

Valley Historian



Published by the Greater Monessen Historical Society
(Recipient of the Arthur St. Clair Award)

Monessen Heritage Museum

505 Donner Avenue

Monessen, PA 15062

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www.monessenhistoricalsociety.com (webpage)

724-684-8460

The Greater Monessen Historical Society
is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization registered in Pennsylvania

Vol.24 Issue 3 Summer/Autumn, 2024

Founders Day Dinner: A Success!



This year's theme was a
"A Haunting Night of
Fun". Good food, friends
and fun for all! Catering
by the Steel Plate. Join us
next October!



Become a
NEW MEMBER
or
RENEW
Your Membership

Annual Fund Drive and Membership Renewal

The annual Fund Drive forms are out and cover your membership renewal. The Board has kept the dues the same as in past years. Consider giving gift subscriptions! Please be as generous as possible.



The Greater Monessen Historical Society thanks the following individuals and businesses that generously sponsored the Founders Day Dinner celebration:

Ted Harhai – Greyhound League

Douglas Education Center – Black and White Society

Joshua R. Huhn, DMD LLC – Black and White Society

Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home – Black and White Society

Valley 1st Community Federal Credit Union – Black and White Society

Shire Law Firm -- Black and White Society

Andy Dzurinko – Black and White Society

Highway Appliance – Donner Dollar Club

Tom and Tamara Bojsen – Thank you for the refreshments at the bar!

Tim Susick in memory of Karen L. (Ostapowicz) Susick, MHS Class of 1968 -- Greyhound League

Lena Alvarez – Greyhound League

Penn Highlands Hospital – Black and White Society



Upcoming Exhibit

The new Exhibit in the Museum in 2025 will feature “Toys of Yesteryear”. If you have any to loan or donate, please call the Heritage Museum at 724-684-8460.



**Update – Monessen 125
Commemorative Book**

After a delay, we are hard at work on the Monessen 125 Commemorative book and hope to have it ready to publish soon.

That means there is still time to place an ad in the book.

**Monessen 125th Anniversary Book
Advertising**

If you would like to place an ad, memorial, dedication, or congratulatory ad in the 125th Anniversary Book, please fill out this form and mail it to:

Greater Monessen Historical Society
505 Donner Ave. Monessen, PA 15062

If writing a check, please include “125th Ad” in the Memo Line.

For additional information, please call 724-684-8460.
Deadline is December 31, 2024.

Name (First and Last): _____

Address: _____

City _____ State:

Zip: _____

Business or Organization (if applicable): _____

Text to be included in the ad:

You may submit a printed version of your ad design on a separate sheet of paper.

Ad Prices are as follows. Please circle which ad you would like:

Premium Full Page (Inside front and back cover): \$2000

Full Page: \$499

Half Page: \$299

Quarter Page: \$179

Patron ad: \$10 (Just the name, such as “Mr. and Mrs. John Smith”, or “Rebecca Smith”, or “The Vincent Smith Family”).

You may submit a photo or artwork for any ad, memorial, or congratulatory ad. You may email ad artwork or digital versions of ads to

monessen@verizon.net

Signature:

Date:

Your Family Genealogy

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

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

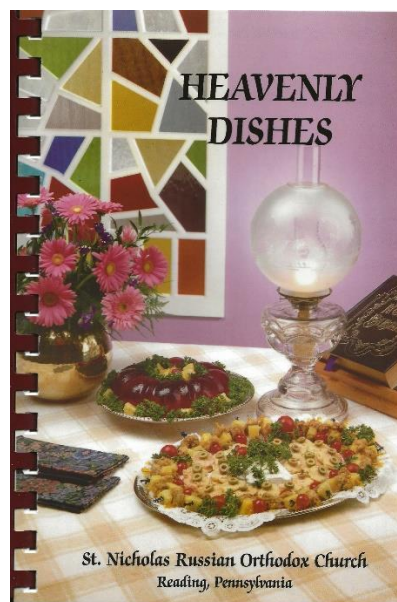
support for the Greater Monessen Historical Society’s efforts to connect people to history. It will also ensure that the heritage and legacy left by our immigrant ancestors continues into the future.

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.

Call for Actors and Actresses

We are also looking for people to portray Monessen historical figures, such as Mrs. William Henry Donner, at events. If interested, please contact us.



Museum Gift Shoppe

Check out our webpage to see items available in our Gift Shoppe. We have the largest collection of nationality cookbooks available in the area. They make wonderful gifts. Recently, we added several new cookbooks to the list. Some cookbooks are featured in this newsletter.

**One Hundred Years Ago in the
Newspapers
June - August, 1924**

Monessen children are helping to secure the supply of milk for the orphans in the Near East. On June 7, 1924, the movie, "Uncle America Sees It Through" was shown at the Star Theatre. Admission was one can of Borden's Condensed Milk. The Borden Company matched the amount of donated cans. (06-03-1924) Monessen News

Grandview Cemetery Association is securing bids for a new entrance of Beaver Valley Sand Stone. (06-03-1924) Monessen News

Thomas Bergstein, proprietor of the Monessen Cash Meat Market, opened his remodeled and refurbished market. (06-06-1924) Monessen News

Goodloe H. Thomas, editor of Monessen's Friday Evening Call, died at his home on Park Way last night. (06-13-1924) Monessen News

The order for a soldiers' memorial statue to be erected on the P&LE train station grounds was placed. (06-20-1924) Monessen News

The Polish Falcons signed a contract with the Westmoreland Lumber Company for a \$30,000 lodge and club house of two stories. (06-25-1924) Daily Independent

The Finnish Lutheran Church, 425 Reed Avenue, will dedicate their new pipe organ tomorrow. (07-12-1924) Daily Independent

Marino Teeici, a baker, 443 Donner Avenue, was arrested in Belle Vernon as a "booze runner" following a high speed chase through the downtown to Brewery Hill. He threw a jug of moonshine onto the brick road. He has had run ins with the police on several occasions. (07-17-1924) Daily Independent

Mrs. Bessie M. Thomas, the editor and publisher of the Friday Evening Call during the illness and after the death of her husband, Goodlow H. Thomas, has

sold the paper to Harold J. Ruse. The newspaper's format will change from a tabloid to a standard seven columns. (07-18-1924) Daily Independent

Contractor Shemp, Martin Ferry, Ohio, broke ground for the new Rostraver Junior High School near Pricedale. It will be placed in a little old orchard along a small creek. (07-22-1924) Monessen News

The Polish American Citizens Political Club of Monessen was chartered yesterday. Its purpose is to encourage the naturalization of Polish residents. (07-25-1924) Daily Independent

On Sunday afternoon, at 2:30 PM., the Czecho-Slovak people will hold special services at the Slovak Presbyterian Church on Knox Avenue, to commemorate the martyrdom of John Hus. He was the Bohemian religious reformer, who was burned at the stake in 1415. (07-29-1924) Monessen News

Monessen is banning swimming in the Monongahela River due to yearly drownings and injuries. Boys like to swim where the Third Street sewer empties into the river, as the water is warmer. (08-08-1924) Monessen News

Workmen are dismantling the old First Presbyterian parsonage on McKee Avenue. The large frame dwelling was built as a mansion in 1904 for \$3,700. The new church is to be erected on the site. (08-08-1924) Daily Independent

Monessen Welding and Radiator Company, 920 Donner Avenue, installed the only electric welding machine in the Monongahela Valley for commercial work. Jack Gillespie is the owner. (08-08-1924) Monessen News

The contracts for the St. Leonard's parochial school, convent and central heating plant were awarded yesterday to Moore & Lamb of Youngstown, Ohio. Approximately \$200,000. (08-14-1924) Daily Independent

Manager Geiss, of the Olympic Theater, signed a contract for the personal appearance of Dorothy Bush and her

Cinema Girls next Friday and Saturday. The actress has appeared in Max Sennett comedies. (08-18-1924) Daily Independent

The Leone Brothers, Philip and Tony, took charge of the Foster House, Ninth and Donner. Rates are \$1.50 - \$2.00 a day. (08-19-1924) Monessen News

A new street named Manown Street was opened. (08-22-1924) Daily Independent

Richard S. Kelly, 435 Donner Avenue, who has been an undertaker for twenty-five years, has purchased a Riddle Hearse. It is an exact copy of the one used for the funeral of the late President Warren G. Harding. (08-26-1924) Monessen News

Weddings, Divorces and Engagements of June – August 1924

Miss Eva Moffat and George F. Wilkes wed yesterday. Will live in Monessen. (06-03-1924) Monessen News

Miss Christine Mayer married Thomas Conti on Tuesday. (06-13-1924) Monessen News

Miss Kathyne Eloise Frye, Charleroi and Edwin Clifford Jones, Monessen wed on Saturday. They will live on Donner Avenue. (06-17-1924) Monessen News

Miss Garnet Lynn, Knox Avenue, and Boyd Miller, State College, were married in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. The bride is a teacher in the Junior High School. (06-20-1924) Monessen News

Miss Louise Bartholomew, Helen, PA., and Roy J. Lee, Monessen, wed on Thursday. They will reside on Division Street. (06-24-1924) Monessen News

Miss Alice Fairley and John E. Jennings wed on Wednesday. They will live in Warren, Ohio. (06-24-1924) Monessen News

Miss Lillian Sisley, Speers, married William Rogers, Monessen, yesterday. (07-01, 1924) Monessen News

Monessen Police Chief William A. Horne married Miss Ruth Kulenics, 964 Leeds Avenue, in Cumberland, MD. (07-01-1924) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goldberg celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary with a dinner at their McKee Avenue home. (07-05-1914) Daily Independent

David H. Lindeman, Monessen, filed for divorce from Blanche Lindeman on the grounds of receiving the attentions of other men. (07-10-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Adelaide Pilsila and Walter Wiita, both of Monessen, quietly wed at the Finnish Lutheran Parsonage last evening. The bride is employed by the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company. The groom works at the Post Office. (07-15-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Katherine Gavin and Rudolph Deprile wed today at St. Leonard's Roman Catholic Church. The bride is employed at the Western Union Office, while the groom is the barber at "Joe's Place" on Schoonmaker. (07-21-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Bertha Brooks, Monessen, and C. L. Mickels, Lynchburg, VA, were married on July 22, in Pittsburgh. The groom works in Pittsburgh Steel. They will reside on Ninth Street. (07-24-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Margaret Wagner, Fairhope, and Thomas Boyer, Monessen, married at Cumberland, MD. (07-26-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. George Skurkay celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with a surprise party. (07-29-1924) Daily Independent

Hiawatha Washington, 432 Clarendon Avenue, married W. C. McGee, 513 Sixth Street in a home wedding. They will live at 613 Marguerite Street. (08-04-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Anna Lillian Harcholic and William Vincent Danko, Fourth Street, wed today at Most Holy Name of Jesus Roman

Catholic Church (Slovak). The bride is employed by Dr. E. B. Slotterback, while the groom works in the Tin Mill. (08-12-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Beryl Thomas and Glenn H. Brumbaugh wed today. The bride graduated from California Normal School and has been a Monessen teacher for five years, as well as the pipe organist for the M. E. Church. The groom is employed in the office of Pittsburgh Steet, Allenport. (08-12-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Martha Carney, East Schoonmaker Avenue, and Wilmer Foster, West Newton, married in Oakland, Maryland on Tuesday. The bride is the winner of several beauty contests. (08-15-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Anna Lillian Harcolic and William Dnako, both of Monessen, wed Monday at Holy Name Catholic Church. (08-15-1924) Monessen News

Miss Helen L. Maund, Charleroi and Frank H. Holroyd, 212 Aliquippa Avenue, married today. (08-25-1924) Daily Independent

Dr. A. D. Newell, Monessen, and Miss Ethel, Margaret Ortel, Baltimore, MD., wed two weeks ago. The groom is a dentist at Fifth and Donner. (08-27-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Gertrude Donaldson, Charleroi, and Arthur Thomas, Monessen, wed today. The groom is a teacher. (08-30-1924) Daily Independent

Miss Anna Bacha, McMahan Avenue, and Vendal G. Smigorsky, Uniontown, married on Tuesday. (08-30-1924) Daily Independent

Summer / Early Fall Births of 1924

Mr. and Mrs. William Bartko, Ninth Street, had a baby boy last Thursday at

Dudas Maternity Hospital. (06-17-1924) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. John O'Connor, of Knox Avenue, had a baby boy on Saturday. (06-24-1924) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Dahood, 269 Schoonmaker, Avenue, had a son on Sunday that weighed twelve pounds. (06-25-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Furio, 449 Motheral Avenue, had a 10 ½ pound baby boy last evening. (07-08-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Parnelli, 48 Aliquippa Avenue, had a daughter yesterday. (07-10-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. John Pinacko, Knox Avenue, had a ten pound baby girl yesterday. (07-10-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Williams, of the Independent Apartments, had a daughter on Wednesday. (07-11-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Waddle, 659 South Fourteenth Street, had a Baby boy today. (07-14-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Harlick, East Schoonmaker Avenue, had an 8 ½ pound baby boy at the Dudas Maternity Hospital. (07-14-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hughes, Knox Avenue, had an eight pound son last evening. (07-18-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Blackburn, 692 McKee Avenue, had a baby girl on Monday at the Dudas Maternity Hospital. (07-18-1924) Monessen News

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mackay, East Monessen, had a ten pound boy yesterday. (07-22-1924) Daily Independent

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Fisher, Donner Avenue, had a baby girl on Monday at the

**Dudas Maternity Hospital. (07-23-1924)
Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Rosario Talbo, 916 Summit
Avenue, had an eight pound son
yesterday. (07-25-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Max Goldberg,
Schoonmaker Avenue, had an eight
pound baby boy Sunday at West Penn
Hospital. (07-28-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. John Bender, East
Schoonmaker, had an 8 ½ pound son on
Friday. (08-04-1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Carnes,
Dutchtown, had an 8 ½ pound boy on
Saturday. (08-04-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Pope, of Newell, had
a baby boy at the Dudas Maternity
Hospital. (08-06-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ciarrochi, had a son at
Dudas Maternity Hospital. (08-06-1924)
Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Burke, Allshoure
Avenue, had a baby boy on Tuesday. (08-
08-1924) Monessen News**

**Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Shirley, had a son
last Thursday. (08-11-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Harrison A. Irwin, local
florist, had a baby boy at their home, 110
Knox Avenue. He was named Harrison
A. Irwin, Jr. (08-12-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Mick Martin, 322 Fourth
Street, had a daughter today. She is
named Mary. (08-12-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Valenti, Ontario
Street, had a ten pound baby girl
yesterday. Both mother and daughter
will share the same birthday. (08-13-
1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Hayen Thompson, Maple
Avenue, had a son yesterday at Dudas
Maternity Hospital. (08-13-1924) Dail
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Mike Habran, Clarendon
Avenue, had an eleven pound son. (08-14-
1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Haven Thompson, Maple
Avenue, had a baby boy Tuesday at
Dudas Maternity Hospital. (08-15-1924)
Monessen News**

**Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tulley, 927
McMahon Avenue, had a seven pound
son. He is the couple's ninth child. (08-
16-1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. James Gould, of the
Independent Apartments, had a
daughter. (08-19-1924) Monessen News**

**Mr. and Mrs. Louis Delansky, had a nine
pound baby girl yesterday. The baby was
born on the father's birthday. (08-19-
1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Sam Abrahams, 533 Sixth
Street, had an eight pound daughter at 3
AM today. (08-21-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zandanell, Donner
Avenue, had a ten pound baby girl this
morning. (08-22-1924) Daily
Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kohan, McMahon
Avenue, had a nine pound daughter. (08-
25-1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mucy, 1493 Highland
Avenue, had a ten pound baby girl. (08-
28-1924) Daily Independent**

**Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hall, Allshouse
Avenue, had an 8 ½ pound baby boy
Wednesday. (08-30-1924) Daily
Independent**

Dan's Archives

Christmas in 1902

In December of 1902, the Borough of Monessen was four years old and ready to celebrate another joyous Christmas season. Among the businesses advertising Christmas sales in the *Monessen News* were: Brooks for everything under the sun, Levy for dress suits, Lamonts for W. I. Douglas and Queen Quality shoes, Myers with a new store filled with clothing and hats, Moyer for the finest jewelry, Skelley's for toys and the right prices, Ely Brothers for slippers, White Front Meat Market for your turkey, Willson Hardware Company for carving sets, Saltzar for Christmas novelties, Wright and Thompson with a new store and new furniture to sell, and F. C. Blair and their holiday jewelry.

The edition of the *Monessen News* for December 20, 1902 carried a front page editorial comparing Monessen to a young boy wanting toys. It said he has received such an abundance of good things these past four Christmases. His first present was the American Tin Plate plant with its 1500 workers. This was followed by the Page Woven Wire mill, and then the American Steel Hoop mill. The Monessen Foundry and Machine Company followed, and lastly, the young boy received the Pittsburgh Steel Company. All together these "toys" pay out nearly \$200,000 each month to their workers. The editorial states Monessen should be happy and thankful for the many good things bestowed on it by God. Four days later, the Paper carried the Borough's wish list to Santa for 1902, noting it has much, but wants much more. Among the listed items were: a new street leading to the Monongahela River, mud free streets, improved electric system, an opera house, a free library, a Sunday train, more school rooms, a bridge and street car line to Charleroi, voting wards, a good telephone line to Pittsburgh, and a late train from Pittsburgh.

A Recipe For You

Clear Mushroom Soup – Hubova Polievka” for Christmas Eve

2 sticks butter

2 pounds mushrooms (cleaned and sliced)

2 heads chopped garlic

4 quarts water

3 chopped onions

½ cup of sauerkraut juice

Salt & pepper to taste

Saute garlic, onions and mushrooms in a large soup pot.

When mushrooms are tender, add water and bring to a boil.

Simmer 1 hour.

Serve hot with noodles or dumplings

From “Celebrate Christmas, Slovak Style” by Lawrence G. Kozlowski. Available in the Museum Shoppe or online through the webpage.

<https://monessenhistoricalsociety.com/shop/>

Cookbooks can be ordered online, by calling the museum or by visiting the Shoppe. Many varieties to choose from. Excellent gifts!

GMHS MEMORIALS, Summer/Fall 2024

In memory of DR. MARTIN DUDAS by Larry & Rita Whatule, Bob & Robin Betza, Ted Harhai.

In memory of FRANK J. “BUCKY” RIZZUTO by Vito Beneccio.

In memory of FRANKLIN SILKO by Thomas Lee Jones.

In memory of JOHN R. PALLINI, JR. by Ted Harhai.

In memory of DAVID STEIN, #88, MHS Class of 1973 by Ted Harhai.

In memory of MILFRED “BUBBY” HOLMES, #22, MHS Class of 1973 by Ted Harhai

In memory of THOMAS HOLLANDER,
MHS CLASS of 1954 by Morris Bodoia, Nick
& Virginia Fisfis.

In memory of MICHAEL ANDREW
ROMEY, JR. "Mickey" by Kathryn Romey.

In memory of GREGORY CHESMAR by
Morris Bodoai.

In memory of KAREN DUDA HERMILLER
by Madeline Dudas.

In memory of SCOTT C. OLIVER by
Thomas Lee Jones.

GMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Zyglowicz, President & Editor of
Valley Historian

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Grandson of William Henry Donner)

George O. Morgan IV, Honorary Seat
(Great Grandson of George O. Morgan I)

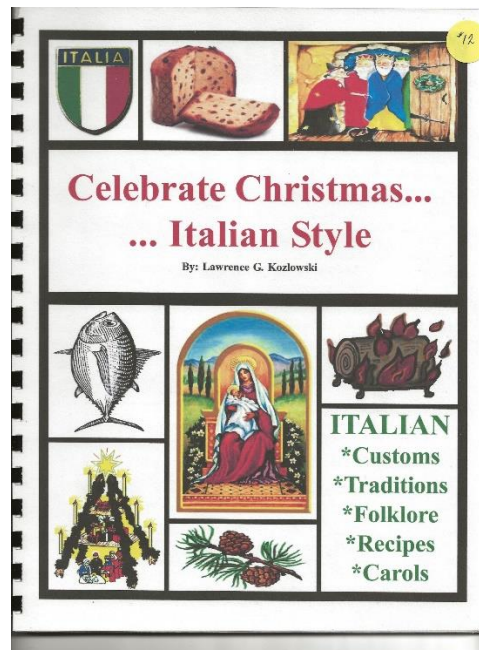


The Board of Directors extend their
holiday greetings to all of our members,
benefactors and friends.

Please call if planning to visit the
Monessen Heritage Museum during
the holiday season to make sure a
volunteer is on duty.

The annual GMHS Holiday Party is
scheduled for Saturday, January
11, 2025, at noon. Hope to see you
there.

Holiday Gifts from the Museum Shoppe



Celebrate Christmas Italian Style,
\$15.00

Printed in color and includes an
explanation of various Italian
Christmas traditions. (spiral bound
soft cover) 30 pp.

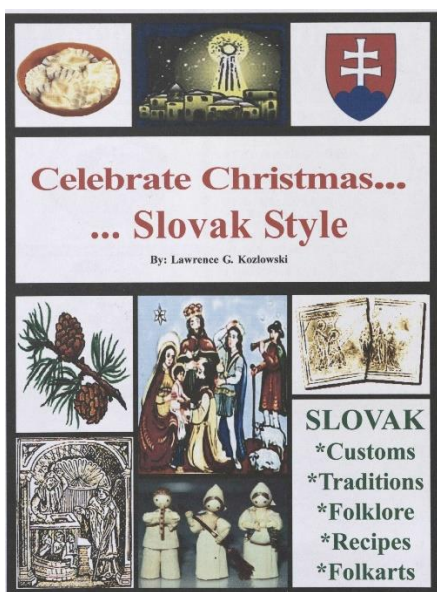
By Lawrence G. Kozlowski



Celebrate Christmas Polish Style, \$15.00

Printed in color and includes an explanation of various Polish Christmas traditions. (spiral bound soft cover) 30 pp.

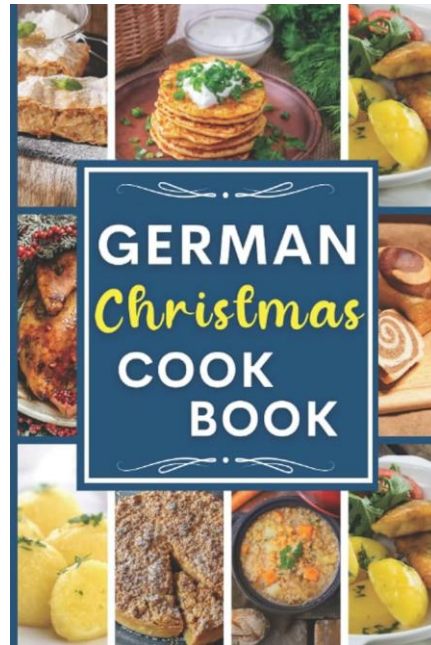
By Lawrence G. Kozlowski



Celebrate Christmas Slovak Style, \$15.00

Printed in color and includes an explanation of various Slovak Christmas traditions. (spiral bound soft cover) 30 pp.

By Lawrence G. Kozlowski



German Christmas Cookbook, \$18.00

Spend this Christmas comfortably with the most delicious 70 German Recipes

(soft cover) pp 118

by Carmen Marles



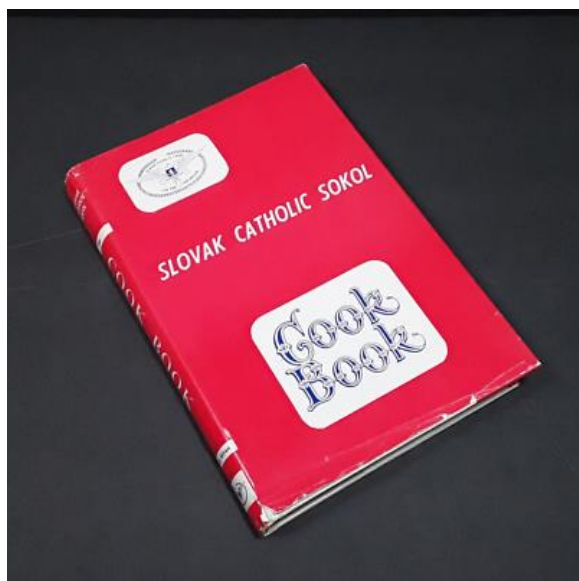
The Swedish Christmas Cookbook, \$12.00

The main Christmas meal is on Christmas Eve – 24th December – with a famous Julbord, a buffet of numerous dishes over several

courses. Dishes include meats such as ham and meatballs, various herring dishes and smoked salmon, and a wonderful array of biscuits and desserts.

(softcover) 80 pp

by Marit Peters



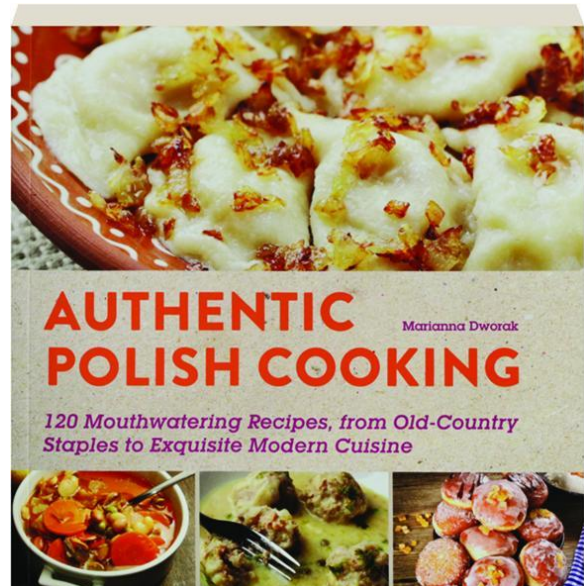
Slovak Catholic Sokol, \$20.00

The Fourth Edition of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Cook Book was published in 1986 to honor the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty.

(hardcover) 278 pp with index

by Slovak Catholic Sokol

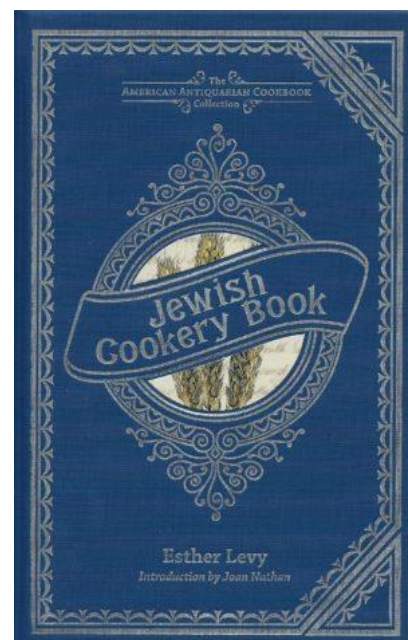
4th Edition 1986



Authentic Polish Cooking, \$15.00

(soft cover) 170 pp

By Marianna Dworak



Jewish Cookery Book, \$15.00

(hard cover) 200 pp with index.

First published in 1871 and reprinted in 2012.