



Mont Alto Memories



Spring 2017

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

From the President's Pen

Spring has sprung and with a new season comes a flurry of activity for the Historical Society. The March meeting featured Dale Hostetter and the History of Letterkenny Army Depot. We hope to feature speakers several times during the year. The Franklin County Spring into History Ramble in April will showcase some of our past exhibits and some new items too. May brings the Ham Sandwich Sale, and in June we will have our picnic. Events are being planned for the remainder of the year.

If anyone has an idea for a special event or speaker, please speak with one of the officers or Board members. Better yet, attend a meeting and share your ideas. We always welcome visitors.

The Society is always searching for new information concerning Mont Alto history or artifacts from this area. We especially like to acquire Mont Alto family histories, family photos and pictures or information of events that took place in the borough.

The Society needs to grow its membership, so we welcome area residents to attend our meetings and become involved with the Society.

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 2017:

Tally Stymiest Michael Kauffman Frank Kocek

2016 Meeting Schedule

The Society meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Mont Alto Borough Hall on the center square. Some meetings will include a guest speaker on matters of historical interest to the area. When we don't have a guest speaker, the meeting begins with a business session, followed by an open session for sharing of historical artifacts and stories. Current members receive meeting reminder post cards in the mail. Meetings are also announced in the local newspapers and on the electronic bulletin board outside the Borough Hall. No meeting this July.

SOCIETY DISPLAY CASE

When you're in "downtown" Mont Alto, stop in the Borough Hall and view the Society's display case to the right of the entrance door. The April display is of "Spring Chickens". However, in time for the Spring Into History tour on April 29, the display will feature an exhibit of Mont Alto soldiers who lost their lives while on active duty in the various wars of the past.

CURRENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to announce that twenty five members have either renewed their membership or newly joined for the year 2017.

THE BROSIUS FAMILY

Emanuel Brosius was born in Clear Spring, MD in 1808. Emanuel was the son of George Brosius, a native of Maryland. George was a tanner and Emanuel worked in his father's steam tannery in Clear Spring. Emanuel moved to Franklin County in about 1850, living first in Mercersburg where he farmed. He next moved to McConnellsburg, Fulton County and purchased the "Fulton House", a hotel which he operated successfully for five years, after which he sold the property and moved to Greencastle. He lived there, retired for a number of years. About seventeen years after selling his hotel, he settled in Hagerstown, MD and lived in that city for two years. His next change was to Martinsburg, WV where he stayed for one year. He finally relocated to Mont Alto, PA where his death occurred in 1895.

His first wife's maiden name was Mary Duffield from near Upton, PA and was a sister to the wife of Col. Wengert of Greencastle. Emanuel fathered six children in this union. 1. Lillie married Samuel Williams of Virginia. 2. Emma married George A. Smith, an attorney of Rogersville, TN. 3. Sallie married Rev. Derbin G. Miller, a minister of Baltimore. 4. Annie died unmarried. 5. Jennie married and resided in Nebraska. 6. Clara, Jennie's twin remained unmarried.

Emanuel's second wife was Jane A. Hayes born near Shippensburg, PA in 1816. She was the daughter of Robert and Nancy Wilson Hayes. Jane died in February, 1901. Emanuel and Jane were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. This marriage produced four children; Martha B. married Alonza Kuhn of Hancock, MD; William H. III; Wilson L., unmarried, lived in Mercersburg; Samuel died in infancy.

William H. Brosius III was born May 1, 1860 above Welsh Run near Mercersburg and reared in McConnellsburg and Greencastle. In addition to attending public schools, he spent a year at the Shippensburg State Normal School. William also attended the private school of G. Fred Ziegler.

THE BROSIUS FAMILY (continued)

At the time of the 1880 census, William was listed as a druggist in Greencastle. In 1885, he began reading medicine at Mason Dixon with Dr. D. Reutch Miller, a boarder in his father's hotel, and later studied with Dr. Frank Bushey of Greencastle. William then attended Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia from 1883 to 1886, when he was graduated. He returned to Greencastle, practiced for ten months, and then moved to Mont Alto where he built up a lucrative practice. Professionally he was a member of the Franklin County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania State Medical Society. Fraternally he was a member of the I.O.O.F. of Greencastle, Lodge No. 228. He attended the Reformed Church.

Dr. Brosius married Laura L. Rouse, born in Mont Alto, daughter of Joseph Rouse, an Englishman who had charge of the Mont Alto mines of the Mont Alto Iron Company. To this union was born; 1. Claude Hayes, died in 1889, age 11 months; 2. Pansy Rouse, born in 1890; 3. William Hayes, born in 1892, died age 6 months; 4. Glen Wilson, born 1896; 5. Edward, born 1897, died at the age of 5 months.

In the 1900 and 1910 census, William was a physician and owned his home free of mortgage. It was valued at \$5000 in 1930. At that time, his son Glen, daughter in law Jane, and grandsons Dick and William were living with them. Dr. Brosius also served as Postmaster and Mayor of Mont Alto. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Citizens National Bank of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Brosius was a man of deep erudition, large experience and natural inclination for his chosen profession. Not only was he well fitted by training and experience but also maintained a manner which encouraged his patients and won him many friends outside his practice. Dr. Brosius maintained his office in the family home on Main Street, Mont Alto.

Abstracted from Roots Web, Franklin County Biographical Annals, by Carolyn Poffenberger

THE MANHATTAN BOTTLING CO.

Owner: Glen Brosius

As told to Donald Yost by Glen's wife, Jane

After his World War I discharge, Glen wanted to be a violinist, but his parents did not think this was a way to make a living (his father was the local doctor), so Glen went into the soda pop business with several other men. These men just put up the money and Glen did the work. The bottling works was on Penn Street (between First & Elm St.), the building was owned by a man named Sam Creager. On the first day of every year, Mr. Creager gave Glen notice to move. They would talk things over and Glen would stay another year.

In 1924, or there about, Glen decided to become his own landlord and boss and built a two-story brick building which is still standing on the corner of Elm St. and is now occupied as a dwelling. It was the site of an old schoolhouse.

Glen sold his soda to whatever stores would buy it. He went as far as Greencastle, Chambersburg, and sold to local stores in Mont Alto, Quincy, Tomstown, and Fairview. Whenever there was a local festival, Glen's soda would be featured. Glen stayed in business into the late 1950's. Glen passed away in September of 1968.

During this time, his wife operated a Tea Room in part of their home (on the corner of Main and Elm St.). She sold ice cream, milk shakes, Glen's soda, bread, milk, sandwiches, and potato chips. Sometimes she would make sandwiches for the forestry school boys when they were fighting forest fires. She closed her Tea Room about 1970.

Footnote: by Thomas Lawson

Glen sold his soda in three types of bottles. Originally, a 6.5-oz green and a 6.5-oz. clear bottle. He used clear bottles for orange, lemon-

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UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

- Saturday, April 29, 2017; Franklin County "Spring into History Tour", 10AM to 4PM. The Society will participate in this event with an open house and exhibits at the Borough Hall, and also offer bag lunches for sale.
- Thursday, May 11, monthly meeting. (*See special notice on last page regarding this meeting.*)
- Wednesday, May 3, 2017; Society ham sandwich sale
- Saturday, June 10; joint picnic with the Friends of Mont Alto Park at the Mont Alto Park Pavilion.
- Thurs., Nov. 30 Society holiday dinner at the Parlor House, Waynesboro, PA
- Sat., Dec. 2, 2017, Society holiday chapel service

SOCIETY SAMPLER GIFTS AND COLLECTIBLES

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

The Society is also considering commissioning for sale the fashioning of an archival-quality piece of pottery with the Society name and logo emblazoned on it.

THE MANHATTAN BOTTLING CO.

(continued from page 3)

lime, root beer, creme soda, cherry, and strawberry. The green bottles were used for ginger ale. During the late 1940's and into the '50's, he changed to a 12-oz. painted bottle named Pearl Spring Beverages, made with mineral water. In the 1950's, he changed back to the original bottles. This change was probably due to increased expenses. Glen used Virginia Dare syrup, Mont Alto water and sold his soda for 5 cents.

Note added by the editor: *This article is particularly timely in that the Mont Alto Historical Society is working to acquire the Brosius House from the Mont Alto United Methodist Church, adjacent to the building. The intent is for the Society to use it as a museum and for storage of its valuable extensive archive collection. The Society is gratefully accepting donations toward the acquisition and upkeep of this building.*



Mont Alto Area Historical Trivia

by Beverly Spicer

1. During WWII we had CCC camps in the area. What does CCC stand for and name a local CCC building?
2. What was the name of the train engine that pulled the train to the Mont Alto Park?
3. When was the Mont Alto Citizens Band organized and where did they meet?
4. What year did Charles Smith build Smith's Store?
5. Where was the first Manhattan Bottling Co. located?

(Answers to trivia quiz located on next page. No peeking!)



WILLIAM HAYS BROSIOUS, M. D.

Answers to Mont Alto Area Historical Trivia Quiz on p. 4

1. Civilian Conservation Corp
 - a. Picnic pavilion at Chestnut Springs
 - b. Chapel at Camp Penn
 - c. Old Ranger's office at Caledonia
2. Jenny Lind
3. Organized in 1878 and they met in Old School House located at the corner of Constitution Ave, Reynolds and Fir Street.
4. Built in year 1904
5. Between Fir and Elm Street in building owned by Sam Creager. Glen Brosius built the next bottling works at corner of Elm and Penn St. and it is still standing.

Additional Historic Trivia

Did you know the saying, "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians, not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise". Because he capitalized the word "Creek", it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

OAK KNOB FIRE LOOKOUT STATION

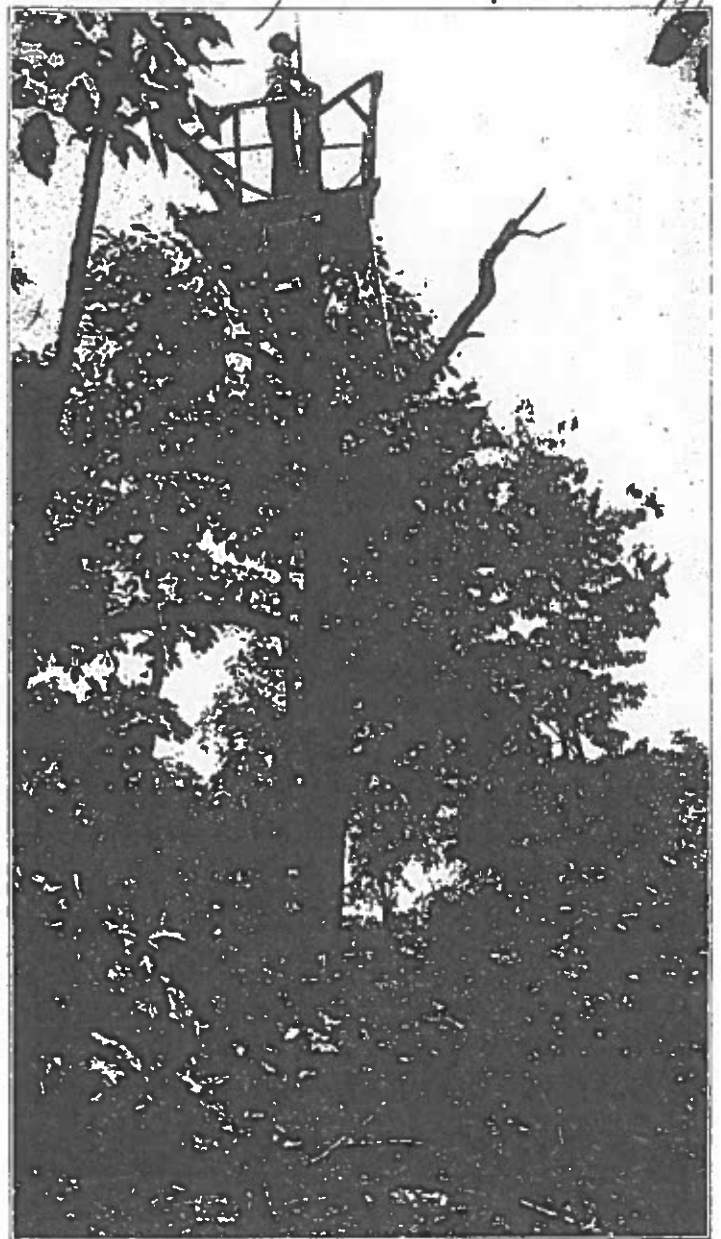


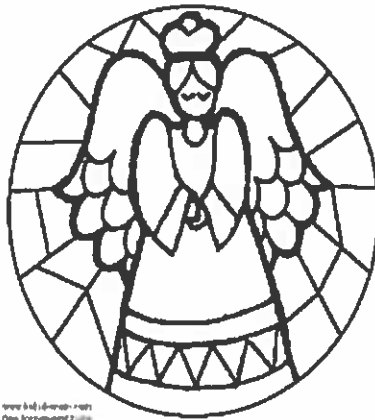
PLATE XXXII.—Fire Lookout Station on Oak Knob near State Forest Academy, Mont Alto Reserve.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The contents of this newsletter were provided by the President, Mrs. Carolyn Poffenberger and the Vice President, Mrs. Beverly Spicer, gratefully acknowledged for their contributions by the Editor, Dr. Berry Kline

May Meeting

Monthly meeting, Thursday, May 11, 2017, 7:00 PM at the Mont Alto Borough Hall. In addition to the brief business meeting, we will have a special guest speaker, Mike Albert of Chambersburg, an architectural historian, who will give a presentation on the Stained Glass Gems of Franklin County.



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.

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