



Mont Alto  
Memories

*The Newsletter of the  
Mont Alto Historical Society*



*Fall 2016*

*P.O. Box 615, Mont Alto, PA 17237*

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# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

### ***From the President's Pen***

Ten years and counting! The past ten years have been busy, informative and at times an exciting period for the Mont Alto Historical Society.

When Mont Alto folks gathered for the first organizational meeting, 2016 seemed a long way into the future. Here we are and we have survived many ups and downs and are still "working to keep our history alive". We hope these past ten years have been informative and entertaining for members and friends who have participated in our meetings and events. We appreciate the patronage and support shown by all of you and we hope your interest in the Society continues into the future. The people and organizations that have worked and shared their time and talents are too numerous to mention. Each and everyone one of you are remembered and appreciated.

Our fall and winter schedule is filled with coming events that will be addressed elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have Mont Alto photos, artifacts or information, please come to a meeting and share them with us. Everyone is always welcome.

*Carolyn Poffenberger*

### ***2016 Meeting Schedule***

The Mont Alto Historical Society will hold its monthly meetings for the remainder of the year at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the months of September, October, and November.

Special lectures will be announced on the Society website, in the local newspapers, and on the bulletin board in front of the Borough hall.

In December, the annual Christmas banquet will be held at the Parlor House restaurant in Waynesboro on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The Society's historic religious service in preparation for Christmas will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:00 pm at the Emmanuel Chapel on the Penn State Mont Alto campus.

### **SOCIETY SAMPLER GIFTS AND COLLECTIBLES**

<b>MAHS T-Shirt: \$5</b>	<b>MAHS Golf Shirt: \$10</b>
<b>Wooden Keepsake, Mont Alto State Park Pavilion: \$5</b>	<b>Wooden Keepsake, Otterbein U.M. Church: \$10</b>
<b>Red ware Pottery Plate: \$15</b>	<b>Mira Lloyd Dock (1853-1945) Book: \$3</b>
<b>MAHS Christmas Ornaments, (2009, 2010, &amp; 2012): \$5</b>	<b>MAHS Calendars (2008, 2011, 2013 &amp; 2015): \$2</b>
<b>Mont Alto Sampler Book, written by Becky Dietrich: \$5</b>	<b>1883 Mont Alto Park Posters: \$0.50</b>
<b>Society Photo Christmas Cards: 10 for \$10</b>	<b>Funkstown Maps: \$0.50</b>

## EXHIBITS IN SOCIETY DISPLAY CASE OVER THE YEARS

TOYLAND – OLD TOYS - DECEMBER 2008	VICTORIAN ACCESSORIES
MEDICAL RELATED ARTIFACTS – 2009	HATS OFF TO THE AMERICAN WORKER – MADE IN THE USA
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE- EARLY LIGHTING	KEEPING TIME – TIMEPIECES FROM THE PAST
GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME – SPORTS MEMORABILIA	BIRDHOUSES
REMEMBERING GRANDMA’S KITCHEN – UTENSILS	BELLS
SCHOOL DAYS – MONT ALTO SCHOOLS	CHRISTMAS MEMORIES
TOOLS OF THE TRADE – EARLY TOOLS	ANGELS
MONT ALTO BUSINESSES OF THE PAST	GLASS BOTTLES
VALENTINE’S DAY REMEMBERED	LIGHTHOUSES
ST. PATRICK’S DAY	QUILTS
MAHS CELEBRATES EASTER	BUTTONS
REMEMBERING BABY DAYS	HOMELIFE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR
APRONS	MONT ALTO BOY SCOUTS
LIONEL TRAINS OF THE 1920’S AND 1930’S	MONT ALTO GIRL SCOUTS
SPATTERWARE, ENAMELWARE, GRANITEWARE	CONFLICT IN THE AIR- ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE CIVIL WAR
HANDWORK/ NEEDLEWORK	TEACUPS
DEPRESSION GLASS	CHURCHES OF MONT ALTO
EARLY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS	FROGS
MAHS ARTIFACTS FROM OUR ARCHIVES	THE OLD MONT ALTO PARK

## RECIPES REMEMBERED FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

QUICK SPINACH SOUFFLE – NELLIE SMALL	MAMMY BENDER’S CANDY – SARA CONKLIN
CORN PONE - NAN CREAGER	MINCEMEAT – JENNY VERDIER
MACARONI AND CHEESE - ANONYMOUS	WALNUT HORNS – JANE BROSIUS
BLACK JACK CANDY – SARA CONKLIN	CRUMB PIE— LAURA BROSIUS
SUGAR CAKES – MISS MAE SMITH	



**ARTIFACTS LIST** *(continued from previous page)*

DVD AND BOOKS OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

SNOWBIRDS FROM MONT ALTO TRAIN STATION

MAPS OF FUNKSTOWN AND MONT ALTO PARK – REPRODUCTIONS

SLIDES AND PHOTOS OF MIRA LLOYD DOCK

NEWSPAPERS- NUMEROUS – DAILY RECORD, BLUE RIDGE ZEPHER, RECORD HERALD, PUBLIC OPINION, HERALD MAIL, JOHNSTOWN FLOOD PAPER, WAYNESBORO COURIER, SPECTRUM, PEOPLES REGISTER, NEW YORK TRIBUNE

**ITEMS ON LOAN TO OTHER MUSEUMS:**

LARGE STONE WITH CARVED INITIALS – LOANED TO MONT ALTO BOROUGH

ORIGINAL MONT ALTO BANK SAFE – LOANED TO “SAVE OUR HER ITAGE MUSEUM”

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**AGNES – AN UNINVITED GUEST**

On June 21, 1972 tropical storm Agnes moved into Franklin County. Before she left, more than \$3 million in damage to roads, bridges and businesses was done. The storm produced over 13 inches of rain and flooded streams and low-lying areas of the county. The governor of Pennsylvania, Milton Shapp, and his wife had to be rescued by boat from the governor’s mansion in Harrisburg. More than 66,000 homes and 3,000 businesses were destroyed by Agnes, and at least 220,000 people were displaced in the state. Damage in Pennsylvania was estimated at \$2.1 billion with 48 deaths attributed to the storm.

The storm was born off the Yucatan Peninsula on June 14, became a tropical storm on June 15, then a hurricane on June 18 as it moved on its treacherous pathway north. The storm moved into Pennsylvania on June 22. The devastation was so great that President Nixon declared the state a disaster area. The storm knocked out power lines, telephone lines and emergency communications in many parts of the state.

In Mont Alto, homes, businesses and churches were flooded. The West Branch of the Antietam Creek became a rushing river. Main Street was under water as boats were used to navigate the town center. Basements were flooded and the water rose up to the first floor in 25 percent of the homes in town. Many of the homes affected were on Penn Street. Firemen reported that “Mont Alto was in bad shape.” Electric power was out in 30 -50 percent of the homes. Lowry’s meadow north to Ledy’s Crossing was all under water.

Forty firemen and volunteers from the Mont Alto Fire Company worked around the clock with pumping and evacuation efforts. Pumping water was hindered as the second pumper was damaged when the front of the fire hall caved-in from an auto accident the previous week. Three hand pumps and one fire truck were used in the flood recovery efforts.

On Route 233 leading to South Mountain, the roadway along the Penn State Campus had been undercut by the rushing water and travel was hampered. The South Mountain Restoration Center with nearly 1000 patients continued operation with the assistance of three fire engines. The pump room of the Sewage Disposal Plant had 16-18 feet of water, the Central Heating Plant had a fire truck pumping as did the  
*(continued on next page)*

**Agnes** (continued from previous page)

Electrical Generating Room. Fire Departments, National Guard, State Police helicopter and area police departments were all kept busy throughout the ordeal. The storm left a lasting impression in the memories of many local residents.

In the spring of 2017, the Mont Alto Historical Society hopes to have an extensive display of photos, newspaper articles and stories of Mont Alto and Franklin County during the storm. The exhibit will mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this weather event. The display will take place during the Franklin County Spring-into-History-Tour. We are asking the public to share your photos and stories with the Society as we want to make this exhibit very special and preserve the memories of this historical weather event.



Mont Alto's Jones Avenue became "Jones Lake" as a depression west of the Constitution Avenue intersection filled with water and spread over neighboring properties. Numerous pumping details attacked the lake and one with a heavy-duty pump began to make progress Friday afternoon. (*Record Herald* photo by Sid Creager)



Antietam Creek swollen from storm Agnes undercuts roadway (Rte. #233) in front of Penn State Mont Alto campus. (*Photo courtesy of The Record Herald newspaper*)

## TEN YEARS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL LECTURES

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM—*LEE NISWANDER*      MONT ALTO AND THE CIVIL WAR—*KARLTON SMITH*  
CCHS—CAMP MICHAUX—*DAVID SMITH*      MIRA LLYOD DOCK—*NORM LACASSE*  
NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE IN THE SUSQUEHANNA BASIN—*STEPHEN RUNKLE*  
MONT ALTO HISTORY—*REV. LEE DAYWALT*      HISTORY OF FORT RITCHIE—*BECKY DIETRICH*  
CUMBERLAND VALLEY RAILROAD—*CHARLES KAUFFMAN*      ROADSIDE—*RUTH GEMBE*  
CIVIL WAR MAJOR GENERAL S.W. CRAWFORD—*RICHARD WAGNER*  
HISTORY OF THE PENN STATE FORESTRY SCHOOL—*STEPHEN CUMMINGS*  
CIVIL WAR MEDICINE—*BEVERLY SPICER*      KNEPPER STATION—*TODD DORSETT*  
RAILWAY PARKS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY—*CAROLYN POFFENBERGER*  
FAMILIES, HOMES & ACTIVITIES ON PENN STREET—*TALLY STYMIEST*  
MONT ALTO REMENISCENCES—*AMELITA (STYMIEST) KOLLER*      JOHN L. GROVE—*GERALD LUTE*  
SMITH'S STORE—*GILMORE SMITH*      WILLIAM REED—*SUE LEE*

## TEN YEARS OF SOCIETY-SPONSORED COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOME-COMING PICNICS AT MONT ALTO STATE PARK, 2008, 2009  
SEVEN VETERANS' DAY PROGRAMS & EXHIBITS      PRODUCED CAMPUS & BOROUGH NOTE CARDS  
CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL FOR SGT. SHAFFER, 2007      TOURS OF WAYNESBORO INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM  
HIKE TO OAK KNOB SITE      DONATED FUNDS TOWARD NEW BOROUGH ENTRANCE SIGNS  
SUMMER PICNICS      ANNUAL HAM SANDWICH SALES  
CLEANED & MAINTAINED CHESTNUT SPRINGS PARK  
LIGHT-THE-NIGHT BOROUGH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING      ANNUAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BANQUETS  
EMMANUEL CHAPEL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS, 2008 – 2015  
PARTICIPATED IN FRANKLIN COUNTY SPRING-INTO-HISTORY TOURS, 2013 – 2015  
PARTICIPATED IN MONT ALTO CENTENNIAL PARADE, 2013  
REPRESENTED BOROUGH IN WAYNESBORO FEST PARADE  
CATALOGED BOROUGH ARTIFACTS HELD BY SOCIETY      PRODUCED BOROUGH MEMENTO CALENDARS

**MONT ALTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY: TEN YEARS IN PHOTOS**



**MONT ALTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS:** From left are Becky Dietrich, Vivian Wagaman, Carolyn Poffenberger, Tammy Kauffman, and Beverly Spicer *(photo courtesy of The Record Herald)*



**MONT ALTONIANS ENJOYING MONT ALTO PARK DAY SPONSERED BY MAHS**



**SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BANQUET, PARLOR HOUSE RESTAURANT, 2014.**



**SANCTUARY TABLE DECOR, SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CHAPEL SERVICE, 2014**





**CHAMBERSBURG VFW PARTICIPATING IN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CEREMONY  
HONORING VETERANS, NOVEMBER 5, 2011**

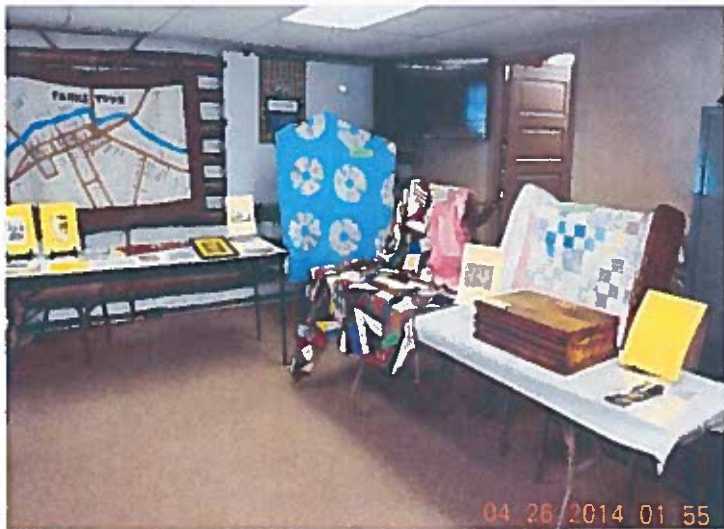


**VETERANS' PHOTOS ON THE TABLE OF HONOR AT THE MAHS VETERANS' DAY CELEBRATION,  
NOVEMBER 10, 2012**



SOCIETY PRESIDENT, CAROLYN POFFENBERGER, IN VINTAGE FINERY, RIDING IN CENTENNIAL PARADE.

OAK KNOB REPLICA SOCIETY FLOAT IN MONT ALTO CENTENNIAL PARADE



SOCIETY ANTIQUE QUILT DISPLAY, 2014  
FRANKLIN COUNTY SPRING-INTO-HISTORY TOUR

LIGHT-THE-NIGHT BOROUGH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SPONSORED BY THE SOCIETY, 2006

### EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The news article on Agnes was written by Carolyn Poffenberger. All other content, including photos (*other than those acknowledged from other sources*) are part of the Mont Alto Historical Society archives and were laboriously and kindly compiled by Beverly Spicer and Carolyn Poffenberger.

**Meet Your Officers & Board Members**

The following are your Society officers for 2016:

**President:** *Carolyn Poffenberger*

**Vice President:** *Beverly Spicer*

**Treasurer:** *Barbara Geer*

**Secretary:** *Berry Kline*

In addition to the above officers, the following are members of the Board of Directors for 2016:

*Tally Stymiest Barbara Rotz Frank Kocek*

**CURRENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

We are pleased to announce that twenty members have either renewed their membership or newly joined for the year 2016.

***Know someone who would like to become a Society member? Pass on the form below to them and ask them to complete and return it with their check to the address thereon.***

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Please complete and mail with your check payable to:

**Mont Alto Historical Society**

**Atten: Treasurer**

**P.O. Box 615**

**Mont Alto, PA 17237**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (will be kept confidential) \_\_\_\_\_

Junior (under 18) \$5

College Student (with ID) \$10

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Patron \$50

Contrib. or Business \$100

Life \$250