

# der Wetterhahn

Volume 1 Number 2

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1988

## Restoration of Fahnestock Barn Reaches Low Point; Raising Planned for October

It is an irony of historic preservation that to save a building often means tearing it down first. For those of us who work in this field, such ironies are a part of the profession. And so it is with the Fahnestock barn at Renfrew; we save it by taking it down - preservation through the grace of destruction. But the destruction is not random, it's controlled. It moves beam by beam in reverse order from the way the barn was built - the last part up (roof and rafters) is the first part down.

With mid-summer at hand, what many of us once recognized as the Fahnestock barn is no more, only the

center bent and part of the rear wall remain standing above the hay mow and threshing floors. Gone are the long familiar company of roof, forebay, grainery and gable ends; in their place, piles of beams and timbers arranged by their restorable condition. Beams beyond saving, structurally unsound from effects of moisture and infestation, were burned on site (the Fahnestock pyre). They accounted for over half the barn's superstructure. Those that remain structurally sound have been saved and will later be fumigated and rejoined to either old or newly hewed beams.

After removing the superstructure,

the next phase in the barn's restoration involves its stone foundation walls. The west wall has already been torn down and is now being rebuilt, the other 3 will be repaired and repointed over the next few months. The oversight of the masonry work falls to Clarence Harbaugh, employed by Renfrew as restoration stonemason. Mr. Harbaugh brings with him over 40 years of experience in masonry work; he also brings the ability to teach his craft to others. While the stones are being reset, our lead restoration craftsman, Terry Pelton, will continue to hew out and join the needed timbers for the barn's framework.



*With the rafters and roof partially removed, the framework of the Fahnestock barn shows its age. Moisture and pine boring insects have damaged or destroyed over 50% of the original beams. The restoration crew, headed by Terry Pelton, along with Kenneth Lemmon, Bob North and Mike Lear, removed most of the superstructure by hand, one beam at a time; a slow and demanding process that required a special concern for the preservation of the barn and for each other.*



*Kenneth Lemmon and Bob North remove the original stonework and mortar (burnt limestone & clay) from the west foundation wall of the Fahnestock barn prior to its restoration. Vegetation and moisture, combined with the weight of the barn's framework, caused the wall to sag outward by more than 1 ft.*

## Traditional barn raising set for October 29th

The restoration of the Fahnestock barn is now past the midway point. Given our progress to date, we intend to raise the framework of the barn on Saturday, October 29, starting at 2:00 p.m. The raising will be carried out in the tradition of Pennsylvania German barn building of the early 1800's, an event that has not been seen by the public in this area for nearly 3 generations.

Dismantling the Fahnestock barn has required the skills and concerns of many people. The restoration crew took the superstructure apart in less than 5 weeks, 2 weeks ahead of what we considered at the time to be an optimistic schedule - at the cost of a bet to the curator. Bet or not, it was a

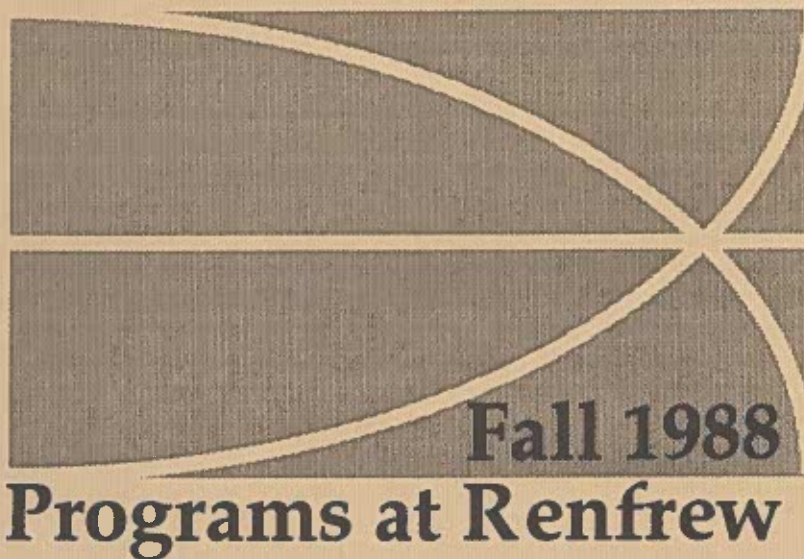
job well done. And the crew's work with the barn was made much easier thanks to the following individuals and organizations who donated time, services and materials:

*Bonded Applicators, Karen Cutchall, Lester Eshelman, John Gehr, Paul Gyurisin, Bobby H. Hamner, Linda Henderson, Henderson Video, Herman Lemmon, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, P.S.U. - Mont Alto Campus, Wib Sanders, Ken Swisher, Melodie Stewart, Joseph Stewart, Teledyne Landis Machine Co., Ed Wagaman, Waynesboro Area School District, Waynesboro Construction Co., Waynesboro Family Medical Associates, & Wendell Winebrenner.*

## Sheppard and Interpretive Committee Continue Research into Other Aspects of Farmstead

While the Fahnestock barn continues to demand most of the attention this summer and fall, work on other parts of the Royer farmstead is also underway. At the tannery site, Will Sheppard, historic archaeologist from William & Mary, has returned for a second field season. This time around his focus will be on establishing the exact nature of the site's layout, including its different components and how these components changed during the tannery's 60 plus years of operation. So far this season, he has uncovered 3 tanning vats, bringing the site total to 5, along with the footings to 2 probable tanning sheds.

Sheppard's work at the tannery site is being aided by Renfrew's Interpretive Committee. In conjunction with the museum's Board of Directors and professional staff, the committee provides oversight of the farmstead's restoration and interprets this work to the public. Members of the committee include George Buckey (chairman), Undine Warner, Bob North, Russ Brezler, Bill Gelbach, Linda Zimmerman and Todd Dorsett. Former member Kathryn Oller also played a major role before withdrawing from active participation for reasons of health.



***July - September***

**Beauty Unfolded: *Fans from the 1700's to the Present***

Renfrew's 2nd exhibit of the 1988 season, mounted by Assistant Curator Shirley Baker, features the art and the message of fans made during the last 250 years. Derived from the Latin *vannus*, a tool for winnowing, fans have come to represent a broad spectrum of functions - from fine art to political sloganeering. Visitors will have the opportunity to win a hand painted fan of Renfrew, done by artist Virginia Hair, through a drawing to be held at the conclusion of the exhibit.

***Thursday, August 25***

***7:00 - 8:30 p.m.***

**In Search of a Pennsylvania German Tan:**

*The archaeology of the Royer Tannery* - William Sheppard

Mr. Sheppard will present an illustrated talk on his current research dealing with the technology of Pennsylvania German leather making and his excavations of the Royer tannery site at Renfrew.

*Free to the public*

**Saturday, September 3**  
**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Arts and Crafts Market**

Annual craft fair sponsored by the Cumberland Valley Guild of Craftsman and Renfrew Museum. In conjunction with the show, Renfrew will hold an open house from 1:00 - 4:00.

*Free to the public*

**Saturday & Sunday, September 11 - 12**  
**Dawn to Dusk**

**Blue & Grey III: Civil War Encampment**

The 3rd annual encampment at Renfrew, with regiments from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Tennessee participating. Activities include interpretation of 1863 camp life, Fife and Drum Corp performances, Sunday worship (Circuit Rider), musket and calvary demonstrations, Ladies tea and Sunday afternoon skirmish.

*Free to the public*

**Saturday, September 17**  
**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Flax Culture - Sherry Hesse**

Introductory workshop, led by Sherry Hesse, on the history and technique of processing flax into linen. For those participants interested in developing their weaving skills, Ms. Hesse will be offering more advanced workshops in the future. Enrollment limited to 20, all materials provided.

*Fee* : \$5.00 for members  
\$10.00 for nonmembers

**Saturday, October 8 \***  
**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Early Pennsylvania Farmlife - Pastor Frederick Weiser**

Illustrated lecture on the daily life of Pennsylvania German farmers during the 1700's and 1800's. Pastor Weiser is a leading scholar in the field of Pennsylvania German culture and material life.

*Fee*: \$2.00 for members  
\$4.00 for nonmembers

\* Tentative date, please check local newspaper for confirmation during first week in October.

**Saturday, October 15**  
**10:30 - 12:00 & 1:30 - 3:30**

**Wheat Weaving - Barbara Freeman.**

During the morning session, Ms. Freeman will present an illustrated lecture on the history and technique of wheat weaving; in the afternoon she will lead a wheat weaving workshop. All materials provided. Enrollment in the afternoon workshop limited to 16.

*Fee (morning session only):* \$2.00 for members  
\$4.00 for nonmembers

*Fee (both sessions):* \$15.00 for members  
\$20.00 for nonmembers

**Saturday, October 22**  
**11:00 a.m. - 1:00p.m.**

**Pennsylvania German Foodways:**

**Open Hearth Cooking Workshop - Shirely Baker.**

Under the direction of Mrs. Baker, Renfrew's Assistant Curator, workshop participants will learn the art and craft of open hearth cooking; they will also have the opportunity to eat what they have learned. All materials provided.

*Fee:* \$5.00 for members  
\$7.50 for nonmembers

**Saturday, October 29**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Raising the Fahnestock Barn**

Over 70 years have passed since the last traditional barn raising occurred in this area. On September 24th, you will have the opportunity to participate in an event that has been but a memory for 3 generations - raising the framework of a Pennsylvania German barn.

*Free to the public*

**Saturday, October 30** \_\_\_\_\_  
**1:00 - 3:30**

**Spices of the World\***

A workshop and taste testing on spices sponsored by Renfrew and the Wayne Heights Homemakers with a videotape presentation by McCormick & Co., Inc.  
*Free to the public*

\* Tentative program, check local newspapers for more information or call the museum.

**Saturday, November 5** \_\_\_\_\_  
**1:00 - 3:30**

**Moravian Star Workshop - Dorothy Newman**

Under the direction of Ms. Newman, workshop participants will learn the craft of Moravian star making. Moravian stars are traditional German Christmas ornaments, constructed of paper and dipped in wax.

Enrollment limited to 12, all materials provided.

*Fee:* \$5.00 for members  
\$7.50 for nonmembers

**Saturday, November 19** \_\_\_\_\_  
**10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Open Hearth Thanksgiving - Shirley Baker**

Renfrew and Mrs. Baker will be offering their 3rd annual open hearth Thanksgiving workshop and dinner. Enrollment limited to 15, all materials provided.

*Fee:* \$10.00 for members  
\$15.00 for nonmembers

**Saturday, December 10** \_\_\_\_\_  
**2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 11**  
**5:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Renfrew's Yuletide Celebration**

Renfrew ends the 1988 season with its annual celebration of Yuletide. This year's open house falls on the second weekend in December; Saturday hours offered for senior citizens and their families and for individuals needing special assistance, Sunday hours open to the general public.

Music, refreshments and candlelight will be available both days.

*Free to the public*

# Educational Programs at Renfrew

Opportunity for non-traditional learning offered to Area students

This summer marks the end of the second full year for Renfrew's educational series, *Man and His Environment*. Over 2,000 children, ranging from preschoolers to junior high students, participated in the environmental education and farmstead life classes offered during the past fall and spring, an increase of two-fold over the 1986-87 school year.

By coming to Renfrew, what do these children gain? A day or two away from the classroom - yes, we can all use that - and a walk through woods and meadows, and the smell and taste of apple fritters made on an open hearth, and the twisting of flax into thread and the weaving of that thread into cloth, and the feel of hand hewed timbers and the tools of the timber-framer's art; yes, it is all these things - non-traditional learning within a non-traditional setting.

But at its core the *Man and His Environment* series has a deeper root than the offering of new experiences for children outside the confines of their classrooms. Our educational program is built upon two reinforcing concepts:

1. *Each of us is a part of the natural world, and*
2. *The natural world directly effects our development as a culture.*

Building on these concepts, the goal of Renfrew's program is then to help students understand the relationship between people and the world around them.

Within the environmental education facet, children learn how life works on this earth and the importance of developing a personal sensitivity and responsibility toward local, regional and global environments. To enhance this understanding we teach in the theater of the outdoors, close to the natural world where the flow of life can be felt and observed. Young children are guided to use all their senses; older children the same through a different set of methods. The objective is to "immerse" the students in the natural world and make them feel that they are a vital, if not the most vital, part of it.\*

For the farmstead life component, children learn about the natural world from an historic perspective. They are exposed to the idea that the German settlers of this area, in order to meet their day-to-day needs, tapped into the environment around them. Students are asked to consider how these settlers fed themselves, how they clothed themselves, how they sheltered themselves. What parts of the natural world did they use and how did they use them? If you couldn't grow and prepare your own food and clothing, tough luck, you went without. In the early 1800's Sears and Roebuck was beyond imagining; you did your shopping in the natural world with the tools and energy you had at hand. There was no credit that would help you extend the harvest or reroof the barn. *(cont. next page)*



*Dressed in the period clothing of the early 1800's, Sherry Hesse watches 4th grade students from Summitview Elementary School try their hand at "scutching" flax.*

Photography by  
Scott Hesse

\* Description of environmental education program contributed by Melodie Stewart.

*Educational programs (cont.)*

As Renfrew's programs expand, the demands made on our teaching staff are also expanding. To accommodate the growing number of students, we have added on a new member, Sherry Hesse. Beginning this fall, Ms. Hesse will take on the duties of Associate Director of Cultural Studies at Renfrew. She joins Shirley Baker (Assistant Curator & Educational Coordinator), Melodie Stewart (Director of Environmental Studies), Terry Pelton (Restoration Craftsman), J. Smith (Curator) and a committed staff of volunteers.

Ms. Hesse holds a Masters Degree in education from Shippensburg Univ. and has taught elementary education in the Waynesboro Area

School District for the past 10 years. Her primary responsibility at Renfrew will deal with the textile portion of the Farmstead Life program, including curriculum development, grant writing, on site teaching, and adult education.

Ms. Hesse, welcome to Renfrew and to the challenges of non-traditional education.

**Volunteer Staff**

At Renfrew, our success and the success of our programs depend upon the dedication and hard work of volunteers. To the following individuals we offer our appreciation for the time,

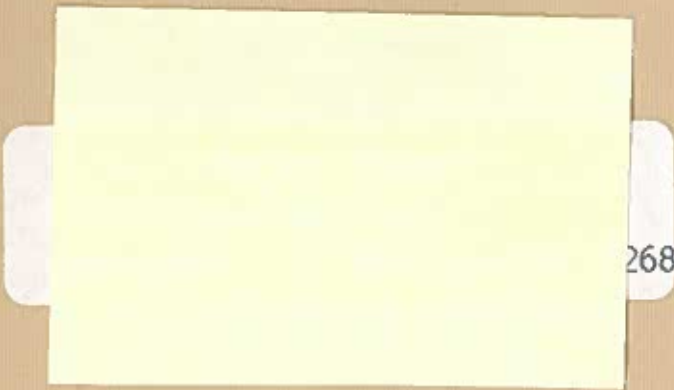
energy and talent they have given Renfrew this year.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Charles Alter    | Sara Lawn          |
| Mary Bitner      | Adele Lombard      |
| Linda Blubaugh   | Nancy Mattern      |
| Barbara Bowersox | Ellie Miller       |
| Dottie Bowling   | Mary Ann Miller    |
| Mildred Elia     | Susan Montero      |
| Liz George       | Alyce McCormick    |
| Marion Grove     | Janice McCraw      |
| Lori Lee Hammond | Linda McNew        |
| Linda Hasson     | Ann Norrie         |
| Marianne Hayes   | Kathryn Oller      |
| Mary Henicle     | Virginia Rahn      |
| Donna Hill       | P. Riemenschneider |
| Dorothy Hill     | Judy Rose          |
| Virginia Ingels  | Jackie Stanton     |
| Phyllis King     | Connie Warford     |
| Valerie King     | Cindi Werzyn       |
| Louise Kyser     |                    |

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