

Spring 1998



SPRINGFEST 1998



APRIL 25 & 26
RENFREW'S OPENING WEEKEND
10AM TO 4:30 PM BOTH DAYS

Springfest 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 * Scherenschnitting * 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.

William & Betty Amos	Nancy Savage
Robert & Sylvia Engle	Lori Suders
Louis Kyser	Shirley Baker

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!



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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