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# Wetterhahn

The Weathervane



Volume IX, Issue II      The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park      Fall 1998

## RENFREW MUSEUM & PARK KICKS-OFF NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FIRST CAMPAIGN IN 20 YEARS HIGHLIGHTS THE FALL SEASON - New Membership Categories Introduced -

**F**all of 1998 brings a new challenge to Renfrew Museum and Park, one that you can share in as a Friend and supporter. Beginning with this newsletter and running through the end of the calendar year, Renfrew is conducting a campaign to recruit new members, reconnect with our former Friends, and offer our current supporters the opportunity to become involved in some new and exciting ways.

The Museum and Park are currently going through a period of rejuvenation, and this project is a natural outgrowth of the institution's renewed enthusiasm and spirit of community service.

According to Museum Curator, Jeffrey Bliemeister, "Renfrew has not conducted a membership drive since 1978, and that drive was the only one in the institution's history. So many people are aware of Renfrew and take pride in it as a community resource. However, many people - even some who hike our walking trails and use the picnic grounds - do not know what we are all about; they are not aware of how we obtain our funding, (Renfrew receives no direct government support) who does the managing, and what services we offer. This campaign is a great way to spread the word about all of these things, and let people out there know that Renfrew has some real needs that they can help meet as members of the Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park."

The Friends organization currently lists about 250 to 300 paid members. Plans call for the recruitment of approximately 200 more Friends to bring our total membership close to 500. An additional program is also in the works to re-establish Renfrew's Business Partner Program which will allow local enterprises to participate in the success of the Museum and Park.

### IN THIS ISSUE

*Calendar of Events* - A busy fall schedule includes the following Renfrew favorites: The Pumpkin Festival, Our Open Hearth Thanksgiving Seminar/Dinner, and The Holiday Yuletide Program. We also have something new this fall - An Antique Appraisal Event in November!

*Message from the Curator* - How you can become involved in Renfrew's bright future.

*In The Spotlight* - Learn about some of the wonderful people who contribute time and talent to the Museum and Park.

*New Donations* - A Snow Hill inspired wardrobe and John Bell Turks Head Mold highlight recent accessions.

*Renfrew Tidbits* - Renfrew joins the worldwide web with its own site! New doors for the Fahnestock House.

**Next Issue:** New volunteers resurrect Renfrew's Herb Garden.

### NEW CATEGORIES

**\*BELL SOCIETY\***

**\*CURATOR'S ASSOCIATES\***

**\*STUDENT (age 6-15)\***

In conjunction with this campaign, Renfrew is pleased to announce the creation of three new membership categories. These three levels, which offer special incentives and conditions, supplement Renfrew's current membership levels.

**THE BELL SOCIETY** receives its name from Renfrew Museum's outstanding collection of John Bell and Bell family pottery. This collection is the largest public holding of its type in America. The new category recognizes Renfrew's position with a distinctive membership limited to 100 individuals or couples.





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## Renfrew Museum and Park Membership Campaign Update

### New Categories - Continued

The Bell Society is designed to be a two-year membership in The Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park, at a fee of \$350.00. This is something new for Renfrew, and it is the only membership not to renew on an annual basis.

In keeping with our theme, members of the Society will receive a special, limited-edition reproduction of a John Bell piece (please see image at lower right). Our inaugural offering will be an authentic copy of a rarely-seen John Bell vase from the mid-19th century. This piece, borrowed from a private collection, will be reproduced for Renfrew by the nationally-acclaimed potter, Lester Breininger of Robesonia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Breininger is highly regarded in his field, and a recipient of the Hazlett Award for Excellence in Hand Crafts.

Plans call for delivery of the vases in the Spring of 1999. Members of the Bell Society will receive their pieces at a special Renfrew-sponsored program featuring Mr. Breininger. This vase is considered the first in a series of limited editions to be issued every two years in conjunction with Bell Society membership renewal.

Please note that this membership level is limited to the first one hundred donors. Because it is a two-year membership, contributions may be extended to two payments of \$175.00 with the Bell reproduction delivered upon receipt of the second payment. Membership contributions for the Bell Society, as well as other levels, are tax deductible as allowed by law.

This new membership opportunity is the perfect way for someone with an interest in Bell Family pottery to become involved with Renfrew Museum and Park. It is also an excellent level for current Friends who wish to increase their commitment to the organization.

THE CURATOR'S ASSOCIATES is the second of Renfrew's new membership levels. This is a yearly membership at \$200.00. Membership funds donated by the Curator's Associates will be applied directly to the purchase of artifacts to supplement the Museum's collections.

This marks Renfrew's first attempt at generating renewable income for the acquisition of new antiques. It is also the first time revenue from a membership program will be earmarked for an exclusive use.

The heart of Renfrew Museum's collection came with Mrs. Emma Nicodemus' original gift to the Borough of Waynesboro twenty-five years ago. It included her home,

its contents and the surrounding 107 acres. As one of the area's first serious antique collectors, Mrs. Nicodemus assembled a remarkable and varied collection consisting of items ranging from high-style federal period furniture to folk art and Bell Pottery. Mrs. Nicodemus lived with her antiques; we now proudly display and protect them in a restored museum house environment.

Over the years, this collection has been expanded through public donations by Friends of Renfrew. Some examples of our recent contributions are listed later in this newsletter. Other pieces have also been purchased as funding became available. However, despite the best efforts of Renfrew's staff, board and Friends, there remain several noticeable gaps in collection - gaps that detract from Renfrew's accuracy in interpretation.

With the creation of the Curator's Associates level of membership, this problem will be addressed. Having a consistent and renewable fund for museum purchases will allow the staff and board to develop a "wish list" and long-term plan for supplementing the collection.

Those who elect to participate through membership in the Curator's Associates will be entitled to all the basic privileges of membership in the Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park; they will also be invited to a special, annual reception featuring a program related to the Museum's collection.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP is our third new level. This program is designed to encourage historically-minded youngsters ages 6-15 to join The Friends of Renfrew. It is a yearly membership at \$5.00 per student. Student Members will be given the opportunity to participate in several exclusive programs over the course of the year. They will also be granted unlimited touring privileges during normal hours of operation when accompanied by an adult.

Please join us in making this membership campaign an unqualified success. You can really make a difference in Renfrew's future so please spread the word!

*Lester Breininger, master potter, with the original John Bell piece he will reproduce for Renfrew Museum's membership campaign. Photograph taken at his Robesonia pottery, October, 1998*







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**PUMPKIN FEST 1998**  
**OCTOBER 10TH**



*Saturday*  
*11am to 4pm*



**F**all has arrived, and with it comes Renfrew's 5th annual Pumpkin Festival. Co-sponsored by the Museum and Renfrew Institute, this event is one of the most anticipated programs of the year; it is also one of our biggest fund raisers, and a lot of fun for people of all ages.

Join us on Saturday, October 10th for a full-day's worth of fun. For this year we plan to have:

- HAY RIDES
- BABY ANIMAL PETTING ZOO
- LIVE MUSIC
- PUMPKIN CHUCKIN' DEMO
- PUMPKIN CARVING
- FACE PAINTING\*

*and...new for 1998*

**CORN MAZE!**

\*There is an additional charge for these activities

Admission for the event is \$5.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for children age 4 to 12. Children under 4 are free. Your admission fee provides you with food (soups and breads and cider), and most of the attractions listed above. Hot dogs will also be available and sold separately. All proceeds from this event are split between the Museum and the Institute.

The Pumpkin Fest is also a great place to purchase your own Pumpkins! We will have Renfrew-grown pumpkins available at the following prices:

<i>Giant Pumpkins</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Big Pumpkins</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>
<i>Regular Pumpkins</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Assorted Gourds</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>

When you buy pumpkins at Renfrew, we'll help you carve or paint them for free! (Adult supervision and safety carving tools are provided).

**For more information on the Pumpkin Festival, call the Institute at 762-0373.**

**ANTIQUe APPRAISAL DAY**  
**NOVEMBER 7th, 10 am - 4 pm**

**H**ave you ever wondered how much money your family heirlooms are worth on today's open market? Do you have an object that you purchased at a sale somewhere that you have always wanted to know more about? Or, do you own items that you have always been curious about, but just never knew where you could take them for a fair and honest evaluation?

If your answer to any of the above questions is "yes," then we have the perfect event for you. On Saturday, November 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Renfrew will be conducting its first ever **ANTIQUe APPRAISAL DAY**.

In the tradition of television's popular, *Antique Roadshow*, the Museum is offering an event where Friends of Renfrew and members of the general public can bring in virtually any type of antique or collectible for an honest appraisal of its current fair market value. Our appraisal staff will consist of a hand-picked group of approximately eight individuals assembled from the ranks of auctioneers, appraisers and specialty collectors. All have been chosen based on their reputations for professional excellence and commitment to the community.

This program is designed to raise funds for Renfrew Museum and Park. Appraisal fees are as follows:

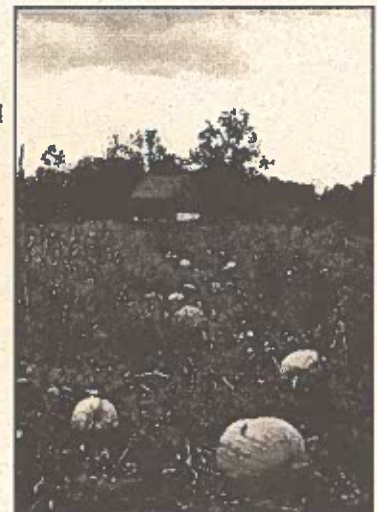
- Verbal Appraisal.....\$3.00**
- Written Certificate of Appraisal.....\$5.00**

All proceeds will benefit Renfrew Museum and Park. Our appraisers have graciously donated their services for the day.

This is an excellent opportunity to find out once and for all what your antiques are really worth. We hope you will make plans now to join us on November 7th for this entertaining and informative program.

**For more information, please call the Museum at 762-4723**

*Renfrew's Pumpkin Patch, looking toward the Fahnestock Barn.*







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## Annual Holiday Programs at Renfrew Open Hearth Thanksgiving/Yuletide Celebration



### OPEN HEARTH THANKSGIVING

If you have ever wondered how our ancestors prepared their Thanksgiving meal, this is your chance to find out firsthand.

Join us on Saturday, November 21st from 10 am to 2 pm for the 14th annual Open Hearth Thanksgiving at Renfrew Museum. Shirley Baker, Renfrew's Director of Visitors Services, will lead a seminar on historic cooking that highlights Thanksgiving season food preparation. Come and enjoy Turkey and Dressing, Creamed Bacon and Onions, Vegetables, Soup, Apple and Pumpkin Pie, and other traditional favorites.

All foods are prepared on site using the hearth of Renfrew's Kitchen. This seminar is by advance registration only, and space is limited. The cost is \$20.00 for Friends of Renfrew and \$25.00 for the general public. All registrants are welcome to enjoy this special treat!

### YULETIDE CELEBRATION



The holiday season will soon be upon us once again. Make sure you mark your calendars now for our annual Yuletide Program scheduled for Saturday December 5th from 2 to 5 pm and Sunday, December 6th from 5 to 8:30 pm.

In keeping with our holiday tradition, decorations will abound in the Visitors Center and the Museum. Musical performances will be on tap ranging from strolling minstrels to hand bell choirs. The very talented Renfrew favorite, **Madelaine MacNeil**, is scheduled to perform her holiday program of vocals and hammered dulcimer on Saturday in the Visitors Center. Another highlight of the event is the return of Renfrew's Gingerbread House contest and design seminar.

It is also worth noting that Renfrew's membership campaign will wind-down with the end of the calendar year. A membership in **The Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park** makes a wonderful gift, and the contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

More information will follow as the Yuletide Program takes shape. For now, remember to mark your busy holiday calendar for Renfrew's Yuletide Celebration.

## The Curator's Corner A Message to Renfrew's Friends

**D**ear Friends of Renfrew  
and Prospective New Members:

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to read this newsletter. Some of you received this publication as Friends of Renfrew or recent supporters of this organization, others are reading *der Wetterhahn* as part of a special package inviting you to join us as Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park. Either way, I thank you for taking an interest in our activities.

People join The Friends of Renfrew Museum from many different avenues and for many different reasons. The one common denominator seems to be a sincere interest in community involvement, particularly as it applies to history and preservation. You are exactly the type of people we want and need as Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park.

Now that I have been on the job for over half a year, I believe I am beginning to get a feel for Renfrew and the local community. There are so many positive projects taking place here (and possibilities for the future) that sometimes it is hard to keep up. One thing I have determined is that people have a real sense of pride concerning the park and museum. That really makes me happy because Waynesboro is fortunate to have an institution of Renfrew's nature. The fact that Renfrew is so heavily used by the very people that Mrs. Emma Nicodemus intended it for nearly 25 years ago, is very satisfying.

One of my first major projects as Curator is a new membership campaign. As far as I can tell, Renfrew's last (and only) campaign took place twenty years ago. According to *Greencastle's Echo-Pilot*, June 22, 1978, "Renfrew Museum and Park in Waynesboro has begun a membership campaign to interest area residents in the community-oriented museum." Two decades latter, Renfrew has certainly grown, yet it remains primarily a community-oriented institution.

Our needs have also increased, but they still center on people. This fall is the time for everyone who enjoys Renfrew to come together and show their support. We have established a goal of 500 members which equals a total of about 250 new Friends. Renfrew is enjoyed by several thousand people each year so I am confident we will be successful! Several new programs and membership levels have been added to our usual offerings making this a prime opportunity to become a first time Friend or renew your commitment to Renfrew Museum and Park on a new and exciting level.

Our campaign runs through December 31st. I hope you will accept this invitation to become a member of our Renfrew Family. If you are already a member, please share our message with a friend - as a supporter you are our best ambassador!

I look forward to seeing you at Renfrew.

*Jeffrey Bliemeister*

Jeffrey Bliemeister, Curator





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## In The Spotlight - Our Volunteers

Renfrew began its 1998 season with a real need for new volunteer interpreters. Now, as we wind down for the year, we can happily report that our interpretive staff has been bolstered, and new volunteers have also joined us in rejuvenating Renfrew's Herb Garden.

So you may become better acquainted with Renfrew's dedicated volunteers, we are starting a new feature with this edition of *der Wetterhahn*.

Renfrew's staff placed the names of all of our current volunteers in a basket and randomly drew two out. In this publication you will find out more about Mr. Clayton Moyer and Mrs. Linda Blubaugh, two of the Museum's dedicated interpretive guides. Next Spring's issue will feature two new profiles.

**Linda Blubaugh** is a life-long resident of Waynesboro and a twelve year veteran at Renfrew Museum.

Mrs. Blubaugh became interested in being an interpretive guide after taking a tour of the Museum.



Linda says that over the years she has traveled to many different places but she likes to call Waynesboro home. Her friendliness, knowledge of local history and pride in Renfrew combine to make her a tremendous asset to our interpretive staff.

**Clayton Moyer** has been a Renfrew Guide for the last four or five years. He sometimes works with his wife, Polly, forming the Museum's only husband and wife interpretive team.

While not a true native, Clayton has resided in Waynesboro for the last forty years. His interest in Renfrew comes from a passion for antiques and a personal association with our benefactor, Mrs. Emma Nicodemus. By volunteering, Clayton helps perpetuate her memory and values, while showing-off his "hometown" landmark.



## New Acquisitions

Since our last issue of *der Wetterhahn*, Renfrew Museum has obtained several new and interesting pieces. Highlighting the list are a Waynesboro made and Snow Hill inspired wardrobe and a turks head pottery mold manufactured by John Bell.

Given in memory of the Puican and Caba families by Craig Caba of Enola, Pennsylvania, Renfrew's new wardrobe or *kas* is constructed of walnut/butternut wood. It is signed on its reverse and inside one of its drawers: "James A. Robinson, Waynesboro, 1865."

Decoratively, the piece features cross style joinery work which bisect its two front doors. The *kas* proved too large to fit through the Museum's main stairwell so it was transported over the front porch rail. It now resides in our Snow Hill Exhibition as part of the reconstructed brothers/sisters living cell.



Renfrew has no information on file concerning the piece's maker. If any of our Friends have knowledge concerning the career or personal history of Mr. Robinson, we would be delighted to add it to our artifact files. Thanks for any and all help!

The Museum also added to its leading collection of John Bell and Bell Family Pottery with the acquisition of a mid-19th century **Turks Head Mold**.

Stamped with the mark of John Bell of Waynesboro, the mold came to Renfrew this past summer courtesy of Rhonda Henicle. Now residing in California, Rhonda presented the piece to Renfrew while on a return visit to Waynesboro.

Rhonda received the mold from her mother, Roberta Snowberger, a long-time friend of the Museum who passed away in 1995. It was Roberta's wish that the piece eventually find its permanent home at Renfrew Museum.

*Ed and Rhonda Henicle at Renfrew with their children, Nathan and Maggie - presenting the mold.*







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## Renfrew Tidbits

### Renfrew Museum and Park Joins The World Wide Web!

Renfrew now has its own website on the world wide web. The Museum and Park joined the cyber age in late August by creating and publishing its first ever webpage. Filled with color photographs, maps and historical information, the webpage is a great place for people to find out about Renfrew for the first time. It is also a great place for our members and friends to check on upcoming events and correspond with the museum staff through our e-mail feature.

If you want to check the website out, you can find it at:

<http://www.innernet.net/renfrew>

We also have an e-mail address that can be reached independent of the website at [renfrew@innernet.net](mailto:renfrew@innernet.net)

If you should forget our address, we are currently listed with *Alta Vista*, *Lycos* and *Infoseek*. Our address has also been submitted to the other major search engines and should be indexed soon. Future plans also call for links to and from other Franklin County area museums and attractions. Please visit our site and let us know what you think.

### New Doors For The Fahnestock House

Over the summer, the Fahnestock House was fitted with a new pair of wooden doors, complete with functional antique metal lock boxes. The two doors, one for the main entry and another at the lower level, were hand constructed by master craftsman, Terry Pelton.



These doors are true to the period with their double-sided construction and complex joinery. They represent another step in the Fahnestock House's long road to restoration.

## In Memorium

Renfrew lost a good friend in July with the passing of Mrs. Margaret Keller. Margaret was the wife of Senior Judge and Renfrew Trustee, John W. Keller.

Renfrew Museum and Park was selected to receive memorials in her honor. We gratefully acknowledge the following contributors to the Margaret Keller Memorial Fund:

Mr. & Mrs. John Abbott  
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 Dan Arthur  
 Ellen S. Bare  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis M. Barlup, Jr.  
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 Brunhilde S. Stevenson  
 Lois G. Thompson  
 Sparky & Barbara Thoroughgood  
 Mr. & Mrs. William G. Weagly, Sr.

*Renfrew is deeply appreciative of the contributions made in honor of Mrs. Keller. Memorial funds are dedicated to new accessions. With the permission of the Keller family, Renfrew will use these memorial monies to pursue a period tea set to help furnish the museum.*

*Again, many thanks to all who remembered Mrs. Keller by selecting Renfrew Museum as the recipient of her memorial contributions.*



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