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The Weathervane

Wetterhahn



Volume X, Issue I The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park Winter 1999

RENFREW ANNOUNCES ITS 1999 CALENDAR OF EVENTS -NEW SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM SET FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 27th-

Renfrew Museum and Park officially opens for the season on April 24th and 25th with the annual Spring Fest weekend. This year, however, we have added a new program that we hope will draw people to the Museum in March for a one day spring celebration. We are delighted to present the first edition of RENFREW'S SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM on Saturday, March 27th from 10 am to 4 pm.

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events - Renfrew announces its schedule for 1999. Renfrew's Spring Gardening Symposium and the second installment of our popular Antique Appraisal Day join our traditional favorites. Hang on to this issue as the calendar runs right up to the annual Yuletide Christmas Celebration.

Feature - Our Spring Gardening Symposium, established for March 27th, developed as a result of efforts to revitalize Renfrew's herb garden. Get the story on our improved herb garden, the people behind it, and what we hope to accomplish with our gardening event.

In The Spotlight - Learn about two more of the wonderful people who contribute time and talent to the Museum and Park. Also a report on the "Archaeological Society" that meets at Renfrew each month. Find out who they are and what they are up to.

New Additions to the Collection - A John Bell jug and an Interpretive Model of Renfrew's former gristmill highlight recent accessions. Mill stones are also added to the Visitors Center Court Yard.

Renfrew Tidbits - An overnight bus trip to Tarrytown, NY is in the plans. Membership campaign continues. Volunteers needed! Plans for Renfrew's Twenty-fifth Anniversary are in the works - you can help! **Weekend pavilion rental dates are still available for 1999. Call Renfrew soon at 762-4723 to make your reservation!**

The plan is to offer a series of qualified speakers and garden demonstrations set against the backdrop of Renfrew's natural beauty and recently revived herb garden. The goal is to educate, entertain and inform the general public by providing a wide-ranging program.

"We hope to generate enthusiasm for spring gardening by showing some of the varied possibilities currently available to the home gardener," states Curator Jeffrey Bliemeister. Vendors, demonstrators and craftspeople will be invited to set-up at Renfrew for the day. All local and area businesses, clubs and individuals involved in any aspect of gardening are invited to register for participation.

Approximately five main subjects such as pruning, composting, herbs, perennials and roses will be featured as seminar topics. Different areas may be addressed in subsequent years. Experts will be invited to cover these subjects through a lecture or demonstration format. Our keynote speaker will be the **Chief Vegetable Gardener from Monticello**, Thomas Jefferson's historic home in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mark your calendar now for what promises to be a wonderful day-long celebration.

Renfrew volunteer, **Judy Bricker**, working at the herb garden. Judy, along with **Maggie Cisar** and **Bill Amos** spent the summer bringing this area back to its former glory. This trio gave many weekend hours to this ongoing project.

The group is currently assisting with preparations for the Spring Gardening Symposium. Their contributions to Renfrew are greatly appreciated.





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Renfrew Museum and Park 1999 Calendar of Events



FASTNACHT DAY
Tuesday, February 16th
 Open Hearth Demo 12-4 pm

Fastnacht Day is a long-standing PA Dutch tradition celebrated on the Tuesday before Lent. On this day, also known as "Fat Tuesday" on our modern calendar, one must eat fastnachts to insure good health for the remainder of the year. Participation is family wide, and the last household member to arise is ungraciously labeled "the fastnacht." This is a title that is not desired by anyone in an industrious Pennsylvania household.

Open hearth fastnacht preparation will be the focus of this program. Admission is free and samples will be available. Join us at Renfrew on February 16th for a delicious lesson in Pennsylvania history.



**NATURAL EGG DYEING
 WORKSHOP**
Saturday, March 20th
 10 am to 12 pm

Guests are welcome to spend a few hours at Renfrew to learn how to dye their Easter eggs the old-fashioned way with all natural ingredients.

The tradition of egg dyeing goes back to Medieval times. In legend and legacy, the egg symbolizes life and rebirth. Each year millions of eggs are decorated and admired by people all over the world.

Most kitchens are filled with materials to tint eggs in many elegant and distinctive colors. Some materials that can be used are cabbage, onion skins and coffee. Many different types of eggs can also be decorated, ranging from chicken to quail. Once colored, Renfrew eggs are to be used only for decoration; they are not for eating.

This workshop is open to all, but will be geared for children ages 7 to 12. The program will be both instructional and hands-on. Participants will be making their own eggs to take with them and learning skills they can use at home next year. All materials will be provided.

Participation is limited so please register early. An afternoon session may be added if needed. The cost is \$2.00 per person. This program is sponsored in part by the Historic Fairfield Village Inn. Call 762-4723 for registration information.

RENFREW CLEANUP DAY
Saturday, March 20th
 8:30 am to mid-afternoon



Saturday, March 20th is the date for Renfrew's annual spring cleanup. Last year more than 40 volunteers spent the day getting the Park ready for the season. We are hoping for an even better turn out in 1999 so help us spread the word!

Typical duties for the day include such things as cleaning the museum and picnic grounds, removing trash and debris left by the spring floods and distributing new crushed stone on our drive ways and parking lots.

Renfrew has a supply of tools, but you might want to bring your own shovel and rake. Refreshments will be provided. The amount of work we can get done depends on you, so keep the 20th free for Renfrew. Thanks!

Renfrew's Spring Garden Symposium,
Saturday, March 27th - 10am to 4pm

A one day celebration of spring gardening. See the program description on page one of this newsletter.

Brothers of the Brush Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 3rd - 1pm

Annual event held at Renfrew Park. Open to all children of the community.

Spring Fest (Renfrew's Opening Weekend)
Saturday & Sunday, April 24-25 - 10 to 4pm

Annual weekend-long program featuring music, crafts and demonstrations of the 19th century. Please call for a list of participants and schedule of events.

Dan Arthur, local photographer, and Friend of Renfrew, distributes fresh gravel at the Park's lower entrance. Dan was one of about forty



volunteers who assisted with Cleanup Day 1998.



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**Calendar of Events
-continued-**

Bell Society Presentation and Dinner
Saturday, May 15th, Time to be announced

In the last issue of der Wetterhahn Renfrew introduced several new membership categories including the Bell Society. This membership level is two years in length and is limited to a total of 100 individuals or couples. For a contribution of \$350.00 members receive all regular Renfrew benefits, plus a limited edition reproduction John Bell pottery piece. For our inaugural edition, Renfrew has commissioned renowned master potter, Lester Breininger of Robesonia to reproduce the rarely seen vase pictured below.

Members of the Bell Society will receive their commemorative pieces at a special program given by Mr. Breininger on May 15th. Each Bell Society member will receive a personal invitation to this program as we get closer to the date.

A limited number of memberships are still available in the Bell Society. Like all other Renfrew memberships, your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please enroll soon if you want to be a part of this exclusive program.

As a one time courtesy, this piece will be available for purchase by all Life Members of our organization. Any Life Member of the Friends of Renfrew Museum & Park who is interested in obtaining this limited edition vase should contact the Museum by April 30th. This will allow us time to place orders with Mr. Breininger.

This will be the only opportunity to purchase this initial reproduction. When the membership is filled, production will cease. In two years, a new Bell reproduction will be offered to those wishing to renew their membership in the Society.



Reproduced John Bell vase created by Lester Breininger of Robesonia, PA. This is the first prototype to come from his pottery in November, 1998. The original is from the mid-1800s and signed: "John Bell."

**Calendar of Events
-continued-**

Binding Day at Renfrew
Saturday, June 26th, Time to be announced

Industrial Exhibit Opens in the Visitors Ctr.
Thursday, June 24th (runs for two weeks)
Sponsored by the Waynesboro Soc. for Ind. History

Threshing Demonstration at Renfrew
Weekend of July 3rd/4th, Time to be announced

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

Cumberland Valley Guild of Craftsmen Show
Saturday, September 4th, Time to be announced

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

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

Second Antique Appraisal Day
Saturday, November 6th, Time to be announced

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

Annual Open Hearth Thanksgiving Program
Saturday, November 20th, Time to be announced

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

Renfrew 1999 Exhibition Schedule

Hats - The Essential Accessory (April to June)

Make Dos - Antique Objects that have been modified for continued use (July to August)

A Century of Lighting (September to October)

Washington Memorabilia (All season in the Museum House, second floor landing)

Two dimensional objects and small historical mementos commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the death of our first President, George Washington (1732-1799).



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In the Spotlight Renfrew's Volunteers



Renfrew was fortunate to add several excellent volunteers to its interpretive staff during the 1998 season. We also began a new area for long-term volunteers centered on our rejuvenated herb garden.

There is always plenty to do at Renfrew and those with an interest in people, local history or nature will probably be able to find their niche at the Museum and Park. For 1999 we are actively looking for individuals with four or more hours per month to give as interpretive guides on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Help is also needed with our collections inventory project and new workers are always welcome for the herb garden. If you have time and talent to contribute, Renfrew can use you! Give us a call to discuss the possibilities.

In the last issue of *The Weathervane* we featured two of our interpretive guides. This winter we are proud to introduce you to two more of Renfrew's finest.

Jean Hastings is a native of Waynesboro who returned to town in 1988 after a 47 year absence! A love of antiques and an interest in her own Pennsylvania-German heritage first brought her to Renfrew ten years ago to serve as a volunteer Interpretive Guide and she's been with us since.



Jean holds a masters degree in library science which comes in handy with another of her volunteer projects - assisting the Waynesboro Historical Society catalog their letters, manuscripts and books. Some of her other interests include travel, reading and needlework.

Jean and her husband, Dwight (who also assists at Renfrew special events) enjoy their Waynesboro retirement home with its view of the mountains and orchards. We are glad to have them both as part of our Renfrew Family.

Donna Dockweiler is life-long resident of Waynesboro now entering her second year as a Renfrew Interpretive Guide. As a single parent with three daughters at home, Donna squeezes Renfrew into a very busy schedule. Some of her other duties include caring for her parents who live next door and spending weekends with a special grandson. Professionally, Donna is an accountant with Financial Services Unlimited in Waynesboro.

In the Spotlight - Vols. and... "The Archaeological Society"

Donna became involved in Renfrew because she likes history and remembers spending time on the property as a child. Donna proclaims herself a "people person" and says she enjoys spending time at Renfrew because it

allows her to meet new visitors from all over. She views the Interpreters' position as a two-way street that gives her the chance to learn about other places.

We are happy she finds a way to fit Renfrew into her full schedule!



Cumberland Valley Chapter Number 27 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

The purpose of the Cumberland Valley Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. is to promote interest in archaeology and its related sciences. The local chapter was the 27th chartered by the SPA and held its first meeting on May 10, 1988 in Chambersburg. Membership consists of people from all walks of life who share an interest in learning more about archaeology. Chapter 27 relocated to Renfrew in August of 1989.

On Saturday, January 30th five of the Chapters' members spent the day relocating artifact collections to the loft area of the garage at Renfrew. The members were: Mike Myers, Kris Feldmeyer, Pandy Yeakle, Lynn Runt and Doug Stine. This new storage area will permit the Chapter to store and maintain the collections and information for safekeeping and future reference.

To date there have been several digs on the Renfrew Museum and Park grounds. In 1977 a cement cap fell

Doug Stine and Pandy Yeakle sort artifacts recovered from one of Renfrew's archaeological digs prior to rehousing the collection in the loft.





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In The Spotlight - Continued

into an old cistern to the rear of the Royer House. Tim Rockwell of Mercersburg was contracted to direct the excavation of the back yard area. In 1987 and 1988 William Sheppard excavated the Tannery site, located within the present picnic grounds, operated by the Royers as early as circa 1795. The next year, 1989, work began on uncovering the Royer-Fahnestock Mill site at the rear of the property. This mill was built circa 1810 as a necessary component to support the ever expanding farmstead. An interpretive model of this building, recently donated by its creator, Charles Good, is on display in the Visitors Center. Another important requirement to any early 19th century farm was a lime kiln. The Royers constructed a lime kiln in the side of a hill to the southeast of the Fahnestock House. Excavations began in 1991 on this site as well as the terraces and property immediately around the Fahnestock House and continued for the next several years. During this period an area of the yard behind the Royer house began sinking to reveal the foundation of an early privy. Upon completing yet another Renfrew archaeological excavation, it was discovered that not one but two separate privies lay beside each other in the backyard.

Artifacts from all of the above excavations are now stored in the loft of the garage for future reference. The Cumberland Valley Chapter #27 of the SPA, Inc. supplied labor for the majority of the sites listed above.

The Chapter looks forward to assisting Renfrew in its celebration of its 25th anniversary in the year 2000 with an exhibition on the archaeology mentioned above. Chapter meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm in the Visitors Center. The public is always welcome!

Renfrew Tidbits

Renfrew Bus Trip in Planning Stages Last year, the Museum sponsored a highly successful one day trip to Delaware to visit the travelling exhibition, Nicholas & Alexandra. This year plans are in the works for a possible overnight excursion to Tarrytown, NY to view some of the impressive house museums along the Hudson, Sleepy Hollow and other points of interest. The trip would take place in the fall, likely in early October. More information will follow as plans come together. Should you have any interest in such an excursion, please call the Museum as soon as possible. Your input is welcome in shaping the trip and early reservations will be accepted.

Antique hats, hat stands and accessories are needed by

New Accessions

Renfrew is pleased to announce the addition of several new items to its permanent collections. More of our new donations will be featured in subsequent newsletters depending upon available space. Some of our recent acquisitions include...

Mill Stones formerly from Hoover's Mill, donated by Raymond Bercaw. The pair of stones now grace the courtyard area in front of the Visitors Center barn.

Pottery Jug, signed John Bell, Waynesboro, purchased by Renfrew from Mrs. Pauline Stull of Chambersburg with funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Dunlap, Jr. of Waynesboro.

Interpretive Model of the Fahnestock Grist Mill courtesy of Mr. Charles Good. This working model was hand-made by the donor a few years ago and had been on loan to Renfrew up until its recent donation. It may be viewed in the Visitors Center.



John Bell signed pottery jug purchased by Renfrew with funds donated by Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Dunlap, Jr.

This outstanding example features a threaded neck and highly decorative handle (not visible in photograph).

Renfrew for its upcoming exhibition. We are looking for items we can borrow for a three month period beginning in April and ending in June of 1999. Your antique hats and accessories could help Renfrew round out its opening exhibition for the 1999 season.

Renfrew celebrates its 25th anniversary of being open to the public as a Museum and Park next year. To help commemorate the event, we will be presenting special exhibitions and programs throughout the year. We are looking for any photographs or objects you may have that are associated with Renfrew in its early years or even prior to its formation as a public institution. Your input can help us make 2,000 a year to remember.

If you can help with any of these areas, please call the Museum at (717) 762-4723. Thanks for your support!



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Christmas at Renfrew was a very special event in 1998. The annual Yuletide celebration drew close to 1,000 visitors for the two day open house and subsequent weekend hours. All who attended were treated to a wonderful combination of Renfrew's traditional natural decorations and the incredible Christmas collection of Mrs. and Mrs. William Baker of Shippensburg.

Renfrew was honored to serve as the first major public forum for many items from the Bakers collection. Members of the Golden Glow Society, the Bakers have been involved in collecting Christmas objects for several decades. Bill was always interested in Christmas and remembers, as a child, decorating the tree in his parents restaurant. One day, many years later, he found a figural light at a yard sale that was identical to one he remembered placing on that restaurant Christmas tree every season. That incident became the starting point for a hobby that he now shares with his wife, Annie. Together, they have assembled an outstanding collection of antique and contemporary Christmas objects.

Renfrew Museum was delighted to serve as a host for part of their splendid collection. The staff and board of trustees wish to thank the Bakers for their generosity. We are also grateful for everyone who gave their time and talent in decorating the Museum and providing our program. The results were truly fantastic.

Second Annual Renfrew Gingerbread House Contest

- Best of Show - Davis Family, Chambersburg, PA
- Adult 1st Place - Jenifer Bliemeister, Waynesboro, PA
- Family 1st Place - Kauffman Family, Waynesboro, PA
- Children's 1st Place - Martina Pfeuffer, Waynesboro, PA

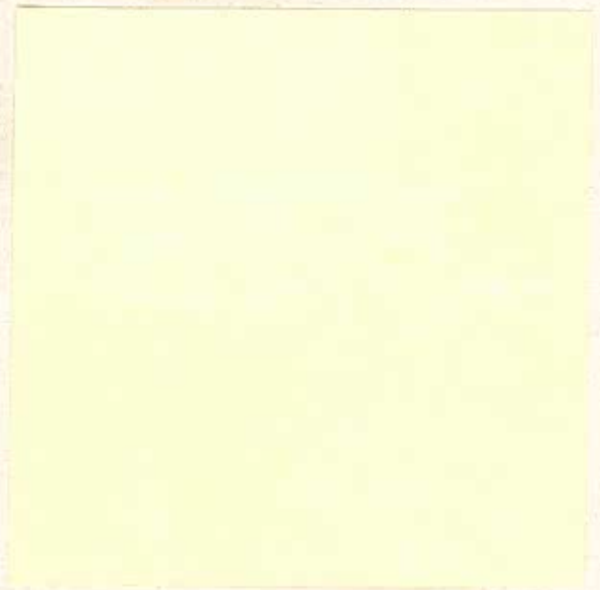
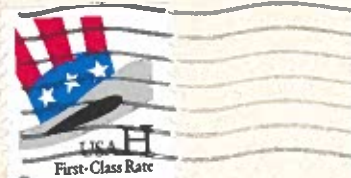
Judges: Anthony Ebersole and Michael Mahr
Prizes Courtesy of: Red Lobster, Chambersburg, Savage-Minnich Pharmacy, Waynesboro. *Belschnickel Treats* - Owls Club of Waynesboro. **Thanks to all!**

Dr. Terry Musselman (left) and Richard Avey take a short break during Renfrew's 1998 Yuletide celebration. Mr. Musselman performed period music in the Visitors Center while Mr. Avey greeted Museum guests as the Belschnickel.



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