

VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society

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monessenhistoricalsociety.com – Being redesigned

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Founders Day Weekend of Living History

In tribute to Monessen Founder, Colonel James M. Schoonmaker, the hero of the Battle of Winchester, the Historical Society will once again celebrate Founders Day at Monessen City Park during the weekend of August 17-18, 2013 with a Civil War festival. Re-enactors from the 11th P.V.I. Company K, Inc. and the 11th Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry Co. F will set up authentic Civil War camps to showcase a living history opportunity regarding life during the War Between the States.

Schedule for Saturday, August 17, 2013

Soldier drills: 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, include inspection of arms, loading in 9 times, firing by company, file and rank.

Children's activities: Immediately following Soldiers' Drill will include drilling with the soldiers

using wooden guns, demonstrating the accuracy of Civil War bullets using round and spherical balls.

There will be old time children's toys and games and period style clothing to model for photo opportunities. Bring your own camera.

Evening teen sleepover activities: 6-8 PM.

Schedule for Sunday, August 18, 2013

Civil War Church Service: 11 AM.

Soldiers' Drills: 12 noon, 2 PM.

Children's activities: Immediately following soldier's drill.

The festival will include food vendors, booths, local authors, displays and fun for all. Civil War personalities, such as Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and Clara Barton, will be portrayed by re-enactors.

Monessen City Park is located in the Park Plan section of the city, along Grand Boulevard.

There will also be displays of Civil War relics, cooking demonstrations over an open fire, fife music, and demonstrations of encampment, soldier life, their equipment, tents and uniforms.

We hope to see you there!

Free admittance!!!

Come to the Park!



Teen camp-out with Scouts during Civil War festival

Tom Wilson, Boy Scout Leader, invites young people to participate in an overnight camp-out during the Founders Day Weekend of Living History, along with the Monessen Boy Scout Troop. He will demonstrate how new army recruits enlisted and lived in the soldier camps. The Civil War reenactors will provide fun and educational activities. Contact Tom, at 724-797-1185, for reservations and further information.

Travel back with us to the time of Calvin Coolidge and the Charleston. Create your best flapper outfit and come to the Roaring Twenties Experience!

The annual GMHS fundraiser dinner and dance will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 5 to 9 PM at St. Spyridon’s Greek Orthodox Church Hall on Grand Boulevard. Tickets are \$40 each. There will be hors d’oeuvres, a buffet ham dinner, live entertainment by the “Ortner Roberts” group, beer, wine, speakeasy punch and plenty of gin. In addition, the evening will have games of chance, raffles and drawings. Historic dress welcomed but optional. Tickets are available at the Monessen Heritage Museum, 505 Donner Avenue, or by calling 724-684-8460. Seating is limited! Call today!

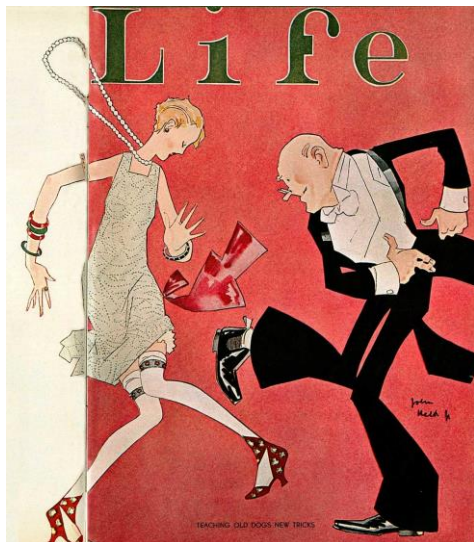


Community Foundation of Westmoreland County Day of Giving

Mark Your Calendars please!

The annual Day of Giving 2013 to help the Greater Monessen Historical Society and other worthwhile charities will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2013 from 12:00 a.m. ET until 11:59:59 p.m. ET.

- 1) All donations during that 24-hour period will receive a pro-rated portion of the match pool. (As an example, if the match pool is \$750,000 and the total amount raised that day is \$8,000,000, then the



Party Time!
Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013

match may be .09 cents on the dollar.) The match pools for 2013 is approx. \$100,000 for Westmoreland County organizations and approx. \$750,000 for Allegheny Co. organizations

2) Only MasterCard or Visa credit card donations received through www.westmoreland.pittsburghgives.org or www.pittsburghgives.org during the 24 hours of October 3, 2013 will be matched for this event. No donations via check, cash or stock will be accepted. Discover and AMEX donations will not be accepted or matched.

4) Each gift is 100% tax deductible. The credit card charge will display as a donation to "The Pittsburgh Foundation" on the donor's credit card statement.

5) The minimum gift per organization is \$25. The maximum gift that an individual can give per organization that will be matched is up to \$1,000. A donor may give a gift exceeding \$1,000 to any organization, but only the first \$1,000 will be counted towards the match pool (for example, A donor gives \$25 to an organization, \$25 is counted towards the match pool; A donor gives \$1,500 to an organization, \$1,000 is counted towards the match pool.)



Our sponsors mean so much to us!

The following are a list of individuals, businesses and organizations that stepped forward and provided a sponsorship of our Monessen Founders Day

Weekend of Living History. We appreciate each and every one of them. Please let them know that you too appreciate their teaming with GMHS to support a great event.

Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas – William Henry Donner Benefactor

Mon –Vale Health Resources Inc. -- Miss Mary Jones Patrons (In honor of Monessen's first businesswoman)

Herman and Adelene Alvarez –Greyhound League

Davies Ford, Inc. of Charleroi – Black and White Society

Valley First Community Federal Credit Union – Black and White Society

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch #88 – Black and White Society

Andy Dzurinko, CLU – Black and White Society

Great Dane Realty, Inc

Shire Law Firm

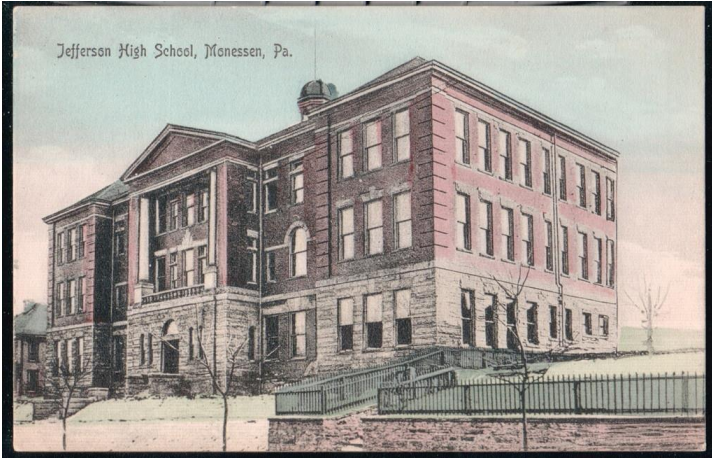
Richard R. Victoria, Attorney at Law

RFP & Associates LLC

Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home, Inc.

Libby's Dairy Bar

Also, we want to thank our volunteers who work very hard to make the events happen. And a special thank you to the people who participate in our events or help us in any way! ☺



History of Monessen Schools Exhibit

The above postcard is of the Jefferson, Monessen's first high school building, which was dedicated in 1904. Visit the Heritage Museum and see the photos of the many former neighborhood school buildings, teachers, administrators, school plays, clubs, etc. The Heritage Museum is open Wed. through Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Perhaps you have school photos to share? Bring them and our volunteers will scan them and return the originals.



Mon Valley Genealogy Forum

As part of our community outreach, GMHS has partnered with Monessen Public Library and Cultural Center to co-sponsor the monthly Mon

Valley Genealogy Forum Lecture series. Each month an interesting speaker will present a program at the library on the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. The programs will cover genealogy, local history, family life, PA history, etc. Light refreshments are served. Join us for an educational and interesting evening. The speaker for Monday, August 19, 2013 will be Sandy Mansmann, a preservationist from Nottingham Township, Pa., who will speak on outhouses. That is sure to bring back many memories!!



Old Photos Wanted!

The Historical Society is asking for copies of the photos each of us have in our homes. The photos that depict Monessen families, businesses and neighborhoods, as well as our many nationalities, stores and industries, etc. The photos can be brought to the Heritage Museum during regular business hours to be scanned and returned. Scans can also be emailed to Monessen@verizon.net.

Volunteers

The Historical Society is always looking for individuals to spearhead different projects. Are you looking for something to do at certain times of the

year? We need facilitators who will work with the Board of Directors and plan exciting and interesting events that showcase local history and our rich ethnic pride. Contact the Historical Society today, if interested.

Community Outreach

GMHS has been active this summer doing community outreach to various groups. We have worked the past six weeks with the visiting Youthworks organization and participated in the Celebrate America Festival and the Salvation Army Summer Day Camp. We have also cooperated on select projects with Monessen Public Library & Cultural Center.



Your Trash May be Our Treasure

Please remember the Heritage Museum when cleaning out basements, closets, drawers, attics, etc. Items that tell the story of Monessen's early years are of importance to us. Old photos, clothing, ethnic items, business promotions, advertisements, etc. are part of our mission to preserve the ethnic and industrial heritage of the Greater Monessen area. Before throwing something out, please think twice and bring the item to the Museum or call us first. Thank you!

Membership

Thank you for being a member of the Society! We value and appreciate each and every one of you. Now, we need to ask a favor. Look around. Are

your neighbors, coworkers, friends and relatives members of GMHS? If not, please help spread the word. Perhaps, a gift membership could be given for a special birthday, anniversary, wedding or just as a thank you for a good deed? Through your efforts we will continue to grow!

Memorials

In memory of Doreen Essey given by the George Essey and Richard Dudas Families.

In memory of Kirk Danko given by Dr. Martin and Madeline Dudas.

In memory of Anna Lautsch Domjancic by Candis Elyanich Kelley.

In memory of Anna Lautsch Domjancic given by Mary Ann Domjancic.

In memory of Ovlana D'Angelo given by Lucille D'Alfonso.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers August -- October, 1913

Sarah Margaret Rowe, the daughter of Wallace H. Rowe, President of the Pittsburgh Steel Company, lit the new blast furnaces of the steel company on August 5, 1913. The Monessen plant employs 4,100 employees. A special train brought the company officials to the ceremony. (08-05-1913) Daily Independent

The Victoria Hotel will be moved to the opposite side of the street within thirty days. The business of the hotel will not be disturbed and guests will not be disturbed. (08-07-1913) Daily Independent

The barn on the J. W. Luce Farm, east of town, was destroyed by fire on August 9, 1913. Previously the barn burned down in August of 1898, after being struck by lightning and again this year on June 18, 1913. (08-09-1913) Daily Independent

Monessen will host the reunion of the Ringgold Cavalry on August 21, 1913. The Menefee Building on Sixth

Street will serve as the headquarters. (08-12-1913) Daily Independent

Charles Dragella has begun a service of driving people from the hill districts of Monessen to the downtown area in his motor car for five cents. He also will make trips to Bentleyville for camp meetings. (08-25-1913) Daily Independent

Pierce Johnson is now serving an average of four hundred meals each day at the Star Café, which was established three years ago. (09-04-1913) Daily Independent

Two basement rooms are being furnished in the Third Ward School to relieve overcrowding. When school opened on September 8, 1913, Room 1, taught by Miss Hancock, had ninety-four pupils crowded in the one room. (09-16-1913) Daily Independent

The firm of P. W. Finn, of Altoona, had the lowest bid to build the new high school building at a cost of \$75,474. (09-17-1913) Daily Independent

Late summer and early autumn weddings and engagements of 1913

Bernard Leonard Herron and Miss Rita Kathryn Narey were married on August 1, 1913 in Cumberland. The groom is a student at the University of Pittsburgh. The couple is residing at the Westmoreland Hotel, which is owned by the groom's father, William Herron. (08-04-1913) Daily Independent

Earl Woods, of Monessen, and Miss Edith Dixon, of West Virginia, were married on August 5, 1913. The groom is employed by Pittsburgh Steel. They will live at the corner of Second and Aliquippa. (08-06-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Vallie Hiscox will marry Elmer Williams on August 30, 1913. (08-25-1913) Daily Independent

Thomas Jackson, of Monessen, has filed for divorce from his wife Estella. They were married in November of 1899. (09-04-1913) Daily Independent

Anna Mamella is divorcing her husband, Omondio Amell Mamella after being married on February 5, 1899. (09-04-1913) Daily Independent

Arch C. Shrader is to divorce his wife, Alice E. Shrader, who deserted him. They were married on December 25, 1905. (09-04-1913) Daily Independent

J. F. Soles and Miss Ida Reeder were married in Connellsville. The groom is a stenographer for Page Fence and Wire. (09-08-1913) Daily Independent

Paul V. Neel, of Donora, and Miss Andrae Argenson, of Donora, were married on September 15, 1913 by the groom's father, Rev. J. T. Neel. The groom has been admitted to the Allegheny County Bar. (09-16-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Helen Rosen, age sixteen and the daughter of I. Rosen, the Third Street tailor, has returned home after a mysterious three week departure to Akron saying she has married. Her family denies this. (09-17-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. Sarah Daugherty and Joseph J. Noroski, both of Donora, were married. The groom is the manager of the foreign department of the Donora Union Trust Company. They will live on McKean Avenue. (09-19-1913) Daily Independent

William H. Brown, of Wheeling, and Miss Elizabeth Aurand, of Brownsville, were married on September 24, 1913. The groom is age sixty-nine, while the bride is a younger woman of sixty-eight. (09-24-1913) Daily Independent

James McGrady Huston, Assistant City Editor of the Pittsburgh Times married Daryl Gillispie Greene, of Uniontown on September 22, 1913. (09-25-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Florence Manel Frew and Olen Lance Riggs, of Charleroi were wed on September 23, 1913. The groom is associated with Riggs and Steck Shoes (09-25-1913) Daily Independent

Herman Luanuanum and Olga Harvin, both of Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Greensburg. (09-25-1913) Daily Independent

James F. S. Cruthers, of West Newton, and Miss Ida May McQuade, of Monessen, were married on September 27, 1913. The groom is a structural engineer for the firm of McClintock and Marshall and is also a foreman for the Pittsburgh Steel Company. (09-29-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Furick celebrated their forty-third wedding anniversary on October 6, 1913. Mr. Furick is doorman at the Star Theatre. Mrs. Furick was previously Miss Emma Peters. (10-06-1913) Daily Independent

James B. Hurst, of Scottdale, and Miss Lorraine McGill, of Dawson, were married. They will live in Scottdale. The bride is the cousin of G. F. Wright. (10-06-1913)

Miss Francis Kremer Hambry, and Grover Boyd, both of Donora, married on October 8, 1913. They will live in Donora after a two month honeymoon trip. The groom is the assistant cashier at the Bank of Donora. (10-09-1913) Daily Independent

Charles E. McKinley and Miss Minnie Grable, of Monessen, obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on October 14, 1913. (10-15-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Edith Cadugan will marry Samuel Wagoner on November 5, 1913. (10-18-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Flick, of Aliquippa Avenue, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on October 21, 1913. (10-22-1913) Daily Independent

Charles Weaver, of Connellsville, and Agnus Beattie, of Fayette City obtained a marriage license in Pittsburgh on October 22, 1913. (10-23-1913) Daily Independent

Charles A. Pollack, of California, and Jesse H. Duvall, of Coal Center, received a marriage license in Pittsburgh on October 22, 1913. (10-23-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Edith Cadugan, of 210 Reed Avenue, will marry Samuel Wagoner on November 5, 1913. (10-24-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. Barbara Corwin and Frank Venerri were married October 29, 1913. They will live on Reed Avenue. (10-30-1913) Daily Independent

Late Summer and early Autumn Births and Birthdays of 1913

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Sullivan had a son on August 5, 1913, which sadly lived only twenty-four hours. (08-09-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. McClimars had a daughter. (08-09-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carlon, had a ten pound baby girl. (08-26-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Johnson, of 626 Knox Avenue, had a baby girl. (09-04-1913) Daily Independent

Ethel Phillips, age twelve and Helen Phillips, age ten, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips of Knox Avenue celebrated their birthdays on September 22, 1913. (09-23-1913) Daily Independent

Herbert Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Arnold, of Sixth Street Hill, celebrated his sixth birthday on September 27, 1913. (09-30-1913) Daily Independent

Sara Harvey, of Knox Avenue, celebrated her fifth birthday on October 8, 1913. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harvey. (10-09-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Jess McMullen, of Newell, had a ten pound baby boy. The father is employed by the P&LE. (10-15-1913) Daily Independent

Miss Marguerite Gribben, of Reed Avenue, celebrated her birthday on October 17, 1913 with a surprise party. (10-20-1913) Daily Independent

Al J. Goodwin, of First Street, had a surprise party for his thirty-seventh birthday on October 20, 1913. He is employed at the Page Woven Wire Fence Co. He received a rocking chair from the guests. (10-21-1913) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Colas, of 827 Schoonmaker Avenue, had a nine and a half pound son on October 21, 1913. (10-22-1913) Daily Independent

Mrs. J. E. Morris, celebrated her birthday at the A.M. E. parsonage on October 23, 1913 with fifty guests. (10-24-13) Daily Independent

Hazel Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rogers, of McKee Avenue, celebrated her third birthday on October 28, 1913 with a Halloween themed party. (10-30-1913) Daily Independent

Dan's Archives



MONESSEN IN 1897

As we commemorate Monessen's one hundred and fifteenth anniversary in 2013, we look back to a description of Monessen and the founding East Side Land Company written in "Pittsburgh: the distributing point for the west and south; Allegheny County : destined to be the greatest manufacturing center of the world" in 1900.

"East Side Land Co."

"Of the many instances of city-building afforded by Pittsburg's history, perhaps none is more notable than that recorded by the East Side Land Company's enterprise and push in developing, literally in creating, the beautiful little suburb known as Monessen, which the company was organized five years ago to promote. Monessen is 22 miles from the Pittsburg general post-office, on the main line of the Pittsburg & Lake Erie Railroad. Two years ago, it was merely 500 acres of meadow-land, sheltered by rolling hills, and fronting a charmed prospect of river and woods – vacant land, peopled by cattle and its sweep broken by fences and nothing else. Early in 1897, the first dwelling house of Monessen was completed. Today the place contains nearly 3,500 people; and more than 800 of these are homeowners and permanently identified with Pittsburg's life and the solid, vested interests of the realty world here. The men that have brought this modern miracle to pass are: George O. Morgan, president of the East Side Land Co., and of the National Iron and Steel Publishing Company; James M. Schoonmaker, treasurer, the president of the P&LE; George B. Motheral, secretary; S. L. Lorenz, general manager.

Previous to the formation of this company, Mr. Lorenz was connected with McKee Bros. for quite a while, and was also associated with the Birmingham Traction Co. For one of his years, his career has been one, which viewed from a business standpoint, might well create envy in the breast of so-called wise-acres, and to his untiring industry and keen foresight is due in large measure the success which has been attained by the Borough of Monessen. These four constitute the company's executive staff, whose principal offices are in suite 409 of the Tradesmen's Building.

Their methods in exploiting Monessen have been in no wise the methods commonly adopted by realty speculators to boom a Lonelyville or a Swamphurst for the company has chosen its buyers most carefully, and has relied upon Monessen's solid merits, not upon specious advertising and blatant cheapness to attract and to keep the sort of people who make a community substantial. The company's profits in the matter have been considerable, to be sure; and so they should be; but it is after all the city and Monessen householders that profit most, and so this concern, these men, and their achievements may well be inscribed among the valuable factors of the prosperity to which their honorable enterprise has so greatly and directly added."



NEEDED!! Vintage Prom Dresses for School Display. Please loan your vintage prom dresses, so we can use them in the front display window during our Monessen School Exhibit.

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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& Editor of Valley Historian
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