



# NEWSLETTER

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## Visiting President Monroe

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director, Monroe County Historical Association

Every February, I attend the Small Museums Association Conference. This professional conference is a wonderful gathering of individuals who work and volunteer in small museums nationwide. By attending hands-on workshops, listening to inspirational keynote speakers, exploring vendor tables, and talking with colleagues, I always learn something new that I can bring back to Monroe County to strengthen our organization.



James Monroe

This year's conference was held in Richmond, the capital of Virginia. Because a snowstorm was threatening Pennsylvania, I traveled down a day early and was able to explore the beautiful city of Richmond. I am a bit of a taphophile, and I was excited to visit the Hollywood Cemetery.

The Hollywood Cemetery is a working cemetery that spans 135 acres and sits on rolling hills overlooking the James River. Established in 1847, the Cemetery was designed by Philadelphia architect John Notman. Because of the Cemetery's stately grounds, natural beauty, and a collection of over 2,000 trees, the Hollywood Cemetery is a registered arboretum. Native trees include the tulip poplar and white oak, some older than the Cemetery!

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## Presidential Message

What a whirlwind of a quarter. Since the last time I wrote this message we have scheduled a train excursion from Steamtown National Historic Site only to have to postpone the excursion until Sunday, August 25. This is an example of how everything about maintaining a historical society is fluid. It is also a testament to the incredible volunteers that make the Barrett Township Historical Society run.

In May, the Monroe County Historical Association came to Barrett Township to present a program on the Citizens Conservation Corps camp at Promised Land State Park. The program was a historical event in that it was the first program of its kind hosted at the new Barrett Township Administration and Recreation Center (BARC). BARC is the old Barrett Township Elementary Center. It was purchased by the Township last summer and the administrative offices moved in last fall. The facility continues to undergo renovations but more space is now available for use by the community. To that end, the Friendly Community Center has moved many of their activities into BARC. I bring this up because the Historical Society will continue to hold our monthly Friday meetings at the FCC Building at 6683 on Route 191, also known as the old Library building.

BTHS also participated in the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library’s, Books and Bubbly event held on Friday, June 14. (See pages 10-11.) It was the first time the Library held this event since before the COVID – 19 pandemic and it was a huge success. Naturally the Historical Society served Old-Fashioned cocktails, I mean really, what else. We honored the memory of Walt Chawaga by calling our cocktail the “Mayor of Frog Town Old-Fashioned.” This was followed in just a few short days by Ryan Price’s program on the Art of Taxidermy. He had several fantastic examples of his work including several exotic animals from Africa.

So there you have it. BTHS is a vibrant contributor to life in Barrett Township. We thank you for all your support and hope to see you at one of future events.

Darryl Speicher  
*BTHS President*



**Whoops, a Mistake...**

If there is something that needs to be corrected, speak-up. Please email me at [alesiagallo@yahoo.com](mailto:alesiagallo@yahoo.com) or give me call/text at (570)972-6422.

**2024 Board of Directors**

Jayne Blair    Mary Price    Marie Guidry    Claudia Shoesmith-Fox    Patti O’Keefe

**2024 Executive Officers**

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| President               | Darryl Speicher       |
| Vice President          | Walter Lewis          |
| Recording Secretary     | Ellen Davis           |
| Corresponding Secretary | Hannelore Gaupp       |
| Treasurer               | Claudia Shoesmith-Fox |

**Treasurer’s Report**

Claudia Shoesmith-Fox, Treasurer  
DATE: 6/30/2024  
Checking: \$2,900.92  
Money Market: \$5,349.11  
CD: \$14,992.06  
CD: \$24,509.90  
TOTAL: \$47,751.99

**2024 Executive Committee**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Archivist for LRC &amp; CSM</u> | Consolidated in LRC & CSM activities                |
| Cresco Station Museum              | Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese                        |
| Curator for LRC & CSM              | Joanne Seese  |
| Finance                            | Claudia Shoesmith-Fox                               |
| Grants                             | Cherylyn Rushton                                    |
| Historian                          | Jacqueline Magann                                   |
| Hospitality                        | OPEN  |
| Information Systems                | Jim Bibber  |
| Library Research Center            | Jacqueline Magann & Joanne Seese                    |
| Membership                         | Cathy Stout   |
| Newsletter                         | Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor |
| Oral Tradition                     | OPEN  |
| Programs                           | Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs              |
| Publicity                          | Alesia Gallo  |
| Research                           | OPEN  |
| Ways & Means Committee             | Walter Lewis  |

**Exec Committee Meeting Dates**

Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd  
Monday at 3 pm monthly at LRC  
July 8  
August 12  
September 9  
October 14

**General Membership Meeting Dates**

Friendly Community Center  
July 19 @ 7:00pm  
August 16 @ 7:00pm  
September 20 @ 2:00pm  
October 18 @ 2:00pm

## Committee Reports

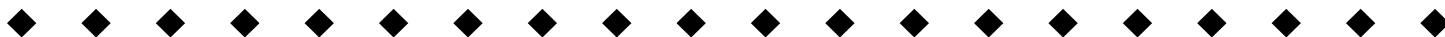
### **Cresco Station Museum** Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese

The Cresco Station Museum will be open each Sunday until Fall, if there are enough volunteers to spend some time on a Sunday afternoon from 1p.m. to 4p.m. If interested, contact Mickey Miller, 570-595-7390. See page 12 for Train Day flyer and more information.

### **Library Research Center** Jacqueline Magann

This is our 5 year anniversary of being in the L.R.C. Building. Some of the “special” events we hosted included a Quilt Show, Quilts of Valor Display, Bridal Time Travel – Gowns through the Ages, Display featuring the 1955 Flood as well as displaying art work by local artists Jennie Shoemsmith and Edna Palmer Engelhardt. Currently, we will be displaying art work by John James. New book shelves are being added to display our collection of tax records and other memorabilia.

Our workday at the L.R.C. is every Tuesday from 10 am to 2 pm. Our volunteers including Jayne Blair, Laurie Dunlap, Mary and Marty Price, Darla Williams and myself help visitors research their quest in our immense Barrett archives. Our work is continuing on the inventory of the Buck Hill Falls Collection as well as the Resort Collection. When completed these collections as well as all future items in the L.R.C. will be digitized. The Society has recently purchased “Ancestor” with plans to introduce programs that would help visitors do family research. This is a tremendous undertaking for our volunteers, and we would welcome any additional help. We are also currently looking for volunteers for Sunday afternoons from 1-4 pm in order to keep the L.R.C. open to the public. Please call me at 570-595-9233 or stop by on Tuesdays for more information on how you can help.



## Upcoming Programs

**July 19, 2024 @ 7 pm**

### **“An Introduction to Beekeeping” by Peter Gonze and Debbie Mattie**

The honeybee is an amazing creature and – except for the drones – the ultimate workaholic. Did you know that it takes 12 bees their entire lives (about 5 weeks) to make a teaspoon of honey. A native of Europe, Asia and Africa this insect lives in a complex caste society composed of thousands of bustling individuals. This presentation will provide a little background on bees, the history of beekeeping and information about what goes into keeping honeybees. Refreshments will be served.

**August 16, 2024 @ 7 pm**

### **“The Great Solar Eclipse and Other Astronomical Oddities” by Darryl Speicher**

Darryl will share the national excitement that surrounded the 2024 solar eclipse that occurred on April 8, 2020. As part of his program he will discuss what causes an eclipse and other astronomical phenomenon that fill the firmament with stranger and interesting visions. Refreshments will be served.

**September 20, 2024 @ 2 pm**

Join Association of Nature and Forest Therapy guide Josh Heath for a presentation on the health and wellness benefits of Forest Bathing (immersing yourself in the atmosphere of the forest), also known as Shinrin-Yoku in Japanese. He will cover a brief history of Shinrin-Yoku and its history in Japan, explain the health benefits of this practice and share his personal 9-year journey. Josh works as an Environmental Specialist for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at Promised Land State Park. Refreshments will be served.

Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

## Program Recaps

### **Our program for April was “Clara: We Hardly Knew Her” by Jim Werkheiser.**

What a fascinating life Clara Grabau Adams lived. She was born in Germany in 1884 and died in 1971. She was a resident of Monroe County living in Tannersville from 1912 to 1937. Clara was a socialite married to a millionaire and known as a “first flighter” and the “maiden of maiden flights”. Her interest in aviation was sparked by a flight in Florida on a Thomas flying boat which reached an altitude of 700 feet, “a daring height in those pioneer days”. She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic as a ticketed passenger on the Graf Zeppelin in an era where flying was not the everyday occurrence as it is now and especially not for women. However, she had connections and was able to take many “first flights”. She was one of 11 women aboard the maiden flight of the Hindenburg and also was the first passenger on a round trip commercial flight across the Pacific from New York to Bermuda and between San Francisco and New Zealand. In 1939 Clara set the unofficial passenger record for travel around the world via commercial air travel. This trip lasted sixteen days and nineteen hours and covered 24,609 miles.

Interesting Fact: Clara made many trips between Germany and the United States and during World War I was suspected of being a German spy but nothing ever came of this accusation.

**Our program for May was “Promised Land and the Civilian Conservation Corps” by Peter Gonze.** This presentation was held at the BARC building as part of the Monroe County Historical Association’s lecture series. From 1933 to 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a federally funded voluntary work relief program for unemployed and unmarried men ages 18 to 25 and helped many millions of people from the starvation poverty of the Great Depression. It was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal supplying manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in land owned by federal, state and local governments. This program employed 3 million young men and 8,500 young women. The CCC provided shelter, clothing and food with a monthly wage most of which was sent home to their families. They worked on projects to improve America’s public lands, forests and parks planting 3.5 billion trees to combat soil erosion and forest fires and future Dust Bowl disasters. Locally, 1,500 men served at Promised Land in Pike County transforming the area and leaving us a legacy of beautiful, forested lands for recreation and wildlife. The CCC operated separate programs for veterans and Native Americans and ended just prior to World War II.

Promised Land State Park has one of the largest CCC Museums in the commonwealth and features interactive stories, natural history displays, artifacts, children’s books, field guides and a bird observation area. The museum also has a native plant garden and bird feeding stations. Museum is usually open from Memorial Day through Labor Day but check with the park office to confirm hours.

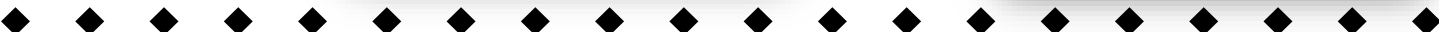
### **Our program for June was “The Art of Taxidermy” by Ryan Price**

Taxidermy is the the “art” of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals over an armature which is a framework made of clay and plaster for the purpose of display or study. The first known use of taxidermy was in 1820. Animals are often portrayed in a lifelike state. Ryan brought several beautiful mounts (some from Africa) which he displayed as well as many local animal skins. He also had with him one of the molds used for mounting deer and explained how this process works. There are molds available for every species and in many different poses. It is amazing what you can do. The entire process involved is very tedious and time consuming. Initially, the hides need to be tanned before the process of mounting them can even begin. One of the mounts he brought with him was a beautiful bear mount of his own which he eventually plans to display in his home as part of a scene with other mounts. Many collectors have several mounts and some even a separate room

(Program Recaps - Continued from Page 5)

to display their mounts. Ryan has worked for Lamparter's Wildlife Design in Gouldsboro for five years and has offered us a tour.

### Photos from June's Program with Ryan Price



### Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Display

The jewelry sales table (*pictured right*) at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library is always fascinating to see & the purchasing of these items helps with library finances. Plus, in August, a display of handcrafted jewelry by Murphey Palmerio will be in the BTHS cabinets, so be sure to check that out.



Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

### Barrett Paradise Friendly Library Display (continued from previous page)

The June/July library cabinet display & theme - POCONO PLAYHOUSE might bring back memories for many local residents. Thank you goes to Mary Ann Lewis for setting up the display from the Barrett Township Historical Society's Library & Research Center.



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*(Visiting President Monroe - Continued from Cover Page)*

The architectural charm of the Cemetery abounds, and one of the standout examples is the final resting place of James Monroe, 5<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and for whom Monroe County is named. Located in the President's Circle area of Hollywood Cemetery, Monroe's grave is a granite sarcophagus enclosed in a Gothic Revival cast iron canopy. Commonly known as "The Birdcage," this ornate canopy was designed by Albert Lybrock and erected in 1859. Monroe died and was buried in New York City in 1831. In 1858, on the centennial anniversary of his birth, Monroe's body was moved to Richmond and interred at the Hollywood Cemetery. This endeavor was a cooperative effort by citizens of both New York and Virginia. In 1971, the National Park Service registered the grave as a National Historic Landmark.

### **President James Monroe's connection to Monroe County, PA**

On April 1, 1836, after nine long years of debate and discussion, Monroe County was formed from pieces of land taken from northern Northampton County and southern Pike County.

Although settled by some of the earliest-arriving European colonists, Monroe County was not one of the earliest-formed counties in Pennsylvania. It was the 53rd recognized county out of 67 statewide. Years before its official recognition as a separate entity, residents living in this developing area petitioned the legislature to create the new county.

Joseph Ritner, the Governor of Pennsylvania from 1835 to 1839, with an Act by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, acknowledged that the area known as "north of the Blue Mountains of Northampton County" had been settled for long enough and that its population had grown enough to be considered an independent county. Ritner and, more importantly, the residents of this area felt that the region was too far away from Easton in Northampton County or Milford in Pike County for those County Seats to care about the local populous. So, the early townships of Chestnuthill, Hamilton, Pocono, Ross, Smithfield, Stroud, and Tobyhanna of Northampton County, along with townships Coolbaugh, Middle Smithfield, and Price of Pike County, were made into a single county.

This new county needed a name, and there was no shortage of suggestions. Petitions for names for the new county included "Fulton" County, named for Robert Fulton, a Pennsylvania native and the engineer and inventor of the submarine; "Evergreen" County, for the many conifer trees; and "Jackson" County, after President Andrew Jackson. None of these names, however, received enough support in Harrisburg for adoption.

We don't know exactly who suggested the name "Monroe" for the new county, but we do know that the county is named for President James Monroe. James Monroe was the fifth President of the United States. He served as a popular two-term President in 1816 and again in 1820. Having had years of public service, Monroe had served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, had been the Governor of Virginia, a United States Senator, and the Minister to Spain, France, and Great Britain. President Monroe died on July 4, 1831.

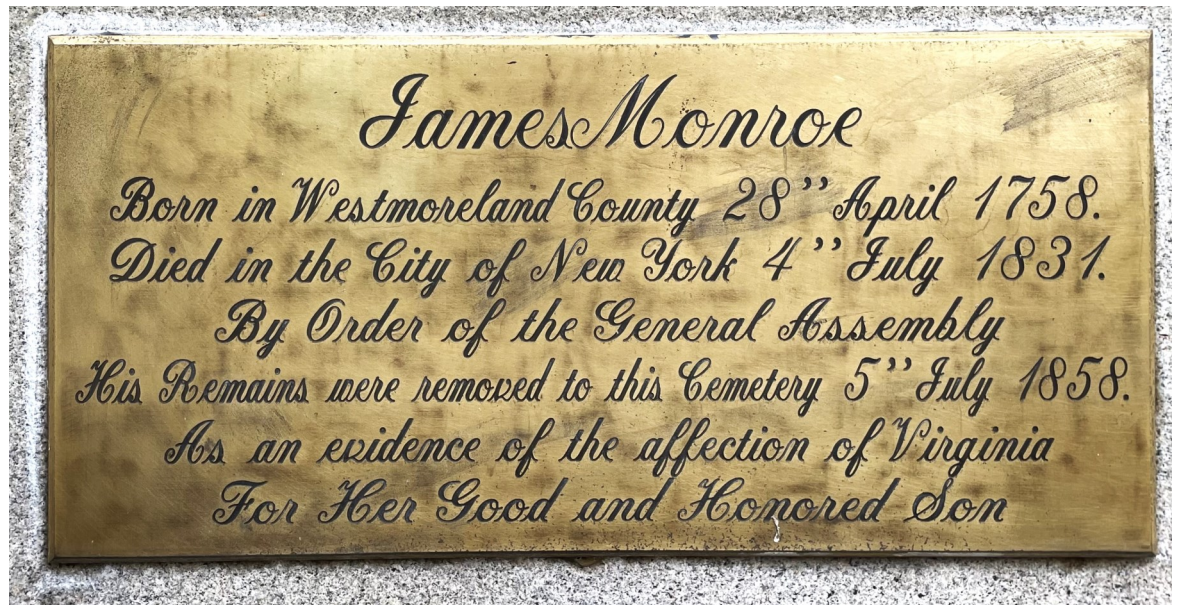
Public support for the popular late President created enough votes to secure the new county's name as Monroe. In March 1836, the Monroe County bill was introduced and quickly passed in Harrisburg.

James Monroe never traveled north of the Blue Mountains, but his dedicated service to the country earned him a place in Pocono mountain history. If you find yourself in Richmond, Virginia, please stop by the Hollywood Cemetery and visit Monroe's outstandingly beautiful grave.

(Visiting President Monroe - Continued from Cover Page/Page 8)



**Monroe Tomb**



**Monroe Tomb Inscription**

**\*\*\*Barrett Township Historical Society thanks Amy Leiser for permission to reprint her article.**

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Visit our website at [www.barrethistorical.org](http://www.barrethistorical.org)

*From the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library's, Books and Bubbly event held on Friday, June 14.*



# The Mayor of Frog Town

## Old Fashioned

### Barrett Township Historical Society

Tonight the Barrett Township Historical Society is proud to serve an Old-Fashioned in the style of the late Walt Chawaga of Canadensis, PA or as he was known throughout Barrett Township and surrounding environs the Honorable Mayor of Frog Town.

There was no greater expert than Walt, in many things as we all know, but in creating a cocktail there was no one better. He was the king of hospitality when hospitality was king in the Poconos. He worked most of his professional life at Mount Airy Lodge and retired as the Chief Bartender.

The Walt Chawaga old fashioned starts with muddling a maraschino cherry, orange slice and simple syrup with a sprinkling of confectioners' sugar in the bottom of a rocks glass. Then add ice and pour an ounce of bourbon over the ice and stir. The key to getting it right according to Walt's nephew Dennis Bender was leaving the mashed fruit on the bottom of the glass.



## What is an Old Fashioned?

*Taken from Liquours.com*

“The Old Fashioned as we know it comes from an early mixed drink simply called the Whiskey Cocktail, thought to be popularized in the late 1700s when it was fashionable to add a few dashes of bitters to a glass of whiskey. The cocktail's creation goes hand in hand with the proliferation of both whiskey and commercial bitters, an aromatic ingredient with medicinal origins that involved steeping herbs, barks, botanicals, and other plant extracts in spirits to create a curative that could be mixed with water or other ingredients, often to aid in digestion.

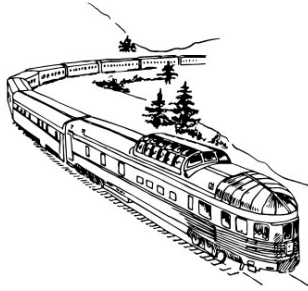
Over time, several variations on the Whiskey Cocktail developed (not unlike modern bartending's endless riffs on classic drinks), from the Improved Whiskey Cocktail's addition of absinthe to the Fancy Whiskey Cocktail's orange curacao. As the variations grew, those seeking the stripped-down original version took to asking for an “Old-Fashioned Whiskey Cocktail.” This order eventually evolved into a drink with ice in a rocks glass and simply became known as an Old Fashioned. “



## Darryl Speicher, BTHS President, serving up Old Fashioneds at the Books and Bubbly event!



Walt Chawaga, The "Mayor of Frogtown" Plaque



# Train Day

## CELEBRATION



*Bring your family and friends to this unique opportunity to celebrate rail travel in our area!*

**Sunday, August 25th**  
**12pm-4pm**

**Cresco Train Station Museum**  
142 Sand Spring Road  
Cresco, PA 18326

*\*Train arrives around 12:30pm  
and leaves around 3pm*



### FREE ADMISSION



**Music by Curveball Jazz**

**Various Vendors**

**Classic Cars on Display**

**Artwork Display by John James**

**Cook's Corner Food Truck**

**Children's Activities by  
Barrett Paradise Friendly Library**



For more information please call 570-481-4622 or email us at [stationmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:stationmuseum@gmail.com).

Visit us on the web at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)

## Historical Recipe Side by Side: Blueberry Coffee Cake

by Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Summer, sweet summer, an abundance of fruit is in the offering - berries, lots and lots of berries. Have you been up to Lake Wallenpaupack to pick blueberries yet? Make haste, get there before the bears eat them all. I think blueberries are my favorite summer berry.

Every once in a while, you stumble upon a recipe that is so good you don't tweak it and you use it year after year, and hand it down from generation to generation. My fourth cousin on my father's side has a family recipe for Blueberry Coffee Cake – that recipe has been given to every fringe member of the family and we all smack our lips and groan with pleasure at the mention of "Grandmother's Blueberry Coffee Cake". I have tried other recipes and I am not going to put a modern one up against this tried and true version. Try it with or without the pecans (I like it with the nuts).



### 1934 Clara Ada Howie's Grandmother's Blueberry Coffee Cake (from Kentucky)

1 ¼ cups light brown sugar  
4 Tablespoons soft butter  
1 egg beaten  
1 ¾ cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoons salt  
1 cup milk  
1 cup washed blueberries  
1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon  
1/3 cup chopped pecans (optional – I prefer it with the pecans)

Step 1. Mix the brown sugar and softened butter - - divide into two parts.

Step 2. Take half the mixture and add the egg, the dry ingredients, then add the milk and beat well, then gently add the blueberries.

Step 3. Put this mixture into a greased 8 x 8 cake pan

Step 4. With the other half of the brown sugar mixture add the cinnamon and pecans and mix well. Sprinkle over the top of the cake mixture so that it is fairly uniformly distributed.

Step 5. Bake at 325 Degrees F about 50 minutes. Serve warm.

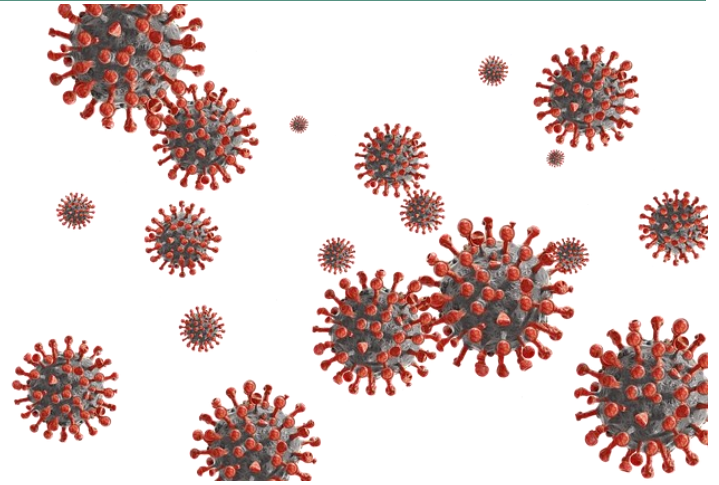
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## What's new with COVID-19?

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

By this time in the COVID-19 Pandemic you were probably expecting not to hear anything more about the pandemic or the virus. Unfortunately, as with most viruses, the COVID-19 virus continues to spread and mutate and change as it does – this is called a variant. The good news is that the WHO, and the CDC track the virus around the world to monitor its status in order to assure that we have the most up-to-date vaccines for the most current changes in the virus.



Viruses constantly change through mutation and sometimes these mutations result in a new variant of the virus. Some changes and mutations allow the virus to spread more easily or make it resistant to treatments or vaccines. As the virus spreads, it may change and become harder to stop. This is true with COVID-19 and with Influenza, it is why there is a new flu vaccine each fall.

A simple analogy for variants is using a growing tree. If you think about a virus like a tree growing and branching out, each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others. By comparing the branches, scientists can label them according to the differences. These small differences, or variants, have been studied and identified since the beginning of the pandemic. Some variations allow the virus to spread more easily or make it resistant to treatments or vaccines. Those variants that spread more easily, or cause resistant disease, must be monitored more carefully.

COVID-19 remains with us in low levels, but a current variant appears to be causing illness in susceptible individuals. As we enter into summer keep up your good hand washing habits.

### Sources:

Variants: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/index.html> accessed 6/15/2024

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# BTHS Word Search July 2024

M A B Z Z B E E K E E P I N G  
 C O S U W Y V D S A Z C P A C  
 P O U T C V B Q S G Q B M C F  
 R Y N N R K C C E M E T E R Y  
 E H X S T O H R F C O U N T Y  
 S O L R E A N I J I G Y T W S  
 E N I E Y R I O L G X T U Z K  
 R E B S U D V N M L M H H L Y  
 V Y R E T B L A H Y F M T T T  
 A B A A M G I Y T O P A I T O  
 T E R R O H V V H I M E L D P  
 I E Y C N U N D D A O E H L Q  
 O F N H R D S L D R T N S M S  
 N U R V O E D U C A T I O N R  
 M E M B E R S H I P Z A Q Y L

BuckHillFalls

Conservation

Preservation

Membership

Education

Mountainhome

Cemetery

Beekeeping

Astronomy

Research

County

Honeybee

Library

Monroe

Skytop

### Mission Statement

Mission statement of the Barrett Township Historical Society is to promote the history of Barrett Township and surrounding areas. The service of the Society is dedicated to educating diverse audiences through a variety of resources and programs. Specific goals include:

- I. Preserve and disseminate information about the township and its people through the support and maintenance of a historical file and a research center
- II. Promote and encourage historical research and study, particularly the discovery, collection, preservation and publication of the history, historical records, data, writings and speeches pertaining to Barrett Township
- III. Collect and preserve archival materials including books, newspapers, maps, genealogies, manuscripts, letters, journals, film footage, radio and video tapes and oral histories.
- IV. Collect and preserve historical artifacts including portraits, paintings, engravings, relics and other objects and materials which illustrate various traditions and cultures of the township.
- V. Collect information relative to the growth and development of the population, wealth, education, agriculture, arts, manufacturers and commerce of the township.
- VI. Develop and present educational opportunities to all age groups, including on-site and outreach opportunities to school groups, elder groups, service clubs and the community at large.



Barrett Township Historical Society

New Membership

Membership Renewal

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Regular Membership</b>        | <b>Sustaining Membership</b> | <b>Lifetime Membership</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Individual \$20.00               | Friend \$51.00 - \$99.00     | \$500.00 and Up            |
| Family \$30.00                   | Patron \$100.00 - \$249.00   |                            |
| Business/Organization<br>\$50.00 | Angel \$250.00 - \$499.00    |                            |

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Please check this box if you do NOT agree to receive the newsletter via email

***Please make checks payable to Barrett Township Historical Society and mail check and membership form to:***

**Barrett Township Historical Society  
PO Box 358  
Mountainhome, PA 18342**

Visit our website at [www.barretthistorical.org](http://www.barretthistorical.org)