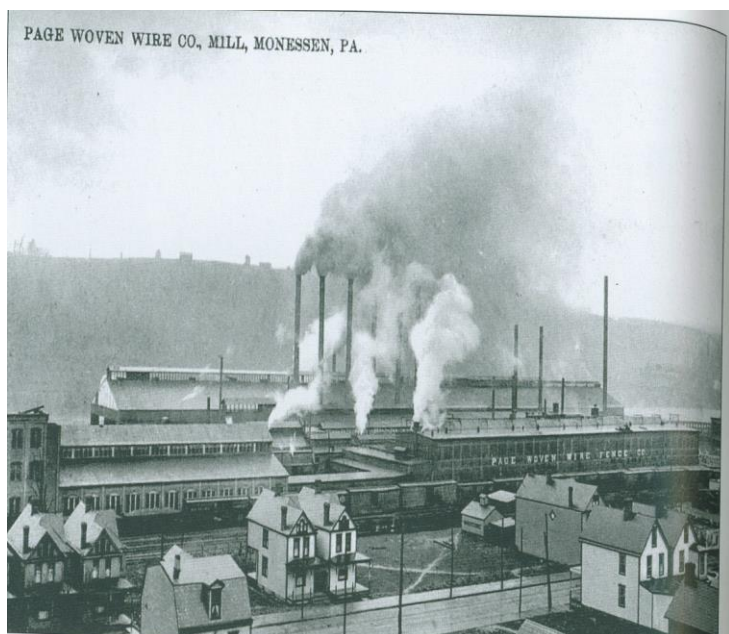


VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society
505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062
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Coming soon: Veterans on display

Thanks to John Billy and his committee, Monessen will host the Valley's annual Veteran's Day Parade this November. John has asked downtown Monessen to bring out the red, white and blue for the event. The Greater Monessen Historical Society is cooperating by designating the theme of the autumn exhibit in the Heritage Museum as "Veterans". We are asking our friends to loan us photos of our veterans or of wartime activities in the Greater Monessen area. Bring in your military memorabilia.



"Old Monessen" on Display

The summer exhibit of 2009 opened on Saturday, June 25 at the Heritage Museum. Facilitated by Candis Kelley, the exhibit is a walk down Memory Lane. Simplicity was the key, as Candis and the GMHS volunteers prepared this exhibit. As you enter the Museum, J. Wallace Page looks down upon you on your right, while the members of the East Side Land Company are found on the left. The front display window has Monessen High School Band uniforms from days gone past. You can almost hear the pep rally music playing. ☺ The MHS yearbooks are on display and a pot of coffee is brewing in the back. Sit down and reminisce. **Tell us what you remember.** The uniform from the old Monessen Manos Theatre is displayed in the large lighted display case. The Hugo Parente photo albums are nearby. The back of the room is dedicated to the old Golden Rule Days of our schools. Our carefully chosen items from our archival collection, as well as those loaned by our many friends, bring back so many memories. Please take time from your summer fun to visit the Monessen Heritage Museum.



Thank you Dorothy!

The Polish Exhibit facilitated by Dorothy Jozwiak and her wonderful committee was a complete success. In fact, it was one of our most popular exhibits and a fitting tribute to the memory of the Polish immigrants, who settled the Greater Monessen area. We thank everyone who assisted in any way. We are currently working on creating DVDs that document the educational programs, the exhibit and the dinner festivities. They will be available for purchase at a future date. Serdecznie dziękuję!

As an aside to the Polish Exhibit, Bishop David A. Zubik, of the Pittsburgh Diocese, will celebrate a mass on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 7 PM in St. Paul's Cathedral in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. The mass is in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Patroness of Poland and of Polish-Americans. All are invited.

Pampered Chef night

A big thank you to everyone, who participated in our Pampered Chef fundraiser. It was another success.

Free Admission

We remind everyone that admission to the Heritage Museum is free. Donations are always appreciated though. ☺



City operations move to the Health Center

As Monessen City operations move from the 1927 historic City Hall building to the handicap accessible Health Center, the city leaders are not forgetting the Greater Monessen Historical Society. Historic photos and items that tell the story of Monessen's past are being packed and shipped to the Heritage Museum. We thank the City for remembering to preserve our past.



Distinguished Honoree Award winner

The Greater Monessen Historical Society has unanimously chosen Dr. Martin Dudas as the recipient of its Distinguished Honoree Award for this year's Mon River Communities Cruise. The award recognizes individuals for their civic contributions and support.

Dr. Dudas was born and raised in Monessen and is the son of the late Dr. Joseph Sr. and Mary Mayernick Dudas. He attended the former Most Holy Name of Jesus Parochial School, where he was awarded the American Legion Award and the Boy Scout's Eagle Scout award. While enrolled in Monessen High School, he spent his

junior year as a congressional page to U.S. Representative Augustine B. Kelley in Washington, D. C. Martin Dudas earned his bachelor's, master's and doctor of dental medicine degrees at the University of Pittsburgh, where he specialized in orthodontics. He joined the family dental practice in Monessen, and also taught at the University of Pittsburgh Dental School. In addition, he had offices in Johnstown and Somerset and held positions in the Cambria and Somerset dental societies. He sat on the boards for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Greensburg and Delta Dental of Pennsylvania. He is board certified and a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontists. Martin Dudas is a member of the American Orthodontic, Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Orthodontic Societies. He is also a member of the American and Pennsylvania Dental Associations. He is chairman of the Monessen Parks Restoration Committee, a member of the Monessen Redevelopment Authority, Monessen's Let's Work Together Committee and the Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society. He sits on the board of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. He is also a councilman-elect for the City of Monessen. Martin Dudas volunteers for Meals on Wheels and is a member of the Epiphany of the Lord Parish. He is a fourth degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus organization and a life member of the Monessen Elks. Although semi-retired, he continues practicing orthodontics part-time at the offices of Drs. Belasco, Ober and Associates in Belle Vernon. He is married to Madeline Dandrea Dudas. The Historical Society is very lucky to have Marty on our team!



Networking continues with Cruise

As part of our ongoing commitment to network with our counterparts, as well as other groups and agencies, the GMHS joined together with five communities located along the Monongahela River for a river cruise on the Empress, part of the Gateway Clipper fleet on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. The three hour cruise originated in Monongahela at the Aquatorium. A dinner buffet of chicken, ham, salad, vegetables and dessert was served to the 300 guests. The Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation hosted the event and was assisted by the Greater Monessen Historical Society, Donora Smog Committee, Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce, Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce and Monongahela Historical Society. GMHS sold approximately 60 tickets.

History along the Monongahela

The six area groups who cooperated to sponsor the Monongahela River cruise are sponsoring another interesting weekend event in early November. Over the weekend of November 6, 7, and 8, 2009, from 10 A.M. through 6 P.M., the group is encouraging everyone to drive and visit participating historical sites along the Monongahela River to learn about our rich historical heritage. Pick up a card at one of thirteen participating locations and have it stamped at seven of the locations. Drop it in the special box at the last site you visit. Look for the "Welcome Pineapple" at participating locations. For further information call the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (724) 785-9331 or the Donora Smog Commemorative Committee 724-379-7387.





Looking for school photos

The Historical Society is looking for photos of the many old school buildings that were located in the various neighborhoods throughout the city. We have no photos of the Washington Elementary, Ben Franklin or Linden Avenue schools. We also are interested in photos showing school activities. If there are any school photos in your albums, please locate them and bring them to the Heritage Museum during regular business hours (Wed. through Sat from 10 AM until 3 PM). We will copy them and return them unharmed.

Postcards

The Heritage Museum sells postcards of old Monessen sites in the Museum Shoppe, but we have had requests to create new ones. What would you like us to make? Do you have any suggestions? Schools, Businesses, Parks, etc?

Museum Shoppe

In addition to postcards, Susanna Swade has stocked the Museum Shoppe with local history books and ethnic cookbooks. They make wonderful birthday gifts.



We have been searching for some time for a good Italian cookbook, and we finally found one. Our "Touch of Italy" cookbook is spiral bound and contains delicious Italian recipes for Pasta Primavera, Biscotti, and stuffed

artichoke. Just \$10.00. Call Susanna today at 724-684-8460. Supplies are limited. We have had to reorder the locally produced Polish cookbook. Come in and see our complete line of different ethnic cookbooks. We also have some new items to offer: Greyhound magnets, mugs, tote bags and pens.

Are you retired and looking for a challenge?

We are looking for someone with organizational and managerial skills, who is able to come either two or three days a week and oversee the day to day operations of the Heritage Museum (mail, greet visitors, assist volunteers, etc.). If you are willing to share your time for local history, get in touch with us.

Membership

There has been some confusion over our membership cycle. The membership year runs from January through December. If you send in your membership in August, renewal will be in January. Please renew promptly, so you do not miss an issue of the newsletter. The Museum may be closed in January and February, but we continue working behind the scenes getting ready for the annual spring ethnic exhibit. We send out four newsletters per year. We need you as part of our family. We are excited to say we currently have 244 individuals & family members.



GMHS represented at Bridge discussions

Gary Strelick, our Vice President, has been attending the talks with PennDOT concerning the fate of the Charleroi-Monessen Bridge. We hope there will be a viable bridge connecting the Charleroi side to expedite commerce and safety as soon as possible.

Founders Day a success!

This year's Founders Day festivities were a success, even with a passing rain shower. We remembered the original Monessen Land Sale Day of July 27, 1897, by holding our celebration on Saturday, July 25. Candis Kelley, who facilitated the Old Monessen Exhibit, had a starring role. We presented an original local play, "Aristotle

Aristobulus" written by Emeritus Professor, Dr. Charles R. Thomas in our second floor library area. Standing room only!!!! Downstairs, lunch was available with our own version of Isaly's chipped ham sandwiches with a pickle and a glass of lemon drink. In the afternoon, Professor Will Pigg delivered a talk on George Washington and his relationship with Westmoreland County. The lecture was sponsored by a grant from the Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections Grant Program through Westmoreland Heritage.



John B. Head, who later became a judge, delivered the keynote address for the East Side Land Co. at the Monessen Land Sale Day of 7/27/1897.

Grants

The Greater Monessen Historical Society was granted a \$125.00 Technical Assistance Grant that was used to purchase three training CDs for our Past Perfect software system.

Please make an effort to visit the Historical Society.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspaper



The newspaper reports that chicken thieves are operating in Rostraver Township.

William Bertleman celebrated his fiftieth birthday at his home on Reed Avenue, August 6, 1909. Twenty-five friends surprised him with the party. A double quartette from the German Beneficial Union furnished the music.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union raised \$18.00 to purchase a force pump for repairing the well on Sixth Street. They hope those, who use the pure water, will be careful with the pump, as this is the second time it has been repaired in three years.

The new Barker Building at the corner of Donner and Sixth is being erected of concrete, tile and brick.

Mr. and Mrs. John Staudenmayer of Schoonmaker Avenue celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on August 16, 1909. It was planned by the ladies of the German Lutheran Church.

The Monessen Relief Society, an organization that takes care of the indigent and poor of the town, will have an ice cream social at the corner of Knox Avenue and Ninth Street on August 28, 1909. Mrs. John Warner is president. There are about thirty five members.

Manager Cowan of Monessen's Bijou Theatre will only show movies that have passed the New York Board of Censorship. He is also installing new seats in the Theatre.

The East Side Land Company and the Monessen Water Company have moved from the Loeb Building at 523 Donner Avenue to the old First National Bank Building at the corner of Eighth Street and Donner Avenue.

The German Beneficial Union Band was organized September 12, 1909 in the German Hall. J. G. Staudenmayer was elected president. A. Pancook was chosen as band leader.



The Monessen Grand United Order of Odd Fellows celebrated the anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln in 1863. The celebration was held at Eldora Park on September 14, 1909.

J. H. Adams, former principal of Monessen's Jefferson High School and currently associated with the Motz Lumber Company, has resigned to accept a chair of science in the California Normal School faculty. He will teach physics and chemistry.

F. R. Price, prosperous Rostraver Township farmer, brought the first pumpkin of the season to town on October 1, 1909. It weighed 72 pounds and is on display in the window of the A. M. Thatcher store.

R.W. Litzinger, well known druggist, has opened another drug store in a room of the Sheetz Hotel annex. The new store will be in the charge of L. E. Greenawald, a graduate pharmacist.



On October 12, 1909, the Monessen Italian Society will have a Columbus Day parade with 1,500 men marching. Frank and Tom Parnelli will be grand marshals. Three brass bands will participate. A free concert will be held at the corner of Third Street followed by a dance and speeches in the Italian Hall. A field and track meet will occur in the afternoon.

L.L. Reeves has become the local distributor for the Mitchell Motor Cars. Model R, a roadster, sells for \$1,100. Model T, a touring car, sells for \$1350. Both models have a 4 cycle motor with 30-35 horse power. A demonstration car is expected to arrive in November.

The Jeffersonian Literary Society had a piano duet with Virginia Stuckey and Allison Leathers on October 22, 1909. Albert Ney and Helen Bowlin (negative) debated William Gregg and Ethel Gantt (positive) on the subject "Resolved that such celebrations as the Hudson-Fulton

should not be encouraged. Ney and Bowlin won. Wayne Frye gave a recitation, while Allison Leathers read an essay. Mirion Reamer was elected president.

Jules E. Albert will open a grocery and general merchandise store at 910 Knox Avenue on October 30, 1909.



Unknown boys broke into the Jefferson High School as part of a Halloween prank and put limburger cheese in the desks. The superintendent of schools will launch an investigation as to which store sold the cheese and to whom.

Miss Reah Seanor served as hostess for a Halloween party at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Fifteen bonneted ghosts enjoyed the lunch, games and music.



Fall Weddings of 1909

Miss Grace Stillman of Bay City, Michigan and Mr. Phillip Joseph of Monessen were married August 4, 1909. Mr. Joseph came to Monessen two years ago and purchased the Stillman Department Store. The couple will temporarily live in the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Miss Catherine Cooper and John R. Handlan, Jr. were married in Cambridge Springs on August 26, 1909. The bride is a Monessen school teacher, while the groom works in the offices of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company.

Dr. H. Inberg and Miss Mary Steadman, both of Monessen, went to Erie to marry.

Hugh Fleming and Miss Celestia McKenna celebrated their wedding September 1, 1909 at 6 AM in St.

Leonard's church. The bride is employed as a collector of the Bell Telephone Company. The groom is a machinist at the Page Mill.

On September 4, 1909, Herman Emil Mullolan and Miss Helmi Ojutkangas will wed in the Finnish Hall. Mr. Mullolan works in the Tin Mill. The bride was formerly the head sales lady at Phil Joseph's Dry Goods Store.

Chas A. Dugan of Monessen and Miss Mary Smythe of Allenport were married September 4, 1909 at St. Jerome's Church in Charleroi. Breakfast was held at the Wilbur Hotel. Mr. Dugan is a roller at the Carnegie Hoop mill.

George Williams of Monessen and Miss Annie Shriber of Pittsburgh were married August 30, 1909 in Hazelwood. The groom is a machinist at Pittsburgh Steel.

On September 20, 1909, Arthur Johnson, the owner of the Cash Meat Market wed Miss Charlotte Lentz of McKeesport. They are temporarily living in the May Hotel. Bride was until her wedding in charge of the free treatment of tuberculosis at McKeesport.

John Doran of Monessen and Miss Mamie Hemsey of Washington, PA were married on October 4, 1909. The groom works at the Star Café.

Roy Drake married Miss Margaret Shaffer on October 9, 1909 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Miss Georgiana Eggers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eggers of Uniontown will marry Chas Thomas of Donora on October 27, 1909. The groom is the cashier of the Bank of Donora. The bride's father was formerly president of the Monessen Savings and Trust Company.

Carl C. Henry and Miss Etta Cater, both of Monessen, were married October 12, 1909 in the Presbyterian manse. The groom is an engineer for Pittsburgh Steel.

Miss Lucy A. Black of Pawtucket, Massachusetts is engaged to Urban A. Mullin. He works in the chemical laboratories of Pittsburgh Steel. Their wedding will be an event of the Christmas Season.



Have some free time?

We have recruited some wonderful volunteers but are always looking for additional ones to help. Do you know someone who has free time? Do you want to join a group

of dedicated people interested in local history? We work together for the common good. **Volunteer today.**

Class Reunion Time

The Monessen High School Class of 1947 will be having a tour of the Old Monessen exhibit on Saturday, August 15, 2009. On Friday, August 21, 2009, the Class of 1952 will spend time at the Heritage Museum and enjoy a walk down memory lane.

Are you doing fall cleaning?

Don't forget the Heritage Museum when going through the cellar or attic for fall cleaning time. We want those photographs or school mementos. Remind your neighbors that we are here and want to preserve the memories of the Greater Monessen area.

Upcoming Projects

Visit the Historical Society at Monessen's upcoming Cultural Heritage Days, September 11, 12, and 13. We will have a tent.

Some recent donations to the Archives

Three Groundbreaking shovels (River Launch, Maronda Homes, Riverpoint Green Energy Complex), Pgh. Steel 1937 calendar, Pgh. Steel fence catalog, MHS hallway tile and aerial photos of Monessen: Ted Harhai

Linden School brick: Matt Shorraw

Two photos of Holy Name School children with violins from 1933: Michael Martin

Photo of WWII honor roll: Eleanor Musial

MHS Class of 1957 stadium blanket: Kay Neimi

Two WWII ration book and Citizen's Defense Corps arm band: Aladene Carcelli Emerson

Hand crocheted doilies: Florence Stimako

Photo of superintendents of Pgh. Steel: Marge Farr

Asst. postcards and old greeting cards: Clifford Jones

May crowning photo: Tom Powlowsky

Photo of Monessen City Council in 1966, JFK inaugural Address and map of S.W. Pennsylvania from 1749-1799: John Billy

1919 MHS yearbook: Jim Spar

MHS football programs from 1920's: Joyce Wassilchak

Photo of Gemmil Hospital operating room in 1926: Nancy Gemmil Brownell

Monessen Centennial Sweatshirt: Susanna Swade

Greyhound needlepoint handbag: Clarita Billick

MHS fire photos: Eva Williams Ross

Monessen Girl Scout materials: Nancy Horvath

Bulletin board: Mike Mazur

MHS winter band jacket: Janet Salay

Dan's Archives



William Evans, a prominent Rostraver Township figure and veteran of the War of the Rebellion, died on September 29, 1909 at home in Webster, PA. He became ill with hemorrhages of the stomach on September 18, but was well enough to celebrate his 65th birthday a few days later.

He was born in Elizabeth, the son of John Evans, who emigrated from England and settled in Allegheny County. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in Company E, 155th Pennsylvania Regiment. He was wounded in the face and arm at the Battle of Cold Harbor.

Forty-two years ago, he settled in Webster and married Miss Minerva Evans, the daughter of Nelson Evans. They were married in 1866 and had twelve children. Two died young, and Samuel, a third child, dropped dead at age 28, while chasing a train.

In Webster, Evans was twice elected road supervisor and served as township constable for nine years. He was a member of the Monongahela G.A. R.

He is survived by his widow and the following children: William N. of Charleroi and John E., Clarence L., Charles W., and Harry F., who are all married. Howard S., Foster F. and George G. at home and his daughter, Mrs. Roy Grims of Clarksburg, West Virginia. There is also a

brother, Samuel Evans of Baltimore and a sister, Mrs. John Sherwood of New Brighton.

Funeral services will be held October 3, 1909 with burial in Salem Cemetery near Webster.

Monessen Statistics in 1913

The Pennsylvania Industrial Statistics of 1913-1914 lists Monessen's estimated population as 18,752. There are 5,475 foreigners of voting age and 2,496 aliens of voting age. The book also shows Monessen has 232 African Americans with 27 attending school.



Monessen to host Architectural Design Challenge

Vito Beneccio, our treasurer, has been involved in discussions to have the 2009 Westmoreland County Architectural Design Challenge held in Monessen. We have heard that Monessen has been chosen as the site! This fall, middle school students will come to Monessen to design a new use for an old building. The committee is considering the former Monessen Savings and Trust Company building for the competition.

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