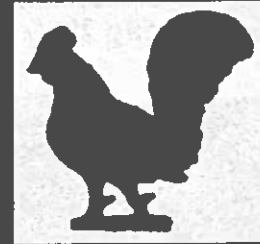


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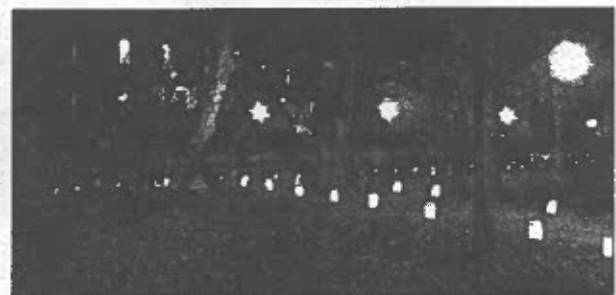
Winter/ Spring 2005

Renfrew Museum in 2005 New Exhibits, Programs and Events

Renfrew Museum has many new and exciting things planned for 2005. This should be a watershed year for the Renfrew family in many ways.

The Museum will host the Cumberland Valley Pottery Festival, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, at Renfrew Park. The event is a cooperative effort between Renfrew Museum and Park and the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies at Penn State Mont Alto. The festival will feature regional artisans selling their works, pottery demonstrations by Jack Handshaw, Tom McFarland and members of the Mont Alto Pottery Cooperative and a silent auction.

The Pottery Festival will also help launch the museum's new John Bell Pottery Exhibit in the Visitor's Center. This exhibit was made possible by a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. James Smith of The Nicodemus Center and James Ross Renfrew's Curator and Director have been collaborating on this project to bring Franklin County a



premium pottery exhibit. This new exhibit will compliment Renfrew's new gift shop area that was opened in the barn last year.

Renfrew Park will not host the corn maze this year. This decision was made in order to give the fields an opportunity to recover from the annual planting of corn. However, Pumpkin Fest is still planned for October 15th and will be another big success.

2004 saw the start of a new event at Renfrew Park. "The Great Haunted Farm" captivated hundreds of visitors a night for three nights in a row. Visitors walked through a series of scenes depicting the legends and folklore of Franklin County. This event was so popular that it is going to be expanded in 2005. The event will be held on October 22nd, 23rd, 29th, and 30th, 2005. Museum staff and volunteers will also double the number of interpretive scenes to account for the lack of a haunted corn maze on these nights.

The final new event planned for 2005 will be Renfrew's Christmas Village. This festive holiday event will be held on December 3rd and 4th. This event will feature a Holiday Woods Walk and greater use of the museum outbuildings with an emphasis on helping the public meet some of its gift buying needs. We hope to see everyone in 2005!

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Spotlight On Museum's Map Committee

MAP projects making great progress

The MAP program is a systematic assessment of a museum's operations. The ultimate goal of this assessment is to help an organization streamline operations and better serve the public. When the original assessment was completed, a committee was formed to act on as many of the recommendations as possible.

Renfrew's MAP committee is currently chaired by George Buckey. Other committee members include Red Mohn, Alice McCleaf, Willard Rahn and James Ross.

The committee reviewed and revised the museum's mission statement. This new statement can be seen on the last page of this and all future newsletters. As you will see, the new statement accurately reflects the museum's broadening goals and varied collections.

One of the largest projects the committee tackled was the creation of Directors' Handbooks for board members. These handbooks contain vital information for board members including property maps, by-laws, management plans, contact information, Renfrew history, budget and salary information, collections policies, rental policies, and job descriptions. These flexible ring binders were assembled by Alice McCleaf and can be expanded in the future.

The MAP committee also oversaw the creation of a Public Relations Committee. This committee will help Renfrew staff work on press releases, and organize newsletter information.

One of the suggestions made during the assessment portion of the MAP project was the urgent need for the museum to have a new accessions policy. The museum's curator, James Ross, researched other museum's policies and crafted one that is tailor-made to suit the needs of Renfrew.

Another project started by MAP was a comprehensive marketing plan. In April, 2004, Renfrew implemented "Project Open Doors." This is a visitor-based marketing plan that has resulted in expanded hours, improved signage, improved media relations and an expanded gift shop. "Project Open Doors 2" will begin in April 2005.

An additionally large project accomplished by the MAP committee was the creation of site plans, utility locations, historic area designations, security plans, and emergency plans. Committee member Red Mohn worked on all of these and saw them through to completion.

All of these accomplishments have been submitted to the appropriate boards for approval. MAP committee will continue to meet on an annual basis to assess the success of this program's suggestions.

OVERVIEW OF MAP COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. REVIEWED AND REVISED RENFREW MUSEUM'S MISSION STATEMENT
2. IMPROVED AND UPDATED MASTER PLAN FOR MAINTENANCE
3. CREATED AND PROVIDED REC DIRECTORS' HANDBOOKS.
4. CREATED A PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
5. FACILITATED THE UPDATING OF THE GUIDEBOOK MATERIALS
6. CREATED A NEW ACCESSIONS POLICY
7. DEVELOPED A MARKETING PLAN
8. DEVELOPED SITE PLANS, UTILITY LOCATIONS AND HISTORIC AREA DESIGNATION



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- Park Information -
Work on Fahnestock House Continues

Last year work by the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps accelerated the progress on the restoration of Renfrew Museum's Fahnestock House. The work has taken place literally from the ground up.

The basement floor was replaced with a new brick surface, the basement walls have received a thick layer of horse hair plaster and paint and all of the basement doors and windows have been replaced.

A brand new furnace and climate control system is now installed in the house. This system not only keeps the house at a steady temperature, but also helps to regulate humidity. The staff also worked to hide the pipes and ducts in the house to keep as much of the early 1800's feel as possible.

All walls and fire places have been completely restored on the main floor of the house. In some cases window sills had to be built from scratch or constructed with some of the original materials. The first floor received a new exterior door and some major ceiling work.

In addition, the top floor has received some much needed attention. Large sections of the floor have been replaced, and Ronald Harbaugh will be spending a large part of the winter months fixing and painting the walls in the rooms.

All of this work has multiplied our interpretive opportunities with this building, and staff and volunteers are very excited to get started.



An older "before" picture of the Fahnestock house.



* Curator's Corner *
Recording The Steve Graham Collection

Former Franklin County resident, Steven Graham, is an avid collector of agricultural artifacts. Over the past 2 years he has traveled to Renfrew from his home on the Eastern Shore with truck loads of farming tools and implements for use at Renfrew.

The staff will be constructing a new holding area for all these artifacts on the second floor of the barn. This will be covered with plastic to protect the artifacts so they can be sorted.

After the objects are sorted into use categories, staff and volunteers will record each object with a number that corresponds to the museum's collections database. Listed below are the various categories and examples of some objects.

I want to personally thank Steve Graham for this outstanding collection, and we hope to have it on display around the farm soon.

Graham Collection Examples

Blacksmith Artifacts -

Hammers, anvils, wagon wheel rims

Wheat and Flax Artifacts

Flax Brakes, sickles etc.

Livestock Artifacts

Harness, bridles etc.

Butchering Artifacts

Kettles, drums, knives

Household Artifacts

Hinges, doors, rolling pins and much more!



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Renfrew Museum's Revised Mission Statement

1. Exhibit and interpret the Emma Nicodemus and John Bell collections

display the Emma Geiser Nicodemus Collection of Decorative Arts within a pre-1830s, domestic setting; exhibit and interpret the country's leading public collection of John Bell and Bell family pottery; preserve and enhance these collections through the acquisition of objects relevant to their interpretation.

2. Develop and interpret The Royer Pennsylvania German Farmstead

preserve, restore, develop, research, and interpret the Pennsylvania German farmstead built by Daniel Royer and his family during the period from the 1790s to the 1830s, extant on Renfrew's 107 acres; furnish and complete this farmstead with artifacts from the Nicodemus collection; acquire additional objects of the period to enhance the multiple facets of history addressed by the farmstead interpretation.

3. Protect and enhance the natural environment of Renfrew

preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of Renfrew Park; serve as the landlord of, and work in cooperation with, the Renfrew Institute for Cultural and Environmental Studies; promote an understanding and stewardship of our natural environment.

4. In conjunction with Renfrew Institute, promote stewardship of cultural and natural history

promote an understanding and stewardship of the cultural and natural history of Waynesboro and its environs; collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the material culture of this area in a manner that complements and enhances the development of Renfrew Museum and Park as a local public resource.

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