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The Weathervane



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The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Autumn 2005

“In The Keep of Time”, *Jacob Wolf Clock Maker*

Since the beginning, measuring time has been imperative in everyday life. From the first authentic recorded mention of a sundial in 742 B.C., to the latest computerized versions of clocks and watches, the mechanisms for telling time have had an intriguing evolution.

In 1360 Henry di Vick invented one of the first mechanical clocks; and in 1368 clock making began in England. Both would be paramount in the progression of keeping time.

Then, over the next two centuries more advances were made at a steady pace. In 1665 long case clocks were first developed. This concept, which was very prevalent in England,



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became popular in the young country of America. Referred to as tall case clocks by Americans, they became dominant in clock making.

According to William S. Bowers in his book, "Crafts of Franklin County, Penna. 1784-1984, Jacob Wolf was a very productive clockmaker in the Waynesboro area from the years of 1827 to 1840.

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Recent Historical Event -Civil War Encampment-

The thunder of the Civil War Encampment was heard again on Saturday, August 13th and Sunday, August 14th at Renfrew Park. The 350 re-enactors were once again led by the 139th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, who on Saturday re-enacted the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. A spirited firing competition followed at 4:00 p.m. On Sunday at 1:30 p.m., a battle "free-for-all" took place between the Confederate and Union forces.

Renfrew Museum became part of the action when the kitchen served as a "field" hospital. Wounded soldiers were attended to by surgeons from both sides. They filled the room as cannons and artillery echoed nearby.

Calendar of Events -Pumpkin Fest-

Renfrew Museum and Renfrew Institute will host the Ninth Annual Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Pumpkins galore, locally grown, will be available for sale. If you choose, at no additional cost, local artists will assist you in carving the perfect pumpkin. The pumpkin hurling trebuchet will be activated for all those willing to launch a pumpkin.

A new feature this year...a Pumpkin Trail Treasure Hunt. Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 kids 4-12, FREE to kids under 4. Your entrance fee includes: soup, cider and bread. Hayrides, live music and scare-crow making will be available. Hot dogs, sodas, coffee, and t-shirts will be sold separately.

Come enjoy this annual event with all the sights, and sounds of autumn!

Calendar of Events -Haunted Farm-

Our Haunted Farm "experience" will be on two weekends this year - Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22—and Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29th, 7:30—10:00 pm each night.

Our theme... "Tales from the Olde Country."

More tales, to entertain and haunt you. Tickets will be \$9.00 at the gate. Children 3 and under are FREE! If you purchase a "family" pack of 5 tickets, in advance, the price will be \$30.00.

Calendar of Events -Christmas Village-

Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd from 6-9 pm each day, Renfrew will present a Christmas Village.

Our Christmas celebration will be an expansion from previous years, involving some outdoor events.. A wagon or sleigh (weather permitting) will take you to the Father Christmas workshop at the Fahnestock house, where you may have your picture taken with Father Christmas.

At the Smokehouse, someone will be cooking up the flavors of Christmas.

Our beautiful museum will again be decorated in period holiday festoons and open for walking through, while the musical sounds of the season will be played.

We will also have stories in the wagon shed; light displays by the picnic area; and carolers strolling through the park. Our Gift shop will be overflowing with items for everyone!



✧ In The Spotlight - Volunteers ✧
-George Buckey -

A very civic minded person, George Buckey became involved with Renfrew Museum in 1984. His dedication has spanned the two decades since, serving on numerous committees and many events, including the Pumpkin Fest from its inception. Presently, Mr. Buckey serves on Renfrew Executive Committee, Renfrew Committee, Inc., Renfrew Budget Committee, and a member of the Development Committee for Renfrew Institute.

The former President of Teledyne-Landis Machine Company, Mr. Buckey maintains a busy retirement schedule. In addition to his involvement with Renfrew, he is also active with the Waynesboro Industrial Museum where his interest is in development of agricultural machinery by local companies.

Mr. Buckey would like to see a continuing strong commitment by the local community, but, with a larger membership and more volunteers.

A resident since 1951, Mr. Buckey lives with his wife Marty in Waynesboro. They have two wonderful grandchildren.

We are grateful for the years of volunteerism George Buckey has given. He will certainly be more than a foot note in the history of Renfrew!



✧ In The Spotlight - Summer Intern ✧
-Sara Ayazi-

A summer intern may be asked to do a variety of undertakings with no previous experience. Our summer intern was Sara Ayazi, who certainly filled the bill!

Whether it was cleaning, organizing, or helping change the road sign, Sara was ready to assist.

Now entered in her senior year at Waynesboro High School, Sara is looking to the future. When she enters college next fall, Sara plans to major in art history. With her appreciation for all antiquities (especially the Renfrew Museum) and natural curiosity about history, Sara will excel in her chosen field of study.

Sara lives in Waynesboro with her parents. She has several older siblings, Samantha, Randy and Azia. Also important in her life is her beloved cat, Orange Juice.

It was a pleasure to have Sara as an intern at Renfrew this summer. The extra set of hands was always welcomed. The beautiful smile and willing "can do" attitude were a wonderful addition. Thank you Sara!





A Park for all Seasons -Renfrew-

Renfrew, "A Park for all Seasons"

It doesn't matter if you visit Renfrew for the first time or too many times to measure, the beauty of the museum and park never cease to amaze. Any season, this treasure is here for you!

In spring, the bloom is almost too much to absorb, with the palette of pastel colors that stimulates the artist in all of us. Pinks, whites, yellows and soft lavenders invite even the most hurried among us to stop a while and marvel.

When summer approaches, the trees provide a canopy of greenery to sit beneath with a good book. Visitors make wish to take a leisurely walk to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season; frogs croaking, birds singing, and yes, humans adding their voices to provide a melodic din that will echo through the years.

As the gold and russet colors appear on the trees, they announce the arrival of autumn. Although the spectacular array of autumnal tones lasts a short time, the memory of them prevails. Many artists are drawn by the splendor and capture the essence of the moment for all to enjoy.

Then comes the stillness of winter, which reflects the peaceful nature at Renfrew during the "sleep" time at the park. When the snows approach they bring a magic of picture perfect scenes. The sparkle from the snow on the trees and grounds, plus the rippling of the creek beckon to all. Come out from your self-imposed hibernation and experience the view.

Emma's Treasures -Changing Galley Exhibit-

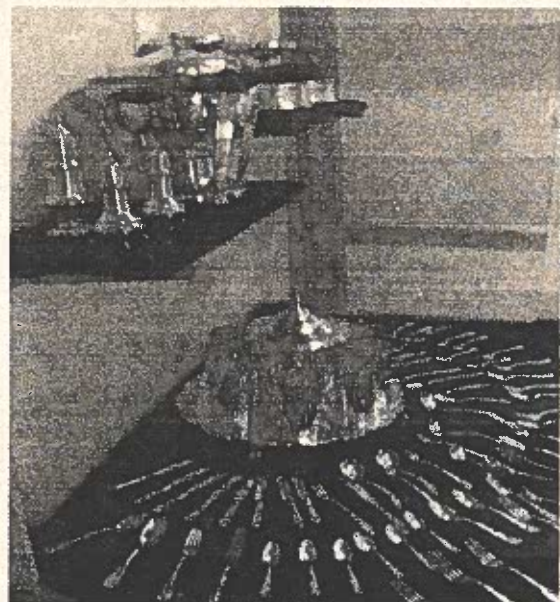
New Exhibit

We have "unveiled" our new exhibit in the Changing Gallery at the museum. The display is named, "Emma's Treasures".

Showcased are articles of fine silver by eleven silversmiths, beautiful china, John Bell pottery, textiles and pewter. Most are from the private collection of Mrs. Emma Nicodemus. We also want to thank Mr. David Hykes for his contributions to the exhibit.

The stunning exhibit will be open until Christmas for all to enjoy. Please stop by for a look!

Kudos and plaudits to Louise Kyser and Red Mohn for all their hard work!

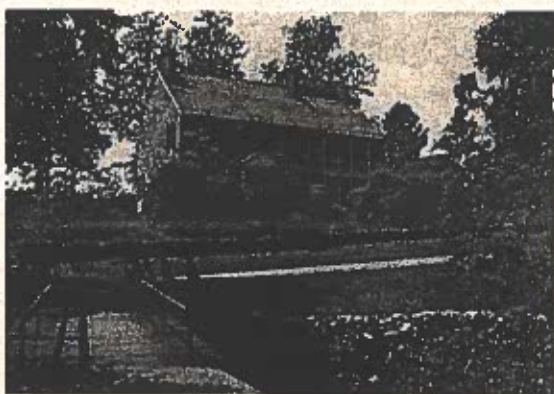




POST CARD
IMAGES



The Barn in winter

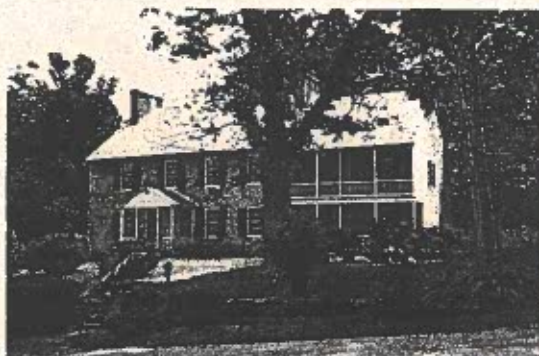


Summertime at Renfrew



The Barn in autumn

FROM
RENFREW



*Springtime views
at Renfrew*



Jacob Wolf Clock Story -Continued-

By the year 1846 Mr. Wolf was considered a silversmith. Unfortunately, there are no examples of Mr. Wolf's silver creations at Renfrew for us to enjoy today.

Because of the generosity of the Greencastle Royer family, Margaret and Barbara Amberson and the estate of Maybelle Criswell Shank, the Jacob Wolf - Waynesburg tall case clocks grace the collection at Renfrew.

All the clocks in the collection at Renfrew were produced before 1831, the year the town name was changed to Waynesboro because of new U.S. postal directives. (The name of Waynesburg was previously given to a town in Western Pennsylvania.)

Little is known as to the origin of Mr. Wolf or when he came to Waynesboro. The first tax assessment for him is in 1824 as a watchmaker. As a side note, pocket watches came into use in 1675 with the introduction of waistcoats. The first wristwatches did not appear until 1900.

In 1864 there was a public sale of Jacob Wolf's household and tools of his trade. The complete set of clock and watch making tools brought \$5.00.

Declining health and failing business activities marked Jacob Wolf's last years. This was culminated by the public sale mentioned above. Mr. Wolf passed away in 1865 at age 70. Both he and his wife Lydia, who passed away in 1866, are buried in Greenhill Cemetery. (They were removed from the Old Union Graveyard.) Much about Jacob Wolf remains a mystery, even today. The one constant that does remain, he was a skilled clockmaker.

Watch & Clock Encyclopedia, Donald Carle, F.B.H.I., Nag Press, Ltd. & Bonanza, 1977.

Crafts of Franklin County, Penna. 1784-1984 William S. Bowers, Irwinton Publishers, 1984.

Renfrew Tidbits -Renfrew's Wish List -

Just as your needs change, so do the items on Renfrew's wish list. Listed below are a few of the "latest" wishes.

Remember all contributions to Renfrew Museum are tax deductible as allowed by law. Thanks for your help!

AV Cart
Book shelves
2 Comfortable office chairs
Local history books
Books on chalk ware
Small farm equipment
Counter top- revolving- post card stand

If you have any of the above-mentioned items or would like to help us purchase one of them, please call the museum at 717-762-4723 and ask to speak with Jim Ross, the Curator.

If you need assistance with a pick up of items, we will be happy to arrange a time.

Thank you for your continued support!



Emma's Treasurers
Another View



First Annual -Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest-

Renfrew Museum in partnership with the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies hosted the first annual Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest on June 4th and 5th on the Renfrew park grounds.

The exhibit was made possible by a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

On Saturday, June 4th there were quite a few would-be potters trying their hand at making pottery. Many thanks to Tom McFarland and the Mont Alto Pottery Cooperative for the assistance with the novice potters.

The talented potters for this first-ever event were: Jack Handshaw, owner of Hobbit House Pottery in Fairfield; Kristin Fay-Taylor of Greencastle; Annemarie Poole and Vivian Ogle of Cloth and Clay, Hagerstown; Christine Souders; Sean Heiges; Beth Hicly, a ceramics major at the University of Arts in Philadelphia; Emily Shoey; Ellen Mancini; and last, but not least, Robert Engle.

Thanks to all the participants and volunteers for a great event. We can hardly wait for the 2nd annual fest next year.



John Bell Exhibit -New Permanent Home-

The grand opening for the new John Bell Exhibit occurred during the Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest. The Bell pottery is now located in the visitors center and is amazing

Thanks to James Smith and the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies for all the support and hard work in this joint venture. James painted, sawed, and hammered, working his magic on the showcase, which is a new permanent home of the Bell pottery.

Now included in the museum tour, the Bell exhibit is spectacular. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to see the new home for the Bell pottery, stop by. You'll be glad you did!





Steve Graham -Master Collector-

A native of Waynesboro, Steve Graham grew up in this picturesque valley doing all the activities youngsters do in a small town; fishing, swimming in the creek, and just enjoying everyday life.

As a young man, Mr. Graham worked in Lehman's Feed Store. Also, he spent many happy hours at Mr. Lehman's farm on Price's Church Road. This was the beginning of an interest that would become a quest.

From the basic knowledge of tools, the desire for antiquities grew. Out of a fascination for old objects, especially everyday items, grew a passion for collecting.

Because of the generosity of Steve Graham in showcasing his collection at Renfrew, children now and in the future will be able to appreciate the "essentials" of everyday life for a farm family.

A broad range of utilitarian objects are contained in the exhibit. Livestock necessities, hay, logging, butchering, barrel making, and articles used by the blacksmith are included. Essential home implements are also dominate the collection.

All the artifacts were used regularly long before power tools or appliances came into use and have lasted the test of time. If it were possible to try your hand at something, even today, you could create a mortise with the twivel. Or perhaps swinging a broadaxe on a log would be your style.

Thanks to the vision of Steve Graham, it is now possible to envision how a long ago farm family lived without leaving the twenty-first century.

Candles... -A Farm Life Necessity-

From the dawn of man, lighting has been a necessity of life. When the sun was not visible, man needed an artificial means of light to exist.

No historical candle making records exist according to Bob Sherman in text from his website, but there are references to early Chinese and Japanese candles made from insects and seeds molded in paper tubes.

In America, the first century A.D. native Americans used oily fish (candlefish) wedged into a forked stick. Early New England inhabitants used bayberries for candle making. The book written by Walter Isaccson, *Benjamin Franklin an American Life*, stated that Franklin's father, one of two candle chandlers in Boston, used beef tallow in his candle making in 1683.

As for the Royer farmstead, beef fat (tallow) rendered from butchering was the basis used for candle making. The wick was lowered into a candle mold and the heated tallow was then added. The introduction of paraffin did not come about until 1830.

Today we have every scent, color, and shape imaginable, whether you just enjoy burning candles or using them as therapy. Quite a difference from the Royer farmstead.

Candle History, Bob Sherman, 1997, via Internet.
Benjamin Franklin An American Life, Walter Isaccson, Simon and Schuster, N.Y. 2003.



Pennsylvania German -Sayings-

When the German immigrants came to America, they brought along many sayings.

After the Germans settled in Pennsylvania a dialect resulted, which became known as Pennsylvania Dutch.

Perhaps you or someone in your family are familiar with, or even use, some of the sayings listed below that were used commonly among the Pennsylvania Germans.

“Wo shmok is is aw feiar.”
Where there is smoke, there is also fire.

“Won mer der hund dreft, bloft er.”
If you hit a dog, he will bark.

“Neia basem kara gut.”
New brooms sweep well.

“Zwa kep sin bes’r os aner, won aw aner en grout kop is.”
Two heads are better than one, even if one is a cabbage head.

“Unne druwel hut mer nix.”
Nothing but trouble.

“Die kinner un die norra sawga de wohert.”
Children and fools tell the truth.

“Fors denka kon em nemond henka.”
No one can be hanged for his thoughts.

Wer net heart muss fiehla.”
He who will not hear must feel.

“War net kumt zu rechta zeit, mus esa wos iwrich bleibt.”
He who not comes in time must eat what remains.
All items from internet.

Pennsylvania German -Lunar Phase Beliefs-

The Pennsylvania Germans had many beliefs regarding lunar phases and how they related to everyday life.

Listed below are some of those thoughts on the moon phases and how they translated to everyday activities.

Sweep the house in the dark of the moon (New Moon) and you will have neither moths nor spiders.

Shingle the roof in the decrease of the moon (between Full Moon and the next New Moon) so that the shingles are put on when the horns of the moon are turned down, and they will warp and rise up. The same holds good for boardwalks.

The number of snows during winter is indicated by the number of days from the first snow in fall to the following Full Moon.

Trees planted at Full Moon will bear very well.

Plant peas and potatoes in the increase of the moon.

The meat of animals slaughtered in the increase of the moon will not shrink in the pot or in curing.

Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers, An Epic of Early American Science, Industry, and Craftsmanship, George H. Eckhardt, The Devin-Adair Company—1955.



Renfrew's -Gift Showcase Shop-

Our gift shop at Renfrew is abundant with items to tempt almost anyone. Whether your interest lies in baskets, gourds, rag dolls or roosters, we can offer those and so much more!

With Christmas approaching look for our new "batch" of gourd birdfeeders and pumpkins. They make great gifts!

Do stop by, to look around, do some serious shopping, or just say, "hello".

Our gift shop is open Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm. "Shopaholics" are always welcome!



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

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