



William H. Donner

VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society

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Vol.12 Issue 1 WINTER 2012



Remembering the Titanic and the local people who were on the ship – 100 years after the tragedy

We encourage you to dress in period-style clothing, either the elegance of First Class or the simplicity of the Third Class Steerage travelers.

Ladies: Wear your fanciest hat just like Mrs. John Jacob Astor did as she boarded the Titanic with her new husband on the return from their honeymoon or just pull out Baba's babushka and put it on.

Six passengers listed Monessen, Pennsylvania as their destination. Another seven listed Coal Center, Pennsylvania as to the location to where they were traveling. The Monessen travelers were: Pekka Pietari Hakkarainen, age 28, Elin Matilda Hakkarainen, age 24, Helga Elisabeth Lindqvist Hirvonen, age 22, Hildur Elisabeth Hirvonen, age 2, Eiriik Jussila, age 32 and Eino William Linqvist, age 20. They were all Finnish and traveling Third Class (Steerage). The Coal Center travelers were: Susanna Juhantytar Riihivuori, Ernesti Panula, age 16, Jaakko Panula, age 14, Juha Panula, age 7, Maria Panula, age 41, Urho Panula, age 2, and William Panula, age 1, who were traveling here to join their husband and father. Pekka Hakkarainen perished in the sinking, as did all of the Coal Center travelers. It would take days for news of the tragedy to reach the Mon Valley.

Join us for the Titanic Experience!

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, one hundred years to the day, the Greater Monessen Historical Society will hold a recreation of the last dinner served in the first class dining room of the luxury liner RMS Titanic. The menu will feature hors d'oeuvres, Punch Romaine, beef barley soup, spring mix salad, chicken, beef, potatoes, peas, carrots, celery, fresh fruit, chocolate and vanilla éclairs, and coffee. All are items that were served on that fateful night one hundred years ago. **Tickets are \$40. The event will be held in Jozwiak Hall at the Monessen St. Vincent DePaul Society building on Grand Boulevard. Cocktail hour will be from 5-6 PM with dinner served at 6:15 PM. Enjoy the ragtime music played that night.**

John Sawa, a local Titanic expert, will display his large collection of Titanic memorabilia and discuss the unsinkable ship. It will truly be an historic and memorable evening.

Have you paid your dues or helped the Society with a donation?

Join the 500 CLUB!

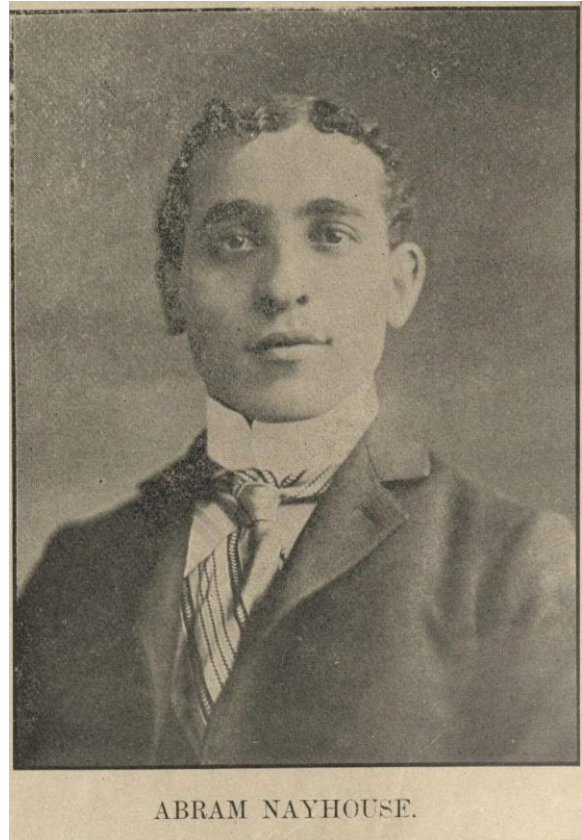
With the coming of spring, the yearly membership renewal and fund campaign will be ending. We thank everyone who has paid their membership and donated a little extra to help operate the Heritage Museum. Thanks to your assistance in the past year, we were able to make great progress on the future home for the museum annex. The corner building looks great! But there is much work that needs done. The building needs an HVAC system, new wiring, plumbing, flooring, ceilings, walls, insulation, waterproofing, etc. We can only proceed with your help. The Historical Society is ALL OF YOU! **Send in \$500 and join the exclusive club of Museum Annex Boosters.** Have your name remembered on a plaque with other donors. It is also important that all of you renew your membership each year, and if possible, make a contribution to either the Building Fund or the General Operating Fund. In these difficult times, every dollar counts. Please send your membership and donation today!



Nayhouse Brothers Store

Jewish Exhibit to open March 11

The annual spring ethnic exhibit will pay tribute to the Jewish immigrants of the Greater Monessen area. The Heritage Museum will display photos, items and memorabilia that tell the story of the Jewish contributions to the history of the Mon Valley. If anyone has items to loan or donate for the coming exhibit, please call the Museum at 724-684-8460.



Annual Society Public Meeting to be March 11 also

Mark your calendars! The annual public meeting of the membership of the Greater Monessen Historical Society will be held on Sunday, March 11 at 1:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served. The president will discuss the coming events for 2012. Each board member will talk about their area of responsibilities and suggestions will be solicited from the audience. The treasurer will present the budget to the membership. Following the meeting, the new Mon Valley Jewish Exhibit will be opened for viewing.

Regular Museum hours begin Wednesday, March 13.

With the opening of the annual spring ethnic exhibit, the hours of the Monessen Heritage Museum return to their usual times of Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM until 3 PM. We hope you will stop and visit while downtown. The coffee pot is on and we may even have some cookies to offer. ☺ Stop in and say hello!

California University of PA and Library of Congress - Teaching with partner with GMHS film veteran stories

Following suggestions from Monessen residents, the Historical Society and the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Department at California University of PA have partnered to preserve the stories of local soldiers. A professional crew supplied by the University comes each Wednesday to interview and film the war stories and experiences of local soldiers. If you are interested in having your story preserved in the Library of Congress, please contact the Heritage Museum right away to schedule an interview. A copy of the dvd of each veteran will be housed in Washington, D.C. at the Library of Congress, in Louis L. Manderino Library, California University of PA and in the archives of the Monessen Heritage Museum.

Window decorations and Mannequins needed

If anyone has any large plastic light up holiday decorations that they do not use or need, the Museum would like to have them. We also need store mannequins for our windows. The Christmas decorations in the Annex Building were all loaned to brighten the corner for the holiday season. We need **large pieces** for the rest of the year. If they are taking up space in your garage or cellar and are in good condition, please consider donating them to the Museum for future use. We want the windows to sparkle from St. Valentine's through Easter, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and of course, Christmas.

Thank you to our Christmas elf

Once again, Shirley Beneccio with help from Vito created an enchanted look back at a long ago Monessen Christmas in the Heritage Museum main window to the left of the entrance. This year's theme was "Babies". Shirley loves recreating the way Christmas was celebrated in the elegant homes of McKee Avenue at the turn of the century. We received so many wonderful comments. I'm sure Shirley is already planning what she will do in 2012. She also did the nativity theme in the smaller window. **Who noticed the sleeping shepherd in the display?**

Passover Dinner Demonstration

In past years, we have found that food demonstrations and ethnic dinners are very popular with our membership and friends. We did demonstrations of Slovak cooking, a Polish Easter Basket meal, and the African American dinner, among others. This year in conjunction with the Mon Valley Jewish Exhibit, we will

have a Passover Dinner demonstration. Jack Bergstein is facilitating the event. We thank Jack for all his assistance, as we did the preliminary planning of the exhibit last year. Seating will be limited at the Museum. If interested, please call the Museum to reserve your seat. Further details will be published in the newspapers, on the website and on Facebook.

Tupperware to be featured

Susanna Swade is planning a Sunday gathering on March 4, 2012 at 2 PM that will feature the storage saver, Tupperware. Who doesn't need good food storage materials? The Historical Society will receive part of the proceeds from the event, so any purchases will benefit both you and GMHS. Jill Seleprechak, an area representative of Tupperware, will offer her expertise. Call Susanna at the Museum to make a reservation.

Monessen Sports Hall of Fame

A local group is interested in starting a Monessen Sports Hall of Fame to recognize the athletes of Monessen High School that reached above and beyond to achieve success. The Board of Directors has been approached to see if space is available to host the site. We support the idea and will assist the group in moving forward. As always, anyone wishing to donate local sports memorabilia is asked to bring it to the Heritage Museum during regular business hours.

Calling all volunteers

As you can see, the Greater Monessen Historical Society is planning a full slate of activities this year. To achieve this goal, we need additional helpers. Are you available? What about friends, neighbors, relatives? **We need everyone!** You can volunteer for special events, come weekly, daily or only when needed. What about being a chairperson? Get involved! Call today! Take ownership and be a part of our family..... ☺

Help us by loaning those old photos!

The Historical Society is planning to publish a photo book of old Monessen in the near future. We need photographs and know you have some in the cedar chest or dresser drawer. ☺ Please find them and let us borrow the photos for the book. Claudia Martucci has once again stepped forward and volunteered to facilitate the project. Thanks Claudia! We want this to be the best book ever published about our town!

Greater Monessen Historical Society January-December 2011 Financial Report

Income

CD Transfer	\$1,409.65
Events/Exhibits	\$1,510.00
Fundraising	\$13,841.53
Interest Earned	\$47.87
Membership Dues	\$5,015.00
Memorials	\$505.00
Misc. Donations	\$1,230.65
Museum Shoppe	\$5,051.45
Other Income	\$114.00
Pittsburgh Paints Grant	\$200.00
Sale of Society Property	\$9,447.00
Westmoreland Gives	1,777.51
Window Campaign	\$7,600.00

Total Income **\$47,749.66**

Expenses

Advertising	\$760.80
Building Permits	\$226.00
Concrete Block (2 Windows)	\$700.00
Copiers	\$1,783.50
Door Locks	\$62.00
Dumpsters	\$1,031.57
Electric	\$1,673.04
Equipment/Software	\$1,073.58
Events	\$347.25
Exhibits	\$344.71
1 st Floor Windows (Glass Block)	\$995.00
1 st Floor Show Windows	\$1,657.00
Gas	\$806.00
General Administrative Costs	\$1,088.77
Insurance	\$1,403.00
Library Archives	\$165.54
Loan Payments	\$1,920.00
Maintenance/Renovations	\$548.00
Museum Shoppe	\$3,824.94
Office Supplies/Printing	\$1,601.58
Paint Supplies	\$200.36
Pest Control	\$210.72

Phone and Internet	\$1,261.27
Postage	\$1,184.97
Professional Dues	\$227.00
Roof	\$9,565.00
Royalties	\$121.00
2 nd Floor Windows	\$3,406.07
2 nd Floor Windows (Labor)	\$4,550.00
Security System	\$300.00
Sewage and Garbage	\$571.00
Trans-First Credit Card	\$1,647.43
Water	\$290.95
Website	\$374.88

Total Expenses **\$45,922.93**

In-Kind Donations

General In-Kind Donations	\$854.69
Painting (Exterior)	\$2,200.08
Paint (30 gallons at \$45 a gallon)	\$1,350.00
Youth Works (2 nd Floor Demolition)	\$3,654.00

**Thank you for your continued support of the
Greater Monessen Historical Society and
Monessen Heritage Museum.**

**Vito C. Beneccio,
Board Member and Treasurer**

You HAD the 1962-1963 issues of the Hound Newspaper? ☺

In answer to a members request for issues of the 1962-1963 MHS Hound Newspapers, we received a reply from Jack Demchak, a 1963 graduate and webmaster for the 1963 MHS Class Website. He has the issues available for downloading directly from the website. To access the web page, click on "Trivia", then click on the tab labeled "The Hound". The issues have been scanned and saved in Adobe PDF format. Check the website out at the following: www.mhs1963.com.nu Thank you!!!!!!

“Unbelievably Ugly Maroon Gym Suit”

Christine Zerambo, MHS Class of 1960, inquires if anyone still has their “Unbelievably Ugly Maroon Gym Suit”. The class will have their 70th Birthday Party in September of 2012, and she wants to model it! She also wants to know who was responsible for making the students wear one of the most hideous pieces of clothing on earth? ☺ ☺ ☺

Recent Donations to the Heritage Museum

Vintage gas heater, circa 1944 and air raid warden hat from WWII / Don Kerns.

Two Monessen Valley Independent War Memorial papers, May 4, 2001 and July 23, 2001 / Stephen Chromulak.

Five color photos of Monessen Memorial Stadium, Page Steel Company, Memorial Plaque, Men at lunch at Page Steel / Mike Mazur.

A packet containing fifteen downtown Pittsburgh postcards / Mary Gilman.

Laminated form of the School District of the City of Monessen, General Obligation Bond for \$1000, signed on March 1, 1977 by Joseph M. Dudas, Secretary / John Dudas.

Alfred Hazelbaker photograph, Baby photograph of Boyd Feightner, photo of Charles Coulter, photo of Agnes Coulter, photo of James Laird, photo of Elma and Dora Hazelbaker, photo of Bessie Johnson, sister of Pierce Johnson, photo of Harold Craig and Bob Thomas, photo of Jack Reed and Bill Johnston in front of Star Theatre, Monessen Brewery truck photo, Brochure of Monessen Elks, March 6, 1943, and envelope dated March 8, 1943 and addressed to John Reed, PO Box 531, Monessen / Judy Yuss.

Bell & Howell 16 mm film projector / Gary Strellick

Most Holy Name Church asst. programs, Monessen clippings and books, school notebooks / Richard Dudas

Memorials & Honorary donations

In honor of Dr. Martin Dudas given by his Office Staff.

In honor of William Gilman, husband of Mary Gilman, given by Joanne Dawson Waltman.

In honor of Arnold and Edith Beneccio and Michael and Eleanor Stanchik by grandsons, Vito, Marcello, and Sereno Beneccio.

In memory of Anthony B. Yakovac given by Frances M. Yakovac.

In memory of Mary Daniele given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of George Andrachek given by John and Dorothy Novakovich.

In memory of Steve Pastorkovich given by M. Pastorkovich.

In memory of Margaret DeSantis Tredici given by husband, Colonel Thomas Tredici (Window Fund)

In honor of the Mermigas Family given by Dr. Michael Mermigas. (Window Fund)

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers February- April, 1912

Burgess Daniel Reamer issued an edict stating that the use of intoxicating liquors – beers, whiskey, etc, is absolutely forbidden and prohibited at all weddings, christenings, balls, dances and public gatherings. Any violation of the order will result in immediate arrest and prosecution. (2-7-1912) Daily Independent

Dr. M. H. Day of Donora was arrested in Monessen for violating the state law regarding the display of auto license tags. He provided a lame excuse of being a busy man and having the license under his seat cushions but forgetting to display it. He was ordered to put down a \$15 forfeit on a future hearing appearance. The doctor acted as if the whole matter was a joke. (2-9-1912) Daily Independent

The Liberty Theatre is being remodeled. The front will be changed. Inside it will be cleaned and renovated with new lights and decorations. One of the latest type moving picture machines will be installed. The theatre will be closed until March 1, 1912. (2-15-1912) Daily Independent

The new Olympic Theatre on Donner Avenue opened on February 17, 1912. The building is absolutely fire proof and has a motion picture booth made of brick, stone and sheet iron. It has ten exits. They have an orchestra of four pieces and will have high class and moral acts on the stage. (4-19-1912) Daily Independent

George Nash has purchased a new Carter Car. Bert Stephens has a new Maxwell, while Mike Giba and Dr. W. D. Hunter have brand new Cadillacs. George H. Stevens had his Lion Car completely overhauled and repainted. (2-20-1912) Daily Independent

The Star Theatre was filled to capacity for a production of “Queen Esther” given by the local Jewish synagogue. (3-4-1912) Daily Independent



F. W. Woolworth Co. has moved from the Cramer Building into their new quarters next to A. R. Ney on Donner Avenue. The crowd waiting to enter the store at 8 AM was packed to suffocation. Several women fainted. (3-9-1912) Daily Independent.

George Nash broke ground for new blast furnaces and four more open hearth furnaces at the Pittsburgh Steel plant. (3-12-1912) Daily Independent

W. F. Mack, the representative of the estate of the late George Kefler, of El Paso, Texas, is searching for Mrs. Minnie King, a milliner, of 554 Donner Avenue. She is the heir to her uncle's \$100,000 fortune. Mr. Kefler was one of the best known ranchers in Texas and passed away January 14 at the age of 83. (3-12-1912) Daily Independent

Colonel James M. Schoonmaker wrote to C. L. Schuck, the secretary of the Board of Trade, to acknowledge that the P. & L. E. Railroad Station lot would be beautified according to their suggestions in the spring. (3-22-1912) Daily Independent

The Daily Independent office is offering free William Howard Taft reelection buttons to any readers. They also will enroll members in Pittsburgh's Taft Club. (4-1-1912) Daily Independent

David W. Owens died at the age of nearly 91 at his home in Belle Vernon. He formerly owned the land in Monessen where the Pittsburgh Steel Company is now located. His log home was razed last year for the expansion of the mill. (4-10-1912) Daily Independent

Admission to the Monessen Heritage Museum is FREE!



Late winter and early spring weddings and engagements of 1912

Miss Emma Stella Meager, former Monessen school teacher, married Charles Henry Williams at Buckeye, Arizona on January 27, 1912. The couple will reside in Buckeye, the home of the groom. (2-5-1912) Daily Independent

Miss Emma Jane Barker and Benjamin F. Warner were united in marriage on February 7, 1912. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Barker of 1016 Morgan Avenue, Monessen. The Groom is employed in Scottdale. The couple will live in Scottdale after April first. (2-9-1912) Daily Independent

Thomas Russell of Monessen and Miss Carrie Dunlap of Charleroi were married February 10, 1912. The groom is popular and the bride is charming and active in social circles. The groom is employed in the rod mill of the Pittsburgh Steel Co. (2-13-1912) Daily Independent

George Lowstutter of Monessen and Miss Cora Peters of Sutersville were united in marriage on February 10, 1912 in Pittsburgh. The groom works in the Lion Fence Dept. of the Page Mill. The couple will reside in Monessen. (2-13-1912) Daily Independent

James Curry and Miss Dorothy Hileman, both of Monessen, were married on February 15, 1912. They will live in town. The groom has a position with the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., while the bride does clerical work for the A. R. Ney store. (2-15-1912) Daily Independent

Paul Mitchell and Miss Grace Jones were married on February 14, 1912. The groom works for the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie. The couple will reside in Monessen. (2-15-1912) Daily Independent

The marriage of Emil A. Grodecour, the druggist at the Sheetz Hotel, and Miss Margaret Duvall of Charleroi took place February 14, 1912. (2-15-1912) Daily Independent

Arthur Leroy Stevens and Miss Ethel May Hopkins of Monongahela were married on February 16, 1912. They will reside in Monongahela. The groom is employed as a machinist at the Seamless Tube Mill in Monessen. (2-19-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Landers of Linden Avenue, Monessen, celebrated their twenty-fifth silver anniversary with a reception on February 21, 1912. The home was decorated with pink and white ribbons and streamers. Each guest received a dainty silver bell as a remembrance. An orchestra directed by Fred Lindauer provided music. (2-22-1912) Daily Independent

Miss Elizabeth Cornwall and W. L. Arthington were married on February 19, 1912 in Pittsburgh. The bride formerly was the head milliner at the store of J. W. Berryman and Son. The groom resides in a summer home at Conneaut, where the couple will live. (2-24-1912) Daily Independent

Clyde Krepps of Belle Vernon and Miss Ruth Jones of Monessen were married on February 25, 1912. The groom works in the wire department of Pittsburgh Steel. The couple will live on Donner Avenue. (2-26-1912) Daily Independent

Abraham Schtalo of Monessen filed papers in Greensburg on March 11, 1912 to divorce Elsie Schtalo on the grounds of desertion. They were married November 10, 1892. (3-13-1912) Daily Independent

Mark S. Colas and Miss Laura Papart were married on March 9, 1912. The groom is a roller at the Tin Mill. They will live on Eighth Street. (3-18-1912) Daily Independent

Mrs. Ella Dillerd of Monessen has asked for a divorce from her husband on the grounds of desertion. She has been married fifteen years. (3-20-1912) Daily Independent

Miss Ida Larmoux and Clinton Manown were quietly wed due to the recent death of the groom's mother. They will live in Monessen. The groom is captain-elect of the All-Star Football Team. (3-28-1912) Daily Independent

Mrs. Blanche Weber of Charleroi has filed for divorce from William Weber. They were married at Point Marion in 1909. Mrs. Weber alleges that her husband is a common drunkard, a cigarette fiend, and a tramp, who compels his mother to support him, when he is not in jail. (3-30-1912) Daily Independent

Victor Orlor and Margaerita Casner of Charleroi obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on April 8, 1912. (4-9-1912) Daily Independent

Kral Rauchfuss of Monessen and Mary Poochnik of Pittsburgh were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on April 8, 1912. (4-9-1912) Daily Independent

James R. Askey of Bellefonte and Augusta Goroncey of Youngville were quietly married on April 9, 1912 with no attendants. They will reside in Donora where the groom is employed. The bride's family was one of the first settlers of Monessen. (4-10-1912) Daily Independent

Mrs. Anna Hammond and James Bath were married on April 10, 1912 in the presence of their immediate family. (4-11-1912) Daily Independent

John Lauderback and Lulu Pritchard, both of Monessen, were married on April 16, 1912 in Cumberland, Maryland after eloping. The bride left to supposedly visit friends in Vesta. The groom is a carpenter, who worked on the new Olympic Theatre, but now is employed by Pittsburgh Steel. (4-17-1912) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Garwood, formerly of Greensburg, and Vincent O'Donald of Donora were married on April 17, 1912 in Youngstown, Ohio. They will reside in Donora. The bride's father, Frank Garwood, was formerly in charge of the Monongahela House in Monessen. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

Peter Keifer of Monessen and Miss Julia Welsh of West Monessen were united in marriage on April 18, 1912. (Spelling was also listed as Kiefer) The groom is employed by the Adams Express Company of Monessen. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

A marriage license was issued in Pittsburgh on April 17, 1912 to Thomas Harris of Woodlawn and Mildred Thomas of Belle Vernon. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

Joe Hinkle of Ellwood City and Edna Bushyager of Lock Four obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on April 17, 1912. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent.

John H. Ulery of Mt. Pleasant and Pearl Gertrude Werry of Hempfield Township took a marriage license in Greensburg and were married. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

John L. Wright, age 75, and a veteran of the Civil War, of Houston, and Miss Lillie May Butler of Washington, PA, age 24, obtained a marriage license on April 18, 1912. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

The marriage of Raymond Lowstutter of Charleroi and Miss Estella Brautegam of Monessen was celebrated on April 17, 1912 in Cumberland, Maryland. The groom is an electrician with the Open Hearth of the Pittsburgh Steel Mill. The marriage comes as a surprise. (4-18-1912) Daily Independent

Late winter and early spring Births and Birthdays of 1912

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Bailey of Sixth Street had a son on January 26, 1912. (2-3-1912) Daily Independent

Hugh Flemming of Schoonmaker Avenue was surprised on his twenty-fifth birthday on February 5, 1912 with a party given by his wife and friends. (2-6-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. MacDonald had a baby daughter on February 28, 1912. (2-28-1912) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Clare Hipple celebrated her sixth birthday at her home on Park Way on February 26, 1912. (2-28-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. F. Motz had twin boys on March 6, 1912, but they only lived a few hours. The mother is in serious condition. (3-8-1912) Daily Independent

A family dinner was held to celebrate the seventy-second birthday of Mrs. Sarah McCallister of Monongahela. The tables were bedecked with roses and carnations with a color scheme of green and white used for decoration. (3-18-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Hood of Reed Avenue had a daughter on March 19, 1912. The father said he would have been tickled if it had been a son, but after consideration, he is well satisfied. (3-20-1912) Daily Independent

Mrs. E. T. Nichols of Monongahela had a surprise party for her birthday on March 17, 1912. (3-20-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. C. M. Ballou of Park Way had a baby girl on March 27, 1912. (3-29-1912) Daily Independent

Lester Lear of 18 Reed Avenue celebrated his twelfth birthday on April 2, 1912. (4-4-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. Maurice Dalton had a nine pound baby boy on April 7, 1912. (4-8-1912) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fairley had a daughter on April 17, 1912. (4-19-1912) Daily Independent

We have a webpage:

www.monessenhistoricalsociety.org

We also are on **Facebook** under Greater Monessen Historical Society. Log in and look around. ☺

Here are some photos from the Mon Valley Jewish Exhibit. We hope you will visit the displays in the Heritage Museum



Eisenbergs, the corner of Fourth and Schoonmaker



Friedlands Store, Donner Avenue

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