

der Wetterhahn

Volume 5 Number 2

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1992

Revisiting the Challenge for Change

The 1992 spring edition of the newsletter, v. 5(1), took on the issue of Renfrew's purpose and mission and how they relate to the budget. The question was posed, could Renfrew live within its means and continue to accomplish its defined purpose? For 1992, our budget calls for expenditures greater than our revenues. We entered this year with a surplus of \$100,000; we will end the year with a surplus of about \$70,000. A few more years like this one and there won't be any surplus. How then do we bring income and expenses in balance without eroding the scope of what we are and what we do?

Renfrew serves as a cultural and natural resource for the people of this region. And as a resource we provide many services to many people. We estimate that more than 50,000 visitors came to Renfrew last year, and we anticipate a visitation approaching 60,000 for this year. Many come to enjoy the park – a picnic, a walk along the stream, a family reunion, a watch for birds and wildflowers – others come for specific events, activities and exhibitions sponsored by the museum. The park is open every day of the year from dawn to dusk at no cost to the visitor. The museum and visitors center are open three afternoons a week from the end of April through October and then reopen for 10 days in December in celebration of the holiday season.

Most of the special events and programs offered throughout the year are free and open to all. The only fees we now charge are for specific workshops and tours of the museum. If you are a member in the Friends of Renfrew you get a reduced fee for these workshops and you, your family and guests can tour the museum as often as you wish at no cost. What a bargain. And remember, no tax or public funds – not local, state or federal – support us. More than 90% of our income is drawn from the interest produced by the endowment

established by Emma Nicodemus and Hazel Geiser.

As use of Renfrew's facilities and services continues to grow, the cost to maintain the facilities and to provide the services also continues to grow. More people means more cost. For Renfrew to live within its income, it faces a choice that has become all too common for cultural/natural facilities: either scale back the services now provided free of charge or share the cost of these services with the people who use them.

If Renfrew is to remain faithful to its purpose and mission then cutting back services should be the last option not the first. Otherwise we abrogate our responsibility to the communities we serve. No, Renfrew has opted for the other choice – cost sharing through user fees and increased membership support.

It's our hope that 1993 will bring with it a balanced ledger sheet. And it's my hope that after this writing Renfrew's budget won't be a topic for these pages anytime soon.

– James M. Smith

1993 Fees

Membership Support

Friends of Renfrew:

Life – \$1000

Sustaining – \$125

Family – \$50

Patron – \$50

Donor – \$25

Individual – \$10

Business Sponsors:

Museum Newsletter

per issue – \$25

per year – \$50

Pavilion Rental:

half day – \$25

full day – \$50

Museum Admissions:

adult – \$3.00

senior citizens – \$2.50

children – \$1.50

Friends of Renfrew,
children under 6 – free

Park Use:

Weddings, receptions,

professional photo-

graphy, vendors for

profit – \$10.00 - \$50.00

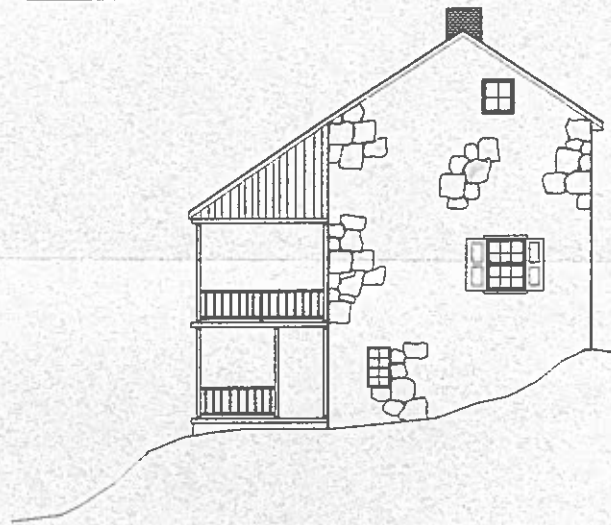
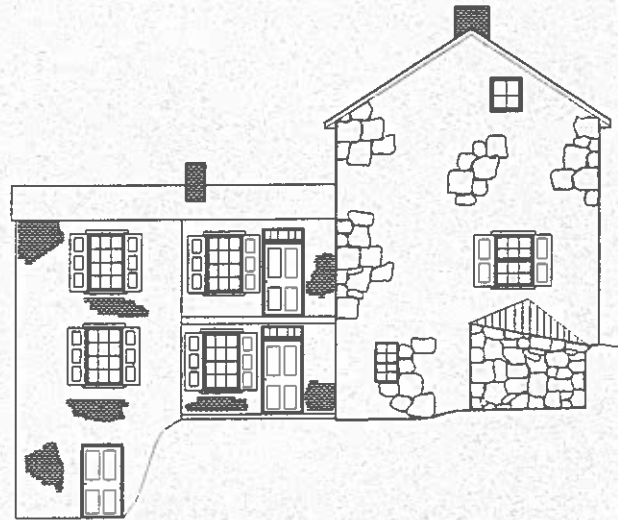
Fahnestock House: Second Season of Research Underway

During this summer and fall archaeologist Will Sheppard and a group of volunteers will be undertaking a second season of excavations of the Fahnestock house and its surrounding yard. The excavations will concentrate on the area between the house and restored Fahnestock barn. Sheppard hopes to locate evidence of outbuildings, gardens, fence rows and other features tied into the original landscape of the farmstead.

Based on the fieldwork carried out in 1991, we now know that much of the present landscape around the Fahnestock house dates to the mid-1800s, some 50 years after the original stone portion of the house was built. This time period corresponds to the construction of the brick addition to the house and the series of stone retaining walls that dominate the area today. In association with the retaining walls, large amounts of fill were added to the site to create the three still intact terraces.

In addition to the archaeology Sheppard will be researching county tax, land and probate records to identify the occupants, tenants and workmen associated with the Fahnestock complex.

The drawings to the right show the Fahnestock house as it looks today (upper right) and what it may have originally looked like before the brick section and retaining walls were added (lower right). If this conjectural view of the Fahnestock house proves accurate, then the house's main entry would have been on the south side, opposite its present day location within the north wall. Drawings by William J. Sheppard.



John H. Johnston, gunsmith, subject of museum's fall exhibit

Renfrew's fall exhibit will feature the works of Waynesboro gunsmith John H. Johnston along with material related to Shippensburg gunsmith Henry Carlile. The exhibit will be mounted in the museum's changing gallery and will open the second week in August.

The first record of Johnston working in Waynesboro occurs in the tax assessment of 1832 where he is listed as a gunsmith. Until his death in 1889 Johnston continued to operate a gunsmith shop at various locations in Waynesboro, including sites at present day South Church Street, West Main Street and the corner of Grant and North Street.

In addition to making rifles, Johnston advertised that he repaired guns and family corn shellers and set penknife blades.

Prior to coming to Waynesboro, Johnston is believed to have apprenticed with Henry Carlile of Shippensburg. William S. Bowers in his *Gunsmiths of Pen-Mar-Va*, published in 1979, notes the similarities in design and technique between Carlile and Johnston. As a further link between the two, Johnston was brought in to appraise the gunsmithing tools and materials owned by Carlile after his death in 1847.

The Johnston exhibit will run through the end of October.

Renfrew's History Project

Thanks to the hard work of two dedicated volunteers, the Renfrew History Project is off the ground and flourishing.

Marilyn McCarney, who lives just a few hundred yards from Renfrew, and Betsy Payette of Mont Alto, have spent the past six months interviewing persons connected with the formation of the museum and park and those formerly or now involved with day-to-day operations.

The idea for the project came from museum board member George Buckey, who proposed the development of an institutional history tracing the museum from the time of the death of owner Emma Geiser Nicodemus to today. Even after these two volunteers complete the analysis, the project is far from over, according to curator James M. Smith. "This will be an ongoing project. We'll add to it on annual basis," he said.

Through the generosity of the late Mrs. Nicodemus, the 107-acre property was donated to the Borough of Waynesboro after her death in 1973, officially opening to the public two years later. And through interviews with a number of sources, it is hoped the story about how she got the idea to turn her home into a museum and what's happened since that dream became a reality, can be told. Photos are taken of each person interviewed and each visit is tape recorded, to be typed in to a computer later.

Although the interviews involve many hours of work, both women agree their task is never boring. "Everybody adds a new dimension...from the first interview, we just keep learning more," noted McCarney. "It will be good to have the oral history in the words of the people who were originally involved," Payette added.

Emory "Whitey" Minnich was born in the house in 1916, during the time his family lived there, from 1913 to 1932. His doctor's bill was paid with a slice of country ham, the team learned.

William S. Bowers, Mercersburg, was the "antique authority." He helped Mrs. Nicodemus acquire antiques over the years, according to McCarney and Payette. After her death, he helped with the purchase of additional museum items and helped decide which items should be kept on permanent display in the house.

Park superintendent Ed Miller, who lives on the Renfrew property, was employed by the Nicodemus

family and become a friend and confidant of Mrs. Nicodemus. Together they spent countless hours discussing how to make her dreams for the home a reality.

Anson Good was trust officer of the First National Bank and Trust Co. of Waynesboro, serving as financial adviser to the group that originally planned the formation of the museum.

Buckey, former president of Teledyne Landis Machine Co., has served on the museum board since 1985. He was chairman of the development campaign that raised the funds for the restoration of the Royer farmstead and is now chairman of the interpretive committee which oversees the development of the farmstead.

He also serves as vice president of the board of Renfrew Institute, formed in 1989 with a mission "to serve as a regional academic center affiliated with Renfrew Museum and Park for the purpose of providing education, research and preservation of our natural and cultural heritage." About 5,800 students participated this year in institute programs such as Discovering Wetlands, Earth Encounters, Green Energy, Pennsylvania German Foodways, Dairy Culture, Flax Culture and others. And in 1991, more than 7,200 people attended institute-sponsored events including Earth Day, Youth Festival, barn dance on Farmstead Day, Shakespeare on Wheels, Institute Sampler and TriState Astronomers star parties.

Buckey also serves as co-chairman of the park committee along with Willard Rahn, president of the museum board and secretary of the institute board. Rahn first served on the board in 1978, replacing the late H. Rowland Weaver. Rahn is very involved in the park aspect of the property, and leads bird walks each Saturday morning in April and May.

Terry Pelton, restoration craftsman at Renfrew, worked full-time restoring the Fahnestock barn, smokehouse and milkhouse on the property. Since electric service was recently installed in both the Fahnestock barn and house, Pelton will be restoring the house and soon opening a woodworking shop there.

Patrick Brezler, an original board member, is most interested in the fishing aspects of the eastern branch of the Antietam creek, which runs through Renfrew property.

Kathryn Oller, a current board member, replaced the late Helen Hoover Hoffman, who died in 1990. Oller, a former dean at Drexel University, is a descendant of the Fahnestock family. (see History project page 4)

History project (cont. from page 3)

Archaeological consultant Will Sheppard came to Renfrew in 1987 as a graduate intern from the College of William and Mary, and continues to work at Renfrew. Sheppard has conducted excavations of the tannery and gristmill sites at Renfrew and carried out a research project on outbuildings of the region prior to the restoration of the milkhouse and smokehouse. Sheppard also excavated the lime kiln, and last year began field work on the Fahnestock house, which continues this year.

McCarney and Payette also interviewed Richard Shook, a current board member who serves as secretary; Undine Warner, a member of the first guide group and current board member; attorney LeRoy S. Maxwell, an original board member; Dr. W. Lehman Guyton, Cockeysville, Md., an original board member and former chief of surgery at the Waynesboro Hospital; Waynesboro mayor Louis M. Barlup Jr., retired principal of the Waynesboro Area Senior High School and current board member; and former curators John Demer, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. and James M. Koenig, Shepherdstown, W. Va.

To be interviewed are current curator Smith, director of visitor services Shirley Baker and Melodie Stewart, assistant director of the institute.

McCarney retired in 1991 after a 34-year teaching career, which started at Quincy High School. She also taught at the former Wayne Heights Elementary School and spent the last 27 years teaching at Cascade, Md. Elementary School.

Also a former teacher, Payette retired in 1988 after teaching at Clear Spring, Md. High School, Bellefonte and Franklin County schools. She also taught Army children in Germany and Japan, while her husband George, a retired Penn State Mont Alto professor and academic dean, was an editor for Stars and Stripes, the Armed Forces newspaper.

The story of Renfrew is far from over, these two volunteers learned. The legacy of Mrs. Nicodemus lives on and benefits countless visitors through the gentle beauty of the park and grounds, the rich history of the museum and other buildings and the cultural and environmental programs sponsored by the institute.

- Nancy B. Mace



Marilyn McCarney (right) and Betsy Pyatt review materials involved in their history project of Renfrew. McCarney and Pyatt are conducting interviews with people instrumental in the creation and ongoing operation of Renfrew as a publicly owned museum and park. Photo by Nancy B. Mace.

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1992 Calendar of Events

Bicycle Tour

Saturday, August 8, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

First annual Renfrew Institute bicycle orchard tour to the Leitersburg Peach Festival. The 27 mile tour, led by Andrew Sussman, will leave Renfrew's lower parking lot off Welty Road at 9 a.m. It will wind through the orchards of the area with two scheduled stops (Cloppers Orchard, Smithsburg, MD and the Leitersburg Peach Festival) at 10 mile intervals before returning to Renfrew at 2 p.m. All participants must wear an approved helmet. The tour is free and open to cyclists of all abilities.

Jazz Festival

Sunday, August 30, 2 - 4 p.m.

Sponsored By Renfrew Institute

Jazz musicians Paul Bollenback (guitar) and Jim Snidero (saxophone) will perform in concert on the lawn behind the museum house on Sunday afternoon, August 30. Bollenback and Snidero will play two sets, the first beginning at 2 p.m. and the second at 3 p.m. In case of rain the concert will be held in the auditorium of the Waynesboro Area Middle School. The performance is free and open to the public.

Arts & Crafts Market

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

Members of the Cumberland Valley Craftsmen will display and sell their wares during the annual show. Food and drink will be available; admission is free.

Mime/Lecture/Dance

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2 - 3 p.m.

Alan Mintz will present a one hour performance and demonstration on the art of mime on the lawn behind the museum house, or in case of rain at the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library. Mintz is a graduate of the Juilliard School and has studied classical mime, ballet, acrobatics and mask. He has performed on Broadway, and has appeared on television and theaters in this country and Europe. Tickets for the performance will be available at Renfrew and other sites in Waynesboro. Ticket price - \$2.50.

What's Its and Gizmos

Thursday, September 17, 7 - 9 p.m.

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Stine of Hanover will present a workshop on novel and unusual antiques in the visitors center at Renfrew. The Stines are known for their extensive collection of country antiques and for the humor they add to workshops when

discussing their collection. Participants are invited to bring their own odd items for possible identification.

Farmstead Day

Saturday, Sept. 26, 1 - 4:30

Renfrew celebrates its agricultural heritage with the annual observance of Farmstead Day. Special events will focus on the development of the Royer Farmstead and will include a barn dance in the Fahnestock barn. Admission is free.

Archaeology of the Susquehannock Indians

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 pm, Renfrew Visitors Center

Archaeologist Steve Warfeld of the Pennsylvania State Museum will present an illustrated lecture on the archaeology of the Susquehannock Indians. The program, sponsored by Renfrew Museum and the Cumberland Valley Archaeological Society, is free and open to the public.

Pennsylvania German Open Hearth Cooking

Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Halloween Storytelling

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from Wordsmiths of Waynesboro

Halloween stories for children at the Fahnestock barn. Bring flashlights.

Open Hearth Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 21, 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. Registration is limited to 15 and a fee will be charged.

Annual Yuletide Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5 & 6

Renfrew Museum welcomes the holiday season with its annual celebration. The museum is open to the public from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 5 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The celebration includes musical entertainment, refreshments and tours of the museum house. Admission is free.

**Museum Programming: Shirley Baker
Calendar: Nancy B. Mace**

Renfrew Museum and Park

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

Friends of Renfrew - Application for Annual Membership

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Donor \$25 _____

Individual \$10 _____

Please make checks payable to Renfrew Museum

Renfrew's Interpretive Guides

Renfrew is strengthened by the volunteers who give their time and talents to the museum and park. Not only do volunteers assist with tours, they also lend a hand with office work, research, grounds keeping and much more. Below are the names of those individuals essential to Renfrew's success. - Shirley Baker

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Naomi E. Baker
Linda Blubaugh
Ruth K. Cramer
Sherry L. Dively
Christine L. Garrett
Liz George
Jean Hastings
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