

# der Wetterhahn

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The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1990

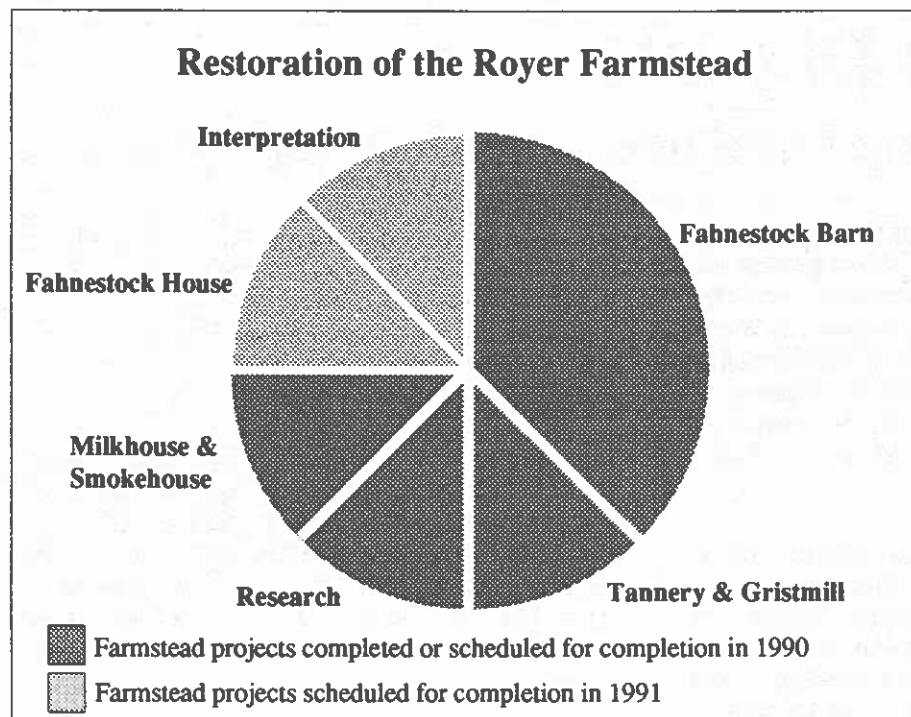
## Farmstead Nearing Completion

The restoration of the Royer Farmstead is now halfway through its third year. As the milkhouse and smokehouse near completion, plans are being made to finish the development of all the sites in time for Farmstead Day in 1991. The present schedule calls for the milkhouse and smokehouse to be done by year's end and the stone portion of the Fahnestock house to be completed by next year. Renfrew will interpret the Fahnestock house as an example of domestic architecture found on a working Pennsylvania German farmstead of this region during the early 1800s. To be restored and open to the public, the house will have its roof, doors, windows and shutters replaced and some

repairs done to the interior fabric. As an architectural exhibit, the emphasis will be on how the house was built and how it functioned as part of the Royer farmstead.

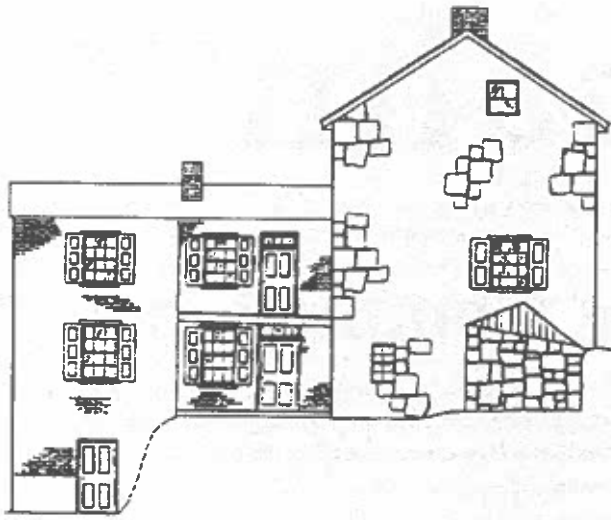
Two other projects are involved in the farmstead's development – restoring the lime kiln and placing outdoor display panels. The lime kiln is in need of a good cleaning and patching of its stonework and plasterwork. The outdoor display panels (eight in all) will provide text and graphics explaining the history, function and restoration of the individual sites. The first panel will be located near the pavillion,

introducing the visitor to Renfrew and the farmstead. Other display panels will be set up at the tannery site, mill dam and smokehouse, milkhouse, Fahnestock barn, Fahnestock house, lime kiln and gristmill. The panels will allow visitors to discover the working components of a pre-1830 Pennsylvania German farmstead at their own pace. Other written materials and audio cassettes will be available in the Visitors Center during regular museum hours.



*William J. Sheppard*

## Fahnestock House



North elevation of the Fahnestock house drawn in January, 1978 by I. G. Mickley. The original stone portion of the house will be the last of the farmstead sites to undergo restoration; work is scheduled to begin in 1991.



photo by W. J. Sheppard

*The Fahnestock house as it appeared in June of this year.*

## Farmstead Day 1990

### Milkhouse and Barn Dance to be featured on September 29

Over the past few months, those of you visiting Renfrew have had the opportunity to see the upper story of the Royer milkhouse take on a different look. The slate roof is gone, so too the bell, chimney and vertical wood siding. In their place courses of hand-hewed logs are being refitted as part of the original milkhouse walls. Later this summer the logs will be chinked with wood, clay and lime and then roofed over with hand-split shakes.

An opportunity to visit the restored milkhouse will be one of the highlights of Renfrew's third annual Farmstead Day to be held on September 29 from 1 - 5 p.m. Each of the farmstead's sites will be manned by members of Renfrew's Interpretive Committee. Craft demonstrations and hay rides will also be available

throughout the afternoon. This year site interpretation will emphasize Daniel Royer's inventory and how it relates to the restoration of the farmstead. Shortly after his death in 1838, the court required Royer's heirs to conduct an inventory of all his goods and chattels in order to settle his estate.

Renfrew will cap off Farmstead Day with a **barn dance** from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fahnestock barn. The dance is sponsored by Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies and underwritten by a grant from **Farmers Bank and Trust Co.** Tom Hines of Silver Spring, Maryland will be the caller. Novice dancers and children are encouraged to participate; refreshments will be available.

# 1990 Fall Calendar

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## Civil War Encampment

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 10, 11 & 12**  
Confederate and 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, highlighted by a Sunday afternoon skirmish. Admission is free.

## Arts & Crafts Market

**Saturday, Sept. 1**  
**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
Members of the Cumberland Valley Craftsmen will display and sell their wares during the annual show. The museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. for free tours. Admission is free.

## Farmstead Day

**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
**1 - 5 p.m.**  
Renfrew will celebrate its agricultural heritage with the third annual Farmstead Day. Special events will focus on the development of the museum's Royer Farmstead and a barn dance from 3 - 5 p.m. in the Fahnestock barn. Admission is free.

## German Open Hearth Workshop

**Saturday, Oct. 13**  
**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
Shirley Baker, director of visitor services 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. Registration is limited.

## Treasures of Old Pennsylvania

**Saturday, Oct. 20**  
**2 - 3 p.m.**  
Lester Breinger will present a slide lecture, "Treasures of Old Pennsylvania," dealing with Pennsylvania German art forms, humor and speech patterns. A fee will be charged.

## Mountain Moon Tale Spinners

**Thursday, Nov. 8**  
**7 - 9 p.m.**  
Storytellers Bob and Barb Gingerich, members of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling, will share their visions of "Quilting, Trapping and Tall Tales — Pursuits of Winter on the German Farm." A fee will be charged.

## Open Hearth Thanksgiving

**Saturday, Nov. 17**  
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
Shirley Baker, director of visitor services at Renfrew, will demonstrate the preparation of a traditional Thanksgiving meal during the program in the museum's kitchen. The number of participants will be limited to 12 to 15, pre-registration is required and a fee will be charged.

## Annual Yuletide Celebration

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 7, 8 & 9**  
Renfrew Museum will welcome the holiday season with its annual celebration which will open Friday evening with a reception for members of the Renfrew Museum and Park Board of Directors, museum volunteers and members of the area garden clubs who decorate the house for the season. The museum will be open to the public from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 5 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Although all are welcome, Saturday's hours are set aside especially for senior citizens and people with special needs. The festivities will include musical entertainment, homemade refreshments and free tours of the museum house. Entries in Renfrew's annual amateur photography competition will be displayed. Admission is free.

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*Programming by Shirley Baker  
Calendar by Bonnie Martin*

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Anonymous  
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Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Stewart

## Honorary Members

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Dr. H. E. Comstock  
Kent Kershner

# Art Beforehand

Art Beforehand, the 1990 fall exhibit at Renfrew, will display the ink wells, paper weights and ink pens from the collection of Charles Besecker. Besecker began building his collection in the 1960s with an emphasis on local pieces, including ink wells found at one time in the homes of Jacob Stoner, Bess Russel, Kate Newman and Zel Smith's father and wells used at the First National Bank of Waynesboro.

Victorian writing implements were produced from numerous materials - crystal, copper alloys, pottery, rosewood, etc, and made in a range of styles from the ornate to the absurd. One commemorative ink well to be exhibited celebrates the first World's Fair held in the Crystal Palace of London in 1851. Besecker's collection also contains pottery wells made at Staffordshire. Many of the items were originally designed as *gifts of distinction*, as was the case for the first well that Besecker collected from the Fraternal Order of Elks.

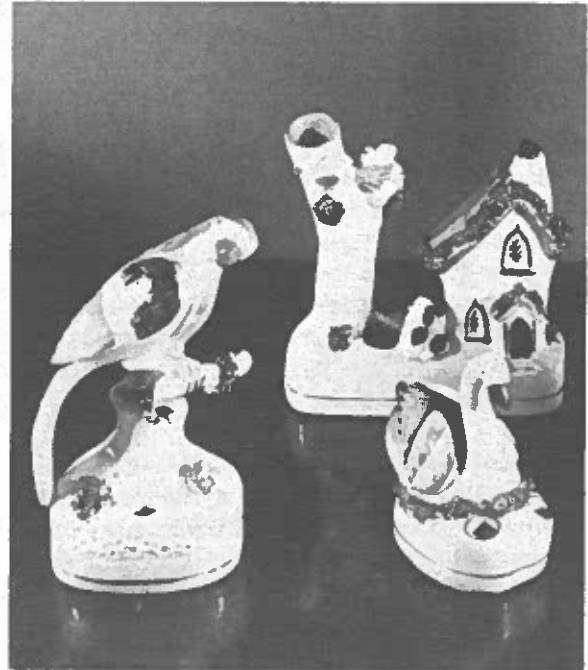


photo by Charles Besecker

Art Beforehand is scheduled to open in early August and run through October in Renfrew's Changing Gallery.

Staffordshire ink wells in the Besecker collection will be shown as part of an exhibit mounted by Renfrew Museum.

*Shirley Baker*

## Renfrew Museum and Park

1010 East Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268 (717) 762-4723

### Friends of Renfrew - Application for Annual Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Categories - Life \$500 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sustaining \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Renfrew Museum

## Internship provides study of Renfrew Park

As part of its research program, Renfrew initiated an internship project in the fall of 1989 to conduct an ecological assessment of its parkland. The purpose behind the project was to determine the types of trees, mammals, and birds presently found at the park and compare them to the species which would have been located in this area at the time of European settlement 250 years ago. The study will add to the overall interpretation of the Royer Farmstead and give visitors a better understanding of how Renfrew looked 2 centuries past and how it has since changed.

The assessment will serve also as a base-line study. With development continuing to spread in this region, Renfrew has become a refuge for trees, birds, and mammals. In developed areas, animals require green "avenues" or buffer zones for their movements from one habitat to another. Lands along waterways (streams) are especially important; Renfrew with the east branch of the Antietam stream serves as a vital dispersal route.

Some of the techniques used for the study include placing random transects through areas of the park to record species of plants and trees and their sizes. With this data vegetation maps can draw up showing the plant composition of Renfrew. Weekly flower surveys are also conducted to determine the different species and their times of flowering. The numbers and types of birds and mammals are being compiled from the sightings within the park. In addition historical records are being used to develop a reference base to determine the past species for this area. Fairly good records were kept for the birds and mammals, though few reliable records have survived on the original plants and trees.

*Patricia M. Sheppard*

(Editor's note: When the ecological study is completed, Renfrew will use the data as a planning tool for managing its park area. The information will also add to our overall understanding and interpretation of the Royer farmstead. And, as with all of Renfrew's research projects, copies of the report will be available upon request or for use in the museum's library.)

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Renfrew Museum 1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268

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