

W. H. Donner

Tim Donner Joins Us!

VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society

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Vol.11 Issue 2 SPRING 2011



GMHS Board of Directors: Back row – Gary Strelick, Vice President, Dr. Martin Dudas, Daniel Zyglowicz, President, Vito Beneccio, Treasurer. Sitting – Candis Kelley, Susanna Swade, Corresponding Secretary.

Have you visited us on Facebook or checked out our webpage?

www.monessenhistoricalsociety.org

Recipient of the Arthur St. Clair Award for Historic Preservation

Buy a Window Program and Building Fund efforts continue

Thanks to everyone who has donated to buy a new window in the Museum Annex. There are still a few windows available. The cost of a single window is \$500. Soon, you will be seeing changes to the old Milsom Building. The building will be painted, and future plans call for an historical mural to be placed on the side facing the city parking lot. A new roof is also needed. Anyone wishing to donate to the building fund can do so at the Heritage Museum. We are also obtaining a portion of the Monessen Façade Grant being administered by the Chamber of Commerce. It is a matching grant, so your money can go farther. Remember also, the windows can be dedicated to the memory of a loved one by having their name appear on a plaque. Call today!

Window Donors

Ted Harhai

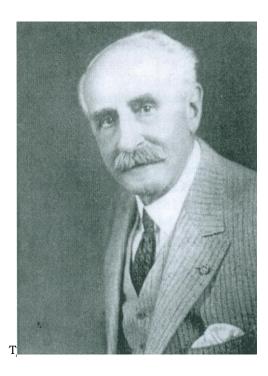
In memory of Bernard F. Zilka donated by Mildred Zilka

John and Helen Timo

In memory of Nescot and Gallo Families donated by Joseph and Mary Ann Gallo

Upcoming events!

A celebrating Home event will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at the Heritage Museum. Wouldn't you like to do a little spring redecorating? Call Susanna for further details.



Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, Hero of the Civil War

Founder's Day will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2011. This year we are planning a downtown flea market. If you have anything you wish to donate for the sale, please bring it to the Heritage Museum during business hours.

Heritage Museum operating back on regular hours

With the opening of the Carpatho-Rusyn Exhibit, the Heritage Museum is once again operating on its regular schedule. Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM until 3 PM. If for some reason, you need to visit at another time, please call us to make arrangements.

We remind everyone that admission to the Heritage Museum is free. ©

2011 Membership

The following list contains the names of those individuals, who paid their membership dues for **2011**. It **does not contain** the names of those who donated to the GMHS. It is current as of April 22, 2011. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank everyone who values local history and strives to preserve it. If any mistakes are noticed in the list, please contact the Heritage Museum, so we may correct our records.

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Walter Manning William Hubans William Smyth



Carpatho-Rusyn Exhibit

The Carpatho-Rusyn Exhibit will be on display until Saturday, July 2. GMHS has partnered with the Carpatho-Rusyn Society to present this look at what was one of the largest ethnic groups in the Greater Monessen area at the turn of the twentieth century. The Museum Shoppe has many Carpatho-Rusyn items for sale. We hope you will visit the exhibit during the next two months. Check Facebook, the homepage or the Valley Independent for upcoming special events.

Tim Donner runs for U.S. Senate

Those of you who attended the annual Public Meeting that GMHS held on March 27, 2011 were able to hear a secret that few knew about. Tim Donner, great-grandson of industrialist, William Henry Donner, sent a message to be read to those who attended. In it, he stated his intention to run for the U.S. Senate from the state of Virginia and sent his well wishes. Tim, an honorary board member of GMHS, has since thrown his hat in the ring.

Thinking about next spring

The Board of Directors is already thinking about next spring's ethnic exhibit. A suggestion was made to look at the **Jewish population of the Greater Monessen area**. Does anyone have any photographs that we may scan? Please contact us at the Heritage Museum.

Recent Donations to the Heritage Museum

Marriage certificate copy of Lorenzo Ambroseo and Maria Naccarato at St. Leonard's Church, 11-28-1907/ Ray Ambrose (Frank Galilei)

Bible & Religious books / Ed LeFevre

Mini steel radiator made at Pittsburgh Steel/Hildegard Griffith

One silver square lunch pail, one white cap with blue rim marked 1st Marine Raider, Edson's Raiders, Ladies glass decorated high shoe, wooden beer keg, decorated cake plate, wooden plate stand, Helen Yusko communion class photo (1937), Richard and Irene Sarren wedding photo, Slovak holiday poem, Slovak letter, four 78's (records), three small American flags, glass candle holder, for Xmas items, tan cloth puppy with Santa hat / Mike Yusko.

20 "Pewter Don Casar statue / Mike Mazur.

Twenty-three photos of model churches (Carpatho-Rusyn) and five photos of Mon City Russian Orthodox mass / George Mazur.

Monessen 1948 telephone directory / MPL

Monessen Golden Jubilee book, Syria Temple Book, 1947 newspaper clipping on John L. Lewis / Gloria Vagnoni.

Photo copy of Anna Blashack, photo of St. Mary's Sokol, two photos of Long Branch farm, two photos of Nicholas and Elizabeth Volosen wedding, wedding photo of Michael Malinak and Anna Cicela at St. Nicholas in Brownsville, wedding photo of Anna and Andrew Popovich, two photos of Rusyn plays at St. Mary's, wedding of Don Revak and Suzanne Ferencz and Choir photos / John Righetti.

Photo of Lincoln Elementary School 2nd Grade class, 1949-1950/ Alberta Mucy.

Bianchi Monuments advertisement, monument photos and photo of Bianchi Brothers / Carol Myers Parnell.

Monessen Chamber of Commerce program (April 27, 1974), Kneseth Israel Synagogue building committee photo (1952), 1919, bank book and interest statement, 1917 deposit slips, 1917 roofer bill and Synagogue groundbreaking newspaper article / Jack Bergstein.

Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel unloading report, Five Monessen Inc. Central steel plant report, Wood chisel handmade from Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel/Gary Strelick. Photo of the Slovak Radio Home, W.H.J.B. with eight Servinsky family members of Portage, PA / Tim Servinsky.

White framed photo of John and Mary Check Krasinsky wedding, circa 1915, George and Verona Check Cipa wedding photo framed in white, photograph of Mary Check Frasinsky Malago, her daughter Eleanor Krasinsky Stanchik and Mary's sister, Verona Cipa, framed photo of Mary Check Krasinsky Malgo with children, John and Anna Stanchik at Kennywood, photograph of Vivian Stanchik Wagner, photograph of Shirley Stanshik Beneccio, photograph of Mary Check Krasinsky Malgo / Vito Beneccio.

Biography of the late Nicholas Melissas / Jennie Melissas.

Memorials

In memory of Margaret H. Bachuchin given by Mitchell J. Bachuchin.

In memory of Margaret H. Bachuchin given by Maggie Franceschi.

In memory of Michael M. DeCurtis, Jr. given by Candis Elyanich Kelley.

Recent Inquires

Over the past three months, we have answered or received questions concerning the following:

Grocer Peter Amann

Grocer John Nelson

Stan Musial

Shadow boxes

Charles W. Shaner

Watkins Pool Marker and Shot Indicator

Monessen Vulcanizing

Kostella Family

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers May-July, 1911

The Brown Street Clock Company has applied for a permit to erect a brick or concrete building for manufacturing purposes. Their street clocks have been on the market for four years and two hundred have been built at the Donora factory. B. E. Brown, the local jeweler, hopes with the Monessen plant he can increase

production to one clock a day. Each clock weighs 1200 pounds. (May 19, 1911, Monessen News)

A tennis association has been formed with eighteen members and H. Dallas McCabe as president. A new tennis court at Eighth and Donner has been graded and only needs a whitewashed fence. (May 26, 1911, Monessen News)

The Independent Political Slavish Club has moved to 108 Third Street, into a property they purchased for \$2,500. The club has 65 Slavish-born citizens, who all own property in Monessen. Michael Sabo, a merchant, is president. (June 9, 1911, Monessen News)

Thomas B. Herron, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Herron of the Westmoreland Hotel, will graduate from the School of Medicine of the University of Pittsburgh. After passing the State Board, he will be in charge of the Monongahela Hospital for one year. (June 13, 1911, Monessen News)



Spring & early summer weddings of 1911

Gertle May Davis, age 18, was married April 29, 1911 in Virginia. Bride weighed almost 500 pounds and the groom weighs 131 pounds. She was dressed in the height of fashion with full hobble and picture hat. (Monessen News, May 2, 1911)

Miss Ella Artman and Waldon Walls, both of Vandergrift and both age 15, were granted a marriage license. Their parents express a willingness to have them married. (Daily Independent, May 9, 1911)

A marriage license was given in Pittsburgh on May 10, 1911 to Miss Bertha Kale and Julius Feldman, both of Monessen. (Monessen News, May12, 1911)

Julius Feldman and Bertha Katz, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license. (Daily Independent, May 12, 1911)

A marriage license was granted to Robert Hall, of Belle Vernon, and Margare Fidoe, of Woods Run. (Daily Independent, May 12, 1911)

A marriage license was granted in Washington to Anna Suzal, of Monessen, and John Feleske, of Charleroi. (Daily Independent, May 15, 1911)

Harry H. Lansberg and Barbara M. Brand, both of Charleroi were granted a marriage license in Washington. (Daily Independent, May 15, 1911)

A marriage license was granted in Greensburg on May 23, 1911 to Kascanty Cencorski and Helen Karprenka, both of Monessen. (Daily Independent, May 24, 1911)

Prukekeg Searach and Katie Hallem, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg on May 23, 1911. (Daily Independent, May 24, 1911)

Mr. and Mrs. George Nash celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary on June 2, 1911 at their summer home. (Daily Independent, June 3, 1911)

A marriage license was granted in Allegheny County to Carl Strauser and Mary Campbell, both of Charleroi. (Daily Independent, June 9, 1911)

The marriage of Miss Mary Alice Cosgrove, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Cosgrove, of Second St., West Braddock, and Clarence Maturin Ballou, of Monessen, occurred on June 14, 1911 in St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Braddock. (Daily Independent, June 14, 1911)

Miss Mae Moore became the bride of Ernest Dregalla on June 14, 1911 at the parsonage of Christ Lutheran Church. The bride wore pale blue satin trimmed in gold. Supper was served at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gottfred Dregella, of 187 Oneida Street. (Daily Independent, June 15, 1911)

W.D. Cleavanger, former master mechanic in the Open Hearth Dept. of Pittsburgh Steel, and Miss Winifred Brown of Charleroi were married June 16, 1911 and will live in Sanit Ste Marie, Canada. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

Robert D. Potter, asst. shipping clerk at Pittsburgh Steel will marry Miss Helen Mayer of Sunbury, PA on June 21, 1911 in Philadelphia. They will live in the Grand Hotel. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

Herman Behrendt, of Charleroi, and Miss Edith Fowler, of West Monessen, were quietly married on June 14, 1911. They will live in West Monessen. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

On Wednesday, June 14, 1911, Miss Mae Moore and Earnest Dregalla, both of Monessen, were wed. The wedding supper was served at the home of the groom's parents on Oneida Street. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

Miss Elizabeth McCollum and Jacob Entinger, both of Monessen, will marry on June 28, 1911. The bride is the daughter of James McCollum of Donner Avenue and was employed as bookkeeper at the wholesale commission house. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

Charles Doney, of Monessen, and Miss Agnes Mullen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mullen of Second Street, are engaged and will wed in St. Leonard's Church on June 29, 1911. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

Miss Mary Alice Cosgrove, of West Braddock, and C. M. Ballou, assistant manager of the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company, were married June 14, 1911 in the Catholic Church of Braddock. The wedding was one of the largest affairs ever held in that city and the guest list included hundreds. The couple will reside in Monessen after September first. (Monessen News, June 16, 1911)

William Cleavenger and Miss Winifred I. Brown, of Charleroi, surprised their friends and wed on June 15, 1911 in Pittsburgh. They will reside in Saulte Ste Marie, Canada where the groom now works. (Daily Independent, June 16, 1911) [Date and spelling vary from other article]

Miss Louis Hoyt, formerly of Monessen, and J. D. Ellis, of Lorain, Ohio, have notified Mr. and Mrs. Ashton that they were married on June 14, 1911 in Lorain. The wedding was to have taken place in September. (Daily Independent, June 17, 1911)

Miss Laura Neudorfer, of Twelfth Street, was quietly married in Pittsburgh on June 13, 1911 to Nelson Williams, of Struthers, Ohio. (Daily Independent, June 17, 1911)

Miss Elizabeth McCullom, daughter of Mr. James McCullom, of Donner Avenue, and Jacob Entinger will marry on June 21, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 17, 1911)

Max Nessamer, an employee of the Monessen, Belle Vernon and Webster Street Railway, surprised his friends by taking a two week vacation and during that time, marrying a North Belle Vernon lady in Cumberland. (Daily Independent, June 19, 1911)

J. Maurice Dalton and Miss Maude King, of Monessen, surprised their friends and relatives by marrying after leaving Sunday, June 18, 1911 to visit Miss King's parents, who had recently moved to Youngstown. Groom is employed in the office of the Tin Mill. (Monessen News, June 20, 1911)

Robert MacFarlane, of Fayette City, and Miss Ethel M. Jones, of Webster, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on June 28, 1911. (Monessen News, June 30, 1911)

Dan Rivers, the well known baseball player of Monessen, and Miss Grace Alton, of Belle Vernon, surprised their friends by marrying on July 3, 1911. They will live in Belle Vernon. The groom is an employee of the Page plant. (Monessen News, July 5, 1911)

Thomas Pendelton and Miss Serena B. Clark, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on July 6, 1911. (Monessen News, July 7, 1911)

Miss Frances Gould, the compositor of the Daily Independent, and James C. Hampton, foreman of the pipe fitting gang at Pittsburgh Steel were married on July 11, 1911 in Pittsburgh. (Monessen News, July 11, 1911)

A marriage license was granted in Greensburg on July 12, 1911 to C. W. Woodworth and Miss Grace E. Harvey, both of Monessen. The bride resigned her job as a clerk in the A. R. Ney store. The groom is manager of Woolworth's Five and Ten cent store. (Monessen News, July 14, 1911)

Bert Alexander, a weigher at Pittsburgh Steel, arrived home with a bride, the former Miss Fronie Miller, of Allenport. They were married July 12, 1911 in Clarksburg, W. V. They will reside in Monessen. (Monessen News, July 18, 1911)

Spring Birthdays and Births of 1911

Mr. and Mrs. Roland O'Rourke of Donner Avenue had a baby boy on May 1, 1911. (Monessen News, May 2, 1911)

Paymaster J. I. Smith of the Tin Mill has a ten pound baby boy on May 2, 1911. He lives on Park Avenue. (Monessen News, May 5, 1911)

An eight pound baby boy is the new addition to the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. I. Smith, of Oneida Street on May 2, 1911. (Daily Independent, May 4, 1911)

Ruth Harper MacDonald, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. O. MacDonald, of McKee Avenue, celebrated her sixth birthday with a pink and white party on May 4, 1911. Ice cream was served in flower pots with a flower placed in the center. (Daily Independent, May 5, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. Watson Shepler, of Donner Avenue, have a new son. (Daily Independent, May 10, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. David Brown, of East Monessen, are the parents of a little daughter. (Daily Independent, May 10, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Fitzgerald, of Reed Avenue, have a baby boy. (Daily Independent, May 10, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Joseph, of Knox Avenue, announce the arrival of a son. (Daily Independent, May 10, 1911)

A nine pound daughter was born May 11, 1911 to Mr. & Mrs. Max Eidleert, of 7 Donner Avenue. (Daily Independent, May 13, 1911)

John Martin, of 119 Third Street, had an eleven pound son on May 13, 1911. (Daily Independent, May 13, 1911)

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Irwin, of Latrobe, had a set of twins (boy and girl). The father was formerly a Monessen Borough engineer, and the mother was a public school teacher for three or four years. (Monessen News, May 19, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Kirk of Fourth Street had a baby boy May 17, 1911. (Monessen News, May 19, 1911)

There is a new daughter at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Sheetz, who arrived on May 23, 1911. They have six children. (Daily Independent, May 24, 1911)

Mrs. J. C. Flack, of 372 Donner Avenue, was given a surprise birthday party on May 24, 1911 by the ladies of the Roscoe Methodist church. (Daily Independent, May 26, 1911)

William Landers celebrated his twenty-first birthday with a surprise party on May 25, 1911. His mother gave him a diamond ring, while his friends gave him cuff link set and stick pin. (Monessen News, May 26, 1911)

William Landers, of 38 Linden Avenue, celebrated his twenty-first birthday with a surprise party on May 25, 1911. Guests were members of the Phi Alpha Fraternity and the colors of purple and gold were used. (Daily Independent, May 26, 1911)

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Newcomer of Reed Avenue had a baby girl on May 25, 1911. (Monessen News, May 26, 1911)

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sheetz had a baby girl at the Sheetz Hotel on May 23, 1911. (Monessen News, May 26, 1911)

William Gould's first birthday was celebrated by his grandmother, Mrs. John Allen and her friends on June 6, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 6, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Walker had a son on June 8, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 10, 1911)

Ex-Burgess Shutterly had a ten pound daughter on June 12, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 13, 1911)

Rev. & Mrs. G. H. Eveler, of Oneida Street, are the parents of a daughter, who arrived June 13, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 16, 1911)

Florence Sherwin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Sherwin, celebrated her sixth birthday on June 16, 1911. Daisies and the colors of red and green were used. (Daily Independent, June 19, 1911)

A nine pound boy was born to Mr. & Mrs. James O. Boag, of 49 East Donner Avenue. Father is a fence maker in the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (Daily Independent, June 20, 1911)

Robert G. Stephens, Jr., of Reed Avenue, celebrated his sixth birthday on June 26, 1911. (Daily Independent, June 28, 1911)

Gertrude Richards, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Richards, celebrated her sixteenth birthday on July 5, 1911. Pink and green decorations added to the occasion. (Daily Independent, July 7, 1911)

Rowena Jones, daughter of David Jones, enjoyed a surprise birthday party on July 11, 1911. (Daily Independent, July 12, 1911)

Miss Rowena Jones was surprised with a birthday party on July 11, 1911 at the home of her father, David Jones. (Monessen News, July 14, 1911)

Elizabeth Skirpan, daughter of Mrs. Pauline Skirpan, celebrated her sixteenth birthday on July13, 1911 at home on Schoonmaker Avenue. The dining room was decorated in pink and white with white carnations. (Daily Independent, July 15, 1911)

On July 15, 1911, Mrs. John H. Allen celebrated her birthday at her home on Reed Avenue. A four course dinner was served. (Daily Independent, July 18, 1911)

Doris Hoffman, of Reed Avenue, celebrated her seventeenth birthday on July 19, 1911. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Hoffman. (Daily Independent, July 22, 1911)

Dr. E. B. Slotereck had a baby boy on July 22, 1911. It was his first. (Daily Independent, July 22, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. Chauncey Duvall had a baby boy, William Lawrence, on July 25, 1911. (Daily Independent, July 26, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. William Cornelius, of First Street, had a baby boy on July 25, 1911. (Daily Independent, July 28, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Amann are the parents of a baby girl, who arrived July 26, 1911. (Monessen News, July 28, 1911)

A baby daughter has arrived at the home of Rm. & Mrs. Peter Amann. (Daily Independent, July 29, 1911)

Mr. & Mrs. Chauncey S. Duvall had a baby boy on July 25, 1911. (Monessen News, July 28, 1911)

Louise Kuder, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Kuder, of Second Street, celebrated her eleventh birthday on July 28, 1911. (Daily Independent, July 29, 1911)

Volunteers are always welcome! Come join our award-winning team!



First National Bank – 6th and Donner



Monessen Savings and Trust Company – 5th and Donner

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