

der

The Weathervane

# Wetterhahn



Volume X, Issue III

The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Summer 1999

## RENFREW PLANS BUS TRIP TO TARRYTOWN/SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY SEPTEMBER 26th-27th CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

**R**enfrew Museum and Park is pleased to offer its members (and the general public) an opportunity to visit the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow area of New York State on an overnight bus trip. Renfrew is sponsoring this trip as a public program - not as a fund raising event. All are welcome to join us for this fun-filled two day adventure. The Renfrew Museum staff has done their homework and our itinerary showcases some of the area's most renowned attractions and a few charming sites that are a bit off the beaten path. All in all, it promises to be a memorable

experience for all who elect to attend. We will be leaving the Renfrew parking lot off Welty Road at 6:30 am on Sunday, September 26th, traveling via Atlantic Coast Charter Bus. Our scheduled time of return is midnight on Monday, August 27th. In between we will enjoy visits to several house museums and historic sites, along with excellent dining and overnight accommodations. Please see the complete itinerary on page two for more details. The price for this overnight trip is \$185.00 for individuals and \$295.00 for couples. Please call 717-762-4723 for reservations or additional information.



### IN THIS ISSUE

*Feature* - Renfrew's Fall Bus Trip to Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow still has some open seats. Register now to reserve your place!

*Calendar of Events/Program Reviews* - All of Renfrew's remaining programs for the year at your fingertips. The Bell Society holds its first meeting and program. The Second **Antique Appraisal Day** is set for Saturday, November 6th - mark your calendar now and start gathering your treasures! It's still summer, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner!

*In The Spotlight* - Learn about two more of the wonderful people who contribute to Renfrew.

*Renfrew Tidbits* - "Make-Do(s) concludes a two-month run in the changing exhibition gallery - "A Century of Lighting" is on tap. Renfrew Committee reorganizes for its 1999-2000 year: meet your directors. Help Wanted! Check out Renfrew's volunteer classifieds and see how you can have fun while offering some much-needed assistance

*Message from the Curator* - Special Projects and Renfrew's 25th Anniversary, A Community Affair.



*Top image: Washington Irving's legendary Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow. Above images: "Four Seasons at Boscobel Restoration." This site is one of the "hidden treasures" we will visit on the trip.*



## Tarrytown, NY/Sleepy Hollow Bus Trip Itinerary

Here is a breakdown of the itinerary for the upcoming bus trip to Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow, New York:

**Sunday September 26th, 6:30 am** - leave the Renfrew Museum parking lot off Welty Road.

Periodic rest stops until reaching New York State.

1:00 pm - arrive at Philipsburg Manor, Tarrytown, for a tour. We will be visiting on the date of their Apple Harvest Festival which will present all kinds of special activities for the group.

3:30 pm - Box lunch at the Manor's Greenhouse Cafe.

Drive-by tour/viewing of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow (no organized tour). We will stop on our own if conditions allow.

Check into hotel. Dinner on your own.

**Monday September 27th** Breakfast at the hotel then off to Historic Lyndhurst for a 10:00 am tour.

We will have another boxed luncheon at the site.

12:30 - 2:00 pm - tour Sunnyside Historic Site

2:30 pm - tour Boscobel Restoration, an elegantly restored 19th century estate with period landscaping and outstanding ambience. A Federal period site, Boscobel is interpreted in the same basic time frame as Renfrew.

After Boscobel, the group returns to Tarrytown for dinner at "Horsefeathers," an English style pub offering home cooked food in a "Sleepy Hollow Mood."

Following dinner, we will return to Renfrew. The bus will make periodic rest stops before arriving at the Renfrew Parking lot at approximately 12 midnight.

To learn more about this exciting trip to New York, or make your reservation, please contact the Museum at 717-762-4723. Space is limited so please call now!



## Calendar of Events August-December, 1999

**Annual Civil War Encampment**  
*Weekend of August 13th-15th*

**Cumberland Valley Guild of Craftsmen Show**  
*Saturday, September 4th - 9 am to 4 pm*

**Lecture Program - The PA German Garden**  
*Tuesday, September 14th - 7:00 pm. Speaker: Dr. Irvan Richman: sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council*

**Sixth Annual Renfrew Pumpkin Festival**  
*Saturday, October 9th - 11 am to 4 pm*

**Scarecrow Making Contest**  
*Saturday, October 23rd, Time to be announced*

**Second Antique Appraisal Day**  
*Saturday, November 6th, See Newsletter article for additional information.*

**Gingerbread House Making Seminar**  
*Tuesday, November 16th, Time to be announced*

**Annual Open Hearth Thanksgiving Program**  
*Saturday, November 20th, Call now to place your reservations.*

**Annual Yuletide Christmas Celebration**  
*Weekend of December 4th-5th, Program and times to be announced*

## Bell Society

### *Holds its First Meeting & Program*

In 1998, Renfrew established the Bell Society as a special membership level designed to acknowledge the Museum's nationally acclaimed collection of John Bell and Bell family pottery. Society membership is two years in length and is limited to no more than 100 members (or couples). Society members receive a limited edition John Bell reproduction.

For its inaugural offering, Renfrew commissioned master potter, Lester Breining, of Robesonia, Pennsylvania to reproduce a seldom seen John Bell vase.

Mr. Breining was present on June 5th for a special dinner and public program where members received their limited-edition pieces.

This program was an outstanding success, and plans are already in the works for the next Bell Society offering in 2001. Keep an eye open for updates on this program in future volumes of *der Wetterhahn*.



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## Second Antique Appraisal Day -Saturday, November 6th, 10am-4pm-

Waynesboro will host its own version of the Antiques Roadshow when Renfrew Museum holds its second Antique Appraisal Day on Saturday, November 6th, 1999.

"Last year we had a fantastic program," states Museum Curator, Jeff Bliemeister. "The people who brought in objects for appraisal, generally went away happy (or at least better informed about what they owned) and the Museum made some proceeds for its ongoing historic programs and preservation efforts. We are hoping for an even better event in 1999!"

This year, Renfrew is again recruiting a volunteer staff of top notch appraisers. We are hoping to bring back most of our dedicated appraisers from 1998, and have already added a few new members to this select group of talented individuals. We will have antique dealers, auctioneers, appraisers and specialty collectors. Our goal is to provide knowledgeable appraisal service for almost any type of object that may be brought in for review.

People turned out early last year for this program. During the opening hours of the event, we had standing room only in the Visitors Center. To help make the wait more enjoyable, we will be adding a new feature to this year's appraisal day - Ongoing appraisals will be filmed with a camcorder and broadcast over a television set for the viewing enjoyment of those who are awaiting their turn at the appraisal station. This should help make any wait a bit more pleasurable!

The Fall issue of *der Wetterhahn* will feature more information on this November program. For now, be sure to mark your calendar for the 6th, and start searching your attic and closets for hidden treasures; you never know what might turn-up!



Late 18th Century Child's High Chair. Recent donation to the Museum, courtesy of Jim & Cathy Kaminsky in memory of Kevin Roy Brown.

\* We need volunteers on the day of the Antique Appraisal to help with registration, greet visitors and assist with automobile parking. This is a great way to help the Museum and have a lot of fun! Please give us a call if you are interested in offering your assistance.

## Open Hearth Thanksgiving Yuletide Celebration - Previews



On Saturday, November 20th, Renfrew will hold its annual Open Hearth Thanksgiving Program. Join Shirley Baker, Renfrew's Director of Visitor Services, as she presents a hands-on demonstration of 19th century cooking techniques using the hearth in the Museum's Pennsylvania German Kitchen.

This event is a long-standing Renfrew tradition, and a real visitor favorite. Participants have the option of getting involved with the preparation of the various courses of food and dessert, or they may elect to sit back and observe. Either way, everyone in the seminar gets to enjoy the outstanding food that is prepared during the day!

Shirley can only accommodate a limited number of participants for this unique program; space tends to fill up quickly, so make your reservations now! The cost is \$20.00 per person (members) and \$25.00 per person (general public). For more information, please call the Museum at 717-762-4723.

Plans are also underway for Renfrew's annual Yuletide Celebration, scheduled for the weekends of December 4th-5th, and 11th-12th. As this newsletter goes to press, much of our musical entertainment has already been confirmed! Holiday visitors will be in for a real treat as they are entertained by traditional favorites such as Dan Mack and Madeline MacNeil, along with new performers like the Little Heiskell Bell Ringers from Hagerstown.



We are also planning the third edition of our Gingerbread House Contest and Display. This year we are starting early and hope for even more entries than in the past. Make plans now for your special entry! Houses will be judged on originality and use of all natural ingredients. Some of the categories will include individual, family, children (two age groups) and club or organization. We have already begun collecting prizes for this event - all we need now are your gingerbread houses! More information will follow in the Fall issue of *der Wetterhahn*. For now, spread the word and start thinking about your house!

## Christmas Contributions Needed!

Renfrew is planning to celebrate the new millennium by taking a reflective and historical look at Christmas. Each room at Renfrew will be furnished and decorated to interpret a period of American history, ranging from 1850 to the present. Please let us know if you have any ideas, decorations or furnishings that you wish to share.



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★ In the Spotlight ★  
Renfrew's Volunteers

In this issue of *der Wetterhahn*, we are delighted to introduce two more of Renfrew's dedicated volunteers - interpretive guides, Gretchen Potochney and Roy Struble.

Gretchen Potochney has been a Renfrew interpreter since 1992 when she responded to a newspaper advertisement placed by Shirley Baker, Director of Visitor Services. Originally from Fairfax, Virginia, Gretchen and her husband moved to Waynesboro after retirement in 1990. They relocated to this area because of geography - Waynesboro is situated halfway between Gretchen's mother in Western Pennsylvania and the couple's son who lives in Virginia.



Gretchen is of German descent, and saw Renfrew as a perfect opportunity to learn more about her heritage. She also "get (s) a kick out of talking with people," and enjoys meeting the fascinating visitors who come to our site.

Prior to retirement, Gretchen worked as a nurse and in the medical records field. In addition to time spent at Renfrew, she also volunteers at the Waynesboro Hospital, assisting their Medical Records Department.

We are happy to have Gretchen as part of our interpretive staff. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the job are refreshing!

Roy Struble is an award winning 8th grade math teacher at Boonsboro Middle School. Like Gretchen, he also read a newspaper advertisement for volunteer interpreters. That advertisement, and a strong interest in history combined to bring him to Renfrew about 8 years ago.

Roy grew up in New Jersey in a town rich with colonial history. This background serves him well when he guides visitors through our Federal Period home. He keeps returning to Renfrew each season because "the people you meet make it interesting."



Roy and his wife, Andrea, share an interest in square dancing and all things Victorian. They live in Waynesboro in a Victorian home! Thanks, Roy, for being a part of our staff.

Renfrew Tidbits  
Exhibits/Boards - Comings & Goings

The staff and Boards of Directors of Renfrew Museum wish to thank the following individuals for loaning items from their personal collections for temporary display in the exhibition, "**Revamped, Righted and Ready To Use: Make Do(s)**", which recently ended a successful run in our changing gallery.

**David Thomas, Mildred Stine & Andy Hann**

If you had the opportunity to see this exhibition, I think you will agree that it showcased some very interesting items. Objects such as glassware and china repaired with metal staples, books and cardboard box tops mended with stitches, and pincushions affixed to broken stemware, all serve as testament to past generation's steadfast refusal to throw away anything useful! Viewing these artifacts offers us a refreshing change from our disposable society of the late 20th century.

Up next in the changing gallery is a **Century of Lighting**, an exhibition highlighting illuminary artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries. This display will run from September to the end of our regular season.

**Boards of Directors**

Renfrew Committee, Inc. (RCI)

Renfrew Executive Committee (REC)

Renfrew Committee, Incorporated, the not-for-profit organization that operates the Museum and Park, began its new fiscal year on August 1st. With the new year, there are some changes in board personnel. Listed below are your officers for 1999-2000.

<b>RCI</b>	<b>REC</b>
Kinney Stouffer (Pres.)	Nancy Savage (Chair.)
John W. Keller (V. Pres.)	Donald Bollinger (Treas.)
Donald Bollinger (Treas.)	Jacqueline Barlup (Sec.)
Alice McCleaf (Sec.)	George Buckey
George Buckey	Rebecca Dietrich
Rebecca Dietrich	David Hykes
Vicki Huff	Willard Rahn
Ardie Winters	T. O. Moore

Renfrew welcomes new board members, Rebecca Dietrich, and T. O. Moore. We are glad to have you onboard. We also say goodbye to David Thomas, and Ralph Baker. Ralph left the REC after several years of dedicated service. David, former Chairperson of the REC, left us several months ago to devote more time to his business. David will retain his Renfrew connection as the honorary chair person of the Bell Society, a special membership organization which he was instrumental in forming last fall. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for their contributions to Renfrew.



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## Renfrew Tidbits Improvements/Projects

### RENFREW IMPROVEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that the following improvements have been made at Renfrew over the past several months. We are grateful for the time and talent that went into these projects.

The **Fahnstock House** received a new roof for its back porch, along with permanent anchors for its porch supports. The exterior openings were also completely secured to prevent vandalism.

Renfrew's main entrance sign on Route 16 also received some attention. This sign, which originally graced the corner of Route 16 and Welty Road, was brought out of its storage area in the Victorian barn last year and re-installed at the entrance to Renfrew's service drive. The sign was mounted by D. L. George & Sons while they were working on a stream bank stabilization project. While the sign itself is in good condition, its metal pole was in need of new paint. This was taken care of several months ago by Phil Staley who sand-blasted the rust off the pole and repainted it an attractive shade of green. Many thanks to Phil for generously donating his services for this project. It is nice to have a permanent marker identifying Renfrew Museum and Park to those passing by on our busy main road.



### CURATOR'S MESSAGE

It is hard for me to believe, but I am now well into my second year as your Curator. I guess time really does fly by; if I need proof of that fact, I just look at my daughter who came to Waynesboro as a two month old baby and is now a blur as she chases her big brother around the house.

As Renfrew prepares to celebrate its first 25 years of service as a public institution, several thoughts come to mind. Probably the strongest is the fact that Renfrew is really a place that is for all of us. When Mrs. Nicodemus graciously bequeathed Renfrew to Waynesboro, her wishes were that her house be used to illustrate an early American home, and that her land be turned into a public park. These wishes were very clear, yet they offered a great deal of room for interpretation.

## Renfrew Tidbits "Classifieds" & Curator's Message

### Renfrew Classifieds "Help Wanted"

#### *VOLUNTEER INTERPRETIVE GUIDES*

Even though our season is beginning to wind down, we are still actively recruiting **Volunteer Interpretive Guides**. If you are enthusiastic about history, like to meet people from all over the world, and have a few hours to offer each month, we have the perfect job for you! Contact Renfrew for more information on this rewarding opportunity.

#### *CHRISTMAS DECORATORS*

Get in the holiday spirit early this year by joining Renfrew's core of dedicated Yuletide decorators. Volunteers are needed to assist us in transforming the Museum and Visitors Center for our annual program. You will have the opportunity to create all natural decorations by hand using materials that we provide. The end product will be viewed by over 1000 people visiting from several different states! People of all ages and levels of skill are encouraged to join us; enthusiasm is the only requirement. If you are interested, please call the Museum and we will place you on our contact list.

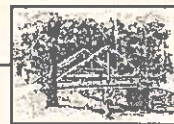
#### "Want Ads"

#### *"SCARECROW CLOTHING"*

Renfrew is in need of your well-worn clothing items to be used for our upcoming Scarecrow Making Seminar and Contest on October 23rd. If you have any clean hats, shirts, pants or belts that have seen better days, bring them to Renfrew and we will recycle them to create scarecrows!

Over the last 25-years, Renfrew has gone through a remarkable period of growth and development. As we enter a new century, we at the Museum & Park are thinking about how this institution will continue to evolve in our mission and service to the public. We don't know what the next 25 years will bring. One thing that is obvious, though, is that whatever happens here must and will be shaped by you, the Friends of Renfrew, and all others who enjoy this fine facility. On the brink of our anniversary, I invite you to reacquaint yourself with Renfrew. Please make a point of attending a special program or volunteering for one of our projects. You are vital to our future.

Thanks! *Jeffrey Bliemeister, Curator*



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More Renfrew Tidbits:

A Renfrew Christmas 1999 - We are planning to celebrate the end of the century with a decade by decade review of Christmases past. We need your memories, decorations and ideas! If you have potential contributions for this project, please let us know as soon as possible.

Reminder: Renfrew celebrates its 25th year of public service in 2000. You can help us commemorate this event, and enter the new millennium on solid ground by recruiting a friend for membership! Membership revenue helps us preserve the past for the future - and it's tax deductible, too! Help us spread the word. Remember, a Renfrew membership makes a great gift or even a Christmas present. Just let us know and we will gladly send a gift announcement in your name!

Renfrew's Pavilion is available for rent by families, businesses and community groups. Some weekend dates are still open. Please call the museum for reservation information.

**R**evamped, Righted, and Ready to Use: Make Do(s) was the mid-summer offering in Renfrew's changing exhibition gallery. A review of this display may be found on page four of this newsletter. Up next is: A Century of Lighting, featuring a wide array of illuminary devices, ranging from candlesticks to Tiffany lamps.



Special thanks to David Thomas, Mildred Stine and Andy Hann for generously loaning their Make Do(s) for this exhibition. This fascinating display would not have been possible without their assistance.

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