

Valley Historian



Published by the Greater Monessen Historical Society
(Recipient of the Arthur St. Clair Award)
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Our Appreciation

The Board of Directors of the Greater Monessen Historical Society wishes to thank James M. Schoonmaker II and his wife, Treecie for their continuous support of the Greater Monessen Historical Society. They planned the yearlong birthday tribute to Colonel Schoonmaker

and underwrote the costs associated with the events. It would not have been as successful a celebration without their assistance. We are grateful to count the Colonel's grandson and his wife as one of our top supporters.

Annual Membership Renewal and Fund Drive

The Historical Society membership renewal and fund campaign for the 2018 year will be ending. 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. Have you joined or renewed?

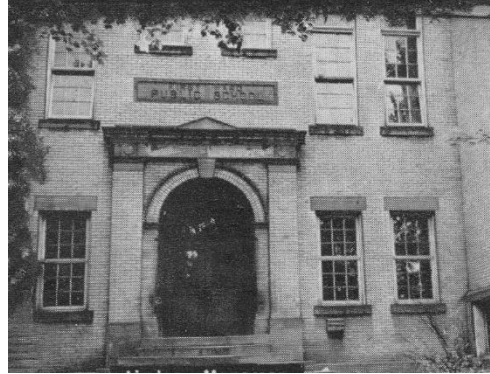
Annual Public Meeting

The annual Public Meeting for the Greater Monessen Historical Society membership will be Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 1 PM. The annual report will be presented, along with planned activities for the year. Board members will discuss their areas of responsibility. The new Spring Exhibit will be unveiled. Light refreshments will be served.



H. Sellers McKee Birthday

During the year, 2018, the Society will celebrate the 175th birthday of Monessen Founder, Henry Sellers McKee. McKee was one of the members of the East Side Land Company, which created Monessen in the late 1890's. We hope to do a joint celebration with the City of Jeannette, as it was also founded by H. Sellers McKee. In Monessen, McKee Avenue was named in his honor.



Linden Elementary School

School photos

The Society is also still seeking photos of the Washington and Linden Elementary Schools. Photos can be dropped off at the Heritage Museum to be scanned or emailed to monessen@verizon.net.

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

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!

Easter Books in Museum Shoppe



Easter Heritage Books

The Museum Shoppe, located in the Heritage Museum, carries two Easter books compiled by Lawrence G. Kozlowski as part of his Easter series. They are available through the Museum Shoppe for a donation of \$12.00 each.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers February to April, 1918

Police Chief Wheatley began registering “German alien enemies” at 6 AM on February 4, 1918. German aliens were to report to either the police station or post office with four unmounted 3 x 5 photos, where they will have their thumb and finger prints taken. (02-04-1918) Daily Independent

Twenty-five members of the South Slavish Educational and Political Society of Monessen filed an application for a charter. They will go by the name “Liberty Society” and their purpose is to encourage the study of the English language and laws of Pennsylvania to train their members. (02-12-1918) Monessen News

The stable for the Monessen Laundry and Cleaning Company filled with flood water from a terrific thunderstorm trapping seven horses. Pittsburgh Steel employees used their tackle and rigging and cut a hole in the floor. They succeeded in saving four of the horses, as the heavy concrete alley wall gave way. (02-26-1918) Daily Independent

Colonel James M. Schoonmaker has been named chairman of the board of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad. He has held the office of vice president since 1896. (02-27-1918) Daily Independent

A new business will open at 215 Schoonmaker Avenue under the name “Ab. Haddard and J. Elias” It will handle dry goods, shoes and fancy work with prices to suit any pocketbook. (02-28-1918) Daily Independent

Bennie Albert has filed a suit against the Westside Electric Street Railway Company for \$2000, for personal injuries, the loss of his horse and the repair of a wagon, stemming from an accident on February 5, 1918. (03-05-1918) Monessen News

Eight hundred people attended the opening of the Iowa School Annex. (03-08-1918) Monessen News

Monessen Plumbing and Electric Company will add a room by cutting an arch into the Jones Building at the corner of Sixth and Donner. They will add a complete line of automobile accessories, a china department and a display of plumbing goods and chandeliers. (03-22-1918) Monessen News

T. W. Kisor, proprietor of the Spring Farm Dairy, will quit business on April 1, 1918, due to failing to locate enough help to do the dairy work. (03-29-1918) Monessen News

The Potter-McCune wholesale grocers on Donner Avenue will erect a \$6000 garage of brick with a concrete floor. (04-02-1918) Monessen News

Edward Furick, a veteran of the Civil War, purchased the first bond of the Third Liberty Loan through the Peoples National Bank. (04-08-1918) Daily Independent

The Jules E. Albert Cash Grocery Store, at Ninth Street and Knox Avenue, suffered damage from a fire believed to have started from defective electric wiring. He had just reopened as a cash market after closing for six months as a former credit store. (04-09-1918) Monessen News

The Ruthenian Nation Mercantile Co-Operative Association Store, at the corner of Tenth and Knox, will hold their grand opening. They will also give out Green Stamps. (04-12-1918) Daily Independent

The Wayman A.M.E. Church will present a musical and literary program on April 15. The program will feature Miss Henrietta Vincent Davis, one of the world's most famous elocutionists and the famous Jubilee Singers of Tuskegee, Alabama. (04-13-1918) Daily Independent

A fire began in the pool room next the Westmoreland Hotel and spread into the hotel causing \$25,000 damage. The family quarters, along with the hotel dining room, kitchen, laundry room and storage room suffered the most damage. The hotel has twenty-five rooms. (04-17-1918) Daily Independent

William Fairfax, an employee of the Page Mill, was dragged out of work by approximately three hundred other workers and had a noose applied to his neck for refusing to purchase a war bond, while a tar and feather brigade stood ready. After three smacks to the head, he agreed to purchase a bond. He said he had previously purchased bonds in the first and second drives. (04-24-1918) Daily Independent

Saul Jacobson, an employee of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, refused to purchase a war bond. Employees dragged him to "tar alley" and applied slimy tar over his body, followed by feathers. He was then

sent to Dr. S. A. Davis for treatment. Later, Nicholas Kuch received the same procedure, after which he threatened to involve the law. (04-25-1918) Daily Independent

Nick Billy, of the Pittsburgh Steel Company Rod Mill, spoke against the United States government. He was seized by coworkers and painted green like a frog with a special paint. He was so saturated with the paint that he had to be sent to the hospital to have it removed. The mill will not put up with disloyalists, or anyone who stands in the way of winning the war. (04-25-1918) Daily Independent

Late Winter and early Spring Weddings and Engagements of 1918

Miss Julia Smith, of West Newton, and William A. Bertelman, Jr., of Monessen, wed in Pittsburgh, on February 5, 1918. (02-06-1918) Daily Independent

Joseph Papetti, of Charleroi, filed for divorce from Mary Papetti, who he married on February 27, 1906. He cited desertion, as his wife left him with two children ages four and six to join the carnival. (02-11-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Jessie Edwards, of Belle Vernon, and George Halkias, of Monessen, will marry on February 23, 1918. (02-22-1918) Daily Independent

Albert A. Bartmes and Adeline Assenat, both of Lock Four, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on February 27, 1918. (02-28-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Sarah Eakman, of Monessen, and Edward Gillespie, of Belle Vernon, were married on February 23, 1918. They will reside on Grant Street. (03-01-1918) Daily Independent

Fernon Albert, of Philadelphia, and Miss Amanda Zimmerman, of Ninth Street, Monessen, wed on March 7, 1918. (03-08-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Louise Sain, of Atlanta, Georgia, and Floyd W. Grady, of Monessen, married on March 6, 1918. (03-08-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Lillian Allison and Henry Lewis, both of Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Cumberland, MD. The groom is a roller in the Tin Mill. (03-19-1918) Daily Independent

Ella Blanche Edwards, of West Brownsville, filed for divorce from Lee Edwards, citing bigamy. (03-26-1918) Daily Independent

G. G. Ballard, of Canonsburg, will divorce Cora A. Ballard, who he married on November 15, 1905. He cites cruel and barbarous treatment for his action. (04-04-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Emma Dorothy Schmidt and J. Paul Kenney wed on April 6, 1918, in Washington, PA. The bride is a cashier for the G.C. Murphy Company, and the groom is an assistant manager . He will now change careers and become a florist in Monongahela. (04-08-1918) Daily Independent

John Pelkey and Mrs. Myrtle G. Thompson, residing near Third and Donner, were arrested for living together, to which they pled guilty. Pelkey was sent to the Greensburg jail. (04-09-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Mary Pettko and Frank Ezerski, both of Monessen, eloped and married on April 4, 1918, in Newport, Kentucky. The bride was formerly a book keeper for Hibbs and Woodward Real Estate. The groom owns a pool hall at Eleventh Street. (04-10-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Elizabeth Stevenson, of Knox Avenue, and Chauncey Warner, of Carrick, wed in Uniontown on April 10, 1918. The groom is a butcher for Jules Albert. (04-12-1918) Daily Independent

Edward McGrath and Marion Sickles, both of Donora, received a marriage license on April 12, 1918, in Pittsburgh. (04-13-1918) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Kuhn, of Speers, and George McGill, of Monessen, eloped to Wellsburg, West Virginia, and married on April 16, 1918. (04-18-1918) Daily Independent

Emmett E. Fahringer and Miss Mary Petruskie wed on April 25, 1918. The groom works for Pittsburgh Steel. (04-26-1918) Daily Independent

Late Winter and Early Spring Births of 1918

Mr. and Mrs. A. Comet, of Ninth Street, had an eight pound baby boy on January 29, 1918. (02-01-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Adams, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a nine pound baby boy on

February 4, 1918. (02-05-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Horn, of Delaware Street, had a son on February 6, 1918. (02-08-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Todaro had a baby boy on February 10, 1918. (02-11-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leclereq, of Lock Four, welcomed a nine pound son. (02-11-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Brady, of Park Way, had an eight pound baby boy on February 11, 1918. (02-11-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Menefee had a daughter on February 11, 1918. (02-13-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Max E. Hirsch, formerly of Monessen, had a nine pound baby girl. (02-20-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Boddice, of Knox Avenue, had a son on February 19, 1918. (02-22-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Traynor, of Schoonmaker, had a twelve pound baby girl on February 25, 1918. (02-26-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Yobuck, of Twelfth Street, welcomed a ten pound boy on February 26, 1918. (02-26-1918) Daily Independent

Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Herron, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy, on February 28, 1918. (03-01-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. James Traynor, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a daughter on February 26, 1918. (03-01-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. John Lear had an eight pound son on February 28, 1918. Daily Independent (03-01-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, of Morgan Avenue, had a baby boy on March 8, 1918. (03-12-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pizzuts, of Third Street, had a baby boy on March 16, 1918. (03-19-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Hixon, 1028 Division Street, had a nine and a half pound daughter, on March 22, 1918. (03-26-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Applegate, formerly of Monessen, had a nine pound baby girl. (03-29-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Myer Miller, 265 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy. (04-04-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Kline, of McKee Way, had a baby boy. Frank Bumer is the grandfather. (04-05-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Destefano, of Morgan Avenue, had a daughter on April 5, 1918. (04-09-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Seder, of 539 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a son on April 10, 1918. (04-12-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Boore, of 185 Oneida Street, had a baby boy on April 9, 1918. (04-12-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Telmage Smith, of Reed Avenue, welcomed a baby girl, on April 10, 1918. (04-13-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Theiss, of Reed Avenue, had a daughter on April 12, 1918. (04-16-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. William Reiner, Jr., of 38 Linden Avenue, had a ten and a half pound baby boy on April 17, 1918. (04-18-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Harris, of 425 Donner Avenue, had a nine pound baby boy on April 21, 1918. (04-24-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Maund, of Chestnut Street, had a nine pound baby girl on April 23, 1918. (04-24-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Herberg, of 511 Schoonmaker Avenue, welcomed a seven and a half pound baby daughter. (04-26-1918) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Powell, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a daughter on April 21, 1918. (04-26-1918) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen, of First Street, had a baby girl on April 21, 1918. (04-26-1918) Monessen News

Royal Recognition!



In July of 1946, Mrs. Leonard Ford, of 580 Schoonmaker Avenue, received a letter from the British Embassy informing her that His Majesty, George VI, King of Great Britain and Emperor of India, awards her the Medal for Service in the cause of freedom for her participation in various activities for Britain during the Second World War.

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Memorials

In memory of Stephen Sinchak and Betty Jane Sinchak given by Kathryn M. Romey (cousin)

In memory of Louis Cramer and Brenda Cramer Miller given by Dr. Malcolm Weiss

In memory of Pauline Mihalich given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas

In memory of John B. Harhai given by Ted Harhai

In memory of Leonard Babinski given by Ted Harhai

In memory of Nello Tineri given by Ted Harhai

In memory of Don Hayes given by Ted Harhai

In memory of George Statigos given by Ted Harhai

In memory of Pauline Mihalich given by Ted Harhai.



Hollywood Star is MHS Graduate!

Frances McDormand was born in Gibson City, Illinois and was adopted at one and a half years of age by a couple originally from Canada: Noreen E. (Nickleson), a registered nurse and receptionist, and Vernon W. McDormand, a Disciples of Christ pastor. She has said that her biological mother may have been one of the parishioners at Vernon's church. She has a sister, Dorothy A. McDormand, who

is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister and chaplain, as well as another sibling, both of whom were adopted by the McDormands, who had no biological children.

Because her father specialized in restoring congregations, he frequently moved their family, and they lived in several small towns in Illinois, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, before settling in Monessen, Pennsylvania, where McDormand graduated from Monessen High School in 1975. She attended Bethany College in West Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater in 1979. In 1982, she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Yale School of Drama. She was a roommate of actress Holly Hunter at the time.

McDormand's first professional acting job was in Derek Walcott's play *Trinidad and Tobago*, which was funded by the MacArthur Foundation. In 1984 she made her film debut in *Blood Simple*, the first film by the Coen brothers. In 1987, she appeared as the wacky friend Dot in *Raising Arizona*, starring Holly Hunter and Nicolas Cage. In addition to her early film roles, McDormand played Connie Chapman in the fifth season of the television police drama *Hill Street Blues*. In 1988, she played Stella Kowalski in a stage production of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, for which she was nominated for a Tony Award. McDormand is an associate member of the experimental theater company *The Wooster Group*.

After appearing in several theatrical and television roles during the 1980s, McDormand gradually gained renown and critical acclaim for her dramatic work in film. In 1988, she was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for *Mississippi Burning*. In 1996, she won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance as police chief Marge Gunderson in *Fargo*. In 2000, she

was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture for her portrayal of an overbearing mother in *Almost Famous*. For her role in *Wonder Boys* (2000), she won Best Supporting Actress from the Broadcast Film Critics Association, the Florida Film Critics Circle, and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. In 2006, McDormand received her fourth nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *North Country* (2005). The same year she won an Independent Spirit Award for her supporting role in Nicole Holofcener's dark comedy *Friends with Money* (2006). She also voiced the role of the principal Melanie Upfoot in the *Simpsons* episode "Girls Just Want to Have Sums", which aired on April 30, 2006.

In 2008, McDormand starred in the films *Burn After Reading* and *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*. She then appeared in the action movie *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, playing the US government's National Intelligence Director, alongside her *Burn After Reading* co-star John Malkovich. She returned to the stage in the David Lindsay-Abaire play *Good People*, in a limited engagement on Broadway from February 8, 2011 to May 29, 2011. Her performance earned her the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play. In the animated film *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted* (2012), she voiced Capitain Chantel Dubois and also sang a version of the French song "Non, je ne regrette rien".

McDormand starred in *Promised Land* with Matt Damon, filmed in April 2012 and released on December 28, 2012. In November 2014, HBO telecast a four-part mini-series based upon the series of short stories by Elizabeth Strout, *Olive Kitteridge*, co-produced by and starring McDormand. The role won her the Primetime Emmy Award and Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Actress. With her Emmy win, McDormand became the 12th

actress in history to achieve the Triple Crown of Acting, for competitive Oscar, Emmy and Tony Award wins in the acting categories. McDormand starred in the 2017 film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, for which she was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress and received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role. (From Wikipedia)

Greater Monessen Historical Society

Annual 2017 Financial Report

2017 was memorable year for GMHS thanks to your generosity and that of the family members of our founders, especially James M. “Ding” Schoonmaker who sponsored our celebration of the 175th birthday of Colonel Schoonmaker. The Board members sincerely appreciate all of the continued support of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and the Monessen Heritage Museum.

2017 Budget at a Glance

Due to an increase in income and by reducing expenses, we were able to improve our net budget results for GMHS by 39%.

**OVERALL BUDGET SUMMARY-
-YOY**

	2017	2016
All Income	\$49,324	\$48,794
All Expenses	(\$22,840)	(\$39,427)
Net Results	\$27,369	\$9,367

General Operating Fund Details

Income

Day of Giving Donations & Matching --
\$3,102.00

Donations/Fundraising—
\$8,203.00

Building Fund Donations --
\$1,850.00

Founders Day –
\$1,671.00

Membership Dues & Sponsorships --
\$5,665.00

Memorials --
\$570.00

Museum Shoppe & Misc. Donations
\$1,076.00

Grants and Payments

Rivers of Steel Payment --
\$7,067.00

Schoonmaker Birthday Grant --
\$15,500.00

Lucille Schoonmaker Grant --
\$5,000.00

Total Income --
\$49,324.00

2017 Expenses

Variable Expenses --
\$10,185.00

This categories includes:

- Advertising,
- Office supplies & postage,
- Purchase of a video camera to capture oral histories,

- Building maintenance & repairs

Monthly Operating Expenses --
\$12,655.00

This categories includes:

- Utilities
- Insurances & Security System
- Pest control
- No interest City Loan Payments

Total Expenses --
\$22,840.00

**In-Kind Donations—We appreciate
our Volunteers!!**

Goods --
\$1,057.00

In Kind Hours –
3,130 person hours, or 1.5 volunteers

2017 Endowment Fund

Income

Donations --
\$139.00

Interest accrued --
\$153.00

Total 2017 Income --
\$292.00

THANK YOU again for your continued support of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and Monessen Heritage Museum!

Mary Lou Simkins, Board Member and Treasurer

Thank you for your continued support!

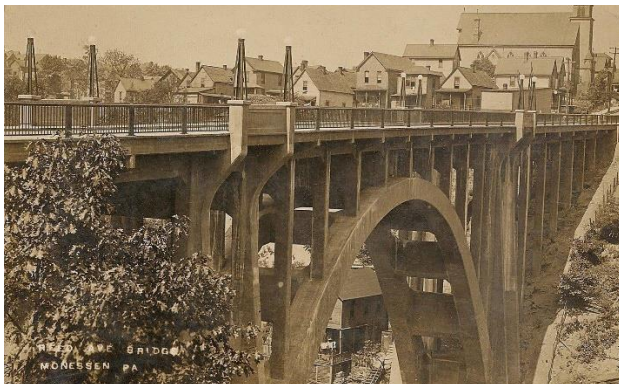
Photos from the upcoming exhibit:



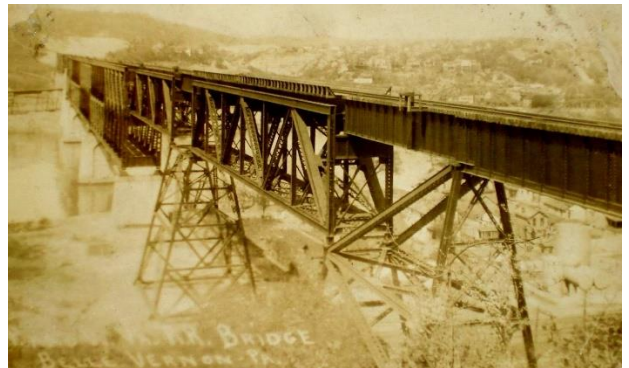
Colonel Schoonmaker's private train



Monessen Train Station, 1906



Original Reed Avenue Viaduct



Pennsylvania and West Virginia Railroad Bridge near Belle Vernon



Train Bridge over Mon River and RT.906.



Packet Columbia, 1902