

der Wetterhahn

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The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Spring 1993

Looking for New Voices and New Stories

"The old assumptions about whose voice tells the stories in museums need to change if the museum is to fulfill its promising new role in helping societies understand themselves" (Applebaum 1993:55).

Writing in the spring edition of *Museum News* [72(2)], Ralph Applebaum takes on the issue of the museum's role in presenting its collections to its visitor. Applebaum sees the museum as storyteller, building a narrative that communicates a culture's history. And as storyteller, the museum all too often speaks with only the voice of the culture that owns the artifact. Its exhibits tell the visitor more about the owner (presenting culture) than about the people whose artifacts are on view.

To Applebaum, the museum should take on the responsibility to tell its stories from more than its own perspective. Museums need to seek out the context of the artifact and find the voice of the culture that made, used and maintained it. The museum should attempt to tell its story "in-context," interpreting its artifacts from many different viewpoints. In the end, the "in-context" approach aims to provide the visitor with the feel of, "...the wonder, the awe, the humbleness that is an aspect of genuinely connecting...with another culture's way of experiencing the world" (:54).

Should a small, regional museum such as Renfrew be concerned with such concerns? Renfrew is a Pennsylvania German farmstead and decorative arts museum of the early 1800s, serving an area whose dominant ethnic culture is Pennsylvania German. Applebaum is big-time and big-money. He and his firm design and build exhibits and exhibit environments that can come with multimillion dollar price tags. For all of 1992 Renfrew built and designed exhibits at a cost of less than \$500. The scale is different; why should Applebaum's concerns have any bearing on Renfrew? Why, indeed?

It gets back to the question of responsibility. This spring Renfrew will begin to restore the Fahnestock house. This small, two-bay, stone farmhouse represents the final artifact in the museum's farmstead exhibit. It

provides us with a new challenge, a new story to tell and new voices to be heard.

To date we have conducted research and excavations of the tannery, gristmill and lime kiln sites (the industrial side of the farmstead), and we have restored the original bank barn, smokehouse and milkhouse (the agricultural side of the farmstead). At each of these sites we have focused on the processes and activities that the Royer-Fahnestock families carried out. How was the site used and how did it fit into the overall working of the farmstead? We've become conversant with the activities, tools, building techniques and materials of the early 1800s. We have not become conversant with the actual families and their own cultural history.

We know the builders and users of the farmstead as names – Royers and Fahnestocks – but not as people. As names, we present them as if we were presenting ourselves, Pennsylvania German families removed from our lives by time not by culture. It's a comfortable view; put us in the clothing of the period, hand us the tools of that day, feed us their food and we can become them.

The Fahnestock house and its restoration and presentation provides us with that opportunity to tell a new story and to hear new voices. The project will be a long one, at least three years before completion. And yes, much of the work will be about bricks, stones and mortar. It will also be about the development of a living environment dating to the farmstead period. It will be about the family and community, about the values and traditions of Pennsylvania Germans of the early 1800s. With the Fahnestock house and its surrounding space, we will strive to build an exhibit about the Royers and Fahnestocks from their view.

As a visitor, you will learn about Pennsylvania German families, about their ideals and values, their beliefs and superstitions, their prejudices and frustrations. You will glimpse the intimate and private relationships of their lives. In the end, we hope you will have that chance to feel, as Applebaum has felt, the wonder and awe of experiencing the world through a culture unlike our own.

James M. Smith

Spring Exhibit

Tack, Trunks and Tackle: Sporting Gear and Leisure Time Fun

"Tack, Trunks and Tackle: Sporting Gear and Leisure Time Fun," the spring exhibit in the changing gallery at Renfrew Museum, will officially open during Springfest Weekend Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25.

The museum will feature an open house from noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, with no admission fee. After Springfest, the exhibit may be viewed during regular museum hours Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. or by special appointment.

The exhibit will contain many items of local interest, according to Shirley Baker, director of visitor services.

A highlight of the exhibit will be a tribute to the late W. W. "Dutch" Shaffer, a local barber and former professional prize fighter who promoted boxing in the Waynesboro area. He was an active church worker, according to information in "Remember When" by the late W. J. "Wib" Davis, and seldom missed participating in a local parade. Shaffer also made weekly trips to visit with patients at the Waynesboro Hospital and other area hospitals, including the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, W. Va., where he later became a patient.

The exhibit will include postcards of Shaffer's image and his photograph, which is on permanent display in the Waynesboro YMCA. A plaque was dedicated to Shaffer by the Waynesboro YMCA's board of directors and physical education committee in appreciation for his long and devoted service, his exemplification of true Christian behavior, sportsmanship and athletic prowess.

Shaffer was a charter member of the YMCA board of directors for 28 years, a charter member of the physical committee, had perfect attendance at Sunday School since returning from World War I and six years prior to entering the service; fought 28 years as a professional

(world record--fought 207 bouts in 208 weeks); fought 65 bouts in one year, breaking the world record of 59; developed several Golden Gloves contenders, including Jim Watkins of Waynesboro, a finalist in the competition; and was chosen Franklin County Good Neighbor in 1947 and National Christian Athlete in 1949.



Photograph of "Dutch" Shaffer in fighting pose was taken from a postcard printed in the 1920s. The postcard and other items related to Shaffer's boxing career will be displayed as part of Renfrew Museum's Tack, Trunks and Tackle spring exhibit.

Shaffer postcard on loan from the collection of Mr. & Mrs. Kenton Broyles.

Spring exhibit (cont. from page 2)

Other local memorabilia in the exhibit will be a side saddle belonging to the late Mrs. P. D. Hoover, early ice skates, sleds, skis, snowshoes, roller skates, a croquet set and swimsuits. Items will be on loan from the Charlestown Race Track, Charlestown, W. Va.; Miller House, Hagerstown, Md.; Gilbert and Mildred Stine, Taneytown, Md.; David Thomas, Fairfield; and the Rev. Clayton and Polly Moyer and Bob Ringer, Waynesboro.

In the early settlements of America, entertainment and amusement was often combined with work activity, such as a quilting bee, barn raising, etc., Baker said. The Pennsylvania Germans had snitzen parties, where they peeled apples for the apple butter and cider making, and pared, quartered and cored apples to string and hang for the winter.

As we became more socialized, Baker added, work-related social gatherings declined and activities such as hayrides, sleigh rides, box suppers and ice cream socials became popular.

Horse racing also became popular in Colonial times and in 1888, a circular track was constructed as far west as Kentucky.

A sport known as quoits was adapted to become horseshoes, she added, nine pin or skittles became 10 pin bowling, (one pin was added to avoid the Puritan regulation of no bowling on Sundays), kolven became golf and cricket or rounders was known as baseball.

Fishing also was popular in early America, with one of the first angler clubs organized in 1822 in Philadelphia. Early fishing gear also will be displayed in the exhibit.

Sporting and leisure activities continued to increase in popularity over the years, making it one of the leading and most popular industries in the United States today.

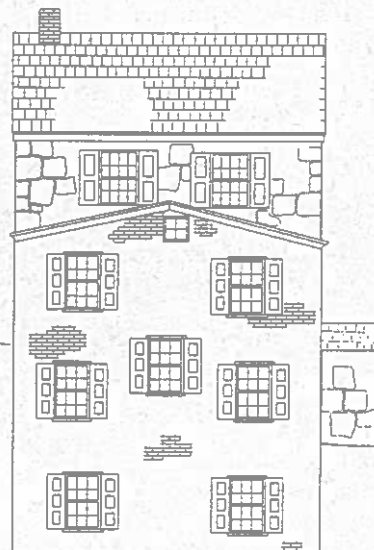
"Tack, Trunks and Tackle" will be on exhibit in the museum house through the end of July.

Nancy B. Mace

Fahnestock House

This spring Renfrew Museum will begin work to restore the Fahnestock house. The drawing to the near right shows the south elevation of the house as it appears today with its brick addition, built in the 1850s, still intact. During the next few months this addition will be dismantled by hand, one beam and one brick at a time. Most of the building material removed will be salvaged, and much of this material (bricks, flooring, beams, joists, etc.) will be used in the restoration of the original stone section of the house.

The drawing to the far right shows the south (front) elevation of the Fahnestock house as it would have appeared during the early 1800s prior to the construction of the brick addition.



Fahnestock House
South Elevation Circa 1855
I. G. Mickley 1975
William J. Sheppard 1992



Fahnestock House
South Elevation Circa 1808
William J. Sheppard 1992
(Note the double porches along the front facade and the second chimney stack along the east gable wall.)

Calendar of Events for Spring & Summer

Birdwalks at Renfrew

Saturdays in April & May, 7 - 9 a.m.

Each Saturday morning during April and May, Willard Rahn will lead birdwalks along the hiking trails at Renfrew. The walks will begin at Renfrew's lower parking lot off Welty Road; participants are asked to bring bird identification books, binoculars and walking shoes.

Earth Day 1993 - Celebration of the Earth and Its Arts

Sunday, April 18, 1 - 5 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from F&M Bank & Trust Co.

On-going exhibits and programs for the Earth Day celebration include: local singer and songwriter Bob Gross, tales from the castle with storyteller Jon Vickers-Jones, "The Magic Garden" story and dance with Beckie's Dance Studio, Ecomusicology presented by Strawberry Hill Nature Center and Preserve, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Rails to Trails, historical uses of herbs, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, rocks and minerals and clothesline exhibit of environmental posters by Waynesboro Area School District students. Also featured will be a performance by the **Blue Ridge String Band** from 4 to 5 p.m. Food and drink will be available throughout the afternoon. In case of rain, events will be held in the Waynesboro Area Middle School. Admission is free.

Springfest Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, April 24 & 25

Noon - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday

Renfrew Museum opens for the 1993 season with two days of festivities featuring craft demonstrations, musical entertainment and special activities, including: hayrides, free tours of the museum, games, herb sale, face painting, pottery making, blacksmithing, basketry, soap making, rug hooking, paper cutting, chair caning and a cake walk. Food and drink will be available both days. Admission is free.

Blacksmithing Workshop

Saturday May 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Nick Vincent, founder and owner of Nathan's Forge in Uniontown, Maryland, will discuss and demonstrate traditional blacksmithing techniques used during the 1700s and 1800s. The workshop will concentrate on basic blacksmithing tools and skills. Participants will make their own hand wrought nails and hooks. Registration is required; a \$15 fee will be charged to cover the cost of materials.

Bus Tour: Barnes Collection and Tudor Place

Thursday, May 13, leaving Renfrew 8 a.m. and returning 6 p.m.

Tour of 80 works from the Barnes Foundation collection of paintings on exhibit at the National Gallery of Art and guided tour of Tudor Place, Federal period mansion and gardens built by Thomas Peter, first mayor of Georgetown. Fee of \$45 per person covers all costs including lunch at the American Cafe.

Art In The Park

Sunday, May 16, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Members of the Waynesboro Studio Club, Franklin County Art Alliance of Chambersburg and the Valley Art Association of Hagerstown will be painting and selling their works throughout the park at Renfrew. A special exhibit of paintings on Renfrew will be shown adjacent to the Visitors Center. Works in the exhibit will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds going to Renfrew Museum.

Bicycle Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield

Sunday, May 23, 1 - 4 p.m.

A 20 to 25 mile bicycle tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield led by Gregg Hershberger. Participants will meet in Renfrew's lower parking lot at 12:15 and travel by van with their bicycles to Gettysburg. Those wishing to travel to Gettysburg on their own may join the tour at 1 p.m. For more information and further details call Gregg Hershberger at 762-3224.

Youth Festival - "Discovery"

Saturday, May 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from Citizens National Bank of S. PA

A celebration of youth built on the theme of "Discovery." Workshops will include archaeology, sculpturing, woodworking, kites, kitchen chemistry, fly casting, spelunking and rock climbing, astronomy, storytelling, old fashioned toys/instruments, origami, jewelry making and sign language. Demonstrations and entertainment by YMCA gymnasts and the Cumberland Valley School of Music **Cumberbunds**. Participants will "see and hear history come alive" with stories by Charles E. Gearinger's "Jeremiah Trees the Mountain Man." At 2 p.m. the **Puppet Factory** will perform the Russian folktale "Firebird." On-going displays by: YMCA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library, DARE, Youth Are Our Concern, TriState Astronomers, Appalachian Trail Hikers, challenges by Judy Herr's gifted students, and Antietam Humane Society. Face painting and T-shirt silk screening will also be available throughout the day. In case of rain all events will be held at the Waynesboro Area Senior High School. Admission is free.

The Fathers Day Summer Renfrew Musical Review

Sunday, June 20, 3 - 5 p.m.

Musical review at Renfrew in celebration of Fathers Day and the beginning of summer featuring singers and music-makers from the Cumberland Valley. The program, on the lawn behind the museum house, will highlight a variety of music including: folk, jazz, Broadway musicals and opera. Admission is free.

Keepers of the Earth - Storytelling at Renfrew

Tuesdays at 1 p.m., June 22 - July 27

Underwritten by the Colorworks

Stories of Native Americans combined with environmental activities will be presented for children in the courtyard near Renfrew's Visitors Center. Admission is free.

Shakespeare on Wheels - *Merry Wives of Windsor*

Saturday, July 10 & Sunday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.

Underwritten by a grant from First National Bank & Trust Company of Waynesboro

Shakespeare on Wheels will present *Merry Wives of Windsor* on the lawn behind the museum house. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Picnic suppers will be on sale for Saturday night's performance with proceeds going to Renfrew Institute. Performances are free and open to the public.

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. For more information call Shirley Baker at 762-4723.

Civil War Encampment

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

Confederate and Union reenactors 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, September 4

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.

Museum Programming: Shirley Baker
Calendar: Nancy B. Mace

Renfrew Museum and Park: Board of Directors

This past fall marked the end of an era for Renfrew Museum and Park. On November 1, 1992 William S. Bowers retired as an active member of the museum's board of directors and assumed a director emeritus position. He joins LeRoy S. Maxwell, Sr. as the museum's only other director emeritus. With Bower's retirement, the vacated seat on the board has been filled with the appointment of David Thomas of Fairfield, PA.

Bowers was appointed to the original board of directors in 1973 and has served continuously since that date. His 20 years of service are the longest of any board member, and he represents the last of the original members who had a direct personal relationship with the museum's benefactor and founder, Emma Geiser Nicodemus. With his retirement the museum's board has moved on to a second and in some cases third generation of directors.

On December 31, 1992 Undine B. Warner also retired from her director's position and as chair of the accessions committee. She has served on the board since 1985. In her place, Marie Lanser Beck has been appointed to complete the unexpired term of office.

Members of the present board of directors are:

Willard F. Rahn (president, executive com. chair, park com. co-chair)

Louis Barlup, Jr. (vice-president, interpretive com.)

Richard G. Shook (secretary, finance com. chair)

Marie Lanser Beck (accessions com.)

George P. Buckley (interpretive com. chair, park com. co-chair, finance com.)

A. Kathryn Oller (accessions com.)

David W. Thomas (accessions com. chair).

WE INVITE YOU

To be part of our American heritage and culture by not only becoming a "Friend of Renfrew", but by contributing a gift to the museum.

Members of the Accessions Committee of Renfrew Museum will be meeting to establish a "wish list" of items which they feel will enhance the museum's outstanding and growing collection.

We are especially in need of items for the children's room. Gifts can be made for a specific item, to general acquisitions or, perhaps, you have an object from your personal collection which would be appropriate and meet the museum's guidelines. Decorative arts within the museum collection date between 1790 - 1830. An object of this era could be donated to Renfrew Museum or placed on loan. For additional information please contact Shirley Baker, Director of Visitors Services, at 762-4723 or me, David Thomas, member of the Board of Directors, at 717-642-5410.

A contribution of this nature is a wonderful way to honor someone on their birthday or anniversary as well as a most fitting way to create a lasting memorial for a loved one.

David W. Thomas
Accessions Committee Chair
Renfrew Museum and Park

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
Linda Blubaugh
Ruth K. Cramer
Sherry L. Dively
Mildred Elia
Liz George
Jean Hastings
Donna Barlup Hill
Dorothy Hill
Phyllis King
Valerie King
Carolyn Krouse
Helen Kuga
Louise Kyser
Alyce McCormick
Ellie Miller
Marion C. Miller

Clayton Moyer
Polly Moyer
Ann Norrie
Evelyn Oliver
A. Kathryn Oller
Gretchen Potochney
Virginia Rahn
John C. Rife
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