

# der Wetterhahn

Volume 2 Number 2

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1989

## Renfrew forms Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies

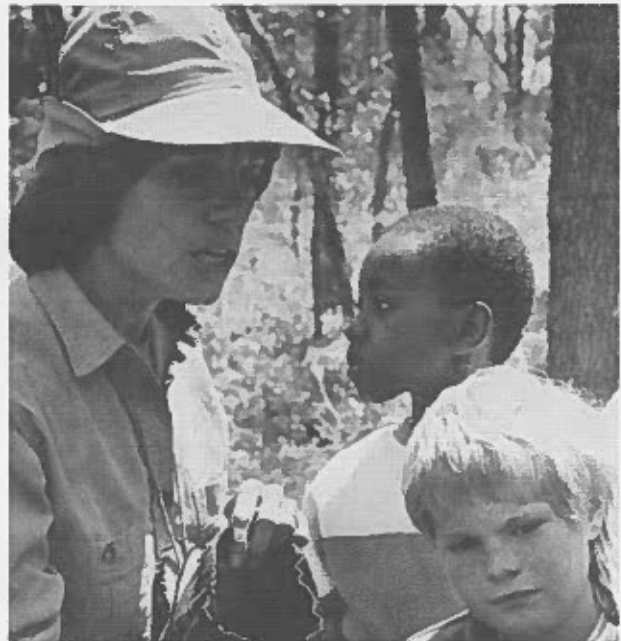
At the April meeting of its Board of Directors, Renfrew Museum announced the formation of the Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies. The Institute will serve as an academic center closely tied to Renfrew for the purposes of developing and teaching courses of study on the cultural and natural history of this region. It will be responsible for the educational programs currently run by Renfrew along with other research and preservation projects related to Pennsylvania German culture. Operations are scheduled to begin in January of 1990.

This past May, the Institute was incorporated as a separate, nonprofit organization. It will be governed by an independent Board of Directors with its own staff and budget. Funding will be provided by student fees, corporate sponsors, private donations, grants and income from special events.

*Waynesboro is so lucky to have such excellent programs available to us in our very own community ... you have done an excellent job in your development and organization of all aspects of these programs.*

3rd Grade Teacher, Summitview Elementary

In the fall of 1986, Renfrew began a pilot program designed for elementary school students, called Man and His Environment. The program combined studies in Farmstead Life and Environmental Education. This spring the program passed its 3rd year. What began with 360 students in 1986 now approaches 3,500 students annually. Beginning next year, Man and His Environment will be transferred to the Institute.



*Melodie Stewart, director of Environmental Studies at Renfrew, teaches students that they are one of the most important parts of the natural world.*

Michael Drager, Record Herald

Why do this; why take successful programs at Renfrew and create another organization with its own set of rules, procedures, books and headaches? Why monkey around with something that works? Good questions, ones we have asked ourselves. The Institute will exist for one reason and one reason only - to educate. Whether for preschoolers, students or adults, it will be the purpose of the Institute to help the people of

## Institute (cont.)

our communities gain a better understanding of the relationship between themselves and the natural world around them, and to instill in these communities the importance of preserving the richness and diversity of their cultural and natural heritages.

With the Man and His Environment series, Renfrew has already begun to lay out this path. But the demand for the educational programs developed and taught at the Museum has reached the point where it is exceeding

*The hands on activities are great. Thank you for a great learning experience.*

1st Grade Teacher, St. Thomas Elementary

Renfrew's ability to handle their cost and teaching needs. Over the past 3 years 7,000 students have participated in the Farmstead Life and Environmental Education programs. In 3 more years that number will double and double again. Though students pay a fee for the programs, it's a modest one and covers only a quarter of the costs. As the demand continues to grow, the cost for underwriting these programs also continues to grow. Renfrew can no longer absorb these costs and

at the same time maintain the quality of its programs.

The creation of the Institute will allow Renfrew to remain a strong regional museum. It will also allow Renfrew to continue to serve as an educational resource for the benefit of all the members of the communities it serves. As we begin to seek annual funding for the Institute, many of you will be asked for your support.

*First we went to the smokehouse, I loved making toothpaste with honey and charcoal. And learning about the early settlers. After lunch we went to the barn. And saw tadpoles (salamanders) and she told a story about a little man with 30 double magic eyes. And I loved it all!* 3rd Grade Student, Cascade Elementary

*The field trip (to Renfrew) was the best field trip ever.* 2nd Grade Student, Mowery I Elementary

You will be asked to make a commitment toward non-traditional education at Renfrew, toward black toothpaste and magic eyes, toward a past way of life and its preservation, toward the natural world and its well-being.

## Renfrew's Fall Exhibit to Feature Tramp Art

Most researchers believe that the creators of tramp art were itinerant craftsman, not impoverished transients. Much of the work was made between 1860 and 1940 and vary in size from boxed pincushions to sideboards. Using such material as cigar boxes and fruit crates, tramp artists often left tax stamps and manufacturers labels intact and incorporated them as part of their work.

There are two distinctive traits to look for with tramp art: 1) technique of layering in construction, and 2) chipped or notched carving. Much of tramp art was done with a pen knife; a few pieces show saw or chisel marks.

Tramp art seems to have originated in communities of German settlers, notably in Pennsylvania and New York. During the last half of the 1800's and the early part of the 1900's, America saw the arrival of German immigrants known as *Wanderburschen*. Most often

young German men, these *Wanderburschen* took to the road and the rails, bartering their skills in woodcarving in exchange for food and lodging. In this area, it was not uncommon to see "road walkers", usually reappearing with the cycles of the seasons. One of the most noted local tramp artists was Frank Feathers.

*Contributed by Shirley Baker*

**Tramp Art**  
**An Exhibit of the Itinerant Craftsman**  
 Mounted by  
 Shirley Baker  
 Assistant to the Curator, Renfrew Museum

The exhibit will run from mid-August through the end of October in Renfrew's Changing Gallery.



# Fall Calendar

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*Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 12 & 13*

## **Civil War Encampment**

One hundred-forty Confederate and 50 Union soldiers will set up camp at Renfrew for the weekend. The encampment will be open all day Saturday and until 4 p.m. Sunday featuring candlelight tours of the camps Saturday evening with admission by free ticket; a photo display; a skirmish Sunday afternoon; and uniform and firing competitions.

*Saturday, Sept. 2  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

## **Arts & Crafts Market**

More than 30 members of the Cumberland Valley Guild of Craftsmen will display and sell their wares. Admission is free.

*Saturday, Sept. 16  
1:30 p.m.*

## **Powwowing Pennsylvania Germans**

Dr. Yvonne J. Milspaw, senior lecturer in Communications and the Arts at Harrisburg Area Community College will discuss the unique beliefs and customs of the Pennsylvania Germans. Milspaw, who earned a doctoral degree in folklore and anthropology from Indiana University, has served on the executive board of the American Folklore Society, president of the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association and president of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society. A fee will be charged.

*Saturday, Sept. 30  
10 a.m. - noon*

## **Pennsylvania German Foodways**

Shirley Baker, assistant to the curator at Renfrew, will demonstrate the traditional preparation of Pennsylvania German foods during the program in Renfrew's smokehouse. Pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged for the program.

*Saturday, Sept. 30  
1 to 4 p.m.*

## **Farmstead Day**

A number of activities are planned to celebrate the development of Renfrew's Royer Farmstead, including the dedication of the completed Fahnestock Barn at 2 p.m. Government officials and representatives of historical agencies have been invited to participate in the dedication ceremony. Admission is free.

## Fall Calendar (cont.)

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*Tuesday, Oct. 10*

### **Volunteer Appreciation Trip**

Renfrew volunteers are invited to attend the bus trip with stops at the Baltimore Life Museum Complex, 1840's house and the Carroll Mansion, and the Ladew Topiary Gardens, 1700's manor home with 15 formal gardens.

*Saturday, Oct. 14*

### **Quilting Workshop**

Karen Butts of Greencastle will present an illustrated talk and workshop on the art of quilting. Butts, who has studied and researched quilting, taught classes for three years in various designs and techniques. Pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged for the limited number of seats.

*Saturday, Oct. 28*  
*1:30 p.m.*

### **Preservation of Textiles**

Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, director of Textile Preservation Associates Inc., will discuss the methods of preserving textiles. Thomsen has worked as conservator and consultant on George Washington's sleeping and dining marquees at Yorktown Visitor Center and at the Russian Bishop House in Stika, Alaska, and taught and lectured on textile conservation throughout the United States. Pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged.

*Saturday, Nov. 4*

### **History of Frakturs**

Artist Michael Kriebel will talk about the history of frakturs and demonstrate how to make homemade inks. Following the lecture, participants will be able to create their own frakturs: marriage or birth certificates or poems which combine traditional design schemes. A list of needed materials is available from the Renfrew staff. Admission is limited, pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged.

*Saturday, Nov. 18*  
*10 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

### **Open Hearth Thanksgiving**

Shirley Baker, drawing on her work in culinary history at Renfrew, will demonstrate the preparation of a traditional Thanksgiving meal during the program in the museum's kitchen. The number of participants is limited; pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged.

*Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 9 & 10*

### **Annual Yuletide Celebration**

Renfrew Museum will usher in the holiday season with its annual open house celebration. The museum will be open for senior citizens and people needing special assistance from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and to the public from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The celebration will include musical entertainment, homemade refreshments and free tours of the Royer House. Visitors also will be able to view the floral arrangements Thursday, Dec. 14, Saturday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. or during the week of Dec. 10 by appointment. The museum will close Dec. 17.



# Farmstead Development

## Fahnestock Barn

No doubt some of you are thinking, "Great, so Renfrew starts up a new Institute. Big deal. What I want to know is, when are they ever going to finish that barn?" When indeed. The end is in sight, though some of us thought we had seen it a few times before (as noted in the last issue of *der Wetterhahn*). A lesson learned - preservation and restoration do not work by arbitrary time schedules. Doing the job and doing it well come first; the calendar awaits its own time.

Having said this, here we go once more:

**Restoration of the Fahnestock Barn  
will be dedicated on  
Farmstead Day**

**Saturday, September 30th at 2:00 p.m.**

When the details of the dedication program are completed, you will receive a separate announcement. Look for it in late August or early September. It promises to be a singular event during Renfrew's fall season.

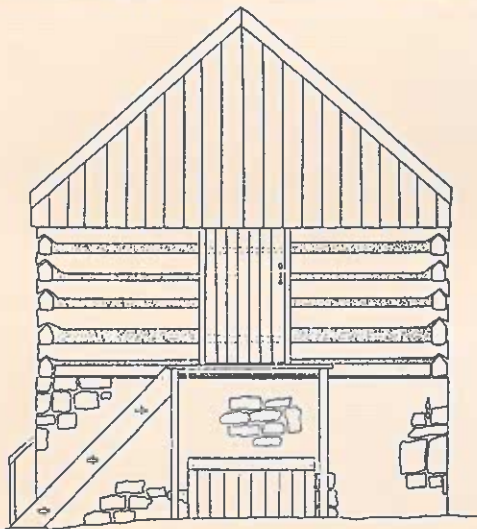


*Restoration Craftsman, Terry Pelton, places roofing lathes over the rafters of the Fahnestock Barn.*

Bonnie Martin, Renfrew Museum

## Springhouse, Smokehouse and Gristmill Site

The work of restoring the Royer farmstead does not end with the barn; next on our slate the springhouse followed closely by the smokehouse. The term



*Drawing of restored springhouse showing front elevation. William Sheppard, Renfrew Museum, 1989*

springhouse is inaccurate; it's a misnomer. No spring flows in or near this outbuilding. During Royer's time (early 1800's), it functioned as a dairyhouse. Milk, butter and cheese were stored in a trough in the lower vaulted area. Water, drawn from a nearby well and placed in the trough, helped to cool the dairy products. The upper floor over the vault served as a storage and work space.

Mislabelling is not confined to the springhouse alone; the smokehouse also suffers the same fate. In addition to smoking meat, other activities such as butchering, candle making, washing and wool-working were carried out here. It was a multifunction building, serving the farmstead in a variety of ways.

While the barn, springhouse and smokehouse undergo physical restoration, we will be continuing our research into Pennsylvania German culture and its application to Renfrew. Over this summer and fall, William Sheppard and volunteer members of the Cumberland Valley Archaeological Society will be excavating the site of Royer's gristmill. The field work is scheduled to begin in mid-July and extend into late October.

# Friends of Renfrew

## Renfrew Announces New Membership Categories

Beginning in 1990, Renfrew Museum will be offering an expanded number of membership options for its Friends of Renfrew. The newly created categories include Life, Sustaining, Family and Honorary memberships. These will be added to the present Friends' categories of Patron and Donor.

For information on renewing your present membership or becoming a new member, please contact Ms. Shirley Baker at Renfrew Museum, 762-4723 or 762-0373.

Friends of Renfrew	
<b>Life Member</b> .....	\$500
<b>Sustaining Member</b> .....	\$100
<b>Family Member</b> .....	\$50
<b>Patron Member</b> .....	\$35
<b>Donor Member</b> .....	\$25
<b>Individual Member</b> .....	\$10
<b>Honorary Member</b>	

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Renfrew Museum 1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268

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