



RENFREW DEBUTS NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Joint Effort Between Renfrew Institute & The Museum A Great Success

Local Sixth Grade Classes Pilot "The Royer Legacy"

The Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies has offered curriculum-based programming at Renfrew for over a decade. During this time, thousands of area elementary school children have been introduced to our site. Their "Renfrew Experience" began early, in kindergarten, with the Earthseeker's Program and culminated with a farmstead tour in the sixth grade. While the collective experience gained from these programs is quite comprehensive, one element was always lacking: namely, students never had the opportunity to enter Renfrew Museum to see the house and learn what takes place inside. This situation was remedied last fall with the piloting of a new program entitled, "The Royer Legacy: Discovering Renfrew Museum and Exploring the Historic Farmstead."



Can you identify any of the objects in this photo? Can you tell the authentic antiques from the modern reproductions? Local sixth graders tackled these questions as they became "Artifact Detectives" inside Renfrew Museum.

The "Royer Legacy" has its roots in an older Institute program called, "Old Friends are Worth Saving." This older offering introduced students to the concepts behind historic preservation. According to the Institute's Executive Director, Melodie Anderson Smith, "The Old Friends program also included a tour of the farmstead which we wanted to retain for school use. It served as an excellent starting point for this more comprehensive joint offering between the Institute and the Museum."

Sherry Hesse, Renfrew Institute's Director of Cultural Services, worked with Museum Curator, Jeffrey Bliemeister and Supervisor of Visitor's Services, Tammy Wetzel, to develop the curriculum content for the "Royer Legacy." The overall goal of the project was to create a program where sixth grade students could visit Renfrew for a two hour program that included a walking tour of the farmstead and guided visit inside Renfrew Museum.

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The new program was developed by Jeff Bliemeister, Curator, Sherry Hesse, Renfrew Institute's Director of Cultural Services and Tammy Wetzel, Renfrew's Supervisor of Visitor's Services.





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New Program Debuts

- "The Royer Legacy" continued -

Goals and objectives were identified and the program was broken down into two specific segments. Sherry Hesse began by expanding the existing tour and renaming it, "Exploring the Historic Farmstead." Museum staff worked on the second segment, entitled "Discovering Renfrew Museum." The complete program is designed to serve as a culmination of our local sixth-graders' Renfrew experience. It will serve as the final offering in a sequence of elementary programs offered by Renfrew Institute.

Under the guidance of the Museum staff, students are taken into the Royer home (museum house) where they learn how the Renfrew property became a gift to the community of Waynesboro. They enjoy a tour of the house and then participate in a hands-on activity called, "Artifact Detectives." This educational game gives children the opportunity to learn what an artifact is by studying antiques and reproductions from the collection. Along the way, they learn about some of the jobs performed by a museum curator and hopefully, leave with an understanding that artifacts are important because of the historical information they provide, not just because of their monetary value as antiques.

The other half of the program features a walking tour of the Royer farmstead (Renfrew property) with an interpretive guide. Under the direction of the Institute staff, students visit historic buildings and sites that comprise the Royer farmstead, a Pennsylvania German farmstead of the early 1800s. This portion of the program creates an awareness of the relationship between the local environment and how it influenced the daily lives of Pennsylvania German farmers in this region. Students learn about the stories historic buildings can tell us and about the importance of preserving them. They have an opportunity to pull together all the pieces of their past Renfrew experience into a deeper understanding of the whole story of this important community treasure.

During the month of November, Renfrew piloted this joint program with great success. Local schools were invited to experience, "The Royer Legacy", at no cost. Their feedback was then used to evaluate the program. We were happy to host approximately 120 sixth graders from St. Andrew's and Summitview Schools.

We are also glad to report that the program received rave reviews and will become a regular Renfrew Institute offering in the Spring of 2003. Thanks to everyone who helped develop this outstanding new program. We look forward to seeing many sixth-graders at Renfrew Museum!

Message From the Curator

- Time Well Spent -

It's hard to believe that I have been the Curator of Renfrew for over five years. This fact becomes much more real to me when I look back at photographs of my family. When I came to Waynesboro, my daughter was a two month old infant in a carrier and my son was a toddler exploring his new surroundings. Today, one is in elementary school at Fairview and the other will start kindergarten in September. My wife, Jenifer, has spent the last four years working at Chambersburg Hospital. Together we purchased our first home here on Garfield Street. I have also spent 4 1/2 years in our Rotary Club. In short, Waynesboro has become our home.



When you work for a museum like Renfrew that provides daily challenges and professional rewards, looking for new employment is not a prime concern. That said, good things sometimes come to you even when you are not actively looking for them. In late 2002 I accepted a new position and will leave Renfrew at the end of January.

Renfrew volunteers and staff know that I am an avid fan of antique automobiles and the owner of a classic Ford Mustang. I am leaving Renfrew to serve as the Curator of the new Antique Automobile Club of America Museum currently under construction in Hershey. The institution plans to open its doors to the public in June of this year and I will have the challenge of helping them install their initial exhibitions. They have a plan to develop the site into the premier automotive museum in the east and as their first curator I will have the chance to play a key role in this process. I am excited about this unique opportunity to combine my personal and professional interests.

Making the decision to leave Renfrew was not easy. I have come to really love this place. I know I will enjoy experiencing Renfrew from the perspective of a visitor, when I return for events that have become dear to me and my family, such as the Pumpkin Festival, Halloween Story Telling and the Christmas Open House.

Before I go, I wish to thank everyone who has played a role in making my time at Renfrew productive and enjoyable. I appreciate the support given by many different board members, co-workers and volunteers. I hope you will continue to support Renfrew in my absence and then share your enthusiasm and dedication with my replacement.

Thanks again, and please stop by to visit me next time you are in Hershey. I hope to stay in touch with my friends at Renfrew.

Jeffrey Belumester



- Park Information -
PCC "Signature Project"

Although we lost the services of the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps this past year, we were still able to bring them onsite for a special "Signature Project" this past fall. Former Renfrew Crew Leader, Paul Snyder, joined PCC Regional Supervisor, Jim Spots and a small team of crew members to work on two site improvement projects.



Top: PCC Crew Members, Jesse, Derek and Miriam complete the trench for a new powerline.

Center: Paul Snyder guides Jim Spots and Trista with a mechanical trencher.

Bottom: Miriam, Derek and Jesse levelling stones under the Fahnestock porch. Renfrew staff members John Frantz & Ron Harbaugh are in the background.

PCC "Signature Projects" are designed to showcase the talents of the Corps by bringing them to a public site to do a meaningful project that can be completed by the group in one to two days. We had our group focus on adding electric service to our roadside message sign located near the picnic grounds on Route 16.

In spite of a rainy and cold day, the crew managed to complete the entire project in good order. Thanks, PCC, for giving us some much-needed light for our sign!



After completing the electrical work, the group headed back to the Fahnestock House where they began the ground work for a stone paving project under the porch.

Most of the crew's time was spent levelling this area with sand. We have most of the stones required for this project on hand and can complete the remaining work next spring. It will become a full PCC project if we are successful in obtaining a work crew through our current grant.



☆ In The Spotlight ☆
Inventory Project Completed!

After approximately 4 1/2 years of work, the inventory of Renfrew Museum's collection is complete! Upon beginning his job as Curator five years ago, Jeffrey Bliemeister was charged with the task of completing an

Tammy Wetzel, Supervisor of Visitors Services, and museum volunteer, Red Mohn at work on the Bell Pottery Collection in the Visitors Center. Both of these individuals were instrumental in completing the inventory project.



inventory of the Museum's holdings. After many hours of work and the help of several dedicated individuals, the project is finally finished.

Renfrew Museum has had a computerized inventory of its collection for many years. Former Curator, James Smith created the initial database using MacIntosh-based software during his tenure at Renfrew. The data from this system was imported into a new, custom-designed program, developed in house, using Microsoft Access, a PC-based software program. Simply updating this existing data and accounting for the artifacts would probably have taken the staff a couple of months; however it was decided back in 1999 to make the project a bit more comprehensive and ultimately more useful to the Museum. To that end, each collection item received its own digital photograph which was linked with its corresponding data.

The inventory project led the museum staff and volunteers into just about every nook and corner of Renfrew as they searched for collection items. While in the process of completing the inventory, these hard-working people also cleaned out and organized the corn cribs, main floor of the barn, basement and pantry of the museum house, chicken coop, and upper area of the hog pen. Many interesting items were found during this adventure that, in some places, disturbed two decades of dust!

Renfrew now has a complete and accurate inventory of all the artifacts in its collection. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project possible.

Alice McCleaf hard at work inventorying a set of silver. Alice spent one afternoon per week at Renfrew for the past four years assisting the staff with the inventory. During this period, she also served as Secretary of Renfrew Committee, Inc.





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Museum Donations Bell & "Renfrew" Items Contributed

Renfrew has received several significant donations since the last issue of *der Wetterhahn*. We are pleased to report the following artifacts are now part of the permanent collection, and extend our sincere thanks to their thoughtful donors.



Double-sided "Renfrew" coverlet, given by Nancy Reed (left) and redware crock, stamped "John Bell, Waynesboro" (below) from Mr. & Mrs. Don Carty. Both items are now on display at Renfrew.

Nancy Reed contributed a beautiful 19th century coverlet, marked: "Melinda Renfrew, 1840." Nancy has served on our Antique Appraisal Day staff for the past two years. The coverlet's "Renfrew" inscription makes it a unique and appropriate artifact for exhibition in the museum.

The "John Bell" stamped crock (right) was given by Mr. and Mrs. Don Carty of Waynesboro in memory of



Fred and Nora (Baumgardner) Sprenkle (grandparents of donor). It was found in their home on Nunnery Road.

We also received a small collection of stone projectile points from Omar Eugene Sprenkle, along with a set of hand-worn corn huskers. Mr. Sprenkle unearthed the points near the cemetery at Renfrew while farming for Mr. Nicodimus in the 1940s. After having them for 40 some years, he wanted them to come "home" to Renfrew.

Finally, David Hykes, Chairman of the Renfrew Executive



Committee gave us the reproduction bed warmer at left for use in our "Artifacts Detective" educational game.

Thanks to all of our donors for these outstanding museum gifts!

Antique Appraisal Day A Success Renfrew Program Reviewed

The fifth annual Antique Appraisal Day was held at Renfrew's Visitors Center on Saturday, November 2nd, 2002. By all accounts, the event was another tremendous success!

Museum volunteer, Alice McCleaf greets visitors and helps them complete their registration forms at Antique Appraisal Day, 2002.



The event was held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and there were people and antiques on hand throughout the entire day. As always, we saw many different and unique items. Every year seems to bring out new people with wonderful artifacts.

Renfrew thanks the knowledgeable appraisers who once again donated their time for this worthwhile event. We are also grateful for our volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make everything come together.

From left to right: Volunteers Anita Pfeuffer, Dorothy and Don Bollinger. Anita directed visitors to the appropriate appraisal station and the Bollingers handled registration and finances.



Antique Appraisal Day 2003 is set for Saturday, November 1st. Please keep the date in mind and share the information with your friends. This annual event remains the best place in town to find out what your treasures are worth!

Carl Ocker and John Hykes evaluate antiques while Board Member, David Hykes, observes. Our appraisers worked both individually and in teams to evaluate the variety of antiques.





**Reproduction John Bell Mold
- A Limited Number For Public Sale -**

After two offerings, it was decided not to immediately renew the Bell Society category of membership in the Friends of Renfrew. As it stood, this special category was a two-year membership program and included a limited edition reproduction piece as one of its benefits.

Prior to the suspension of this program, Renfrew contacted all current members of the Bell Society to offer them the first opportunity to purchase an additional reproduction piece. The remaining pieces are now being offered for sale to our general membership and the public at large.

The piece is an authentic reproduction of a seldom seen "turks head" type mold made by John Bell of Waynesboro in the early to mid-19th century. Our reproduction was made by potter, **Lynette King** of the Gettysburg area. She is well known locally for her faithful reproductions done for the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies. Production was limited to 100, with approximately one third of the number remaining for general sale. The price is \$50.00 per mold. To order your piece, please stop by the Museum or call us at 762-4723.



A group of John Bell reproduction "Turks Head" molds on display at Renfrew. One hundred individually numbered pieces were produced. A very limited number are now available for purchase.

**Renfrew Wish List & Thank You
- A List Of Items: Needed & Received -**

The Renfrew Wish List has become an ongoing feature of the newsletter. Please take a look at our list of needs to see if there is anything you can help us with. Your contribution may be tax-deductible and we can make arrangements to pick-up large items.

CURRENT WISHLIST

- Table Saw (electric)** to use for woodworking/restoration.
- Hand Tools** - wrenches, screwdrivers, wood-working tools, electric skill saw, etc - new or used.
- Metal Folding Chairs** for use in the Visitor's Center.
- Card Tables**, folding style for parties & special events.
- Volunteer Tour Guides For 2003 Season** (no experience required - we will train!). Volunteers to help with our gardens are also needed.
- Large, Flat Stones** for paving under the porch of the Fahnstock House. If you have stones that you wish to have removed from your property, please let us know and we will schedule an appointment for inspection

THANK YOU!

We wish to acknowledge **Phil Hammond** for his contribution of a Skil Saw and **Steve Monn** for donating a 12" Radial Arm Saw. Renfrew appreciates your thoughtfulness. These tools will make our job much easier, particularly if we host a PCC work crew again in 2003-04.

Renfrew Museum and Park

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

FRIENDS OF RENFREW - Application for Annual Membership

Name _____ Address _____ City/Town _____ State and Zip Code _____ Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____	<p><i>Membership Categories</i></p> Life \$1,000 _____ Bell Society \$250* _____ Curator's Associates \$200* _____ Sustaining \$125 _____ Family \$50 _____ Donor \$25 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Student (ages 6-15) \$5 _____ Endowment Fund: _____
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Please send me information on volunteer opportunities at Renfrew: _____

Optional Information:

(Endowment Fund Donations help to build Renfrew's future. They are invested for long-term growth, not incorporated into our operating budget). *Bell Society and Curator's Associates are categories with unique benefits and characteristics. Please call for more information.



Winter 2003

- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -

Musical Instrument Making Workshop, Thursdays, February 13th and 20th at 7:00 pm in the Visitors Center. Space is limited. Please call the Institute for more details (762-0373).

Fly Tying Workshop, Saturday, March 8th and 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Visitors Center. Space is limited. Please call the Institute for more details.

Renfrew Bird Walks, Saturdays in April and May, 7:00 - 10:00 am in the park. Led by Willard Rahn. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Renfrew Clean-up Day, Saturday, March 29th, 8:30 am to approximately 4:00 pm. Help us reclaim the park from the effects of a long and cold winter. Bring your own work gloves and hand tools. Come for an hour or come for the day! Refreshments will be provided.

Limited edition reproduction John Bell "Turks Head" Mold (at right) from the latest offering of the "Bell Society." A select number of these molds are available for purchase. See page 5 for details.



Renfrew's Gift Showcase (bottom left) is always being updated with new items. It's the perfect place to find unique and original work from local artisans. Showcase manager, Becky Dietrich, recently added several new items, including the selection of pottery seen below at right. Stop by and have a look!



RENFREW'S PICNIC PAVILION IS AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL!
(Please call 717-762-4723 for more information)

**der
Wetterhahn**

Renfrew Museum and Park
1010 East Main St. Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 762-4723 E-mail: renfrew@innernet.n
Web site: www.renfrewmuseum.com

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