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# Wetterhahn

The Weathervane



Volume IX, Issue I      The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum      Spring 1997

## MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW CURATOR PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR A BUSY 1998 SEASON

**J**eff Bliemeister of Springfield, New York, joined Renfrew's staff as the Museum Curator, effective February of this year. A life-long resident of New York, Jeffrey received his MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in 1996. He spent the last year working as the Director of Hyde Hall, an early 19th century limestone mansion, and New York State Historic Site, located near Cooperstown.

While in graduate school, Mr. Bliemeister completed several internship projects for the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown. Two of his greatest accomplishments were: the creation of an interactive visitor information system for researching the Association's collections, and the design and arrangement plan for artifacts in the Study Storage Center of the Thaw Wing, a multi-million dollar addition housing a nationally-acclaimed collection of Native American art.

Before returning to school, Bliemeister spent five years as the Director of the Holland Land Office Museum in Batavia, New York; he got his start in museums at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society where he served as their Assistant Collections Manager. Jeffrey particularly enjoys working with artifacts. He has a great deal of paid and volunteer consultancy experience assisting outside museums and regional history organizations on collections projects of all types.

Mr. Bliemeister resides in Waynesboro with his wife, Jenifer, a Registered Nurse, and their two children, Maxfield, age two and Emily, 4 months. When he is not at Renfrew, Jeffrey enjoys spending time with his family, bike riding, working on his classic car, and exploring his new surroundings.

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our new Curator as you attend Renfrew's programs this spring and summer. He looks forward to meeting and working with our dedicated volunteers and Friends.

### Calendar of Events

*(See inside for program details)*

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 23<br>7:00 PM     | Heritage Gardening presentation by Lee Stolfus - at the Visitors Center                                     |
| March 28<br>8:30 - 3:00 | Annual Renfrew Clean-up Day<br>Bring your gloves and rake!<br>(Refreshments provided)                       |
| April 11<br>2:00 PM     | Annual "Brothers of the Brush" Easter Egg Hunt; all are welcome!  |
| April 17                | Snow Hill Exhibition Preview<br>2:30 - 4 PM and 7 - 8:30 PM   |
| April 25/26             | Springfest (13th Annual). Renfrew opens with a weekend of historic and craft demonstrations; rain or shine! |

### Upcoming Exhibitions

- *Snow Hill*: New acquisition from the 1997 sale, complemented by temporary loans; April through November at the Museum.
- *Waynesboro Memorabilia*: Local treasures fill the changing gallery; April through mid-June.
- *Umbrellas and Parasols*: A "necessary accessory" of the Victorian period, these objects will grace the changing gallery from July to mid-August.

### Preview - In This Issue...

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## Spring And Early-Summer Events At Renfrew Museum

### Heritage Gardening

On Monday, March 23rd, Mr. Lee Stoltzfus will present a special program on Heritage Gardening at Renfrew's Visitors' Center. The slide/lecture is entitled "Historical Gardens for Pennsylvania Homes."

Mr. Stoltzfus was the founder of the heirloom seed project at Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster. He is also a contributing editor to the magazine, *Country Gardens*. His current project is a book on historical horticulture for Rondale Press.

Please join us on Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM for this wonderful presentation.

### Renfrew Clean-up Day

Saturday, March 28th is the date for **Renfrew Museum and Park's annual Spring Clean-up Day**. Beginning at 8:30 AM volunteer workers will assemble to spruce up Renfrew for the 1998 season.

Like last year, several work crews will be formed to handle the various areas of the Park. Renfrew has some hand tools, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own rakes, shovels, and work gloves. Refreshments will be provided.

We hope you will join us for this very important day of renewal at Renfrew. The work session is scheduled to last until 3:00 PM - please come for any or all of the day!

### Exhibitions

#### Snow Hill

On Friday, April 17th, the Museum will open its doors for a special donor's preview of the new Snow Hill exhibition. This show will feature new museum gifts and purchases from the 1997 estate sale of the Snow Hill holdings. Paul and Bonnie Lou Dunlap have also graciously loaned Renfrew an adult cradle, a candle stand, and a pair of communion chalices which they purchased at the sale. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap for helping us round out this display.

The exhibition will be designed to resemble a Snow Hill living cell. Some of the highlights will include: a single rope bed with linens, plank bottom and ladder back chairs, bone-handle flatware, a rye straw basket and several pearlware bowls.

Please contact the museum for related programming, and additional information on the Snow Hill exhibition. We look forward to seeing Snow Hill Acquisition Fund donors on April 17th, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM or 7:00 to 8:30 PM, for this preview event.

### Snow Hill Exhibition - Continued

#### Donor Acknowledgements

This new Exhibition came about due to Renfrew's participation in the April 1997 estate sale that liquidated Snow Hill's collection of historic furnishings. Through the generous support of many individuals, representatives of Renfrew were able to attend the auction and purchase 15 items for the permanent collection. A detailed list of these new acquisitions can be found on page 5 of this publication.

Renfrew Museum and Park wishes to acknowledge and thank the following people for their generous contributions to the Snow Hill Acquisition Fund.

J. Robert & Dorothy J. Baer	Colleen B. Larson
Bonnie Barlup	Mr. & Mrs. Carlton E. Lutz
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Barlup, Jr.	Richard & Margaret Linn Lutzke
Grace Baylor	Dr. & Mrs. James McKenzie
Hilda M. Bicker	Jane L. Martin
Rodney & Lisa Black	Carolyn Maul
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bollinger	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob F. Mentzer
Judith A. Bricker	Elizabeth Mose
Mr. & Mrs. Don D. Brothers	Paul Mummert
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Buckley	Loren S. Myers
Donald & Mary Campbell	Burton & Ruth Nayman
Roselee & Gallie Chadwell	Mr. & Mrs. George Payette
Don & Ruth Coldsmith	Virginia S. Park
Bob Cook	Eugene Piper
John & Diane Cordell	H. C. Randolph, Sr.
Marion E. Corey	The Record Herald
Cornelia D. Cree	Rick's Car Clinic
Cumberland Valley Chapter 27	Doris K. Rodgers
Society of PA Archaeology	Richard & Barbara Rundle
Julia S. Dawson - 1st Presbyterian	Mr. & Mrs. William Savage
Church, Verona, New Jersey	Bonnie Shockey
Katherine Duke	Joanne M. Schoonover
Richard & Lois Eberly	Mary Ellen Selvaggio
G. Mark & Judith Elden	Wilbur & Hazel Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Finney	Joseph & Laura Shull
H & R Block - Vicki Sanders	Mr. & Mrs. William Shull
Helen L. Firme	Marshall Shuman
Martha S. Fisher	Janet Smedley
Sandra & Harry Fisher	Sanford & Helen Smith
Debra E. Flinchbaugh	Eunice Statler
William & Easter Freienmuth	J. Alan Stoner
Barbara Frisbie	Robert & Mary Unger
William & Doris Gelbach	Madeline A. Wackenhuth
Bernice A. Gunder	William H. Wagner
Dr. & Mrs. W. L. Guyton	Charles & Undine Warner
Fred & Phoebe Hauber	Sarah Q. Watkins
Ralph & Sylvia Heidelbach	Wayvid, Inc. - Fairfield Inn
Marguerite M. Heitmann	Joseph Weagly
Carol & Victor Hughes, III	James & Kathleen White
Hykes Antiques	Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Windemuth
Tom Janes	John A. Wine
Elizabeth C. Kauffman	Mr. & Mrs. Philip J. Wishard
John W. Keller	Wishard Transportation, Inc.
Florine Klim	Judy L. Wolicki
Stephen Kneasle	Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Yost, Jr.
Landis Tool Co. - Night Shift	



## SPRINGFEST 1998



**APRIL 25 & 26**

### RENFREW'S OPENING WEEKEND

**10AM TO 4:30 PM BOTH DAYS**

**S**pringfest 1998 will take place at Renfrew Museum and Park on Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26. Now in its 13th consecutive year, Springfest '98 promises to open Renfrew's season on an exciting and entertaining note.

For those of you who have never attended Springfest, it is a weekend-long festival of historical and craft demonstrations held at Renfrew Museum and Park. For two days, the buildings and grounds are occupied by dozens of skilled craftspeople, artisans and performers. Our participants are here to demonstrate their trades and answer your questions; many will have hand-made objects and products available for sale.

Our theme centers on the early 19th century. Visitors will be able to view demonstrations on topics as diverse as:

**Basket Making \* Square Dancing \* Butter Churning \* Sheepshearing \* Pottery Making \* Wood Graining \* Clogging \* Soap Making \* Folk Music \* Candle Making \* Strolling Minstrel \* Windsor Chair Making \* Tin Working \* Herbs Displays \* Chair Canning \* Blacksmithing \* Pysanky \* Potato Candy \* Open Hearth Cooking \* Carousel Carving \* Weaving & Fancy Needlework \* Whirligigs \* Theorem Painting \* Scherenschinitting \* Children's Games \* Pony Rides \* Food Vendors.**

In addition to all these demonstrations (and many more), we will be hosting several musical performers and groups. Also scheduled to appear are The Franklin County Beekeepers' Honey Queen, and our local Apple Queen and Princess.

Admission is free, and all are welcome! Please contact the Museum in April for a complete list of participants, and schedule of musical performances. In the meantime, spread the word about Springfest, and mark your calendars for April 25th and 26th!

**-MUSEUM OPEN FOR COMPLIMENTARY TOURS-**

*This event is made possible through the volunteer efforts of The Springfest Committee. Renfrew Museum wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for giving their time and enthusiasm for this program.*

<b>William &amp; Betty Amos</b>	<b>Nancy Savage</b>
<b>Robert &amp; Sylvia Engle</b>	<b>Lori Suders</b>
<b>Louis Kyser</b>	<b>Shirley Baker</b>

## Renfrew Tidbits

### Renfrew Maintenance & Restoration

Maintenance and restoration are an ongoing concern at Renfrew. The following projects have been completed since our last correspondence.

#### **Museum House**

- Outside bulkhead basement doors replaced.
- All shutters have been repainted; 8 have been replaced.
- Repair of seven split interior window sills.
- All interior windows have been repainted.
- Repair of basement door jam.
- Gutters and downspouts replaced on front of Museum.
- Gutters, downspouts & damaged slate replaced on porch.

#### **Fahnestock House**

- New attic windows have been made, painted, and installed.

#### **Renfrew Barn**

- Two large barn doors, on the back side, have been repaired.

### Pavilion Rentals

At the present time, we still have numerous weekend dates available to rent the Renfrew Pavilion. The cost is \$25.00 for any part of a day up to 1/2 day; \$50.00 all day. Please call the Museum soon to book your date; these openings will not last long.

### Christmast At Renfrew Reviewed

Christmas open house 1997 was a rousing success with approximately 550 guests in attendance. Our main event was a Gingerbread House Exhibition and Competition. Our thanks are extended to Mr. Anthony Ebersole, chef at the Waynesboro Country Club, who graciously provided a wonderful program on Gingerbread House Construction.

Approximately two dozen individuals or groups entered houses in the exhibition. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Best of Show: *Barton & Heidi Risser* (also received First Prize for 12-16 Age Group. Second Prize 12-16: *Shay Wolford*. First Prize 6-12: *Martina Pfeuffer*; Second Prize, *Brittany Snoots*. Adult First Prize: *Maggie & Tammy Caron*; Second Prize, *Mary Esta & Tony Scruggs*.

Prize For Originality: Creation of the Toll Gate House (Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce), made by the Laureate Theta Chapter - Beta Sigma Phi Society (*Grace Baylor, Carolyn Carson, Nancy Brown, Linda Stoops, Barbara Gallagher and Shelva Barton*).

Many thanks to our exhibition judges - *Anthony Ebersole* (Waynesboro Country Club), *Michael Mahr* (Grove Worldwide) and *Ann Marie Sradomski* (Lifestyle Editor, *Public Opinion*).

We also wish to acknowledge the following individuals or businesses for contributing to the success of this holiday event: *Ralph Baker, Shirley Baker, John Franz, Ivy Hill Farm, Louis Kyser, Long's Tree Service, LeRoy Maxwell, Sr., Savage-Minnich Pharmacy, and Nancy Savage*. Your support is appreciated!



Spring 1998

## Umbrellas & Parasols A Pre-Exhibit Primer

The following information was compiled by Shirley Baker, Renfrew's Director of Visitors Services, as background material for our upcoming exhibition of umbrellas and parasols. We hope it provokes your interest and brings you to Renfrew this Summer for the display.

A parasol of some variety was considered a necessity for any "lady" of Victorian middle class. The significance of her sunshade went well beyond frippery as it guarded the pale complexion that distinguished a lady of leisure from her ruddier working class sister.

The Victorian woman owned, at the very least, a plain, dark parasol for everyday use, and a more decorated one for special occasions. The wealthiest lady owned a different parasol for every outfit in her wardrobe. Accessories were indicators of social position, and an opulent parasol expressed exclusive social status.

A rain umbrella meant so much less in an era when fashion dictated that few females would be caught walking in the rain. Such a situation likely indicated that the person lacked the money to hire a coach in inclement weather. The parasol, a close relative of the umbrella, was used strictly on fair weather days. Umbrellas, protecting one from the rain, were just as strictly utilitarian, and seldom would have been noted or admired. The ladies used them mainly when making hurried steps from carriage to entrance.

Parasols were used in many different cultures over the course of history. The modern western parasol was noted in diaries and newspapers in England in the 1770s. Their appearance evolved over time, changing with fashion trends. For example, a parasol of the 1830s could measure a full yard in diameter, balanced on a lady's large leg-of-mutton sleeves. By 1858, the "telegram" parasol with dimensions scarcely bigger than a message sheet was in vogue.

A parasol's materials and construction were also factors of importance. Fabric was usually light in color or white; black was popular for older ladies. Stems and handles often revealed information about the object's owner. Many handles were of carved jade or coral, encrusted with fine jewels. Such accessories were frequently passed down through families. Parasols were often modified or "updated" by professionals to meet changing fashions. A thrifty woman might undertake such a project on her own.

Over time, the delicacy and social significance of the parasol, gave way to the need for practicality. Walking parasols became functional as women broadened their outdoor activities. The evidence of change is noted in the lady's sunshade, also known as a staff parasol. When closed, the staff parasol was carried "upside down" grasped by the knob or crook attached to the ferule. In this manner the elongated stem doubled as a walking stick. A hybrid parasol-umbrella, know as the French en-tout-cas, could be comfortably suspended from a chain where it would be handy whatever the weather.

The history of parasols and umbrellas is a story of evolution and change. What began as a fashion statement is now a fully-functional accessory; however, one look at today's umbrellas will certainly reveal that "fashion" has not been totally eliminated from the equation!

## Renfrew's Reorganization: Your Officers and Staff Members

Most Friends of Renfrew are well aware that the Museum went through some major changes in administration and operation over the last year. With the creation of the Renfrew Committee, Inc. (RCI), museum operation was separated from Waynesboro government and turned over to the newly-created not-for-profit corporation.

RCI will handle three major areas at Renfrew: policy, finance, and personnel. A second committee, called Renfrew Executive Committee (REC), is responsible for overseeing the ongoing, daily operation and management of the Museum.

The new organization remained true to Mrs. Nicodemus' will in establishing its mission and by-laws. RCI has seven appointments. Three are made by Financial Trust, executors of the Estate; four are made by Borough Council. Each member of RCI chooses an alternate to represent him/her in times of absence. RCI then selects the members of the REC. The Committee members have the option of designating a representative for REC or filling the seat themselves. The composition of these two committees for 1998 is listed below.

### Renfrew Committee, Inc. (RCI)

#### Members

Kinny Stouffer (RCI Chairman)  
George Buckey  
Vicki Huff  
John W. Keller  
LeRoy S. Maxwell, Sr.  
Darrel L. Potts  
Ardie Winters  
Donald Bollinger (RCI Treasurer)  
Alice McCleaf (RCI Secretary)

#### Alternates

Nancy Savage  
James Oliver  
Delmos Oldham  
Willard Rahn  
Rebecca Dietrich  
Richard Starliper  
Robert Engle

### Renfrew Executive Committee (REC) Members

David Thomas (REC Chairman)    David Hykes  
Ralph Baker    Nancy Savage  
Jacqueline Barlup (REC Secretary)    Willard Rahn  
George Buckey

### Renfrew Museum Staff

Shirley M. Baker, Director of Visitor Services  
Jeffrey E. Bliemeister  
John H. Franz, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds



Curator's Column

When I look out my office window, I have a beautiful view. I see Renfrew's "backyard," trimmed nicely by the Fahnestock farmstead. The scene is full of promise: a barn that has been skillfully restored, a new four square garden, and a wonderful old house that promises to reward us for all the care we plan to give it. The view helps me focus, and it dares me to "think big."

My co-workers tell me it will not be long before the view disappears, blocked out completely by the spring-time foliage. I am not concerned. While I really enjoy the scenic atmosphere, I know that there is a tremendous amount of work that demands my concentration.

I have been onboard here at Renfrew since January 19th, and Waynesboro is beginning to feel like home. I see Renfrew as an extraordinary community asset with a short but extremely impressive history. We have a lot on our agenda for this year. Our 1998 season is just around the corner. We open with our 13th annual Springfest on April 25th, followed by a series of programs and exhibitions.

My family and I have been impressed with the friendliness of people since moving to Waynesboro. I am also pleased by the warm reception I receive when telling new acquaintances that I am connected to Renfrew. It seems the Museum and Park are truly valued by the members of this and the surrounding communities.

We have a real asset here in Waynesboro that deserves to be supported and shared with others. It is my intent to continue Renfrew's progress on all fronts. I hope I can count on your help as we take Renfrew to new levels of success!

Sincerely, *Jeffrey Bliemeister*

PS: Your membership is the heart of Renfrew. Please use the attached form to renew your museum support for 1998. If you have already done so, please accept our thanks, and pass this information on to a friend. Our last membership campaign was in 1978, and a new one is definitely on the agenda. Your assistance will help us get the ball rolling early - Thanks!

New Accessions

Renfrew Museum is pleased to publicly acknowledge the following additions to the permanent collection. We are deeply grateful for these generous donations.

*Snow Hill Artifacts* (Items purchased at auction; fund contributors listed on page 2).

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Plank Bottom Chair          | Two Sister Aprons |
| Ladder Back Chair           | Single Rope Bed   |
| Set of Bonehandled Flatware | Large Slaw Board  |
| Tin Candle Holder & Snuffer | Coffee Roaster    |
| Homespun Items              | Brown Coverlet    |
| Two Mirrors                 | Chamber Stool     |
| Two Wooden Scoops           | Butcher Tools     |
| Brass & Iron Ladle          | Meat Fork         |
| Tray Lot of Kitchen Items   | Quilt             |
| Twelve Pearlware Bowls      | Two Baskets       |
| Redware Storage Jar         |                   |

*Mt. Zion/Snow Hill Bible*, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Good.

*Turk's Head Mold*, mfg. by John Bell, donated by Edward and Rhonda Henicle in memory of Roberta Snowberger.

*David Snowberger Hymnal (Snow Hill), Early Edition of Martyrs Mirror, and other early publications*, given by Grace Pfoutz.

*John Pentz Bible* (Snow Hill Preacher) courtesy of Mr. Fred Newcomer.

*Weber Farm Wagon and Early Postcard Album*, donated by Mrs. Edith Beck of Carlisle.

*Reproduced Snow Hill Bowl* by Lester Breining, given by Dr. Terry Musselman.

*Christening Gown (1840s) with Matching Slip, assorted 19th Century Publications, Lawn & Lace Handkerchief*, courtesy of Becky Dietrich.

*Pottery Stove Thimble*, donated by Charles McCammon.

*Waynesboro Bicentennial Souvenirs* given by the Kohler Family.



Renfrew Museum and Park

1010 East Main Street, Waynesboro PA 17268 (717) 762-4723 or 762-8915



FRIENDS OF RENFREW - Application for Annual Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories

Life \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$125 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on volunteer opportunities at Renfrew \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Renfrew Museum

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Ready to meet new folks?  
Enthusiastic about history?  
Need enlightening programs?  
Feeling connections with the past?  
Renfrew needs  
every person  
who has interest!

HELP  
WANTED!

Many opportunities to  
use your skills while  
preserving our heritage.  
Everyone is welcome for this  
undeniably exciting  
museum experience!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED  
TO ASSIST WITH THE  
1998 SEASON AT RENFREW MUSEUM**

HELP  
WANTED!

*If you enjoy meeting many different and special people, and have an interest in history, Renfrew has an opportunity for you as a volunteer interpreter.*

*We are looking for community-spirited people, teens through retirement age. Primary duties include greeting our visitors, and conducting tours of the House Museum. Other potential activities could involve work with collections or helping maintain our herb garden*

*Informal training/information sessions are scheduled for April 8th and 9th. We ask for a minimum commitment of 4 hours per month. We offer flexible scheduling, ongoing volunteer recognition events, and provide opportunities for professional growth.*

*If you are interested in joining our staff, we would love to hear from you! Please call Shirley Baker at 762-4723. We welcome your help in making 1998 Renfrew's most exciting season to date.*

HELP  
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