

der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane



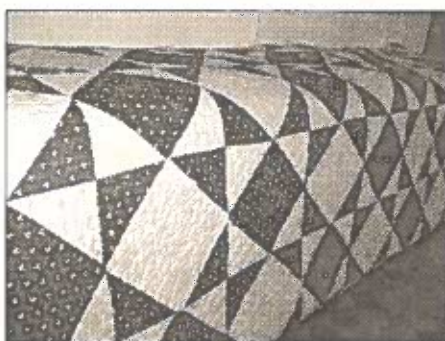
Volume XVI, Issue III The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Fall 2008

Quilts on Display...History in fabric

History takes many forms including oral, written and artifacts. We learn a great deal from the items used in everyday life by our ancestors.

One aspect of early life in America was the quilt. Both decorative and functional, the pioneer women used scraps of fabric to create the patchwork quilt. It decorated the bed, and provided warmth for the sleeper.



What exactly is a quilt? A quilt is made of two layers of fabric with batting in-between the layers. The top layer is usually pieced in a design or pattern. The bottom layer is usually one solid color piece, which is held together with the other two layers by thread stitches, referred to as quilting.

-IN THIS ISSUE -

Feature- Quilts on Display ...history in fabric
Page 1

Have you seen the pavilion?; A Special Evening...
The Historic Forbes Trail Page 2

A Visit with the tanner, Edward Pichler Page 3

"As the autumn leaves fall, memories of summer
linger Pages 4 & 5

Pumpkin Fest- 2008; Spotlight of Visitors Ser-
vices; An Invitation from Visitor Services; Cum-
berland Valley Pottery Fest- 2008 Page 6

Recognition of Individuals and Contributors; Ren-
frew Committee, and Renfrew Executive Commit-
tee members; Renfrew Staff, 2008 Docent List;
Garden Volunteer List; In Remembrance Page 7

Renfrew Gift Showcase; Upcoming Events Page 8

The essential element in quilting during the 1700's and 1800's was the quilting frame, or "basting" frame. With friends to help, the task that could be quite tedious turned into a much enjoyed social gathering.

In our Changing Gallery the focus is on the quilt collection at Renfrew, where each quilt has a definite style and color combination. If you are into quilting, or know someone who is a quilter, do stop by to see this display of an American original, the quilt!





**Have you seen
the pavilion?**

Have you looked at the pavilion in the park at Renfrew lately? If not, do take a second look. Thanks to the Lions Club of Waynesboro the pavilion has a new roof.

On Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28th, the Lions Club ripped off the old roof and replaced it with a new shingle roof. The work was carried out with great precision and team work.

Dee Mullen, wife of the President of the Waynesboro Lions Club, prepared food for the workers on both days of the project. There were some very happy, well-fed workers because of her effort.

To give a background on the history of the pavilion, in 1984 the Waynesboro Lions Club offered to build a picnic pavilion for Renfrew. The dedication ceremony was on June 29, 1985, and the pavilion was then given to the Borough.

The Rouzerville Lions Club built the picnic tables, which gave the pavilion a 150-seating capacity. The tables are still in use today.

Thank you to everyone who participated in installing the roof, from all at Renfrew and all who will enjoy the pavilion for years to come.

Thank you also to Bonded Applicators for supplying a dump truck to take away all the materials from the old roof.

Notable Quote

*Gratitude is the fairest blossom which
springs from the soul.*
Henry Ward Beecher



"a face to love"

**A Special Evening...
The Historic Forbes Trail**

On Thursday, September 11th, a very special event will transpire. A joint sponsorship by Renfrew Museum and Park and Waynesboro Historical Society will be presented at Quincy Village. This "partnership" will be a celebration of the 250th anniversary of the historic Forbes Trail in Pennsylvania.

In the beautiful Hess Room at Quincy Village our presentation will begin with dinner at 6:30pm— selections include:

- Cesar salad
- Garlic bread with butter
- Combination plate entrée' Salmon en Croute with creamy dill dressing
- Marinated flat iron steak
- Roasted red bliss potatoes
- Corn and red peppers
- Chocolate cup with pastry cream and fresh fruit
- Coffee/ hot tea/ iced tea
- Vegetarian plate available (please request when your r.s.v.p.)

Reservations must be made to Renfrew Museum and Park at 717-762-4723 (with dinner selection). Payments will be made to: Quincy Village, Att: Sue Smith, Director of Community Life/Volunteer Services- Forbes Trail Dinner, 6596 Orphanage Road, P.O. Box 27, Quincy, Pa 17247-0217.

At 7:30pm Burt Kummerow, author of "Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh". Mr. Kummerow is a historian, popular speaker, public television producer, and museum director.

After the lecture, Mr. Kummerow will have books available for a book signing.

Do join us for this special evening on the Forbes Trail that was so steeped in U.S. history— the French and Indian War involving Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna; the Revolutionary War in Valley Forge; the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in Philadelphia; a Civil War turning point at Gettysburg; gateway to the west in Pittsburgh; United Flight 93 National Memorial in the Laurel Highlands.

P.S. Renfrew Museum and Park is also included in the book, including a photo of our permanent John Bell Exhibit.



**A Visit with the tanner,
Edward Pichler**

Ed Pilcher is a journeyman tanner, who did his apprenticeship in his native Austria. Born in 1932, he began tanning in 1949. He met his wife, from Germany, while living in Switzerland. Their first child is a Swiss citizen. Not knowing English and with no job, they moved to Toronto, Canada, where Ed found work in a tannery. Ed said he learned more there than he had in Austria. The couple's second child is Canadian. Tanning jobs then led them to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Durham in New Hampshire. The third child is an American! In 1981, this international family next moved to Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Ed's specialty encompassed the finishing of leather. With his considerable skills, he was invited back to work at both Durham and Milwaukee (twice) before he retired from Mercersburg's Loewengarts Tannery after 42 years as a tanner. He and his wife still reside in Mercersburg.

What does this have to do with Renfrew? Most of you know that Daniel Royer was a tanner, as was his father before him, and his son after his death in 1838. Tax records show that a Royer was in the tanning business from at least 1780 until 1860. The tannery, located where we presently enjoy the picnic grounds, was a major source of income for Daniel. Again, tax records show this income with the peak year in 1814, when an income of \$24,430 was reported. The museum is in the process of developing an interpretation of this important feature of the farm to the public.

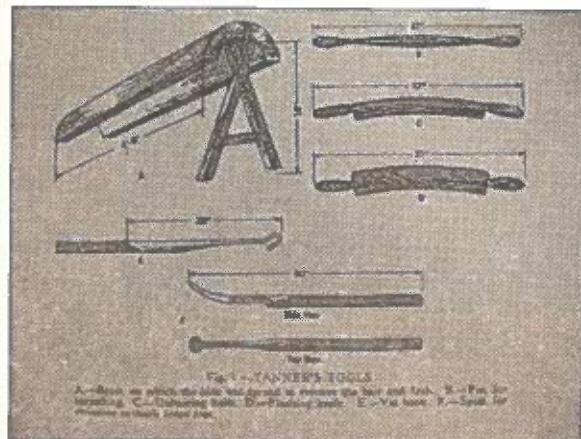
This is where Ed Pilcher come in. He is a wealth of information...and a nice guy...with a delightful Austrian accent. We have shared with him parts of the archeological research that Will Sheppard did here at Renfrew, culminating in his Master's Thesis in 1988 (itself a wonderful source of information.) Will's work was scholarly. Ed lived it. He confirmed much of the information and expanded upon the actual applications of it. Even though he lived and worked a century later, Ed still used some of the methods of Daniel's era. He has a knowledge of methods that had been replaced by his working years. In Short, Ed is a walking encyclopedia of information about this topic.

Ed was contacted and agreed to come to the museum to talk to us. It was a most interesting and enjoyable two hours! Some tidbits:

- The first process (of over 100) was to wash the hide directly in the creek.
- Next comes many trips back and forth from the lime solution pits to the workshed, where leftover flesh, fat, and hair were scraped from the hide.
- Through increasingly strong lime solutions, the hide would swell to become 1/2 to 1 inch thick and feel wet bread dough.
- To shrink and preserve them, the hides are put through increasingly potent "tan pits". In these, pulverized bark (pine or oak) was spread upon the hide then layered in the water-filled pits. For especially hard leather, like that used for shoe soles, ground acorns would be used.
- First quality leather is "grained" referring to the outer side of the animals hide.
- Second quality leather comes by splitting the hide into a grained and "split" leather.
- Different applications of leather demand different processes along the line.
- A tannery stinks, but the check on Friday is sweet.

The museum plans to place a plaque in the area of the tannery to help visitors begin to understand this critical industry. A brochure is also in the works to further explain and illustrate a tannery's important contribution to life in the 1800's. With Ed's considerable knowledge and experience, our task will be easier... and pleasant as we progress.

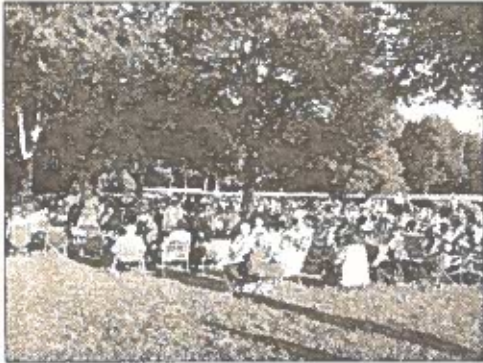
Funding for interpreting the tannery site is being provided by a generous gift from Bill Gelbach. He was thoroughly delighted to be present during our conversation with Ed. Pichler.



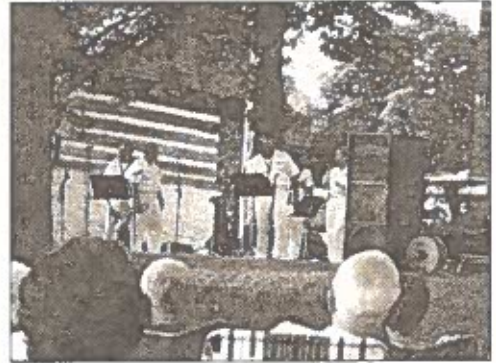
"tanner's tools"



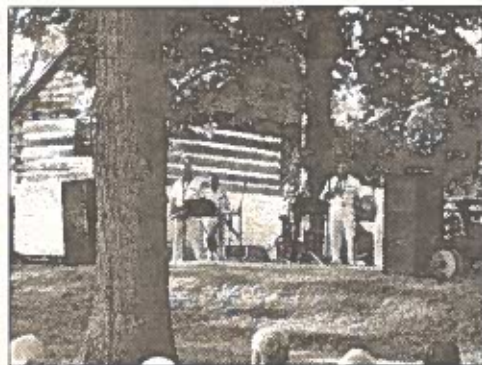
As the autumn leaves fall,



“enjoying the concert”



“reaching the notes”



“strike up the band”



“milkhouse - in need of repair”



“milkhouse - in repair”



memories of summer linger.

BLI '08



“blocks”



“tulips”



“crazy quilt”



“squares”



“triangles”



Pumpkin Fest—2008

October 18th offers the annual Pumpkin Fest at Renfrew. Offered by Renfrew Museum and Park and Renfrew Institute, this very family friendly festival brings fun, food, and entertainment.

The Twin Hill Express Band will once again bring pleasure to all, with their lively musical style.

The trebuchet will once again hurl pumpkins to the astonishment of the crowd.

If face painting, hayrides, scarecrow making, and a petting zoo are things you like to do, this is the place for you.

Our baking contest will this year feature anything pumpkin. If you have a great family recipe (maybe Mom's or Grandma's) for pumpkin bread, muffins, cake, pie, or whatever pumpkin, this contest is for you! (Remember all baked goods must be from scratch.)

Spotlight on Visitors Services

During 32 years of teaching at the elementary level, his students called him Mr. North. The schoolchildren coming to Renfrew call him Uncle Tietam. Friends and visitors learn his name is Bob. The IRS knows him as John R. North, and he doesn't bother to tell them the difference!

Bob has partly replaced Sue Smith, who has moved to a new job at Quincy Village. Partly, since Sue was full time and Bob is hired as a part-time employee. He is finding that Sue was doing quite a job here and doing it well. As a part-timer, Bob will try to keep the more visible and important tasks ongoing. He also is trying to take some of the daily burden off our Administrator, Bonnie Iseminger. For questions about tours, pavilion rentals, weddings, volunteers (present and prospective), or 'most anything else you would like to know about here at the museum, call Bob.

If you want to know his pedigree or credentials, call Bonnie, not the IRS.

Contributed by his wife, Aunt Tietam

An Invitation from Visitors Services

Renfrew is promoting an expanded tour opportunity. In addition to our house tour, we want to open our doors to the outbuildings. Step into the cool lower level of the Milkhouse, learn how the milk was chilled, processed, and stored as butter and cheese. Upstairs of the mystery of the wooden spout-to-nowhere!

The Smokehouse has two levels. Most likely the lower level was used as a multipurpose work room. After butchering, the open hearth was used to provide smoke to the upper level. There, you can see the mechanics of diverting the smoke. And use your imagination to envision blue curls of hickory smoke wafting out from under the eaves.

Have you wanted to get into the Fahnestock Barn? Just ask. The "outbuildings tour" will open another perspective as you learn about nineteenth century life.

Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest—2008

Saturday, September 13th marks the fourth Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest at Renfrew Park. From the hours of 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. this combined event between Renfrew Museum and Park and the Nicodemus Center features local ceramists from the Cumberland Valley Pottery Guild. The varied styles offered by the potters will suit everyone's décor.

Members of the Mont Alto Pottery Cooperative will be in attendance to assist all those who want to try their hand at making a pottery piece. This is a special part of the event for all in the family to participate.

The Home Comfort Band from Sabillasville, Maryland will be performing during the fest. Their music has delighted festivals in communities thorough-out the region.

Plan to make the Pottery Fest part of your fall agenda.

**The Weathervane, Page 7
Fall 2008**



**Recognition of Individuals and Business
Organizations for Recent Contributions to
Renfrew Museum and Park
THANK YOU!**

Replacement of the pavilion roof- Waynesboro Lions Club
Dump truck for removal of old roofing material- Bonded
Applicators
Additions to the Steck/Graham Collection- Steve Graham
All our volunteers who give so freely of their time to
Renfrew Museum and Park in all capacities- we couldn't
do it without all of you.
Donation in memory of Edith Marie Mohn- Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Wolff
Donation for Traveling Trunk Program- Steve Graham
Assistance with new quilt exhibit: Richard "Red Mohn",
Allie Kohler, Alice McCleaf, and Virginia Rahn

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Docents -2008**

Bonnie Barlup	Virginia Rahn
Anna Harford	Carole E. Rau
Lauren Hood (Smith)	Helen Shelley
Mia Hoover	Roy Struble
Carolyn Krouse	Betty Waring
Phyllis King	Louise West
Eleanor (Ellie) Miller	Peggy Wright
Margaret Neibeiger	
Anita Pfeuffer	
Gretchen Potochney	

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Garden Volunteers-2008**

Phyllis Croson
Bob Waring
Judy Welterlen

Cricket

Cricket
Slow chirping
The passing of fall,
Fading of summer,
Winds bringing winter,
Spring?
Past recall.
All nature listens, and
Cricket,
Slow,slow...
Slow chirping
The passing of all.

JRN 10/99

**Renfrew Committee, Inc.
Members-2008**

John W. Keller, President
Douglas Tengler, 2nd Vice President
David Hykes-Director
George Buckey-Director
Edgar Hykes-Director
Allison "Allie" Kohler-Director
Brenda Kline, 1st Secretary
Alice McCleaf, Director & Assistant Secretary
George P. Buckey, Treasurer

**Renfrew Executive Committee
Members-2008**

David Hykes, Chairman
George Buckey- Treasurer
Richard "Red" Mohn
Thomas Moore
Allison "Allie" Kohler
Virginia Rahn
Steve Graham

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Staff-2008**

Bonnie Iseminger-Administrator
John Frantz-Supervisor of Buildings and
Grounds
Bob North- Supervisor or Visitor Services
Ron Harbaugh-Building and Grounds
Personnel

**Interested in becoming a volunteer?
Give us a call! We have many
opportunities!
717-762-4723.**

**In Remembrance of
Edith M. (Kline) Mohn**

Mrs. Edith (Kline) Mohn who passed
away on Monday, July 14th, 2008, the
mother of REC Board member, Richard
"Red" Mohn.



**Renfrew's
Gift Showcase**

Current Gift Shop hours are: Tuesday through Friday noon until 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours are 1:00 p.m. until 4 p.m., and closed on Mondays.

Exciting new items offered in the Gift shop are: beautiful note cards by Yvonne Leasure, and painting on tin, wood and canvas items by Donna Crissman.

Also now available is the new book, Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: "Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh."

"der Wetterhahn" Contributors
Bonnie Iseminger—Editor
Spotlight on Visitor Services-Aunt Tietam
Invitation from Visitors Services; A Visit with a Tanner-
Bob North
Photos- Bonnie Iseminger and Bob North

**Renfrew
Upcoming Events**

Mark your calendars for these events:

September 11th -6:30 Renfrew Museum and Waynesboro Historical Society dinner and lecture at Quincy Village. Details page 2.

September 13th- 10:00a.m. until 5:00 p.m.- Fourth Annual Cumberland Valley Pottery Festival- a joint event with the Nicodemus Center.-More details page 6.

October 18—11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.- Annual family event! More information page 6.

December 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and December 6 2:00 -4:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m., annual Christmas Open House at Renfrew.

der
Wetterhahn

Renfrew Museum and Park
1010 East Main Street •Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717)762-4723 Email: renfrew@innernet.net
Website: www.renfrewmuseum.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waynesboro, PA
17268
Permit No. 405

