

der Wetterhahn

Volume 2 Number 1

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Spring 1989

Restoration of Fahnestock Barn Nears Completion; Dedication Set for April 30th

Over the past 3 years much of the work at Renfrew has been directed toward saving and preserving a part of the cultural heritage of the Waynesboro area. In Renfrew's case cultural heritage means the Pennsylvania German farmstead built by Daniel Royer and his family during the late 1700's and early 1800's.

On Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m., Renfrew will dedicate the first of its historic farm buildings to be fully restored - the Fahnestock barn.

Since 1986, the barn has been researched, analyzed, documented, disassembled and raised again. For those people who have worked on the barn's restoration, it has proved to be a learning laboratory, providing them an appreciation for its builders and insights into the building tradition from which it came.

Mac Barrick in *German - American Folklore* (1987) writes that, "...it is not surprising that the object in which the German farmer took most pride, the structure that provided evidence of his success, should be the most lasting evidence of his presence on the landscape" (:204). Barrick's observation reflects our own modern

perspective of the Pennsylvania German barn. First-hand accounts from the 1700's and 1800's echo a similar theme; the German farmer consistently placed greater value on housing his horses and cows than on housing his family and himself. The barn came first, the house second. "In settling a tract of land [the German farmers] always provide large and suitable accommodations for their horses and cattle before they lay out much money in building a house for themselves" (Benjamin Rush). Bernard of Saxe-Weimer writing in 1825 also noted that, "...the barns [of the Pennsylvania Germans]... often look better than the dwelling-houses..." (in Amos Long's *The Pennsylvania German Family Farm*, 1972: 316-318).

As the rural landscape of this area changes, as farms and their structures give way to housing developments and blacktop, as the spread of urbanization draws ever closer, Ren-



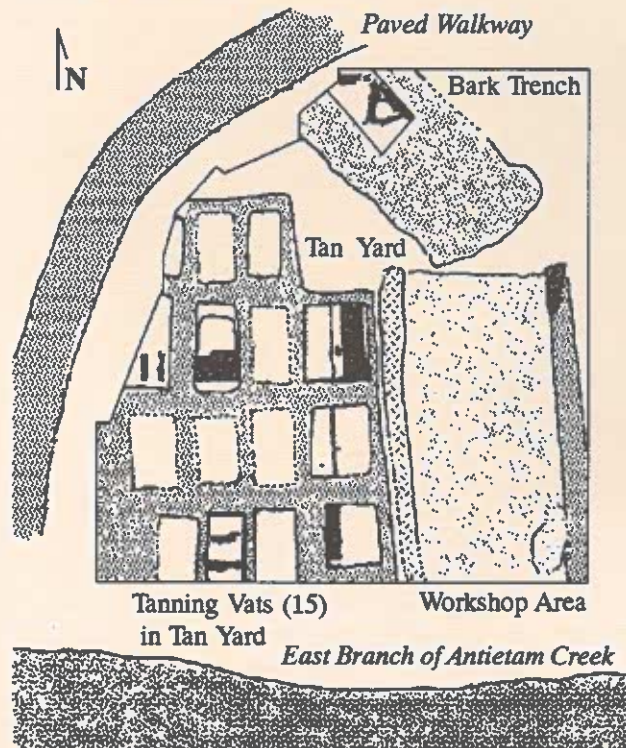
Raising the west bent of the Fahnestock barn
Photo - Bonnie Martin *The Record Herald*

frew's future remains committed to its cultural past. On April 30th the museum invites you to a celebration of its German heritage as Renfrew dedicates the restoration of its Fahnestock barn.

Sheppard finishes excavations of Royer Tannery Site

After 2 seasons of field work, there is good news for the picnicing community. Archaeologist William Sheppard has completed his excavations of the Royer tannery site. The results of Sheppard's research are included in his site report, "A Good Summer's Tan: A report on the Excavation of the Royer Tannery Site 1987-1988", which he presented to Renfrew's Board of Directors at its March 6th meeting. Copies of the site report are on file at Renfrew and available on loan to anyone interested.

With assistance from Renfrew's staff and volunteer Brenda Krepps, Sheppard located an extensive area of tanning vats, workshops and stonework associated with Royer's tanning operation. As shown on the site plan below, the tanning vats were arranged in a regular grid pattern. These vats, made of wood planks imbedded in clay fill, held solutions of either lime (from burnt limestone) and water, used for removing the hair from animal hides, or ground tree bark (tannic acid) and water, used for transforming hides into tanned leather. They measure from 4 by 4 ft. to 6 by 8 ft. in size.



Springhouse & Smokehouse projects underway

As work on the Fahnestock barn and tannery site near completion, Renfrew's staff and Interpretive Committee have begun research on the springhouse and smokehouse in preparation for their restoration later this year. Thus far preliminary research shows that both outbuildings had wooden shake roofs and cantilevered (unsupported) overhangs on their front sides. The stairs and porch arrangement of the springhouse and the 2 four-sided columns of the smokehouse were later modifications.

In conjunction with the structural restoration, members of the Interpretive Committee have also begun research into what activities would have been carried out in each of these buildings. Bob North and subcommittee members Barry Donohoe, Doug and Ginny Parks and Dorothy Wetherald are developing an interpretive plan for the smokehouse dealing with butchering, meat preservation and use of animal by-products. A second subcommittee, headed by Linda Zimmerman along with Bill and June Arthur, Andy Fitz and staff member Shirley Baker, is working on the question of dairying activity and how it relates to the springhouse.

Excavation Plan of the Royer Tannery Site

Key:

Bark Trench - used to hold excess crushed pine or oak bark, uncovered during 1987 excavations

Tan Yard - series of regularly spaced tanning vats set into heavy clay fill

Tanning Vats - rectangular pits, lined with wooden boards on the interior and heavy clay fill on the exterior, used to process animal hides into tanned leather

Workshop Area - structure for working hides before and after being placed in tanning vats. Footings for the walls built of cobblestones (west wall) and dry-laid limestone (east wall)

Scale: 1" = 8'
jms & wjs

Museum Activities

Museum Opens 1989 Season on Weekend of April 29 & 30

Renfrew Museum begins the 1989 season with its 4th annual Springfest Celebration. This year's opening weekend features two events: on Saturday, April 29th, Renfrew raises the curtain on its spring exhibit *A. B. Landis* (see below), and on the following Sunday, April 30th, Renfrew dedicates the restoration of the Fahnestock barn at 2:00 p.m.

Other activities associated with Springfest weekend include the annual museum open house, craft demonstrations, sheep shearing, horse drawn hay rides, face painting, bird walks, wildflower identification and display of traditional building techniques. The Saturday schedule runs from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m.; the Sunday schedule from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. For details, see the enclosed Calendar of Events.

After Opening Weekend, the museum will resume its normal hours for visitation - 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Beginning this year, the last tour of the museum house will start at 3:30.

SHAKESPEARE ON WHEELS

Shakespeare on Wheels, returns to Renfrew for a second engagement. The summer touring troupe from the Theatre Department of Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) will present William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as its 1989 production.

Performances by Shakespeare on Wheels are scheduled for 2 consecutive evenings - Friday, July 14, and Saturday, July 15 - with curtain time at 7:30 p.m.

The 1989 sponsorship of Shakespeare on Wheels at Renfrew is provided through a donation from the First National Bank and Trust Co. of Waynesboro, PA.

A. B. Landis

In 1987 the American Precision Museum, Windsor, Vermont, inducted Abraham Benjamin Landis as 1 of 10 members into its Hall of Fame. In recognition of his induction, Renfrew Museum has mounted an exhibit on the life and achievements of A. B. Landis (1854 - 1923) and the Landis family.

The exhibit highlights the innovations brought by Landis to the then fledgling field of precision machine technology and the impact these innovations had on the development of Waynesboro as a town and as an industrial center.

The exhibit will open on Saturday, April 29 in the Museum's Visitors Center. It will run through July 16.

Renfrew wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Teledyne Landis Machine Co. and Litton Landis Tool Co. for their cooperation in helping to mount the A. B. Landis exhibit.



Universal Grinder

*Patented by A. B. Landis in 1890
From advertisement for Landis Tool Co., in the
Souvenir Centennial Issue of Blue Ridge Zephyr and
Keystone Gazette; 1897, Waynesboro, PA.*

Memorials at Renfrew

Henry Angle Memorial Fund

Mr. & Mrs. J. Edward Beck The Bridge Club	Ms. Janet S. Myers
Mrs. William Curry ERA Van Mater	Mrs. Mary E. Pelton
Mr. Marvin Goodman Greencastle High School, Class of 1931	Mrs. Homer T. Rosenberger
Mrs. Marion Grove	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Shuck
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon H. Henry	Mr. & Mrs. William F. Shull
Mr. & Mrs. Marinus Heymering	Mrs. Elizabeth M. Snively
Mrs. Ethel Kitzmiller	Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Larson	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stevenson
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy S. Maxwell	Mr. Jerry Suydamis
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Moore	Vector Research, Inc.
	Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Warner
	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Weagly
	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas West

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