

Valley Historian



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(Recipient of the Arthur St. Clair Award)
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Annual Membership Renewal and Fund Drive

The Historical Society membership renewal and fund campaign for the 2018 year is underway. Individual memberships are \$15 per year. A family membership is \$20, with a business membership being \$50. Membership is based on a calendar year and includes four issues of the newsletter, "Valley Historian". Donations fund the operation of the Museum and allow the Society to follow its mission of preserving the ethnic and industrial heritage of Monessen and the Mon Valley region. Future plans include renovating the Milsom/Endicott Johnson Building into a museum annex for additional exhibit and event space.

Open House Celebration

The annual Holiday Open House celebration for the Historical Society will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 11 AM until 2 PM. Stop by to see old friends and view the current exhibit. Light refreshments will be served.

Autumn Exhibit

The Autumn Exhibit at the Monessen Heritage Museum is called "Treasures from the Archives". It showcases individual panels such as "Presidential visits", the life of Colonel Schoonmaker, river transportation, firefighting history, early baseball, local art, radios, and the burning of the second Monessen High School. The display will be open through the end of the year during regular business hours.



Christmas Photos of Monessen

The Society is looking for photos of old Monessen Christmas scenes. Photos can be dropped off at the Heritage Museum to be scanned or emailed to

monessen@verizon.net . The Society is also still seeking photos of the Washington and Linden Elementary Schools.

In Search of

The Historical Society is looking for:

- *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

New Book Added to Museum Shoppe



Lawrence G. Kozlowski has compiled another book in his Christmas series. “Celebrate Christmas...Italian Style” is available through the Museum Shoppe for a donation of \$12.00. The Shoppe also carries the other two books in his series, Polish Christmas and Slovak Christmas, as well as his Easter books.

Christmas Recipes

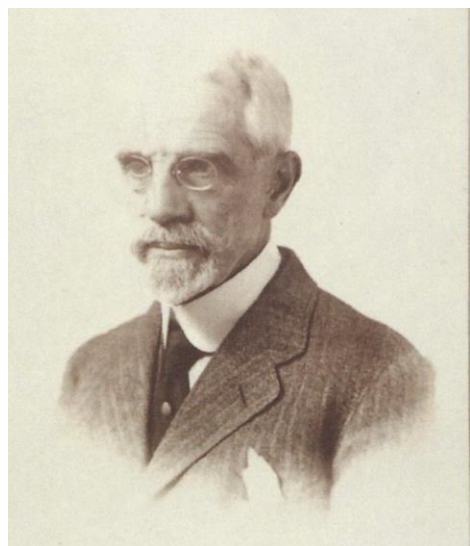
The following recipe comes from the new book added to the Museum Shoppe, “Celebrate Christmas...Italian Style” by Lawrence G. Kozlowski.

Green Beans in Tomato Sauce (Fagiolini in Salsa De Pomodoro)

2 cans of green beans (Drained)
1 large can of chopped tomatoes (Drained & reserve juice)
2 tsp. salt
½ cup olive oil
2 cloves of garlic (Minced)
1 small onion (Minced)
1 teaspoon basil (Dried or fresh)
Pepper (Season to taste)
Italian cheese (Grated)

In a large sauce pan, heat olive oil and saute minced onion, basil and garlic until the onions are tender. Add beans and tomatoes. Cook slowly for 20 minutes, adding additional tomato juice as needed. Serve hot garnished with Italian cheese.

The next recipe is for an alcoholic drink that has been passed down through the family of Monessen Founder, George Orlando Morgan.



George O. Morgan, for whom Morgan Avenue was named.

Sangria:

1 part (quart or gallon) dry (not sweet) red wine.
Little bit of cognac

Cut up various fruits and add to the mix a couple of hours before serving:

- Oranges
- Lemons
- Peaches
- Any other preferred solid (not bananas, kiwis, etc.) fruit

Mix to taste -some people add sugar or sugar syrup.

(Add LAST, just before serving).

1/4 part club soda or Perrier-type water

1/4 part bubbly fruit drink.

Careful, don't make it too sweet, so it can be drunk easily.

George Orlando Morgan II used to call it "Sparkling Claret".

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!



Thank you!

The Board of Directors of the Greater Monessen Historical Society wish to thank everyone who attended and supported the Colonel Schoonmaker Birthday Bash. The annual fundraiser dinner was a big success. Photos are available on Facebook and the webpage.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers November, 1917 to January, 1918

The Frank Stefanski Bakery, at 225 Knox Avenue, was destroyed by fire on October 31, 1917. (11-01-1917) Daily Independent

William Riley, John Husher, and Matt Keifer are hunting raccoon and rabbit near Waynesburg. (11-09-1917) Monessen News

Sam Lee, who has operated a laundry business in the Opera House for eight years, has sold his business and will move to Pittsburgh. (11-16-1917) Daily Independent

The last seven and a half acres of "Belle Voir", the Alexander McMahan Farm, has been purchased by the Pittsburgh Steel Company for \$23,760. (11-23-1917) Monessen News

Former Westmoreland County Sheriff, John H. Trescher died unexpectedly on November 27, 1917. He was the owner of the Grand Hotel and had operated the Monessen newspaper, "The Leader", which he started in 1901. (11-28-1917) Daily Independent

The Iowa School Annex should open on December 10, 1917 and house 250 to 300 pupils. (11-30-1917) Monessen News

The Victoria Coal Company has been organized with James Bailey as mining foreman. (11-30-1917) Monessen News

The vacant slaughterhouse, at the end of Seneca Street that was formerly owned by Frank Venneri, was destroyed by a mysterious fire. The fire department was unable to make hose connections, due to the distance to the nearest fire plug, so the blaze was let to burn. (11-30-1917) Daily Independent

The Dave Seder Clothing Store caught fire after the gas heater under the store floor was lit at 8 AM. The building, which stands next to the Merchants Hotel was not heavily damaged, although the stock was ruined by smoke and water. (12-17-1917) Daily Independent

The former Firestone Distilling Company will be converted into a large flour and feed store around February 1, 1918, by M. Krasik, of Charleroi. (12-26-1917) Daily Independent

Fire broke out on December 30, 1917, at the Iowa School, due to an overheated furnace,

which ignited near the chimney. The damage was minor. (12-31-1917) Daily Independent

The John Hako Bakery, on Schoonmaker Avenue near Second Street, was destroyed by fire. In total, four buildings were damaged in the \$25,000 fire. The bakery was originally owned by John G. Staudenmayer. The Commercial Hotel and the Ruthenian Hall were heavily damaged. (01-01-1918) Monessen News

Frank Roman, age 39, and Mike Bennett, age 40, died as a result of an explosion at the Pittsburgh Steel Open Hearth on January 5, 1918. Another ten men were injured. (01-08-1918) Monessen News

Fisfis Brothers, the milk and ice cream dealers on Schoonmaker Avenue, have added groceries to their line. (01-11-1918) Daily Independent

W. S. Bumbaugh, President of the Monessen Foundry and Machine Company, was elected President of the Monessen Savings and Trust Company. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

Jules Albert will open a grocery and meat store at 910 Knox Avenue and will do a strictly cash business. (01-22-1918) Daily Independent

An application was made in the Court of Common Pleas to charter a new corporation to be known as the Italian Citizens Political Association. (01-25-1918) Monessen News

Philip Shepler, of 26 Linden Avenue, passed away on January 23, 1918 at the age of 81. He was formerly one of Rostraver Township's farmers. He moved to Monessen in 1902. (01-24-1918) Daily Independent

Nine coal cars at the Monessen Coal & Coke Company (old Iron City Mine) jumped the track at the tippel curve, after a hitching broke. Two men, Samuel Fox, of Charleroi, and Jacob Savo, of Monessen, were badly hurt. (01-26-1918) Daily Independent

Several people were discovered unconscious by police from escaping sewer gas after breaking down the door at the Laska Building, at the corner of Schoonmaker and Seneca Street. (01-26-1918) Daily Independent

Late Autumn and early Winter Weddings and Engagements of 1917-1918

Miss Lillian Grau, of Donner Avenue, and Edward Lafferty, of Second Street, wed on October 31, 1917. The groom works at Pittsburgh Steel Products. The couple will reside in the Frantz & Boyd Building. (11-02-1917) Monessen News

William Paxton and Miss Irene Humphries, of California, were quietly married in Uniontown on November 10, 1917. (11-13-1917) Monessen News

Miss Celma Mayou, of Salm, NY, and Cyril Schwerha, of Monessen, married on November 14, 1917. (11-20-1917) Monessen News

Miss Johanna Estenfelder, of Charleroi, and Lloyd F. Engle, of Greensburg, will wed on November 24, 1917. (11-23-1917) Monessen News

Miss Myrtle Williams and Edward Kenyon, of Monessen, eloped to Cumberland, MD. The groom is a craneman for Pittsburgh Steel. They will live over Browns Jewelry store. (11-30-1917) Daily Independent

Louis Viola, of Monessen, and Miss Fortunata Gaudio, of Freedom, married on Thanksgiving Day. They will live on Morgan Avenue. (11-30-1917) Monessen News

Gaudio/Viola wedding. (11-30-1917) Daily Independent

Knecht/McGowan wedding. (12-01-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Ruth Jafvert, of Knox Avenue, and William Reeve, of Monessen, wed on November 28, 1917. (12-01-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Sarah Jeannette Wilson, of Lock Four, wed Hunter Wilson, of Belle Vernon. The groom works for Motz Lumber. (12-01-1917) Daily Independent

Janavitz/Snyder wedding. (12-03-1917) Daily Independent (Wedding date given is Dec. 2, which differs from below.) (12-03-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Gussie Janavitz married Milton Snyder on December 3, 1917. (12-04-1917) Monessen News

Miss Marie Knecht, of Second Street, and Alexander McGowan, of Monessen, have quietly wed. (12-04-1917) Monessen News

Miss Helen Zellers and John Vincent Steele, of Donora, married last week. (12-04-1917) Monessen News

McDermott/Brautegam wedding. (12-08-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Anne Brautegam, of the Foster House, and Harry McDermott, of Charleroi, wed on December 7, 1917. (12-11-1917) Monessen News

Miss Lillian Irene Crissman and George Edwin Sherman, formerly of the East Side Land Co., were married on December 6, 1917. (12-11-1917) Monessen News

Miss Elizabeth Lutes, of Allenport, and Walter Luce, of Monessen, wed on December 19, 1917. (12-19-1917) Daily Independent

Lundberg/Foss wedding. (12-20-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Florence Foss, of Donora, and Hugh Lundberg, formerly of Monessen, wed on December 15, 1917. (12-21-1917) Monessen News

John Louis Kinnear and Miss Lila Clarice Fenton, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Greensburg last week. (12-24-1917) Monessen News

Walter O. Deaty and Miss Gertrude Lewis, both of Monessen, applied for a marriage license in Greensburg last week. (12-24-1917) Monessen News

Shanor R. Blythe, of Charleroi, and Miss Edith M. Robinson, of Pittsburgh, wed on December 26, 1917. (12-27-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Irene Peen, formerly of Monessen, and J. W. Jordan, of McKeesport, married on December 27, 1917. (12-28-1917) Monessen News

Miss Gladys Peterson, of Monessen, and Cleo Economy, of Connellsville, wed at Wellsburg, West Virginia, on December 12, 1917. (12-28-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Pearl Cornelius and Theodore Rose, both of Belle Vernon, were married on December 27, 1917. (12-28-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Rebecca Lowman, of Belle Vernon, and W. Duncan Berryman, of Charleroi, wed in Pittsburgh on December 28, 1917. (12-29-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Blanche Anderson, of Charleroi, and John Mallory Woodlawn, wed in Uniontown on Christmas Eve. The bride was a school teacher. (12-29-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Blanche Kalp, of Scottdale, and Charles Hough, of Fayette City, were married on December 27, 1917. The groom is employed in the Tin Mill. (12-29-1917) Daily Independent

Miss Lucy Guist, of Ninth Street, and John Riley, of Monessen, wed on December 12, 1917. The bride resigned from the Woolworth 5 & 10 store. (01-01-1918) Monessen News

Guist/Riley wedding. (01-02-1918) Daily Independent

Joe Ferrere and Rose Mazzo, both of Monessen, received a marriage license, in Greensburg. (01-04-1917) Monessen News

Miss Catherine Murphy, of Monessen, and Louis Horvath, of Charleroi, eloped to Wellsburg, WV, on January 2, 1918. They will reside in Charleroi. (01-04-1918) Monessen News

Miss Blanche J. Conaghen and Archie Hazelbaker, of Monessen, wed in Wellsburg, West Virginia, on December 31, 1917. (01-04-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Lena Marsden, of 500 McKee Avenue, and John Berry, of Monongahela, have married. (01-07-1918) Daily Independent

Casion Dattis, of Monessen, and Elizabeth Trocio, of Belle Vernon, received a marriage license in Greensburg last week. (01-08-1918) Monessen News

Willie Stokes and Anna Tucker received a marriage license in Greensburg on January 5, 1918. (01-08-1918) Monessen News

Jim Kavoras and Alexandria Podir, both of Monessen, applied for a marriage license on January 5, 1918. (01-08-1918) Monessen News

Miss Ethel Mae Campbell, of Morgan Avenue, and William K. Levens, Jr. of Pittsburgh, wed on January 10, 1918. (01-10-1918) Daily Independent

Michael Assel, of East Schoonmkaer Avenue, and Miss Elizabeth White, of Belle Vernon, were wed on January 8, 1918. (01-11-1918) Monessen News

Jacob Janavitz and Miss Helen Eckerman, of Fattell, will marry on January 13, 1918. (01-11-1918) Monessen News

Miss Ethel Mae Campbell, of Morgan Avenue, and William K. Levens, of Pittsburgh, were quietly married on January 11, 1918. (01-11-1918) Monessen News

Harry F. Rinehart, of 435 McKee Avenue, and Miss Estella Theresa Shirey, of Greensburg, have married. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

Rinehart/Shirey wedding. (01-18-1918) Daily Independent

James Palmer, of Belle Vernon, and Miss Mildred Potter, of Ohiopyle, wed on January 14, 1918. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

A divorce was granted to Louis Lipton and Ralph Lipton, of Monessen. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

Theodore Blama and Helina Fealka, of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg this week. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

Private Ben H. Cope and Miss Pearle Reese, of Mount Pleasant, have married in Uniontown. (01-19-1918) Daily Independent

Jamison/Patrick wedding. (01-21-1918) Daily Independent

Odbert/Steen wedding. (01-21-1918) Daily Independent

Leonard Nahar Jamison, of Belle Vernon, and Miss Alfreda Patrick, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Cumberland, MD. (01-22-1918) Monessen News

Miss Marie Steen, of Belle Vernon, and Francis Odbert, of McKee Avenue, wed on January 19, 1918. (01-22-1918) Monessen News

Simpson/Carson wedding. (Daily Independent says she was Mrs., while the Monessen News says Miss.) (01-24-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Kate Simpson, of 462 Donner Avenue, and Andrew Carson, of the Foster House, married on January 22, 1918. (01-25-1918) Monessen News

Miss Helen Heinonen, of Clarendon Avenue, and Austin Murphy, of Belle Vernon, eloped to Wellsburg, WV on December 27, 1917. The groom works for Pittsburgh Steel. (01-29-1917) Monessen News

Miss Phyliss Ewing, of Monessen, and James Tuman wed in Wellsburg, West Virginia, on January 29, 1918. They will live in Monongahela. (01-30-1918) Daily Independent

Late Autumn and Early Winter Births of 1917-1918

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Toole, of Delaware Street, had a ten and a half pound baby girl, on November 1, 1917. (11-06-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crow, of Eleventh Street, had a ten and a half pound boy, on November 1, 1917. (11-06-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Moore had a ten pound baby boy, on November 18, 1917. (11-22-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Guess, of 127 Reed Avenue, had an eight and a half pound baby girl, on November 30, 1917. (12-04-1917) Monessen News

Bull Miller and his wife, of 1065 Morgan Avenue, had a baby girl. (12-05-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Emler, of Donora, had a baby girl, on December 3, 1917. (12-06-1917) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gulub, of 1242 Morgan Avenue, had a ten pound boy on December 4, 1917. (12-07-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith had a baby girl on December 16, 1917. (12-18-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Barker, of 634 Reed Avenue, had a baby boy on December 16, 1917. (12-18-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. William Engle had a baby boy. (12-21-1921) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Ken, of Oneida Street, had a baby girl, on December 17, 1917. (12-21-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hirsch had a baby boy. (12-21-1917) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Leslie, of Uniontown, had an eight and a half pound baby boy. (01-03-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roberts had a baby boy. (01-04-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Crouse, of Fourth Street, had a baby girl. (01-04-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Jones, of Belle Vernon, had a baby boy. (01-04-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Reed, had a baby boy. (01-07-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Spielman, of Donner Ave. and Oneida, had a baby girl born on January 5, 1918. (01-08-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wanko, had a nine pound boy on January 11, 1918. (01-14-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carlson, of McMahan Avenue, had a daughter on January 16, 1918. (01-18-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Horner, of First Street, had a seven and a half pound baby boy, on January 17, 1918. (01-18-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. James Wilkins, of 105 First Street, had an eleven pound boy on January 22, 1918. (01-23-1918) Daily Independent

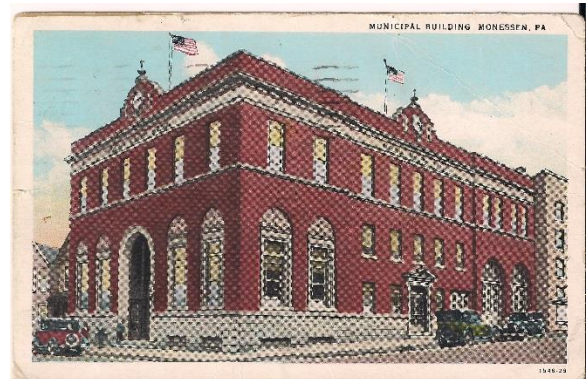
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dreg had a baby girl. (01-24-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. B. Krasnicki, of 19 Aliquippa Street, had a baby boy weighing twelve and a half pound, on January 21, 1918. (01-24-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Golding had a son at the Westmoreland Hotel that weighed seven and a half pounds. (01-25-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dregalla had a baby girl this week. (01-25-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Comit had an eight pound baby boy. (01-31-1918) Daily Independent



Dan's Archives

Monessen's new \$175,000 Municipal Building, at the corner of Third and Donner, was dedicated ninety years ago, on December 29, 1927. It was estimated that 10,000 visitors passed through the doors to inspect the new city quarters. Due to the large number of guests, the dedication services were held on Third Street. Mayor Woodward accepted the building on behalf of the citizens of Monessen. Superintendent of Parks and Public Property, John G. Check made a brief address, as he handed the property over to the Mayor. The Fireman's Band played the Star Spangled Banner, and the American flag was raised to the top of the flagpole.

Retiring Councilman, James A. Watkins was presented with a white gold watch and chain. He thanked the donors with tears in his eyes.

Greensburg Attorney, Robert W. Smith gave the dedication address commenting on the progressive spirit of the town. Following the address, the public was entertained with a short concert, as visitors inspected the new building. Inside the building, potted plants and palms were arranged, along with bouquets of roses on the desks and tables.

In the evening, visiting local fire departments paraded through the streets in their motor vehicles.

The Greater Monessen Historical Society has designated the Monessen Municipal Building as our "Historic Building of 2017."

Thank you for your continued support!

A photo from the past!



GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Daniel Zyglowicz, President & Editor of Valley Historian
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- Candis Elyanich Kelley, Mailings
- Tim Donner, Honorary Seat (Great Grandson of William Henry Donner)

Memorials

- In memory of Wilma Mornak given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.
- In memory of Michael J. Tweardy given by Patricia Tweardy .
- In memory of Michael J. Tweardy given by Claudia Martucci.
- In memory of Don Hayes by Candis Kelley.
- In memory of Don Hayes by Tom Jones.
- In memory of Don Hayes by Ginny Fisfis.
- In memory of Leonard Babinski given by Tom Jones.

Museum Shoppe

Visit the Museum Shoppe for unique gifts that highlight local history. We have the best and largest selection of ethnic cookbooks. Shop local!



The Board of Directors wish to extend our greetings for an old fashioned holiday celebration with bright hopes for the new year.

The Monessen Heritage Museum will be closed from December 24 through January 9 for a Christmas break. During the winter months, the Museum will be open on our regular schedule, weather permitting. Please call ahead before making a trip to make sure someone will be there.