# der Wetterhahn

Volume 4 Number 2

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1991

## The Royer Farmstead: Four Years Later

hink back four years ago to the spring of 1987. The Orioles and hope were flying high; Oliver North and John Poindexter made daily appearances on the evening news; and Renfrew Museum began its first-ever capital campaign. By year's end the Orioles had taken hope to 6th place, North and Poindexter were facing convictions for their role in the Iran-Contra arms deal, and Renfrew was taking its first steps toward restoring the Royer farmstead.

This issue of der Wetterhahn marks the end of the fourth year for the newsletter. By the time you receive the spring issue of year five the primary phase of restoring the Royer farmstead will be completed. Many of you (pages 5 and 6) helped to fund the restoration work. This edition, call it restoration in review, becomes our report to you – what we have done, how we have done it and what remains to be done. It is also our recognition of what you have allowed us to do – an end note of appreciation.

Renfrew's capital campaign grew from a simple premise: as a publicly owned institution, the museum (and the people involved with it) holds a responsibility to preserve and care for its own cultural past. To fulfill this responsibility, the board in 1987 undertook the job of raising funds by initiating a capital drive – the Renfrew Development Campaign. This campaign began and ends with the intent of restoring, preserving and interpreting the Royer farmstead. During a three- month span, more than 60 volunteers help to raise \$208,000, with 328 individuals, families, businesses and service clubs contributing.

At the end of 1987, the museum hired Terry Pelton to carry out the restoration work and contracted William Sheppard to do the archaeological research. At the same

time an Interpretive committee was organized to oversee how each of the farmstead sites could best be interpreted to visitors.

The first two projects involved restoring the Fahnestock barn and excavating the Royer tannery site. From there the research and restoration work moved to the gristmill site and the smokehouse-milkhouse complex adjacent to the museum. And this spring, Sheppard completed excavations of the lime kiln (see page 2) while also beginning work on the Fahnestock House. Along with the farmstead projects, the development campaign funded a graduate intern to conduct an ecological assessment of the park and matched a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council to document the restoration of the Fahnestock Barn via videotape.

By June's end, these projects have cost just over \$170,000, or about 85 percent of the money raised during the campaign. The funds that remain are presently committed toward finishing the excavations of the Fahnestock house, stabilizing the gristmill and lime kiln sites and providing site panels and brochures to help interpret the farmstead to visitors.

By the first quarter of 1992 the development funds will be spent (page 8) and this phase of the restoration wrapped up. Will we be done with the job we began four years ago? We wish the answer was yes, but it's not, at least not all the way. When the funds are gone, one element of the farmstead will still remain undone, the Fahnestock house. It is an important element, this Fahnestock house. For its restoration we will be seeking other sources of funding. It may take us a while, but we will complete what was begun those four years ago. And thanks to you, we are almost there.

James M. Smith

# Archaeology of the Royer Lime Kiln

Research on the history of the Royer farmstead has included archaeological excavations of two major industrial sites which once operated on the property; the tannery and the gristmill. A third site, however, has largely remained unnoticed; overgrown and half buried on the hillside south of the Fahnestock house and barn. The lime kiln provided raw material for many activities on the farmstead. Lime was used at the tannery as an agent to remove hair, at the mill to produce plaster and fertilizer, and on the farm for the construction and maintenance of buildings in the form of mortar and whitewash. Despite the importance of the structure to the workings of the Royer farmstead, the kiln ceased being used some time before 1900 and was later filled with farm debris and trash. To reclaim this part of the Royer farmstead, excavations were conducted in April and May of this year.

During the operation of the lime kiln, limestone quarried on the property was brought to the kiln by wagon. Loaf-size pieces of rock were loaded into the kiln from the top. The stone was stacked in the kiln intermixed with layers of fuel, usually wood or coal. A walk through the back woods of the park in the fall or winter months reveal numerous quarrying sites. The hillside is littered with small depressions with adjacent piles of limestone. The construction of the Old Mill Trail may have been a by-product of this quarrying activity. The limestone was burned in the kiln, taking a few days to get a complete burning, and the lime was

The bowl shape of the kiln took on larger dimensions also – measuring 10.5 by 13 feet at its upper surface and tapering to 4 by 10.5 feet at its base. From the upper rim of stonework to the floor of the firing chamber, the kiln extends 10 feet in depth. The kiln was built into the hillside on top of a limestone ridge. Part of the bowl of the kiln and much of the stonework was cut from this ridge.

Once the fill inside the kiln was removed it became evident that the structure had double walls. The kiln had an outside wall constructed of large, dry-laid limestone blocks and an inside wall constructed of smaller limestone and sandstone pieces. This inner wall absorbed the heat when the kiln was being fired, protecting the outer wall. As the limestone inside the kiln burned and broke apart, the inner kiln wall also burned. The lining would have to be replaced at various times during the life of the kiln.

On top of the stone floor in the center of the kiln we located a small section of brickwork. The bricks, along with the base of the interior wall, supported a series of iron bars that formed a grate one foot above the floor. With the limestone and fuel piled above, this grate provided an open passageway for air to be drawn into the firing chamber.

The Royers built the lime kiln sometime between 1800 and 1810. It stayed in operation until the 1880s or 1890s. The artifacts recovered from the excavations date to the early-to-mid part of this century. Two distinct layers of farm trash were located, separated by two large layers of fill caused by erosion. Much of the trash, including the remains of cows, pigs, horses and ducks, was thrown into the kiln after the Nicodemus family bought the property in 1942.

The excavation of the lime kiln produced a dramatic change in the appearance of the site. After stripping away the vegetation, the exposed stonework measured about 4 feet in height with only 1.5 feet of the opening of the arched firebox visible. Then, after we removed the various fill levels from the interior of the kiln, the firebox opening became fully defined, now extending 5.5 feet in height.

Cross-section of the Royer lime kiln showing the exterior wall of cut limestone blocks, the firebox opening, the interior wall of smaller stone and five levels of farm debris and fill. The limestone wall measures eight feet in height (drawing by William J. Sheppard).

## Clyde Roberts: Interpreting The Past Through Art

When talking to Clyde H. Roberts about his paintings for Renfrew Museum, it's obvious he thinks of it more as a labor of love than a job.

Roberts, an award-winning artist from Hagerstown, has been contracted to paint eight 18 by 24-inch watercolor scenes at Renfrew, including the milkhouse and smokehouse, which are complete, and an overall aerial view of the property as it may have appeared in the early 1800s. He will also paint interpretive scenes of the lime kiln, Fahnestock barn and house and the mill and tannery sites. A reproduction of the original painting will be placed in a display panel near each site. The interpretive panels are scheduled to be on view for visitors beginning in the fall of 1992.

Roberts said painting the overall of the property was a great challenge because some of the structures no longer exist. He credits curator James Smith and archaeologist William Sheppard with their assistance in the process. "I first make a drawing of the site," according to Roberts, "and then James and William suggest changes before I paint."

The former teacher and art supervisor of Washington County Schools said he has been painting "since I can remember. My father had a lot of ability." so Roberts passed those abilities on to his children, including son Kent, a commercial art instructor at Career Studies Center in Hagerstown and daughter, Cindy, a former art teacher at Middletown High School in Frederick County.

Roberts also serves as the instructor of a 12-week watercolor class in the spring and fall at the mansion house in Hagerstown City Park. He is a former visiting teacher at Penn State Mont Alto, where he taught painting and drawing twice a week.

Roberts said he exhibits his work throughout the area and paints on commission, "but I really paint for my own pleasure. I always joke that I have the largest collection of Clyde Roberts' paintings."

Roberts recently won best of show at the Shenandoah Apple Festival in Winchester, Va., and the Dr. Richard Medford award in memory of the first director of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. He also recently received an award for creative writing in the Senior Citizens of Maryland "You Are Beautiful" writing contest. Roberts and his wife Janet were treated to lunch with Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer and a weekend in Annapolis for his winning essay, "Maryland through my

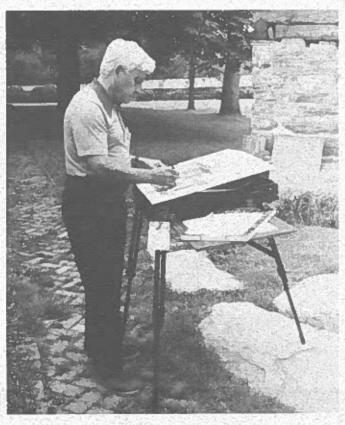


Photo by Nancy Mace

Clyde Roberts, interpretive artist for the Royer farmstead, adds some final details to his watercolor of the milkhouse. A copy of the painting will become part of a display panel showing how the building would have been used during the early 1800s.

eyes and a brush and paint."

Roberts is a member of the Waynesboro Studio Club, the Chambersburg Art Alliance and Baltimore and Pennsylvania Watercolor Societies.

Roberts said his primary media is watercolor but he also paints in oil. He has painted a 32-foot mural on the wall at Rocco's Italian Restaurant in Hagerstown and an 18-foot mural depicting activities of Western Maryland in the Tourism Center on Route 70 east of Hagerstown.

In addition to painting, Roberts enjoys playing golf and traveling. Roberts has visited all 50 states and nearly every country. "It would be easier to tell you where I haven't been," according to Roberts, whose favorites include Kenya and China.

Roberts is also a great fan of local historical sites and has nothing but praise for the staff at Renfrew. "I think this is one of the greatest ideas I've ever seen...restoring this property. You get a real feeling of the old...this wasn't a rich community, like Williamsburg, Va. It was a working farm. And the park is wonderful, a very scenic place and very good place to paint."

Nancy Mace

## 1991 Calendar of Events

#### SHAKESPEARE ON WHEELS - The Tempest Friday, July 19 & Saturday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Players from UMBC return to Renfrew this summer with their 1991 production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The performances, underwritten by a grant from First National Bank & Trust Co. of Waynesboro, will be presented on the lawn behind the museum house. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Picnic suppers will be on sale with proceeds going to Renfrew Institute. Performances are free and open to the public.

#### THE TEMPEST FOR KIDS

Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m., Renfrew's Visitors Center Glinda Glitter, as played by the Institute's Board President Dudley Keller, will present a storytelling program of *The Tempest* to children kindergarten age and older in the visitors center. The free program will be limited to 20 children and you may register by calling the institute at 762-0373. Glinda will talk about Shakespeare, introduce the characters and tell the story of *The Tempest*, to be followed by audience participation.

#### 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, Aug. 31, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Members of the Cumberland Valley Craftsmen will display and sell their wares during the annual show. Admission is free.

#### YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY

Sunday, Sept. 15 (time to be arranged)

Underwritten by grants from Valleybank and Trust Company and Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. King

The York Youth Symphony will present an afternoon concert on the lawn behind the museum house. The performance is free and open to the public. Those attending should bring lawn chairs and blankets. (Construction of aportable stage is being made possible by participants in the Summer Youth Employment program, under the Private Industry Council and Job Training Act. Materials are being donated by The Lumber Yard, courtesy of Tom Wolf Enterprises. The construction will be supervised by Waynesboro Construction and C&S Builders.)

#### FARMSTEAD DAY

Saturday, Sept. 28, 1 - 5 p.m.

Renfrew will celebrate its agricultural heritage with the annual observance of Farmstead Day. Special events will focus on the

development of the museum's Royer Farmstead and will include the second annual barn dance in the Fahnestock barn. Admission is free.

#### GUIDE APPRECIATION TRIP

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Volunteer guides will visit Falling Waters and Linden Hall in western Pennsylvania.

### TEXTILE WORKSHOP Saturday, Oct. 19

Ruth McCuthson will lead a workshop on penny rugs. Registration is required; a fee will be charged to cover the cost of materials.

### Pennsylvania German Open Hearth Cooking Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Shirley Baker, director of visitor services at Renfrew, will demonstrate traditional Pennsylvania German methods of food preparation. Registration is required and a fee will be charged.

#### STORYTELLING

Thursday, Nov. 7 (time to be arranged)

Mickie Sager-Warner will tell stories to entertain all ages.

#### OPEN HEARTH THANKSGIVING Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Shirley Baker will discuss and demonstrate the preparation of a Pennsylvania German Thanksgiving meal during the program in the museum's kitchen. The number of participants will be limited to 15, registration is required and a fee will be charged.

#### ANNUAL YULETIDE CELEBRATION

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6, 7 & 8

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.

Museum Programming by Shirley Baker Calendar by Nancy Mace

## **Renfrew Development Campaign**

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Nicodemus Level: Gifts of \$1,000 or more Royer Level: Gifts of \$250 to \$999 Fahnestock Level: Gifts to \$250

#### Renfrew Development Campaign – 1987

#### **Committee Members:**

George P. Buckey - Chair Marion P. Grove Helen H. Hoffman Edward A. Miller Richard G. Shook Undine B. Warner

#### **Division Chairs:**

Marie Lanser Beck - Supporting John N. Keller - Professional Thomas J. MacBride - Industrial Richard G. Shook - Commercial Charles A. Warner - Advanced

#### Staff:

M. Dudley Keller James M. Smith

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#### **Renfrew Museum and Park**

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

Friends of Renfrew - Application for Annual Membership

Name			1,553_1787; k=3400; _500, 1.45 [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6] [6]	Mari Mari
Address				
City		State	Zip	
Membership Categories -			Patron \$35	
	Sustaining \$100 Family \$50	1200	Donor \$25 Individual \$10	

Please make checks payable to Renfrew Museum

#### Royer Farmstead - Restoration and Research Projects

Project	Time Period	Cost
Fahnestock Barn:		
drawings/specifications	June 1986 - Nov. 1987	\$9,673
restoration	Jan. 1988 – Jan. 1990	\$92,265
videotape documentary	May 1988 - Oct. 1989	\$1,561
Tannery Site:		
excavation	June 1987 – Dec. 1988	\$3,977
Smokehouse & Milkhouse:		
drawings/specifications	Feb. 1989 – June 1989	\$3,540
restoration	Jan. 1990 – July 1991	\$36,159
Gristmill Site:		
excavation	June 1989 – Dec. 1989	\$10,327
stabilization	Fall 1991 (est.)	\$7,800
Lime Kiln Site:		
excavation	April 1991 – May 1991	\$1,000
stabilization	Fall 1991 (est.)	\$1,500
Fahnestock House:		
excavation	June 1991 – Aug. 1991	\$3,500
Graduate Internship:		
ecological study	May 1987 - Feb. 1991	\$2,500
Interpretation:		
preliminary plan	May 1988 – Aug. 1988	\$1,960
archaeology pamphlet	March 1990 – Sept. 1991	\$2,500
artwork	April 1991 - Nov. 1991	\$1,600
site panels	Spring 1992 (est.)	\$8,000



Renfrew Museum 1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268

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