

der Wetterhahn

Volume 6 Number 2

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Fall 1993

Museum To Receive Gift of Bell Items

On Thursday, May 13, an auction was held at Shady Grove, Pennsylvania. Shady Grove has many auctions; the one on May 13 had particular importance for Renfrew Museum. Items brought up for bid that day included material from the estate of Mrs. J. W. Rockwell, now in residence at Quincy United Methodist Home and formerly of Park Street in Waynesboro.

With the Rockwell estate came three pieces of John Bell pottery. Few people have seen these pieces. In terms of aesthetics, they aren't much to look at – non-descript, hand-built, unglazed earthenwares, each shaped to fit into the palm of a hand – hardly a benchmark in John Bell's potting career. In terms of local culture and history; they are without equal. Three pieces of earthenware made and used by Bell and others in his shop to mark his pottery – John Bell stamps.

The auctioneer, Edgar Stull, sold the three together as a set. The bidding began at 12:30, opening at \$3000. In less than 5 minutes, it was over. Only two individuals participated in the bidding; one associated as a buyer for Winterthur Museum, the other a representative for a consortium of local collectors of Bell pottery. Once started, the bidding moved by increments of \$500. When the bidding hit \$6500, the action slowed, then stopped. The buyer for Winterthur hadn't responded. Stull questioned and stared; hammering away with his call, "Who'll give me \$6500? Who'll give me \$6500?" On the third call, the buyer moved his hand – the real game had just begun and it would last but a moment. Within seconds the bidding jumped from \$6500 to \$7000 to \$7500 to \$8000. Stull asked for \$8500 and got it; he asked for \$9000, he asked again and two more times after. After a silent pause and a final stare, he knocked down the stamps at \$8500, the successful bid going to the representative of the local collectors.

By 1:30 of that same day, the John Bell stamps were sitting on a table in the visitors center at Renfrew. They were given by the new owners to the museum on

temporary loan for six months. After six months, permanent ownership of the stamps will transfer to the museum. They will then be added to Renfrew's Bell collection.

No doubt some of you are thinking – yes its great that Renfrew has these stamps and that they will remain in Waynesboro as part of our cultural history and that they will be on display for all to see – but just how did the museum manage to get these stamps? Renfrew doesn't have extra money floating around and it certainly doesn't have \$8500 in its budget for three pieces of fired clay.

Renfrew got the stamps because 17 individuals and their families pooled together the financial resources to ensure the stamps would remain in Waynesboro and be held in public trust. At the request of the museum, Kenton Broyles undertook the job of contacting and soliciting people known to have a strong interest in Bell pottery and/or Renfrew Museum. Through the efforts of Broyles and the people he enlisted, Renfrew was assured that the stamps would become part of its Bell collection.

On August 15, you will have the opportunity of seeing the John Bell stamps when they go on display in the gallery of the museum house as part of an exhibit of Bell pottery. The exhibit will run through the end of October.

For their support in making the loan and gift of the John Bell stamps possible, Renfrew Museum wishes to acknowledge the following individuals:

Louis & Jacqueline Barlup
Edward & Marie Beck
Richard & Susan Bell
Paul & May Blubaugh
Robert N. Boerner
Kenton & Audrey Broyles
George & Martha Buckley
Lehman & Mary Guyton
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Roy & Andrea Struble
David Thomas
Charles & Undine Warner

Fahnestock House Restoration: Don Harbaugh and the art of dismantling

Working at Renfrew these past few weeks has been more than a job to Don Harbaugh of Emmitsburg.

"I'm really going to miss this place," said Harbaugh, who was hired to dismantle the brick portion of the Fahnestock House. "I'll be back just to visit. A place like this, I'll never forget.

"I love this kind of work," said Harbaugh, who has done commercial and residential demolitions since the 1960s. He started working at Renfrew on April 24, taking down the 36 x 24 foot structure by hand. Built between 1850 and 1855, the brick section is not part of the original stone house, constructed about 50 years earlier.

With the project completed, Renfrew's restoration craftsman Terry Pelton will begin moving his woodworking shop into the house. Pelton has agreed to restore the house in exchange for permission to locate his shop there.

Harbaugh said he began the demolition process by pulling the tar paper off the roof. "Then I took the roof plywood up and the roof rafters down and the attic floor up." As you remove the attic floor joists, "you drop the

plaster ceiling (knock it loose)." Harbaugh said it's important to keep the work area clear of debris by collecting wood, plaster and nails on the floor.

"The next step is bringing the walls down together, a three-foot section the whole way around." Harbaugh said he then moved on to the second floor, removing the floor joists and knocking down the ceiling. "If there are any interior walls, you tear them down too." Harbaugh said he continued to follow the same process on the first floor and in the basement, where he completed the project.

Harbaugh salvaged the roof rafters, which will be used to restore the original porch on the house, removed when the brick portion was added. Floor joists in good condition will be used on the porch as well as for repairs in the house.

Window jams in the basement that were removed from the original structure for doorways will be returned to the house. Bricks in good condition will be used to restore the fireplace that was removed when the brick portion was added. All materials that can be reused, such as a fireplace mantle found in the basement, will be part of the restoration process, according to Harbaugh. "Everything was in really good condition."



This past spring Don Harbaugh dismantled the brick section of the Fahnestock house. Harbaugh, shown above, estimates that he removed 24,000 bricks by hand from the walls of the house. Renfrew will reuse many of the bricks as it restores the stone section to its original appearance. The bricks not used in the restoration will be available for sale at a cost of 25¢ to 40¢ each. Anyone interested in purchasing Fahnestock house bricks contact Renfrew museum at 762-4723.

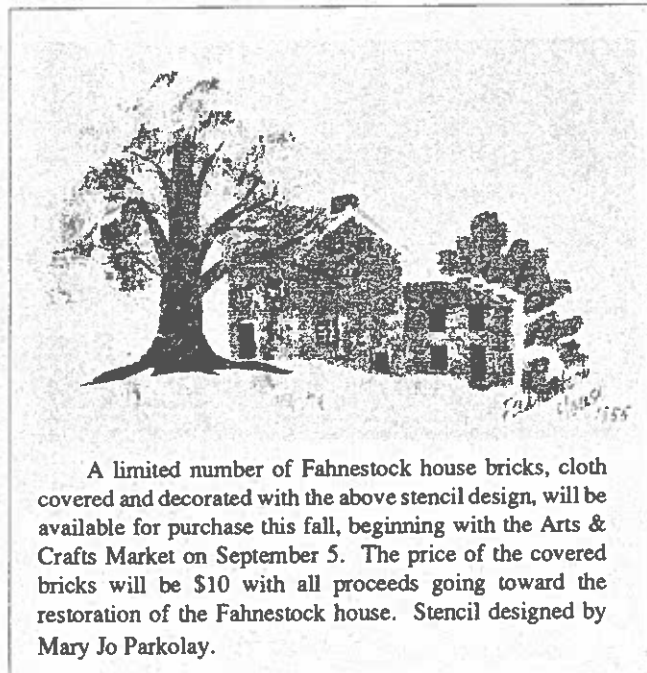
Fahnestock house (cont. from page 2)

Small household items that were found, including clay marbles, thimbles, tableware, crochet hook carved out of bone, brass lipstick tube, clothespins, medicine bottle, keys, hinges and dominos were handed over to Renfrew archaeologist Will Sheppard for further study.

Harbaugh, who has the enviable distinction of loving the job he gets paid to do, is effusive about his feelings for old buildings. "If they have to be torn down, I like to save all the material that can be reused, rather than sending them to the landfill. Floor joists can be planed and redone and there's really a demand for old hardware that you can't find anywhere.

"There's a song that says West Virginia's almost heaven, but I think you've got it right here. This is one of the greatest places I've ever worked. A lot of times I made a pot of coffee and just sat down...listened to the birds, watched the animals. It's gorgeous out here."

Nancy B. Mace



A limited number of Fahnestock house bricks, cloth covered and decorated with the above stencil design, will be available for purchase this fall, beginning with the Arts & Crafts Market on September 5. The price of the covered bricks will be \$10 with all proceeds going toward the restoration of the Fahnestock house. Stencil designed by Mary Jo Parkolay.

Fahnestock House as Material Culture

by Tom Gannon

In the restoration process of the Fahnestock house, it is important to understand the cultural context of the house – what the people who built and lived in it were like, what kind of religion they practiced, and what kind of values and beliefs they held.

The Fahnestock house was built between 1806 and 1808 by Daniel Royer and his family. The Royers were Pennsylvania German and the architecture of the house they built reflected this cultural heritage. Pennsylvania German houses were usually one and a half or two and a half stories with two or three openings on the front of the house. These houses were often set into banks or hillsides to reduce the waste of agricultural land for house sites and placed near or over natural springs. They were oriented to the south or southeast to take advantage of the sunlight and minimize the effects of wind.

Several outbuildings were associated with Pennsylvania German houses, such as a milkhouse, springhouse, smokehouse, bake oven, summer kitchen and privy. The layout of Pennsylvania German houses followed what architectural historians call the Continental, or *Flukurchenhaus* plan. This is a three-room house in which each room was divided according to the activity that took place in that room. The house was entered through the *Kuche*, or kitchen. There was a large fireplace in the center of this room that was used for cooking and heating. An

alternative location for the kitchen in the Continental houses was in the basement. The Fahnestock kitchen was in the basement. Adjacent to the *Kuche* was the *Stube*, similar to an English parlor, named for the five-plate or ten-plate stove that heated the room. This was the most formal room of the house and visitors would be entertained there. Often there was an outside door leading into this room. Some family meals were also eaten in the *Stube*. Depending on the denomination, religious services were held in the *Stube* of the houses of congregation members. To the rear of the *Stube* was the *Kammer*, a small unheated bedchamber. Often the partition between the *Kammer* and the *Stube* was removable to allow for more space for religious or social gatherings.

In addition to the Fahnestock house, there are several other stillstanding houses in the area that display this strong Germanic influence. However, the houses built in the second quarter of the 1800s and later display less and less Germanic influences. These newer houses take on English (Georgian) traits that give them a more symmetrical or balanced look from the outside. A central hallway with a large staircase divided the interior space into two even sections, similar to the Royer-Nicodemus house. Space was becoming more individualized and rooms were designed for a specific function.

(Editor's note: Tom Gannon, student intern from Dickinson College, was part of a research team working on Pennsylvania German architecture for Renfrew Museum. Gannon graduated from Dickinson this spring with a B.A. in anthropology.)

From the Accessions Committee.....

We appreciate the following loans to Renfrew Museum which are presently on display in the museum house:

walnut cradle – Pennsylvania German design, dated 1750 - 1770
ember shovel
plate warmer
three baby rattles – country and high style
meat skewers
candle making equipment – complete set on display

Recent gifts to the museum include the following reference works given by Barry Donohoe:

Chester County Clocks and Their Makers
Old Pewter: Its Makers and Marks

In addition Thelma West has given the following items:

pewter plates – two
pewter wash basin

A monetary gift has been received by the museum from Mrs. Marguerite Heitman to be used toward the purchase of display cases for the changing gallery.

A "memorial accessions" account has been recently established and to date three gifts have been given to this account.

In memorium:

Dr. John Kauffman
Mrs. Sybil Coble
remembered by: David Thomas

Birthday honors for :

Mrs. Marguerite Heitman
from: a friend

We encourage you to consider a similar gift as a memorial or as a way of acknowledging a special occasion for friends or family members. Your gift will be entered into the accessions account and used when funds have accumulated sufficiently for the purchase of needed decorative arts items.

The Accessions Committee of Renfrew Museum and Park held its first meeting of 1993 on April 18. After touring the museum house and discussing the items on display and in the remainder of the collection, the committee has recommended to the Board of Directors the need for smaller, more personal objects to enhance the home-like setting of the early 1800s. With this objective in mind, the committee is seeking objects for loan and/or as gifts or cash contributions for the purchase of the following items:

lighting devices
maps
toiletries and other personal effects
clothing
needlework and associated materials

Looking Ahead.....

A Pennsylvania German Symposium will be held on June 5, 1994 in the Visitor's Center at Renfrew. The day-long program will feature noted speakers on:

Pennsylvania German Samplers
Pennsylvania German Food and Its Preparation
One additional topic on Pennsylvania German culture to be announced.

A mid-day meal will be provided and included in the cost of the program. Information on the symposium, including final program, registration and cost, will be available after the first of the year. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

For more information on the Accessions Committee and its projects please contact committee chair and board member David Thomas at 717-642-5410 or Renfrew's director of visitor services Shirley Baker at 762-4723.

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Calendar of Events for Late Summer & Fall

Renaissance Fair

Saturday & Sunday, July 17 - 18

Renaissance fair, presented by the Society for Creative Anachronisms, will illustrate European life from the 600s to the 1600s. Demonstrations of authentic dancing, archery, knife and sword making, jewelry making, Heraldic crafts, sword and shield combat and Bardic arts (singing and storytelling) are planned.

Bicycle Tour

Saturday, August 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Second annual bicycle orchard tour to the Leitersburg Peach Festival. The 27-mile tour, led by the Institute's activities committee chair, 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 and the Leitersburg Peach Festival) at 10-mile intervals before returning to Renfrew. All participants must wear an approved helmet. The tour is free and open to cyclists of all abilities.

Civil War Encampment

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 13, 14 & 15

Confederate and Union re-enactors 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.

Jazz Festival

Sunday on August 29, 2 - 4 p.m.

Underwritten in part by a grant from Farmers Bank & Trust Co. Renfrew Institute's second annual jazz festival, featuring the **Buck Hill/Paul Bollenback Quartet**, will be held on the lawn behind the museum house. In case of rain the concert will be held in the WASHS auditorium. The performance is free.

Arts & Crafts Market

Saturday, September 4, 9 a.m. - 4 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.

Syrinx: mixed media performance for Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 12, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from Valley Quarries

Syrinx uses poetry, song and dance to tell the story of Pan and his pursuit of the wood nymph Syrinx. The performance by Johanna Ezell, Morgan Jones and Stephanie Wortz will be held on the lawn behind the museum house and is free and open to the public.

Farmstead Day

Saturday, Sept. 25, 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Renfrew celebrates its heritage with the annual observance of Farmstead Day. Activities will focus on the development of the Royer Farmstead and will include three 20-minute first-person interpretive performances in the Fahnestock house. Admission is free.

Silhouette Lecture

Monday, September 27, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Former board member, Dr. Lehman Guyton will present an illustrated lecture on the history and techniques of silhouettes.

Wheat Weaving II

Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wheat weaving workshop led by Margie Mott. Participants will make "house blessing" design and one other project. A fee of \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members will be charged to cover material and instructor's cost. Workshop is limited to 15 and registration is required. Deadline for registration is October 2.

Halloween Storytelling

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 - 8 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from Wordsmiths of Waynesboro Halloween stories in the Fahnestock barn. Bring flashlights.

Timberframing Demonstration

Saturday, October 23, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Terry Pelton, restoration craftsman, will demonstrate traditional timberframing techniques. Pelton will provide historical background on timberframing and demonstrate the use of appropriate timberframing tools. The program will be held in the Fahnestock barn. A fee of \$2.50 will be charged to cover material costs.

Open Hearth Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Shirley Baker will demonstrate the preparation of a Pennsylvania German Thanksgiving meal in the museum kitchen. Registration is required and a fee will be charged.

Annual Yuletide Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 11 & 12

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 with decorations by Antietam, Toll Gate and Blue Ridge Garden clubs. Admission is free.

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 \$1,000 _____

Sustaining \$125 _____

Family \$50 _____

Patron \$50 _____

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

Charles Alter
Naomi E. Baker
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Mildred Elia
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Donna Barlup Hill
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