the Charleroi Belle Telephone Company. (12-27-1913) Daily Independent

Charles Dusenberry, of Newell, married Miss Angie Barnard of Pittsburgh on December 26, 1913 on the North Side of Pittsburgh. They will reside in Newell. (12-29-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Miles Hann will celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary on January 1, 1914 in their East End Pittsburgh home. Mrs. A. J. Smith of Monessen is their daughter. (01-01-1914) Daily Independent

Miss Dorothy Adele Ferren and James David Sherrill were married on Christmas Day in Tampa, Florida. The bride is the niece of H. Dallas McCabe, the groom is associated with the Exchange National Bank. (01-05-1914) Daily Independent

Dave Isenberg, of Fayette City, and Miss Anna Itobwitz, of East Pittsburgh, were married. The groom was a Monessen tailor on Donner Avenue previously. They will live in Fayette City. (01-07-1914) Daily Independent

Miss Gussie Stinner, of Youngstown and formerly of Monessen and Dr. Harold Theis were wed on January 3, 1914 in Marietta, Ohio. (01-09-1914) Daily Independent

Carl Frederick Gass, of Charleroi and Miss Beatrice Alverda Sastow, of Donora, were joined in matrimony on January 14, 1914 in Charleroi. They will live in Donora. (01-15-1914) Daily Independent

Grattan L. Prowitt and Miss Ruth E. Robinson, both of Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on January 16, 1914. (01-17-1914) Daily Independent

### **Late Autumn and early Winter Births and Birthdays of 1913-1914**

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hawkinson, of 667 Reed Avenue, had a baby boy. (11-04-1913) Daily Independent

Samuel Ferguson, of Donner Avenue, celebrated his thirty-second birthday on November 10, 1913 with a surprise party. He was presented with a gold fob, cuff links and a stick pin. (11-11-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Yotty, of Rostraver Street, are the parents of a son, who arrived on November 25, 1913. (11-26-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Phillips, of Fourth Street, are the parents of a baby boy, who was born on December 3, 1913. (12-04-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Conway, of East Monessen, has a nine pound baby girl on December 6, 1913. (12-08-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Conway, of 939 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a nine pound baby girl on December 7, 1913. (12-09-1913) Daily Independent

Helen Marie Craig, of 486 Reed Avenue, celebrated her ninth birthday on December 6, 1913. (12-10-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Derby, of Park Way, had an eleven pound baby girl on Saturday, December 6, 1913. The father is superintendent of the Motz Lumber Company. (12-10-1913) Daily Independent (On Dec. 11, 1913, the paper published a correction saying it was a baby boy instead.)

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dugan, of First Street, had a baby boy on December 8, 1913. (12-11-1913) Daily Independent

Leo Kennedy, of Essen, celebrated his eleventh birthday, on December 13, 1913. (12-15-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. Samuel Blythe, of Reed Avenue, had a surprise party on December 16, 1913, in honor of her twenty-third birthday.

Miss May Lloyd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lloyd, of Schoonmaker Avenue, celebrated her seventeenth birthday on December 16, 1913. (12-18-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Jones, of 965 Donner Avenue, had a nine pound baby boy, on December 19, 1913. (12-19-13) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ridinger, of Graham Avenue, had an eleven pound baby girl at the stroke of twelve on Christmas Day. (12-26-1913) Daily Independent

William Beall celebrated his eleventh birthday on January 8, 1914. (01-09-1914) Daily Independent

William Boddice celebrated his twenty-first birthday on January 16, 1914 with a pink and white party. (01-17-1914) Daily Independent

Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Bungard, of Reed Avenue, had an eight pound baby boy on January 19, 1914. (01-20-1914) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davidson, of 608 McKee Avenue, had a nine pound baby girl on January 21, 1914. (01-21-1914) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, of Oneida Street, had a son on January 23, 1914. (01-24-1914) Daily Independent

# Dan's Archives

The fourth Annual Monessen Board of Trade Banquet was held in Turner Hall on Thursday, January 22, 1914 and attended by more than two hundred guests. Prior to the banquet, a reception was held in the Kilroy Hotel for Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, William Henry Donner and other distinguished guests from Pittsburgh and the County Seat.

The Isabelle Thoburn Class of the M. E. Church took the responsibility of handling the cooking and serving of the dinner, which consisted of cream of tomato soup, celery, olives, baked white fish, chip potatoes, roast young turkey with dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, hot biscuits, combination salad, ice cream, cake, mints, coffee and cigars.

Professor Davis provided the singing entertainment, and Rev, Bungard gave the invocation. C. R. New reviewed the work of the Board of Trade over the past year.

The main speaker of the evening was Colonel Schoonmaker, who reminisced about the early history of the town, and told how the site came into his possession and his cooperation with William Henry Donner in building the Tin Plant. The Colonel then introduced Mr. Donner, who was surprised, as he was not scheduled to speak. He rose to the occasion and explained the freight rates and fuel considerations in selecting Monessen as the site of his mill.

The quote of the evening belonged to Colonel Schoonmaker who said, **"I challenge the world to produce a town that in fifteen years has made the progress and development Monessen has. To rise from a farm and waste land, to a modern little city in this length of time is indeed a challenge to the world. I fill with pride, and swell out my chest when I speak of Monessen"**.



**On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish all of our members, friends and benefactors a Blessed holiday season filled with good health and great memories.**

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