

Valley Historian



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Monessen Heritage Museum

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The Greater Monessen Historical Society
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Welcome Visitors!

Over the last month or so, we have welcomed scholars and distinguished guests to Monessen and the Heritage Museum.

First, the Museum hosted a social work class from Seton Hill University, who is working on a community project for Monessen covering the strengths and needs of the community. As they began their project, they wanted to tour the Museum and get background information on early Monessen.

Second, Monessen was visited by twenty graduate students from Carnegie Mellon, led by Professors Richard and Rita Stafford. During their Monessen visit, the class heard Daniel Zyglowicz, the President of the Greater Monessen Historical Society, speak on the history of Monessen, the reasons for its decline and current needs of the city. Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center hosted the group.



Seton Hill Class



Carnegie Mellon Class



Celli Family

The Historical Society recently welcomed the children of Mario and Raymond Celli to the Heritage Museum. The brothers were well known Monessen architects, who started the firm of Celli - Flynn Brennan Inc. Architects and Planners of Pittsburgh. Raymond designed Monessen's Memorial Stadium and the Hilltop Fire Station, as well as the Monongahela Valley Catholic High School in Carroll Twp. His brother, Mario designed Hillman Library and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. As a young man, during the Great Depression and working for the WPA, Mario also painted the mural, "The Melting Pot", which is now in the Exhibition Hall of the Heritage Museum. We invite everyone to come view a piece of Monessen history created as public art during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Founders Day

Mark Your Calendars!

The annual Founders Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022 in Jozwiak Hall, Monessen St. Vincent DePaul Society building on Grand Blvd. Happy hour will begin at 5 and dinner served at 6:30 after the welcome address.



In Remembrance



It is with sadness we announce that our good friend, Joanne Shelby-Klein passed away recently at the age of 59. She was well known for her portrayal of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and did a performance for GMHS at the Lincoln Tea Event

several years ago. As a Civil War reenactor, she also portrayed other important women of that era. She authored a book about Ann Pamela Cunningham, founder of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, who was instrumental in the preservation of Mount Vernon. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her husband, Michael, her friends and family, and those of the reenacting community, who lost a great source of knowledge of the Civil War. May she rest in peace.



Cassandra Vivian who was one of the members who formed the Heritage Coalition that became the Greater Monessen Historical Society, passed away earlier this year. She, along with Ray Iacoboni, Pat Bukowski, Carol Sepesky, Lloyd Thompson, Ernie Cocarri, Ray Johnson, R. Mitch Steen and Gary Strelick formed the group that today is celebrating our twenty-seventh year. Ray Iacoboni served as first president. Cassandra wrote several books and was a fan of Egyptology. Her final wish was to have her ashes spread over the Nile River.

Annual Membership Renewal and Fund Drive Thank you!

You are the reason why we are here! We depend on your generosity to sustain us and help us grow! Thank you for your donations during our annual appeal.

Upcoming Exhibit “Mon Valley Towns”

**Please Keep in Mind that We are
Always In Search of:**

- *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!

Planned Estate Giving

Make a Plan. Make a Difference. Create a Legacy.

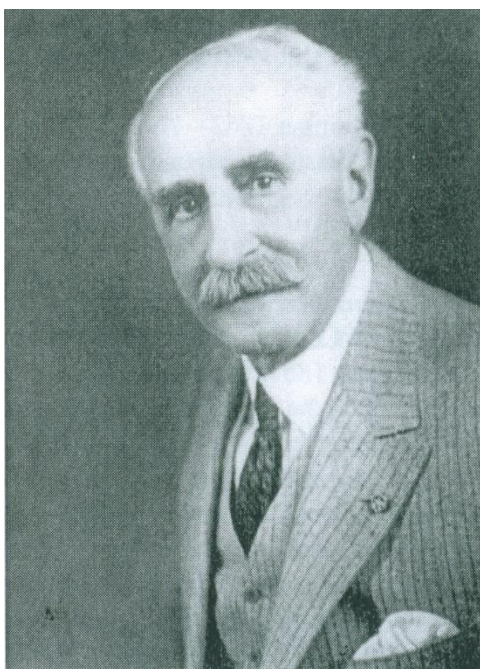
Making a gift of estate assets can be simple to do and will provide lasting support for the Greater Monessen Historical Society's efforts to connect people to history. It will also ensure that the heritage and legacy left by our immigrant ancestors continues into the future.

Volunteers wanted

Do you have talents to share? Do you have spare time? Do you want to give back to the community? Do you enjoy history? If so, please consider joining our group and volunteering at the Museum. Call for details.

Museum Gift Shoppe

Check out our webpage to see items available in our Gift Shoppe. We have the largest collection of ethnic cookbooks available in the area. They make wonderful wedding gifts.



Schoonmaker Grants - Thank You

The Historical Society received a \$5000 grant from the James M. Schoonmaker II

Foundation. We thank Mrs. Treecie Schoonmaker for carrying on the legacy of the Schoonmaker Family and remembering the Historical Society.

In addition, the Society also received a \$10,000 grant from the fund established by Colonel Schoonmaker's daughter in law, Lucille Kay Schoonmaker.

One Hundred Years ago in the Newspapers January to March, 1922

The Avalon Club entertained at the home of Mrs. Walter Duncan on Ninth Street for an hour of sewing and fancy work, followed by a delicious 6 PM dinner. Members present were Evelyn Miller, Ina West, Mary Turner, Jessie Branch, Asnora Duncan, Jean Perry, and Willie Duncan. (01-03-1922) Daily Independent

Thursday evening's musical event at Monessen High School Auditorium will feature Mildred Dilling, America's greatest harpist, along with Fred Patton, noted baritone. This will be the highest priced concert ever given in Monessen. Miss Dilling has made several concert tours and appeared at recitals with Yvette Guilbert, Alma Gluck, Freida Hempel, Frances Alda, Anna Case and other notable stars. (01-04-1922) Daily Independent

The Turners will have a special program on Sunday evening at 8 PM with a wireless concert through the Westinghouse program with the aid of Magnavox that can be heard through all parts of the hall. They will also show a movie of the recent Turner tournament in Chicago. (01-06-1922) Daily Independent

The body of Frank Lees, age 32, arrived here today after being removed from his resting place in France. Thomas McKee Post No. 28, American Legion took charge of the body. Funeral services will be Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church with burial at Grandview with full military honors. He was wounded on October 15, 1918 and sent to a military hospital that was bombed the following

day killing him instantly. (01-06-1922)
Daily Independent

Radio concerts each evening from 7:30 to 9:30 at Brown Jewelry Store. Public invited. Orders will be taken for radios. (01-06-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Edith Bearer completed a survey in the public schools of Monessen and found in each school building there are 6 to 12 undernourished children. The largest number are in the Tenth Street School (Lincoln). Forty children did not measure up to the standard weight for their age group. The Lincoln students will be given a half pint of milk and a slice of bread each day. They will also be weighed weekly. (01-07-1922) Daily Independent

The Italian Benevolent Society met on January 1, 1922 to elect new officers. They are: T. Cardelli, President, Albert Gaudio, Vice President, Tom LaForte, Treasurer, G. Mascette, Financial Secretary, F. Pisani, Corresponding Secretary, S. Parnelli, J. Conti and A. Canova are trustees. (01-07-1922) Daily Independent

The Steamer, H. D. Williams, of the Carnegie line, under the command of Captain James Hayes, has been fitted with a complete wireless system. It is believed and not an impossibility that some time soon in the next few years that all steamers on the Monongahela may be in constant communication with each other. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

There was a \$20,000 fire at the old distillery on East Donner Avenue. (01-11-1922) Daily Independent

Monessen School Board hired two new teachers: Miss Verna Brand and Miss Hundertmark. (01-11-1922) Daily Independent

George Tomick, who operates a small store in Monessen, was arrested last night for operating a "hootch" plant on the old Wickerham homestead, near Eldora Park in Donora. (01-12-1922) Daily Independent

Thirty five leading citizens met in the High School Library last night to form a local building and loan association. W. H. Reese is the chairman. (01-20-1922) Monessen News

On the night of January 24, 1922, fire completely destroyed the entire stock of ladies' and children's items in the Abe Cherkin Store, 455 Schoonmaker Avenue. The loss was estimated at \$5000. The two story frame structure was owned by Mrs. Pauline Skirpan. The contents of the store and building were covered by insurance. The Fisfis brothers lived on the second floor. Two of the brothers were attending the American Legion meeting, and the other two were asleep, when the alarm was sounded. They escaped in their bare feet, and with the assistance of neighbors, were able to carry the greater part of their personal property to safety. The firemen were forced to fight the blaze in temperatures a few degrees above zero. The Monessen Salvation Army served hot coffee, and the Standard Bakery, which adjoined the Cherkin Store, served donuts to the firemen. (01-25-1922) Daily Independent

Children will be admitted to the Olympic Theatre on Monday for three cents to see the first episode on "The Adventures of Tarzan". (01-26-1922) Daily Independent

On January 28, 1922, at the Croatian Hall, a fundraiser will be held to raise funds to buy food and clothing for the suffering poor of Russia. The Croatian Dramatic Society of Pittsburgh will provide entertainment. Entrance will cost fifty cents. The Croatian String Orchestra will provide music. (01-27-1922) Daily Independent

Constable Mochnally raided two homes on Seneca Street and confiscated two stills. Wasil Lissi and Victor Mazur were arrested. (02-03-1922) Daily Independent

County Detective Paul B. Feightner and ten State Policemen swooped down on Monessen yesterday and served warrants for violations of the liquor laws. Those arrested furnished bail of \$500 and

included Mrs. Raffi Dahama, 77 Schoonmaker Avenue, George Zelka, 135 Schoonmaker, Pauline Goldbert, 203 East Schoonmaker, Sam B. Raden, 164 Donner, Mil Yliti, 99 Donner, Antony Turek, 975 Schoonmaker, Mike Monios, Lewis Avenue and Adam Zdila, 253 East Schoonmaker. (02-04-1922) Daily Independent

The Monessen Women's Club will sponsor a lecture in the Monessen High School Auditorium on Friday at 2:30. Mrs. Chester B. Story will present "As Others See Us", a study of the fundamentals of good taste in dress. All women are invited. (02-07-1922) Daily Independent

The Board of Trade announces that 400 people will attend their annual banquet on Thursday evening at Monessen High School. P. C. Johnson will be the caterer for the 6:30 PM dinner. All four county judges will attend. A special train from Pittsburgh will arrive at 5:30 PM with officials of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad and prominent steel men. The American Legion will have a table. This is the twelfth annual banquet. (02-07-1922) Daily Independent

The remaining six horses of the Monessen Police Department were auctioned off for a total of \$321.50, or an average of \$53.00 each. The City will keep six saddles and bridles for future use, if needed. (02-07-1922) Monessen News

The Great Kara, the Man Who Knows will appear at the Olympic Theatre. He answers all questions. Ask him anything. (02-07-1922) Monessen News

A chicken thief entered the coop of William Harper on Oneida and stole thirteen prize hens. A neighbor reported twelve fowls disappeared from her coop the following night. (02-08-1922) Daily Independent

Any lady desiring "Marvel Embroidery Needles" can purchase them at the American Talking Machine Company, 249 Schoonmaker Avenue. (02-08-1922) Daily Independent

Congressman A. M. Wyant, the keynote speaker of the 12th Annual Board of Trade Banquet brought greetings from President Warren Harding to Monessen. He said the President told him to "Remember me to the boys". (02-10-1922)

The students at the Jefferson School are showing the film, "Apple Tree Girl", featuring Shirley Mason, at the High School Auditorium as a fundraiser. They are raising money to install a library in their building. (02-14-1922) Daily Independent

A local Girl Scouts of America group was organized by the Monessen Federation of Women's Clubs in the M. E. Church. (02-17-1922) Daily Independent

Nazzareno Bafile, 1063 Morgan Avenue, fined \$15.00 and costs by the Mayor for being a nuisance. (02-20-1922) Daily Independent

A fire at the J. Elias Dry Goods and Gent's Furnishings Store, 215 Schoonmaker Avenue, caused \$3,000 worth of damage. (02-21-1922) Daily Independent

The Monessen Board of Trade will sponsor a concert at Monessen High School Auditorium featuring the National Male Quartette on February 23, 1922. (02-21-1922) Monessen News

The Pittsburgh Steel Company announced expansion plans for the purpose of manufacturing reinforcing wire for concrete road building. Fifteen houses in the Monessen Wireton plan were to be torn down along the lines of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, beginning with two in the row near the Charleroi Monessen Bridge, and will include an additional house in each row. The fifty homes of Wireton were occupied by African Americans, and the intention of the company was to do away with the entire suburb for industrial development in the future. (02-28-1922) Daily Independent

Monessen School Board accepted the bid of the P. H. Kelly Company, of

Philadelphia, for erection of the new Junior High School Building. The total cost will be \$275,900. The houses on the site will be sold at auction on March 7, 1922. (02-28-1922) Monessen News

George Hupple opened a confectionery store at 49 Schoonmaker Avenue. His specialty is popcorn balls. (03-07-1922) Daily Independent

The seven residences on the new junior high school site brought in \$3,150 at auction, instead of the \$10,000 that was estimated. 624 Reed Avenue sold for \$735 and was purchased by C. F. Mentzer, who also purchased the home at 622 Reed for \$615. The house at 634 Reed sold for \$400 to D. Andronie. 621 Knox went to Joseph Reed for \$240. 635 Knox was purchased by Olinto Niccolini for \$335, while 629 Knox was sold for \$380 to August King. The Boninni garage brought in \$155. The Venneri garage sold for \$70. (03-10-1922) Monessen News

A speakeasy at 12 Morgan Avenue was raided. Mike Masloski was fined \$10. (03-14-1922) Daily Independent

The "Workmen's Idle Hour Club" of Monessen was chartered. Its purpose is to maintain a club for social enjoyment and friendship among African American men. The directors are T. P. Jones, Joe Holmes, L. D. Meigs, George Rogers, Henry Wilson, Alvan Orton, and F. Charles Carted. (03-19-1922) Daily Independent

The Olympic Theatre is showing "The Shiek" with Rudolph Valentino to enormous crowds. (03-21-1922) Daily Independent

Mrs. Marie Fontanelli will open a second bakery where Taylor's News Stand was formerly located. She has another bakery on East Donner. (03-23-1922) Daily Independent

The Standard Bakery, 449 Schoonmaker Avenue, is increasing the size of the eight cent loaf of bread. (03-27-1922) Daily Independent

While cranking an automobile, Joseph Check, high school student, broke his arm above the wrist. (03-31-1922) Daily Independent

Winter and early Spring Weddings, Divorces and Engagements of 1922

A marriage license was issued in Pittsburgh yesterday to Fred B. Kulow, Charleroi, and Miss Janie Jones, Donora. (01-02-1922) Daily Independent

Mrs. Geraldine Stapleton, Eighth Street, age 30 and Earl Forsha wed on December 24, 1921, in Bedford. (01-03-1922) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. David P. Henderson will celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary tonight at their home, 900 Donner Avenue. (01-04-1922) Daily Independent

Raymond Waite, formerly of Belle Vernon and Miss Hazel Adams, Speers, married at Wellsburg, West Virginia, last Tuesday. (01-04-1922) Daily Independent

I. N. Lamont, druggist at the Hill Top Kirk Drug Store, married Miss Rebecca J. Nichols, of Belle Vernon, on Tuesday. They will reside on Linden Avenue. (01-06-1922) Monessen News

Miss Anna Check, 1022 Knox Avenue, and Robert Konopinski, 230 Knox Avenue, were married on October 25, 1921 in St Hyacinth (Polish) Catholic Church. (01-06-1922) Monessen News

A marriage license was issued in Pittsburgh yesterday to Michael Hornack, Monessen, and Jennie Parolski, Pittsburgh. (01-06-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Hall, Belle Vernon, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Monday. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

John D. Fellenbaum, Donora, filed for divorce from his wife Katherine citing desertion. They were married on

January 25, 1906 in Monessen. (01-11-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Mazie Parks, North Charleroi, married Donald Pool, Massachusetts, at Wellsburg, West Virginia, on November 21, 1921. They reside at 422 Meadow Avenue, Charleroi. (01-12-1922) Daily Independent

A marriage license was given in Pittsburgh yesterday to Harry Jaskol and Bella Cohen. The groom is a former employee of the H. Eisenberg Store. (01-13-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lebowitz, Schoonmaker Avenue, celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary last Thursday. (01-16-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Rose Cramer is engaged to David Turner. (01-20-1922) Monessen News

The marriage of Miss Elizabeth Hrenal and Gabor Stasko, both of Monessen, took place today at Most Holy Name (Slovak) Catholic Church. They will reside on Highland Avenue. (01-23-1922) Daily Independent

A marriage license was issued yesterday in Pittsburgh to Russel S. McCready and Margaret E. McCready, both of Fayette City. (01-25-1922) Daily Independent

Reah J. Spence, Monongahela, and Thomas R. Carter, Charleroi, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh yesterday. (01-27-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sharrow, First Street, celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on January 31, 1922 with a dinner. They were presented a set of Rogers silver knives and forks. (02-01-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Madeline Sichi and James Fanoni, both of Monessen, eloped today to Wellsburg, West Virginia. (02-06-1922) Daily Independent

The wedding of George Rosko and Miss Anna Kolvek is today at Most Holy Name (Slovak) Catholic Church. The groom is employed at Pittsburgh Steel. (02-09-1922) Daily Independent

The wedding of Miss Mary Barna and John Miso occurred Thursday in Pittsburgh. Both are from Monessen. The groom works at Pittsburgh Steel. (02-11-1922) Daily Independent

A marriage license was given to Henry C. Isabel, Charleroi, and Laura S. Reid, Homestead, on Tuesday in Pittsburgh. (02-11-1922) Daily Independent

The wedding of Miss Ida Levin, Monessen to Abe Cohen, Youndstown, took place last night. The bride worked for the Krasik Store. (02-13-1922) Daily Independent

The wedding of Robert Miller, Belle Vernon, and Miss Florence A. Sherwin, of Reed Avenue, occurred on January 14, 1922, after eloping to Wellsburg, West Virginia. (02-13-1922) Daily Independent

The wedding of George Rosko and Miss Anna Kolvek occurred yesterday at Most Holy Name (Slovak) Catholic Church. (02-14-1922) Monessen News

Miss Ida Levin, clerk at D. Krasik's Jewelers on Donner Avenue, married Abe Cohen, of Youngstown, Ohio on Sunday. (02-14-1922) Monessen News

Robert Miller, Belle Vernon, and Miss Florence Sherwin, Monessen, wed January 14, 1922, at Wellsburg, West Virginia. (02-14-1922) Monessen News

Anna Mentzler, Monessen, filed for divorce from Stephen Mentzler. They were wed on May 24, 1920. (02-15-1922) Daily Independent

A marriage license was given yesterday in Pittsburgh to Louis Harris and Pauline K. Inghram, both of Donora. (02-21-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Helen C. Samberg, Fayette City, is engaged to Armin Friedman, McKeesport. (02-21-1922) Daily Independent

Billy Fowler, formerly of Webster, and Miss Mary Corbett, Webster, went to Wellsburg, West Virginia, on February 7, 1922 to be wed. (02-22-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Minnie Schmieler, Charleroi, has married Milton Eller, Monessen. (02-22-1922) Daily Independent

John T. Irwin, Belle Vernon, and Edna M. Mahoney, Charleroi, were issued a marriage license in Pittsburgh yesterday. (02-23-1922) Daily Independent

Swan Lomax, age 20, has been jailed for a month in Greensburg. He wed Eleanor Josephine Jackson, age 18, also of Monessen. Ceremony performed by Deputy Clerk of Courts Mullen. The bride returned to Monessen, while the groom returned to jail. (02-25-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lewis celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Saturday night.

Rose DeBuono, 1053 Morgan Avenue, is engaged to Albert Gaudio. Groom was a tailor on Schoonmaker Avenue, but now is the department manager in the Sbrocco Co. store at Third and Schoonmaker. (02-27-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Margaret Shapiro, Monessen wed Dr. Lewis Sockin, New York City, on February 26, 1922. (03-04-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Marion Rodson Linton, Belle Vernon, is engaged to Elliott Dade Odell, Tarrytown, New York. (03-08-1922) Daily Independent

Samuel Trozzo and Miss Assutina Venneri, Market Street, Belle Vernon, have quietly married. (03-14-1922) Daily Independent

Martha Christina Simpson, Manor, wed Homer Clain Altman on March 8, 1922. The groom is part of the Altman Coal Company of Monessen. (03-15-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Dessie Baker, Charleroi, wed Clarence A. Davis, Monessen, on March 8, 1922. (03-15-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Mildred Robb, Monessen, married Marcel Parmentier, Charleroi, on March 13, 1922. The bride is employed as a stenographer for Mentzer and Smith and will continue working. The groom works

at the Donora Zinc Works. (03-16-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Marion Anna Elliott, Belle Vernon, and Edwin A. Eason, Charleroi, quietly married on Wednesday. The bride is a school teacher, while the groom is employed by the Page Woven Wire Fence Company. They will live in Belle Vernon. (03-18-1922) Daily Independent

A marriage license was granted in Pittsburgh yesterday to Miss Louise Chardello, Pittsburgh and Angelo Cardelli, Monessen. The wedding will take place next week. The groom is a barber at Ninth and Knox. (03-21-1922) Monessen News

Andrew Lauer, Rostraver Twp., has filed for divorce from Phoebe E. Lauer citing desertion. (03-21-1922) Daily Independent

Vincent Isenberg, formerly of Monessen, and Miss Hazel Murray, Vestaburg, were married today. (03-22-1922) Daily Independent

Miss Ann Tucker, Monessen, and Henry Hill, West Newton, were wed some time ago in Wellsburg, West Virginia. (03-24-1922) Monessen News

Miss Jeanette Hutchinson and Charles Lender, both of Monessen, wed last night in Donora. (03-24-1922) Monessen News

Reinhold Backman and Beda L. Forsberg, both of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh. (03-27-1922) Daily Independent

Winter and early Spring Births of 1922

Mr. and Mrs. Jerrie McKenzie, a son. (9 ½ lbs.) (01-02-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Diego Zambelli, Fourth Street, a daughter. (01-03-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hazlett, 440 Schoonmaker Avenue, a daughter. (10 lbs.) (01-03-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and William Jennings Ritchie, a son named William Allison Ritchie. (01-05-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ross, Gibsonton, a son. (7 ½ lbs.) (01-05-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shield, Reed Avenue, a daughter. (9 lbs.) (01-06-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Julius P. Schmidt, Essen section, a son. (10 lbs.) (01-06-1922) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Davin, a son. (14 ½ lbs.) (01-09-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Gilmore, Belle Vernon, a daughter. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Van Clegg, Belle Vernon, a daughter. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Rhodes, Belle Vernon, a son. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cowher, Belle Vernon, a daughter. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison, Summit Avenue, a son named George Jr. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kissel, Belle Vernon, a son. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison, Summit Avenue, a son named George, Jr. (01-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Witherspoon, Knox Avenue, a son. (8 lbs.) (01-12-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Shawley, 4 Schoonmaker Avenue, a son. (8 ½ lbs.) (01-12-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Antonucci, 1219 Morgan Avenue, a daughter. (01-13-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Sklov, Lenawee Avenue, a son. (8 ½ lbs.) (01-13-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gleason, a son. (01-16-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Motz, a daughter. (01-16-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Harper, 413 Reed Avenue, a son. (10 lbs.) (01-17-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Bridges, Belle Vernon a son. (01-17-1922) Daily Independent

Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Herron, McKee Avenue, a son. (01-19-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Copeland, North Charleroi, a daughter. (01-19-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Jacobs, Dunlevy, a son. (01-20-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connelly, 115 Schoonmaker Avenue, a son. (10 lbs.) (01-20-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Anderson, Rostraver Street, a son. (8 ½ lbs.) (01-23-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Leasure, Gibsonton, a son. (8 lbs.) (01-23-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Flicker, Ninth Street, a son. (01-24-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Myers, Belle Vernon, a son. (01-24-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Harper, Reed Avenue, a son. (01-24-1922) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Flickinger, Ninth Street, a boy. (11 lbs.) (01-24-1922) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dawson, First Street, a son named Charles Richard. (01-25-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Byron, Athalia Avenue, a son. (10 lbs.) (01-25-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fairley, Craig Apartments on Donner Avenue, a son. (8 ½ lbs.) (01-25-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Johnson, Webster, petitioned the court to adopt Kathryn Mitchell, age 8, Buena Vista. Mother is dead and father consents. (01-26-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Link, East Charleroi, a daughter. (01-26-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Schoonmaker Avenue, a son. (12 lbs.) (01-27-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Jamieson, Rozner Apartments on Schoonmaker and Fourth, a son. (8 lbs.) (01-30-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Gen Leisure, Gibsonton, a son named John Daniel. (01-31-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Peecook, Rostraver Street, a baby. (02-02-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James Rocco, 115 Ninth Street, a baby. (7 ½ lbs.) (02-10-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cotton, Charleroi, a son. (02-14-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Januszewski, 19 Aliquippa Street, a daughter. (02-16-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dauvin, a son. (10 lbs.) (02-16-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ney, Jr., McKee Avenue, a son. (02-18-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Branch, 334 Summit Avenue, a son. (02-21-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Harry McFall, Belle Vernon, a daughter. (02-23-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Reese, a daughter. (9 lbs.) (02-24-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Burke, 304 Sixth Street, a daughter named Helen Odesta. (02-28-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Janajesky had a daughter. (03-03-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spiegelberg, Schoonmaker Avenue, a daughter. (03-03-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Mazur, 172 Seneca Street, a son. (03-06-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wiseman, a son. (03-07-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Krepps, Knox Avenue, a son named Albert Ross, Jr. (03-09-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Columbus, Rebecca Street, a son named Melvin Clarence. (8 lbs.) (03-13-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Moeller, Lock Four, a daughter. (03-13-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Black, formerly of Monessen, a son. (03-14-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gray, Belle Vernon, a son. (03-14-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bradley, North Charleroi, a daughter. (03-17-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Palm, Braddock Avenue, a daughter. (03-18-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Roberts, 210 Schoonmaker, a daughter. (10 lbs.) (03-20-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Mankedick, Rostraver Street, a daughter. (03-22-1922) Daily Independent

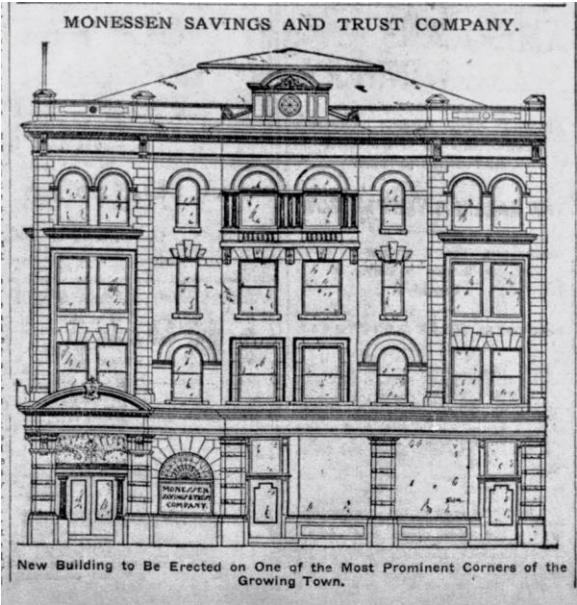
Mr. and Mrs. George McCune, Reed Avenue, a son. (03-24-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moses, 1433 ½ Fourteenth St., a son. (9 ½ lbs.) (03-27-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warren, Knox Avenue, a daughter. (03-28-1922) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Todd, North Charleroi, a son. (03-28-1922) Daily Independent

Dan’s Archives



**Monessen Savings and Trust Company Building
(500 Donner Avenue)**

The Monessen Savings and Trust Company was incorporated in November of 1901 with \$125,000 in capital and opened for business on April 1, 1902 in the Barker Building at the corner of Sixth and Donner. Colonel James M. Schoonmaker was one of the first directors. It was decided by the Board of Directors on February 26, 1903 to erect a five story fire-proof building of brick, stone, and steel at the corner of Fifth Street and Donner Avenue on three lots. The lower story would be fitted for the bank and store rooms, while the other four floors will be used as offices, flats and lodge rooms. After reconsidering the location and plans, the final product was a three story building that opened on December 9, 1905 at a cost of \$65,000. The architect was Marius Rousseau.

In 1915, with war raging in Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Agnew of Monessen and Samuel Proudfoot of Pricedale purchased tickets at the Foreign Department of the Savings and Trust Company to travel to Ireland on the liner Lusitania. The ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat resulting in their deaths.

A powerful natural gas explosion in the Savings and Trust building in the summer of 1916, wrecked the real estate and foreign department of the bank. A leaking pipe was ignited by the smoldering fire in the furnace, but no one was seriously injured. Papers, typewriters, desks and chairs were strewn about, while the two large plate glass

windows were broken and knocked far into Donner Avenue.

Before the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Savings and Trust Company volunteered to transport money from Monessen immigrants through the British blockade to relatives in Imperial Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The bank employed Wayne Frye, a recent Monessen college graduate, to travel into the war zones of Europe with bank funds. He left on October 26, 1916 from New York on the steamer, "United States" of the Scandinavian shipping line bound for Copenhagen, Denmark. British marines boarded the ship in Scotland and searched for contraband. Frye was allowed to continue his journey. At the German border, he was strip searched, but allowed to continue to Vienna and Berlin. He spent a month in Vienna, where he witnessed the funeral of Emperor Franz Joseph. He also traveled to Budapest to witness the coronation of Franz Joseph's grand-nephew, Karl, as Apostolic King of Hungary. To return to Monessen, he was given 36 hours to travel across German territory and board the Steamer Frederick at Copenhagen. He arrived home to Monessen on January 18, 1917.

The Palace of Sweets began using the basement of the Savings and Trust Company in 1919 to make two hundred and eighty four kinds of candy.

In 1926, the Monessen Savings and Trust Company merged with the First National Bank and decided to construct a new structure across the street. The new bank opened with pomp and ceremony on March 7, 1928, and it was estimated that between ten and twelve thousand adults attended the opening.

On October 13, 1931, after heavy withdrawals, the First National Bank and Trust Co. voted to close and never reopened. They had only been in their new building for a little over three years.

Following the move of the bank from the 500 Donner Avenue location in 1928, the property was leased to the Green Stores, Inc., which remodeled the first floor and basement to accommodate their department store. A

thirty year lease was signed. The new store opened on August 30, 1928.

On the morning of March 14, 1929, a fire was discovered at 3 AM in the Green Stores building. Thousands of gallons of water were poured into the first floor and basement of the building to bring the fire under control. In addition to Monessen's fire department, units were dispatched from Charleroi, and North Belle Vernon. Guests were forced to leave the Grand Hotel as smoke completely filled the buildings in the block. The first floor of the Green Stores collapsed. It was estimated that \$75,000 of damage was caused by the fire.

As the Savings and Trust Company building was being restored by the Motz Lumber Company following the devastating fire, the Green Stores were merged with McClellan Stores. The McClellan Stores opened in the restored location on May 23, 1929.

By late June of 1933, McLellan's lost their lease and were vacating the building. The first floor was remodeled and transformed into a modern food store with a color scheme of pale and olive green with white, as the A&P moved into the location at the beginning of August.

On November 16, 1936, the Monessen Savings and Trust Company building was purchased by George W. Hughes, the retired superintendent of the Pittsburgh Steel Company blast furnaces, for \$44,025 from the receivership that has administered the holdings of the former Trust Company, since 1931. It was noted that was \$1000 per square foot for a property on Donner Avenue. He immediately had the outside of the building cleaned by sand blasting.

In 1948, the A&P constructed a large grocery store on the site of the former P&LE Railroad station at Sixth and Donner. The Thrift Drug Company then relocated from 554 Donner Avenue into the old Monessen Savings and Trust Company building and remained there until 1976, when the store closed. In September of 1976, Health Mart relocated across Donner Avenue into the vacant location.

The Health Mart closed their Monessen store sometime in the late 1980’s. Panorama Enterprises moved into the facility and was the last business to occupy the site, until they moved to Speers.

A Recipe For You

Lenten Onion Pie

1 lb. pizza dough
4-5 onions, peeled and chopped
3-4 plum tomatoes (canned)
¼ c. ricotta cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Olive oil
Grated cheese

Roll out the dough thin and place in a lightly oiled pizza pan or cookie sheet. Stretch the dough to the edges of the pan. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large frying pan, place chopped onions and chopped plum tomatoes. Sauté in olive oil until the onions are tender. Add ricotta cheese and simmer for one or two minutes to combine the ingredients. Remove from heat and cool. Spread cooked mixture to the edges of the dough. Bake at 425 degrees until lightly browned, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with grated cheese. Cut and serve hot or cold.

This recipe comes from “Celebrate Easter – Italian Style” by Lawrence G. Kozlowski. It is available in our Heritage Gift Shoppe for \$12.



GMHS Memorials, Winter 2022

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Nick & Mitra Lore.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Helen & Joseph Jaeger.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Pharmacy Staff of UPMS Jameson, New Castle.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Joseph & Helen Jaeger.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Dorothy Bitoni-Wissen.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Thomas Jones.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Carol K. Anden.

In memory of Sylvia Spadafore by Nancy A. Seman.

In memory of Frances Bezuska Williams by John Williams, (Husband).

In memory of Dolores Yonek by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas,

In memory of Carl Jurkiewicz by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Stephen E. Burns by Paul and Dianne Tobacco.

In memory of Irene Andrachek given by Virginia M. Fisfis.

In memory of Irene Andrachek by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Maxine Maxwell Davis by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Alyce Joseph by Ted Harhai.

In memory of Alyce Joseph by John Harhai.

In memory of Helen Hreno Veschio by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Dolores Hazy by Ron and Rose Matianski.

In memory of James Sepesky by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Dustin P. Harvey by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.



Former Mayor James Sepesky Dies

James A. Sepesky, 82, of Monessen, passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in Penn Highlands Mon Valley Hospital. He was born Nov. 28, 1939, in North Belle Vernon, a son of the late Andrew and Jeanne Ray Sepesky. Jim was a 1957 graduate of Monessen High School and had received a bachelor's degree in education from California University of Pennsylvania and his master's degree from West Virginia University. He had been employed with the South Allegheny School District prior to his retirement. Jim was a man of strong faith and a member of the former Most Holy Name of Jesus, and presently the Epiphany of Our Lord Church of Monessen, where he served as a lector and was a member of the Holy Name Society. He was also a member of the Monessen Knights of Columbus and a life member of the Monessen BPOE Elks No. 773, having served as Exalted Ruler. Jim had umpired for many years in youth baseball leagues, and he was a true fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mayor was extremely family-oriented and enjoyed attending all of his grandchildren's events. He had served on the Monessen City School Board from 1967-1973, was a Monessen city councilman from 1973-1977, and concluded his political career by becoming mayor of Monessen in 1977, and he held office until 1989. He had served in the Pennsylvania League of Cities as vice chair of the "U-Comp" and also as assistant treasurer, Mon Valley Transit Authority, and the Board of Directors of Diversified Human Services. He was also on the executive board of the Legislative Fifth District.

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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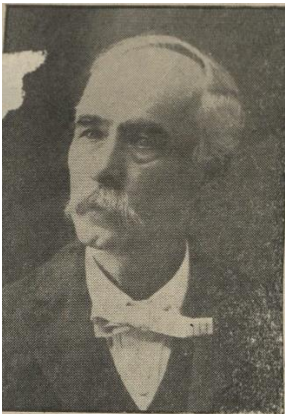
Your Family Genealogy

Have you donated a copy of your family tree to the Heritage Museum? Please consider donating material on your family to us?

Woodworking Hobbyists

We are looking for individuals to create copies of old Monessen businesses, churches, schools for display in the museum.

**The Men Who Served as
Burgess in Early Monessen**



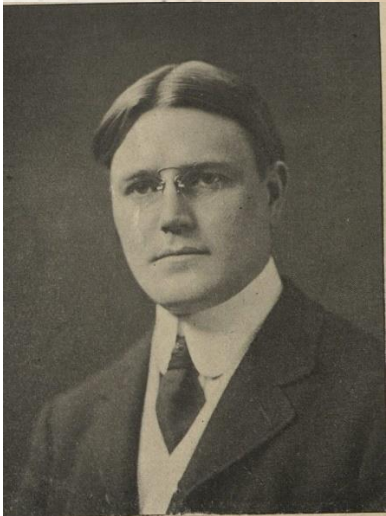
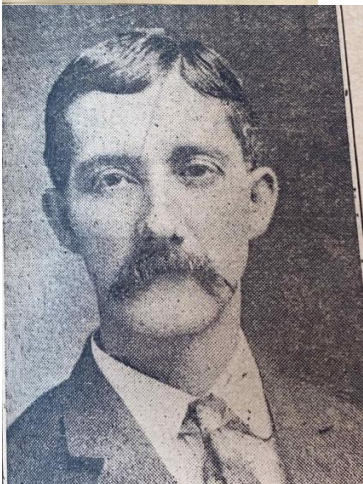
JOHN BEALL.



H. E. RHINEHART, BURGESS.



A. N. SHUSTER.



W. B. STEWART, D. D. S.

**John Beall, Sr.
H. E. Rinehart
A. N. Shuster
F. H. Shutterly
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