

# der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane

Volume 9, Issue 1

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum

Autumn 1997

## RENFREW ACQUISITIONS FROM THE SNOW HILL NUNNERY

On August 11, 1997, the contents of the Snow Hill Nunnery, located in nearby Quincy, were sold at auction at the Horst Auction Center in Ephrata. As a result of a special appeal, over 80 individuals donated funds approaching \$5000.00. In addition, a portion of the Helen Hoover Hoffman bequest was authorized for the purchase of items from Snow Hill. Twenty-three lots were acquired by Renfrew.

Among the items were a ropebed, ladderback and decorated plank bottom chair, bone handled utensils and several textile examples. Several private individuals who bought items have agreed to place these objects on loan to

Renfrew. Included are the adult cradle, a candle stand and communion chalices from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunlap Jr. On loan from David Thomas is a redware roach trap, a repaired jug, and a mush pan. Fred K. Newcomer has agreed to share the Bible that belonged to John Pentz, the last full time pastor of Snow Hill. In addition, David Snowberger's hymnal, is a gift from Grace Floutz.

If anyone has items from Snow Hill and is willing to place them on loan, please contact the museum. A special Snow Hill Exhibit will be held in the Spring of 1998.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, October 11, 10AM - 4PM**

Pumpkinfest, a cooperative effort between the Renfrew Museum and the Institute. Family fun includes hayrides, pumpkin carving and great food. Admission is charged.

**Monday, October 20, 6:30PM**

Slide show and lecture on decorated hand towels by Charles and Tandy Hersh in the Visitors Center. Mr. and Mrs. Hersh are the co-authors of "This is the Way I Pass My Time," a publication of the Pennsylvania German Society. This book is one of the few entirely devoted to the decorated hand or "show" towel.

Friends of Renfrew \$2.00, Guests \$3.00.

**Monday, October 27, 7PM**

"Christmas Throughout the House" will be presented in the Visitors Center. Mr. Deany Warnefeltz of the Roostervane Flower Shop will present a program of holiday decoration using fresh and all natural materials. Friends \$2.00, Guest \$3.00.

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### JOIN US FOR A TRIP TO LANCASTER COUNTY



**Monday, November 3,** Renfrew will sponsor a bus trip to the Lancaster area. Our first stop will be Wheatland, the country home of President James Buchanan. The home is situated on more than 4 acres and has been restored to the years of his occupancy, 1848-1868. The estate is a National Historic Landmark. After our visit to Wheatland, we will stop for lunch at Lancaster's Market Fare.

Our afternoon will include a visit to Lancaster Heritage Center for a special tour. Two current exhibits are "The Prints and the Penmen," the evolution of 19th century fraktur, and "Just for Show," a collection of hand decorated towels.

Space is limited and reservations must be made in advance. We will meet at the Renfrew Museum parking lot at 9AM and expect to return to Waynesboro around 6PM. Price includes lunch.

Friends of Renfrew - \$35.00 Guests - \$40.00

Make your reservations by calling 762-4723.

Deadline for reservations is October 15th.

## MORE EVENTS!

Saturday, Nov 22, 10AM-1PM  
Open Hearth Thanksgiving Seminar  
and Dinner. Learn to prepare food  
in the hearth using vintage  
equipment. Reservations must be  
made in advance.

Friends of Renfrew \$20.00  
Guests \$25.00

Dec 2-4, 10AM until !!!  
Deck the Halls

Over many years you have asked to  
help decorate the museum house.  
Now is your chance! We'll be decking  
the halls Dec 2nd through Dec 4th.  
Please stop by and lend a hand.  
Guidelines have been established and  
the museum staff will be on hand to  
help.

### Christmas Open House

Begin your Holiday season by taking  
in the sights and sounds of Renfrew!

Saturday, December 6  
2:00 - 5PM Senior Citizens Showing

Sunday, December 7  
5:00 - 8:30PM General Public



## GIFT SHOP TO OPEN

The Museum will be establishing  
a small gift area in the Visitors Center.  
The gift shop will be operating on a  
trial basis until we can gauge its suc-  
cess. Profits from the gift sales will  
benefit the Museum.

Please stop by soon, we welcome  
your comments and suggestions, espe-  
cially during this trial period.

Friends of Renfrew will receive a  
discount on purchases!

## EMBROIDERED PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN TOWELS

One of the best examples of a  
Pennsylvania German needlework is  
the decorated hand or show towel.  
The earliest known towels were made  
in 1773 and reached their height of  
production in the 1830's and 1840's.  
The towels were made of bleached,  
white handspun fabric and measured  
from 12 to 19 inches wide by 30 to  
70 inches long. The towels were  
hung vertically on the bedroom door.

Although cross stitch was the  
most common form of embroidery,  
chain, outline, herringbone and free  
form embroidery were prevalent.  
The towels were hung by tabs at the  
top above a fringed border. The  
designs were placed on the towels in

horizontal rows, usually with a central  
motif and a mirrored image on either  
side. Most of the central designs were  
objects from everyday life such as  
crowns, stars, flowers, birds and ani-  
mals. In some instances, the towels  
were even used to record family events.  
Red cotton thread, or red and blue  
cotton thread together, were the most  
prevalent colors. Very often, attached  
to the towel via faggoting, needleweav-  
ing, or needlelace was a drawn thread-  
work panel.

The exhibit at Renfrew will in-  
clude examples from its own collection  
as well as from Hershey Museum, Mr.  
Clarke Hess and Mr. David Thomas.  
The exhibit will be located in the 2nd  
floor changing gallery.

## Special Thanks

Renfrew could not exist with out the  
volunteers who donate many tireless  
hours. We thank everyone who gives  
of their time and talent, especially  
the guides, members of the REC,  
RCI and alternate board members,  
and all those who serve on the vari-  
ous committees. Preserving our  
local heritage is well worth a small  
investment of your time, so, if you  
can spare an hour or two, please call  
Shirley Baker at 762-4723.

### WHY NOT BECOME A FRIEND OF RENFREW?

Benefits include free admission to  
the museum and reduced prices for  
special programs and trips.

\$ 10.00 Individual  
\$ 25.00 Donor  
\$ 50.00 Family  
\$ 125.00 Sustainer  
\$1000.00 Life Member



## JAMES SMITH LEAVES RENFREW

Mr.. James Smith, the curator-  
director of Renfrew, resigned effective  
July 11, 1997.

While at Renfrew, Jamie was re-  
sponsible for the creation of the Ren-  
frew Institute, the construction of the  
bank barn, archeology digs at the kiln,  
the tannery site, and most recently at  
the John Bell Pottery site. He was  
instrumental in the formation of the  
Nicodemis Pottery Center and the on-  
going restoration of the Fahnstock  
House. The members of the board of  
Trustees wish him continued success  
in the future.

The RCI personnel committee  
has begun searching for a replacement.