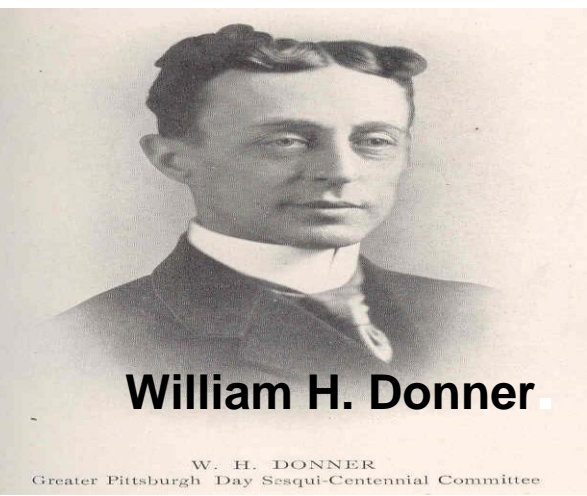


VALLEY HISTORIAN



Greater Monessen Historical Society

505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062

(724) 684-8460

monessen@verizon.net (email)

WEBSITE BEING REDESIGNED – Not functioning

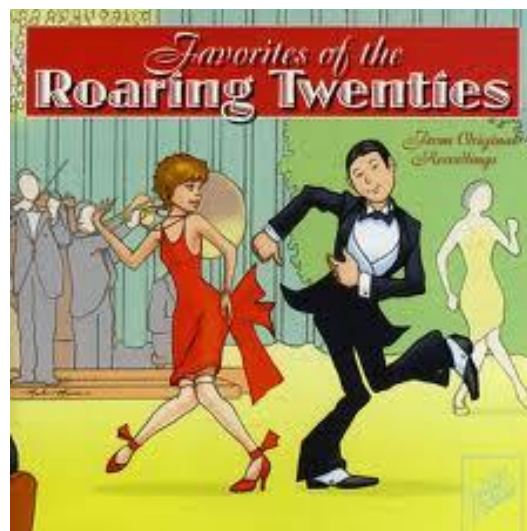
Vol.13 Issue 2 SPRING 2013



The late Anna Novakovich's 1917 Croatian wedding dress is one of the most popular historic items loaned to the Heritage Museum for the current Croatian Exhibit. Visit it today!

Croatian Take-out Picnic Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday, June 8, 2013 for a fundraiser to benefit the Historical Society. From 12 PM until 5 PM, picnic foods will be available for pick up at the Heritage Museum. Purchase a ticket for \$10 and receive a sandwich (hot dog or kielbasa), sauerkraut, Croatian chili, strip of apple or cheese strudel or small bag of cookies and a beverage. Limited seating to eat in. The Croatian ladies will be playing some old favorites and maybe do a dance or two in the aisles. Purchase your tickets at the Monessen Heritage Museum, 505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, PA 15062.



Save the Date!

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will celebrate the era of the Charleston and Calvin Coolidge with a Roaring Twenties Experience dinner and dance on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 5 to 9 PM at St. Spyridon's Orthodox Church Hall on Grand Blvd. The fundraiser will feature a buffet dinner, drinks and dancing. Start looking for your flapper outfit! Reserve your ticket at the Museum today.

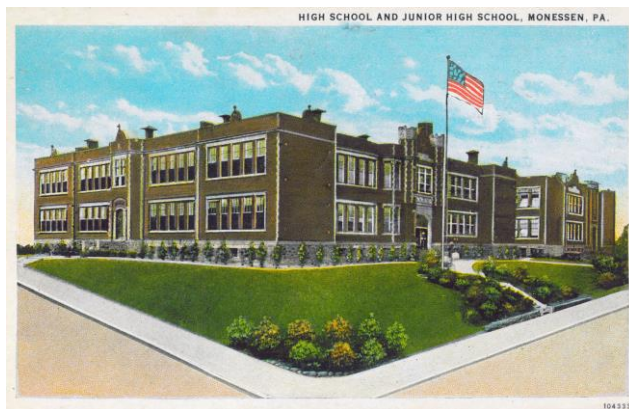
We are on **Facebook** under Greater Monessen Historical Society. Log in and look at many photos of our events and of old Monessen. Tell your friends and help spread the word about GMHS!



Savings Trust Building and Brown Street Clock

Two of Monessen’s historic icons are getting a new lease on life. The former Monessen Savings and Trust Co. building, which was constructed at the corner of Fifth and Donner between 1903-1905 and once housed the A&P Grocery, Thrift Drug Co. and Health Mart, is being stabilized for renovation. Also, the City of Monessen has purchased the Brown Street Clock that once stood in front of the building. It will be cleaned, painted and reassembled to once again be on display in the city. Anyone wishing to contribute toward the clock project can send a check to:

City of Monessen
Brown Street Clock Fund
Wendell Ramey Lane
Monessen, PA 15062



Summer Exhibit

The summer exhibit will focus on the Monessen City School District. Anyone having items or photographs showcasing either the public or parochial schools of the city are asked to loan or donate them to the Heritage Museum. Topics covered will include: teachers,

graduations, plays, students, playgrounds, school buildings, clubs, etc.

Festival in the Park

Reaching out to the young people, who will be future members of GMHS, is important to our organization. The Historical Society had a booth at the Second Annual Raise Your Voice Music & Arts Festival on April 27, 2013 at Monessen City Park.



May Pole Festival

In cooperation with Monessen Public Library and Cultural Center, GMHS sponsored a program on Saturday, May 4, 2013 to recreate an old-fashioned May Day ceremony, complete with the May Pole dance. There were hotdogs, caricatures, crafts, cake and a May Day procession. It is hoped to make this once again an annual event. May Day was an extremely popular spring event in the early 1900’s. The festival was held on the grounds of the former Manos Theatre and was part of the events planned for Monessen’s 115th anniversary.

Celebrate America

Join us on Saturday, July 13, 2013 at the Mihalich Boat Launch in the Eastgate area of Monessen for the annual Celebrate America Festival. GMHS will be sharing a tent with Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center. There is always something to see and do!

Youthworks

GMHS will be working with the Youthworks organization during the months of June and July. Previously, the young volunteers were an immense help in the demolition of the interior of the Museum annex building

(Milsoms/Endicott Johnson Shoes). In return, GMHS will do walking tours and a weekly history lesson.

Salvation Army

At the summer camp sponsored by the Salvation Army in July, GMHS will display historic items for the children to examine and have a history class on interesting Monessen facts.

Living History Weekend (Founder's Day)

In honor of Monessen's 115th anniversary, Founder's Day will be a two day event that will occur on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, August 17 & 18 at Monessen City Park. With a nod to Monessen Founder, Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, the festival will once again feature a Civil War encampment, vendors, displays, games and historic recreations. More details will be forthcoming.

Tourism Grant

GMHS was awarded a \$1000 marketing grant through the Westmoreland County Tourism Grant Program for 2013. The Tourism Grant Program is funded by one-third of the revenues from Westmoreland County's hotel room tax, which is a 3 percent tax on all overnight accommodations. The grant will be used for a new website and for advertisement of upcoming events.



Donner House demolished

The twenty-five room home built by millionaire industrialist William Henry Donner on Parkway in early 1897 has been demolished. The three story home featured a large wrap-around porch and overlooked the downtown area. William Donner started construction on his home at the same time he was building Monessen's first industry, the National Tin Plate Company. The

Donner family owned the property until 1904. Unfortunately, the home had become abandoned years ago and was a fire hazard to the surrounding homes on McKee, due to its frame structure and size. In recent years, the back wing had collapsed.

Your future legacy

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;

What We Have Done For Others And The World Remains And Is Immortal....

When thinking about making a will, most of us will want to provide for our families and loved ones into the future. But as well as looking after those we care about most it is also worth considering leaving a gift to your favorite charity or cause, so that you can make a difference in the lives of others.

What your gift will mean to the preservation of local history:

Leaving a legacy gift in your will is unlike any other gift you can give to the Society, as it is like leaving a part of yourself in our care. It means that we can make plans for projects well into the future, projects that will make a long-lasting and significant difference to those that we remember.

How to leave a legacy gift:

To plan for your future giving, please ask your solicitor's advice on putting an additional codicil onto your existing will. If you have yet to make a will please contact us to get advice on leaving a legacy gift.

We understand that deciding to leave a gift in your will is a very personal and private matter and, for that reason, we ensure you that we will act in the strictest of confidence.

Memorials

In memory of John C. "Jay" Sterback given by Jane Sterback Mazzei.

In memory of James E. Billick given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Jay Schumm given by Mr. and Mrs. Val Gene Veschio.

In memory of Steve Matko given by Lorraine Turkall.

In memory of Louis J. Alesiani given by Barbara Alesiani.

In memory of Louis J. Alesiani given by Louise Deriso.

In memory of Josephine D'Alfonso given by Arlena D'Angelo.

In memory of Verne Duda given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers May -- July, 1913

Mrs. George Mitchell, of McKee Avenue, entertained sixty Woman's Christian Temperance Union members, at her home on McKee Avenue, with a May Day social. (05-06-1913) Monessen News

The contract for the erection of the new Moose Lodge on Schoonmaker Avenue between Second and Third Street was awarded to the Westmoreland Lumber Company. The lodge with over seven hundred members has the largest membership of any lodge in the city. Architect J. A. Lohman will design the structure. (05-06-1913) Monessen News

Dave Rosenberg opened a new tailoring business at the corner of Sixth and Donner Avenue on May 9, 1913. (05-06-1913) Monessen News

At the close of the eighth month of school, there are 2407 pupils enrolled in the school system. (05-06-13) Monessen News

Mrs. Harilaus Economidy, of New York, the foremost Greek Suffragette, visited Monessen on May 11, 1913. (05-13-1913) Monessen News

Monessen school directors decided to build the new high school between Knox Avenue and Reed. Seven houses on Reed will be removed. (05-16-1913) Monessen News

The cornerstone of the United Brethren Church on Reed Avenue was laid with impressive ceremonies. (05-26-1913)

The Third Street Bridge was formally opened to traffic. A Cadillac owned by Councilman Dr. W. D. Hunter was the first to cross the span. (06-05-1913) Daily Independent

T. W. Kisor, the dairyman, reported a heavy frost with heavy dew. The temperature on June 9 was recorded as three degrees, which was the same for June 10. (06-10-1913) Daily Independent

The barn on the Leonard Luce Farm was destroyed by fire at five AM. The whistle at the Tin Mill sounded the alarm, as neighbors rushed to save the horses and cows in the building. (06-18-1913) Daily Independent

J. A. Madigan, Proprietor of the Victoria Hotel, will move the building across the street on Schoonmaker Avenue at

the entrance of the Tube Mill property. The Seamless Tube Co. and the hotel will both be enlarged. (06-20-1913) Daily Independent

The new Greek Catholic Church at the corner of Second Street and McKee Avenue will be dedicated on June 22, 1913. A large parade will cross the new Third Street Bridge as part of the celebration. (06-21-1913) Daily Independent

A. N. Shuster is a candidate for reelection to the office of Justice of the Peace. He started the first grocery store in town. (06-27-1913) Monessen News

The Building Commission of the Monessen Lodge of Elks awarded a contract to erect a new hall to Motz Lumber Company. It will be located at the side of the Duquesne Hotel facing Seventh Street. (06-12-1913) Monessen News

Two lots at the corner of Schoonmaker Avenue and Third Street were sold to Michael Giba, who will erect a three story brick structure with store rooms on the ground floor and apartments above. (07-18-1913) Daily Independent

Late spring and early summer weddings and engagements of 1913

Lee W. Prosser, of Swissvale, and Miss Anna M. Spiegelberg, of Monessen, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on April 30, 1913. (05-02-1913) Monessen News

Miss Estella Rhodes will soon marry Thomas Ashcom. (05-09-1913) Daily Independent

Harry Eckman will marry Miss Emma George, of Vandergrift and reside on Grand Boulevard. (05-17-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Nellie Ewing and William M. May, both of Monessen, were granted a marriage license in Pittsburgh on May 22, 1913. (05-23-1913) Monessen News

William M. May and Miss Nellie Ewing, both of Monessen, received a marriage license. (05-23-13) Daily Independent

Miss Estella Rhodes, a school teacher, will wed Thomas Ashcom in early summer. (05-23-1913) Daily Independent

Amos Cunkleman, a farmer from Loyalhanna, and Mrs. Almira Taylor, of Blacklick Township, Indiana County, received a marriage license in Greensburg on May 20, 1913. The groom was widowed in 1912, and the bride was twice widowed, in 1900 and 1898. (05-24-1913) Daily Independent

Walter Nelson Kelly, age 55, of Vandergrift, and Mary Etta Walters, age 28, of Vandergrift, were granted a marriage license in Greensburg. The bride was twice widowed, first in 1901 and then in 1910. The groom has been widowed and divorced. (05-24-13) Daily Independent

B. H. Potthoff, progressive young businessman of Monessen, will marry Miss Mary Glasser, of Carrolltown, on June 3, 1913. The couple will live in Monessen. The groom owns a jewelry store at Fourth and Donner. (06-03-1913) Monessen News

Miss Lillian Whorrall, of Knox Avenue, will wed R. Arlington Johnston, of Fourth Street, on June 24, 1913. The groom is employed by Pittsburgh Steel. (06-03-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Flenniken celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary on June 3, 1913. (06-07-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Genevieve Morrison, of Marion Centre, married Joshua Thompson Stewart on June 4, 1913. They will live in Indiana, PA. The bride was an eighth grade school teacher for two years. (06-10-13) Daily Independent

Elder Eckman, of McMahan Borough, will wed Miss Myrtle Ramaley, of Mateer, PA on June 12, 1913. The groom is employed in the Tin Plate mill. (06-11-1913) Daily Independent

Leon Meyers, of Donner Avenue, will marry Helen Lowry, of Philadelphia, on June 15, 1913. (06-11-1913) Daily Independent

William L. Lamb, of Boswell, and Miss Amelia Thomas, of Webster, were united in marriage on June 5, 1913 in Morgantown, West Virginia. They will live in Donora. (06-13-1913) Monessen News

Charles Cowan Crum, of Derry, and Miss Elvie Barron, of Homestead, secured a marriage license in Greensburg on June 13, 1913. (06-17-1913) Monessen News

Leon Meyers, of Monessen, and Miss Helen Loewy, of Philadelphia (spelling of bride's name differs from that of June 11) were wed on June 16, 1913. (date also differs) The couple will live at 255 West Clapier Street, Philadelphia. The groom is an aggressive, enterprising, young man with the word "succeed" stamped on his brow. He is a typewriter salesman. It is presumed his bride is "all right". (06-19-1913)

Thomas Ashcom and Miss Estelle Rhodes were married on June 24, 1913 at Rose Point, PA. The groom has an office job with Pittsburgh Steel. They will live in Monessen. (06-24-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Lillian Whorrall and Arlington Johnston will wed on June 24, 1913. (06-24-1913) Daily Independent

Thomas Hayden, of Webster, and Tressa Sharpnack, of West Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Cumberland on June 24, 1913. (06-24-1913) Daily Independent

Lewis J. Goodwin, of Monessen, and Miss Emma E. Land, of Allenport, will wed on June 25, 1913 on the North Side, Pittsburgh. They will reside at 103 ½ First Street. The groom is the assistant superintendent of the wire mill department of the Page Woven Wire Fence Co. (06-25-13) Daily Independent

Miss Ruth Leech and Robert Woodward, of Williamsport, were married on June 25, 1913 in Donora. (06-26-1913) Daily Independent

E. R. Dodge, a Philadelphia furrier, and Miss M. A. Quigley, of Philadelphia, were quietly married in Charleroi on June 26, 1913. The wedding dinner was held at Monessen's Fifth Avenue. Bride is sister of Mrs. George T. Cornelius. (06-27-1913) Monessen News

Edwin R. Dodge, of Philadelphia, and Miss Matilda A. Quigley, of Philadelphia, were wed on June 26, 1913 in Charleroi. They will reside in Philadelphia after an extended western journey. (06-27-1913) Daily Independent

Homer M. Welch and Miss Alice H. Nicklin were married in the Presbyterian manse on June 30, 1913. They will live in Grove City. (06-30-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Amelia Randon and Gabriel J. G. Feldhake, were wed at St. Jerome's Church in Charleroi on July 8, 1913. The groom has a government position in Charleroi, where they will live. (07-09-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Loretta Crosson and Harry Arnold were married by Squire Watkins on July 12, 1913. They are artists of the Star Theatre. (07-12-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Elizabeth Powers and John T. Mullen, both of Monessen, wed on July 16, 1913 at St. Leonard's Church. The groom is employed at the Carnegie Steel Hoop mill and will live in Monessen. (07-16-1913) Daily Independent

Patsy Conti and Miss Anna Rose were united in marriage on July 26, 1913 in Charleroi by Squire A. N. Shuster, of Monessen. (07-26-1913) Daily Independent

Late Spring and early Summer Births and Birthdays of 1913

Lawrence Gourley celebrated his fifth birthday on May 2, 1913, at his home on Knox Avenue. (05-03-1913) Daily Independent

A. N. Shuster had an eight pound boy on May 4, 1913 and will name him Albert Jr. (05-05-1913) Daily Independent

A nine pound baby boy was born on May 5, 1913 to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Merritt, of McKee Avenue. (05-06-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Price, of McMahan Borough, had a baby girl on May 3, 1913. (05-06-1913) Daily Independent

Ralph M. Savage, of Donner Avenue, celebrated his twenty-first birthday on May 4, 1913 with a party. He is employed by Pittsburgh Steel. His relatives and guests presented him with a gold watch and chain. (05-06-1913) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Shuster had an eight pound baby boy at their McKee Avenue home on May 4, 1913. (05-06-1913) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Morgart, of 1007 rear Knox Avenue, opposite the Third Ward school house, had an eight pound baby on May 3, 1913. (05-07-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Nichols, of Belle Vernon, had a baby boy. (05-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Trich, of Belle Vernon, had a son. (05-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. Mary Morgan celebrated her seventieth birthday with a surprise party. (05-19-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stark, of Belle Vernon, had a baby boy. (05-19-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lowstetter had a baby boy on May 19, 1913. (05-20-13) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Woodward are the parents of a ten pound baby boy, who arrived on May 23, 1913. (05-27-13) Monessen News

Jake Borenstein had an eleven pound baby boy on May 23, 1913. (05-27-13) Monessen News

Stanley Martsolf, of Kirk's Drug Store, had a pair of twin girls on May 24, 1913. (05-27-1913) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Martsoff (spelling and date differs from above) had two baby daughters on May 25, 1913. (05-26-1913) Daily Independent

George A. Rogaliner, Manager of the Monessen Five & Ten Cent Store, celebrated his birthday on May 25, 1913. (05-27-1913) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sherwin had a baby boy on June 1, 1913. (06-03-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gulentz, of West Monessen, had a baby girl on May 31, 1913. (06-04-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Myers, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on June 4, 1913. (06-05-1913) Daily Independent

Blanche Cratty, age seven, and Laverne Cratty, age nine, celebrated their birthdays on June 7, 1913 with a party. (06-07-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Albright, of Charleroi, had a baby boy on June 13, 1913. The mother was formerly Miss Helen Patrick, of Monessen. (06-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Robinson, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a son. (06-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Boyd, of 516 Donner Avenue, had a baby daughter on June 17, 1913. (06-17-1913) Daily Independent

Charles Craig Hampton, of McMahan Borough, celebrated his first birthday on June 16, 1913. (06-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Heilman, of Reed Avenue, are the parents of an eight pound baby boy, who arrived on June 20, 1913. (06-20-1913) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. W. Dague had a seven and a half pound baby girl. (07-03-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Stoener, of East Schoonmaker Avenue, had a baby boy. (07-03-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Finley Morgan, of West Monessen, had a son on July 7, 1913. (07-08-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. William Peacock, of West Monessen, had a twelve pound son on July 5, 1913. (07-10-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Baker celebrated her eleventh birthday with a surprise party on July 9, 1913. (07-10-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Erlanger, of East Liverpool, Ohio, had a baby boy. The mother was formerly Miss Rose Meyers, of Donner Avenue. (07-17-1913) Daily Independent

William Watson, Editor of the Donora American, had a baby daughter. (07-18-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Kiefer, of the Park Hotel, had a ten pound daughter on July 17, 1913. (07-18-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Amelda Bowes, of Park Way, celebrated her birthday on July 17, 1913. (07-18-1913)

Dan's Archives

Boyd Arnold Feightner, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a birthday party for his sixth birthday on July 19, 1913. (07-21-1913) Daily Independent

Basil Henry, of Delaware Avenue, and his father in law, George B. Kremer had a birthday dinner with relatives for their twenty-fifth and forty-ninth birthdays on July 20, 1913. (07-21-1913) Daily Independent

Adam Brautegam celebrated his fiftieth birthday on July 19, 1913 at a surprise party. He was presented with a watch fob with double Elks tooth charm. (07-22-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. David Brown, of East Schoonmaker Avenue, had a twelve pound daughter. Following the birth, the mother is in serious condition. (07-23-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. William Craft had a surprise party for her forty-sixth birthday on July 18, 1913. (07-24-1913)

Miss Freda Karlowaky, of Schoonmaker Avenue, had a surprise party for her sixteenth birthday on July 24, 1913. (07-25-1913) Daily Independent

Is your membership current? Don't risk missing an issue of the Valley Historian

Admittance to the Heritage Museum is FREE!

Genealogies

Don't forget to deposit a copy of your family genealogy at the Heritage Museum. In fifty years, someone may be interested in your family's lineage. Also, please include photographs. We can scan originals and return them to you.

Monessen High School's ninth commencement took place on May 28, 1913 in the Opera House at 8:15 PM. The stage was decorated in the class colors of blue and gold with palms and flowers arranged at each end of the stage. The female graduates wore white and carried rose bouquets. There were twenty-one graduates.

For the musical part of the program, Miss Louise Frazier rendered a soprano solo followed by a piano duet by Miss Constance Eloise McMahan and Margaret Brown Dill. Margaret Ruse, Josephine Touche, Margaret Dill and Bessie Preston presented a two-part song. Bessie and Thomas Preston also did a duet.

The invocation was given by Rev. A. T. Wallace, which was followed by the salutatory address by Thomas Francis Preston. He spoke on how the experience of commencement would remain with each and every graduate, who would retell their memories in years to come.

"The Growth of American Engineering" by William A. Meyer discussed the conveniences for the modern traveler, and new inventions of the day.

Herman Hilliard Snyder in his address "The Immigration Cloud" presented the fact that the immigrants of today reflect on the cheapness of labor, for the early immigrants to America had inventive minds and were a better class of people than is found at present.

Anna Louis Frazier in her essay "Power of Music" used quotations by authors and poets to show the power of music is the power of God.

"Radium and Radio Activities" by Ronald Reamer covered the use of radium in modern science.

Sarah Virginia Dent discussed "China's New Day" and the advancement of the Chinese people.

Miss Gertrude Lemone Richards was Class Historian, and Joseph H. Baker was Class Cartoonist. Miss Catherine M. Brightwell, of the Class of 1912, added a link to the class chain and presented it to Mary Genevieve Hannigan, of the Class of 1913.

Class Valedictorian was Thomas Francis Ryan, who spoke on the importance of the teachers and parents to the graduates.

H. E. Gress presented the diplomas to the new graduates and Rev. J. M. Jamieson pronounced the benediction.



Monessen's Croatian Mayor -- Joseph Lescanac served from 1942-1946.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Croatian Exhibit! Available for viewing March – early July, 2013. □

The following are some of the photos donated recently to the Heritage Museum by the family of George Nash. George Nash was general superintendent of the Pittsburgh Steel Co. in Monessen and oversaw construction of the new mill in 1901 :



George Nash and family.



Mrs. Mamie Nash.



Mamie Nash & Daughters

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