



# Mont Alto Memories

The Newsletter of the  
Mont Alto Historical Society



Fall/Winter, 2021

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

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

Hello everyone. Hope you had good summer although I know it was hot. We had a meeting in September that was well-attended, and everyone had a good time getting to know each other again.

The volunteers have been busy cleaning and placing new displays out for people to see at the Brosius House. We purchased a few things from the David Monn Estate sale, and the family donated some pictures and articles which we are cataloging so they can be put out for display. We also had a beautiful Parlor Organ donated by George and Linda Finney. I am sure you will agree that it was just what the Parlor needed.

We are looking forward to two events in December. The first is the Christmas Open House on December 3rd and the second is the Membership Christmas Party on December 9th at the Parlor House. More information will follow nearer the time.

I want to thank everyone for their support and help during a challenging year and wish everyone a safe, healthy and Happy Holiday Season.

*Beverly Spicer*

Beverly A Spicer, President

### **2021 Meeting Schedule**

We are pleased to announce that we have been able to resume our "normal" Society speakers' meetings at the Mont Alto Borough Hall. Those of you who are on our email list receive email notifications, and those who are not will receive post cards announcing upcoming events. Speaker's or General Membership meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7PM in Borough Hall unless otherwise announced.

### **REMEMBER US, PLEASE!**

Please don't forget us! Even though we have only recently been able to hold our regular meetings, your officers and Society volunteers have been busy working at the Brosius House cleaning up rooms and preparing displays. Also, if you haven't paid your membership for 2022, or know someone who hasn't, please help us by renewing or encouraging others to do so. The Society still needs revenue for monthly utilities and expenses at the Brosius House.

### **CURRENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

The Society membership stands at 32 dues-paying members in 2021. If you do not belong to the Society but would like to join, please complete and submit the membership form in this issue. Your membership will carry over to 2022.

*This Newsletter was edited and assembled by Society Secretary, Berry Kline, with several articles kindly contributed by President, Beverly Spicer, who is gratefully thanked and acknowledged by the Editor.*

## OLD REMEDIES

by Berry Kline

During a recent attempt at discarding old, no-longer-needed/wanted items, my spouse stumbled on an old tome which we have no idea how, where, or when we acquired it! So, fasten your seatbelts because here goes an attempt at the title and some of its contents. It is titled, *Dr. Chase's Recipes; or Information for Everybody; An Invaluable Collection of About Eight Hundred Practical Recipes for Merchants, Grocers, Saloon-Keepers, Physicians, Druggists, Tanners, Shoemakers, Harness Makers, Painters, Jewelers, Blacksmiths, Tanners, Gunsmiths, Farriers, Barbers, Bakers, Dyers, Renovators, Farmers, and Families Generally, with a Rational Treatment of Pleurisy, Inflammation of the Lungs, and other Inflammatory Diseases, and also for General Female Debility and Irregularities*, by A.W. Chase, M.D. The frontispiece goes on to claim that it is *Greatly Enlarged and Improved by The Publisher* who has added *Appendices to the Medical, Saloon, Farriers', Barbers' and Toilet, Bakers' and Cooking, Miscellaneous, and Coloring Departments, and also Several New Departments, viz.: "Advice to Mothers," "Rules for the Preservation of Health," "Accidents and Emergencies," "Hints upon Etiquette and Personal Manners," "Hints on Housekeeping," "Amusements for the Young," and "Bee-Keeping."* The book was published by R.A. Beal of Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1876 and contains 648 pages of very fine typeface!

Needless to say, as a pharmaceutical scientist, your editor was fascinated by this treatise and just had to abstract one of the "gems" included in this book. The book is not in good physical shape due to age and manner of preservation (probably none!). It is bound with heavy string as were many older volumes and although the binding is loose, the pages are all in order with none missing. Interestingly, the "General Index" is located in the front of the book, not at the end as it is in most modern books. I admit I have not been able to get beyond the "A's" as I continue to find so many subjects with which I am not familiar due to the

*(continued in adjacent column)*

## SOCIETY SAMPLER GIFTS AND COLLECTIBLES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>MAHS T-Shirt:</b> \$5   | <b>MAHS Golf Shirt:</b> \$10                                     |
| <b>Red ware Pottery Plate:</b><br>\$15                                 | <b>Wooden Keepsake,<br/>Otterbein U.M.<br/>Church:</b> \$10      |
| <b>MAHS Christmas<br/>Ornaments, (2009, 2010, &amp;<br/>2012):</b> \$5 | <b>MAHS Calendars<br/>(2008, 2011, 2013 &amp;<br/>2015):</b> \$2 |
| <b>Mont Alto Sampler Book,<br/>written by Becky Dietrich:</b><br>\$5   | <b>1883 Mont Alto Park<br/>Posters:</b> \$0.50                   |
| <b>Society Photo Christmas<br/>Cards:</b> 10 for \$10                  | <b>Funkstown Maps:</b><br>\$0.50                                 |
| <b>Limited Edition Mont Alto<br/>pottery crock:</b> \$25               |  |

The above items make great gifts for current Mont Altonians, Society members, and former residents.

## OLD REMEDIES

*(Continued from adjacent column)*

pharmaceutical/medical vocabulary of the late 1800's. Of course, some of the categories or remedies are absolutely hilarious by today's standards, but were meant to be perfectly serious and helpful in 1876. Here is an example:

**Ague:** "The cause is debility; frequently *marsh miasma*, or the effluvia arising from stagnant water in pools, or on marshy ground." (I will skip some of the less-interesting description due to space limitations, but can't resist including the following:) "From 20 – 30 drops of laudanum, or more, should be given just before commencement of the ague fit. The nails turn blue just before the fit begins".

## ARE YOU A VETERAN, OR DO YOU KNOW ONE?

### A “War” Story!

*by Berry Kline*

If so, thank you for your service, or please give your veteran colleagues this greeting. Although my father was a WWII purple heart veteran, I never had the proper opportunity to serve.

I was working for my Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin, 1964 to 1968! Yep, during the Viet Nam War! The university always renewed a student exemption with my local draft board while I was pursuing my degree, even though I never requested it. (I was nevertheless grateful and didn't realize the value of this exemption until later years!)

I must admit that I was somewhat disappointed that I probably would not have a chance to serve my country since it was almost certain that, if drafted or volunteered, I would be assigned to a field-service hospital dispensing medications, and or running a smoke-generator or Agent Orange dispenser in Viet Nam. Not my idea of “service” to my country! I must admit that until much later, I would not realize how unpopular this war was with mainstream America!

Those of you living quietly here in central PA may not have been aware that the University of Wisconsin was a hotbed of draft-resistors and protesters during the Viet Nam War, second only to Berkely in California. Just so I am not “painted” with any political labels, I am not against the First Amendment right of free speech, although I did not share the views of the campus protesters on this issue, but tried to remain “neutral”.

On more than one occasion, I was accosted while entering my school, by war protesters who claimed they wanted to “rap” with me! (I overheard one of my colleagues telling one of them that if he had a baseball bat, he would gladly “rap” them!) It turns out that, somehow, the anti-war protester movement had learned that one of the professors in our school had a grant from one of the armed forces to perform some research for them. Although the grant was not for warfare, the protesters assumed that it was.

Another remembrance is when preparing my thesis, I needed to walk from my building to the campus bookstore several blocks away to obtain some graph paper. During that walk, I passed over a now infamous “hill” on the campus as a shortcut to the bookstore. I noticed off to my left a cloud of “smoke” around some students but didn't give much thought to it since marijuana was in its infancy as a source of a “high” by the “hippy” community. I later learned on the evening news that the “cloud” was teargas lobbed at some anti-war protesters who were stoning a national guard group sent to quell the campus “unrest”, which was not always peaceful or lawful. My grandfather in Mont Alto asked my father if there was any chance that I was involved in that incident (since it was featured on the national nightly news), whereupon my father assured him that I was not! Well, I was, but accidentally and peripherally!

My last remembrance of this period is shortly after I graduated with my degree, some laboratories in a building closely adjacent to the one I had worked in were bombed by some anti-war protesters, causing significant damage to both buildings and killing one graduate student. If my major professor had been working in his office late that night as he frequently did, he would have been either killed or badly hurt by the blast. The two protesters who bombed the building escaped to Canada, but later returned to “face the music” for their transgressions. Once I mentioned my regret for the bombing to one of my coworkers at my first job, she quickly informed me that “our country was burning our boys in Viet Nam, justifying the burning of buildings in the United States”. Not a pleasant memory for me of our country's past!

## The Story of Tom Turkey

by Beverly Spicer

When I was about 6 or 7 years old, my Pap-Pap (grandfather Daniel C. Bittering) took me to a turkey raffle at the old Mont Alto fire hall. This was for the Thanksgiving season. It was in the early 1940's and back then, you won a live turkey, not a frozen turkey like today.

He gave me 10 cents to place my bet. To my great joy, I won! I was allowed to go over to the crates of turkeys and pick out the one I wanted. When old Tom looked at me with those sad eyes, I knew he was the one. Everyone in the family thought he would look great on the dinner table for Thanksgiving. I, however, had other ideas!

Old Tom became a pet, and he and I spent many days playing in the yard at Aunt Gladys' as she was the only one in the family with a chicken coop at that time. Tom lived for many years and everyone said that he died of a broken heart when I left Mont Alto to attend school in Philadelphia. But I think he died because he missed my duck, Daddles, which is a whole other story. By the way, Pap-Pap bought us another turkey for that Thanksgiving!



**Above is featured the antique pump organ generously donated by a Society member-couple and now gracing the parlor of the Brosius House.**



**Above is a photo of the Brosius House baby nursery, complete with furnishings.**



**Photo of antique rocking horse donated by a former Mont Altonion who used it as a toddler.**

**Meet Your Officers & Board Members**

The following are your Society officers for 2020 - 21:

- President:** Beverly Spicer
- Vice President:** Carolyn Poffenberger
- Treasurer:** Katie Fogelsonger
- Secretary:** Berry Kline

In addition to the above officers, the following are members of the Board of

Directors: Darrell Knepper  
Patti Stitely Frank Kocek

Please consider volunteering for one of the above positions for 2022. The above have had to extend their service due to the Covid pandemic.

**SOCIETY EVENTS**

The Society Open House at the Brosius House Museum will be held the same evening as the Borough Tree Lighting, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The annual Society Christmas Party will be held Thursday, December 9, at 5:30 pm at the Parlor House restaurant in Waynesboro. You can make reservations with Society Vice-President, Carolyn Poffenberger at 717-762-1856 or 717-977-1576.

The Society just completed a fund raiser event with a meal at Hoss' Restaurant where a portion of each bill for diners eating there on behalf of the Society is donated back to the Society. Another fund raiser featuring The Butcher Shoppe (Chambersburg) hoagies is under consideration.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18) \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> College Student (with ID) \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 |
|--|---|--|

|                                      |                                      |   |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contrib. or Business \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|

## **A THANK-YOU FOR DONATIONS**

The Historical Society has been the beneficiary of many fine donations in the past year. We want to thank all of our benefactors for these donations of time, labor, office supplies, Brosius House necessities, and for financial donations. The latter are especially appreciated since Society dues are not adequate to sustain the organization during the year. As you are aware, the Brosius House requires payment of monthly utilities as well as insurances (both officers' liability insurance (D&O) and Brosius House Property Insurance), and routine maintenance to improve access and safety for our visitors.

We usually have avoided listing donors and their donations in past newsletters over concern that we will overlook someone. The fact that your donation(s) to the Society is(are) not listed in these publications does not mean that they are not greatly appreciated. The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and, as such, is required to send donors an acknowledgement of their donation with specific language included. If you have made any sort of tangible donation to the Society and did not receive the required acknowledgement letter, please notify one of the officers so we can correct our oversight.

Also, as mentioned at the October speaker's meeting, beginning with the January 12, 2022 meeting, we will have a donation basket available and continuing with successive meetings. The meetings are all open to the members and the public, but cash donations are always welcomed.