## der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane



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

Summer 2008

## A Summer Serenade...Pavy Style

June 21st is the longest day of the year. It is also a very special day for Renfrew Museum and Park.

Thanks to as sponsorship from the Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Renfrew Museum and Park will host a performance by the Navy Cruisers.

Part of the groups which are under the banner of the Navy Band, the Navy Cruisers are versatile and in much demand. They have delighted audiences worldwide, including the Norwegian Military Tattoo in 2004.

The band is in constant demand for military and government officials, as well as organizations from all over the country.

#### -IN THIS ISSUE -

Feature -A Summer Serenade...Navy Style Page 1

Reflections on Bell Pottery; Bell Family Trivia
Questions Page 2

Wish List; Update on Renfrew Memberships; A
Memorable Visit Page 3

"No winter lasts forever...No spring skips its turn"
Pages 4 & 5

A season of changes; Have you seen?...; Bell Family Trivia Answers Page 6

Recognition of Individuals and Contributors; Renfrew Committee, and Renfrew Executive Committee members; Renfrew Staff, 2008 Docent List;

Garden Volunteer List

Page 7

Renfrew Gift Showcase; Upcoming Events Page 8



Playing a variety of music, this 8-piece ensemble, under the direction of Senior Chief Musician John L. Fisher, will have your toes tapping, and perhaps singing along to the familiar tunes. Whether your musical preference is 50's, 60's, Motown, rhythm and blues, or today's top 40 hits, the Cruisers will fill your musical desires.

Also to add to this special evening, Antietam Dairy (a business member of Renfrew Museum and Park) will serve ice cream. This "treat" is also because of the generosity of the Franklin County Visitors Bureau.

Mark your calendars for this FREE event. Saturday, June 21 from 7:00p.m. until 8:15pm. Join us in back of the Museum house.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR LAWN CHAIRS!

Note: In case of rain, the concert will be held in the auditorium of Waynesboro Middle School.

Many thanks to the Waynesboro Fire Department for their valuable assistance with parking for this performance.

#### The Weathervane, Page 2 Summer 2008

## Reflections on Bell Family Pottery

On March 19th, 2008 there was a very special lecture on John Bell Family pottery by Dr. Eugene Comstock, a recognized expert on not only Bell pottery, but, Shenandoah pottery.

The Bell family (Beall original spelling) lived in Hagerstown, Maryland when John was born in 1800. His father, Peter Bell was a well-to-do potter in the area. Unfortunately, the elder Bell was not a good businessman. He did not collect on debts owed, and eventually had to go to Winchester, Virginia and open a new business. The Bell potters, along with other local potters in Hagerstown used tin in the glazing process, the earliest dated use in the United States to do so.

John Bell was a master potter at the age of 13 years. By the age of 14 he was making the 2-day trip from Hagerstown to Winchester and back by himself to deliver pottery.

John Bell worked for a time in Chambersburg. Under the guidance of Jacob Hart, John Bell learned the English techniques he needed to help compete. Until that time Bell had learned only the German techniques. The skills learned from Hart would help Bell create molded pieces he had not experimented with previously.

In the permanent exhibit of Bell pottery in the Visitor Center at Renfrew is the water cooler which John Bell made. The cooler was made from the actual mold created by Charles Conson, a British immigrant, and the most celebrated potter in America in the 1800's—that time, Conson was working for the re-nowned Bennett Brothers in Baltimore.

In 1833 John Bell opened his shop in Waynesboro, PA and worked there until his death in 1880. A prolific artist, Bell was inventive, and a good citizen of the community.

In Dr. Comstock's opinion, John Bell was the most outstanding American potter of his time. He compared Bell's work to that of Josiah Wedgwood, the famous British potter. What an interesting and exciting thought!

No nation was ever ruined by trade.

Benjamin Franklin

"Thoughts on Commercial Subjects"



#### Bell Family Trivia

- In what year did John Bell marry?
- 2. What was the name of John Bell's wife?
- 3. What were the names of the John Bell children?
- 4. What were the names of Bell's brothers who were potters?
- 5. Which John Bell son worked for his uncles in Strausburg?
- 6. What year was John Bell confirmed?
- 7. In what church did Bell's confirmation take place?
- 8. Which of John Bell's children carried on the pottery after his death in 1880?
- 9. What happened to the pottery in 1899?
- 10. What technique did Bell teach his brother from from Strausburg?
- 11. What story prevails today about a give-a-way from John Bell?
- 12. What "mold" does Renfrew have in the permanent collection?
- 13. In what year did John Bell start producing stoneware?
- 14. When precisely did John Bell die?
- 15. Where is John Bell buried?
- 16. What rare piece of pottery can be found in the permanent collection of Bell pottery at Renfrew?
- 17. What pottery piece found in the Renfrew collection is known by a different name?
- 18. What color, not used by others, was being used by John Bell in glazes?

#### The Weathervane, Page 3 Summer 2008

#### Renfrew Museum and Park Wish List-2008

Large cooler

Flint drinking glasses for dining room(pre-1840)
Period items for children's bedroom
Counter-top revolving post card stands
Pewter or wood plates for kitchen
Pre-1840 drinking glasses for kitchen
Quilt racks or drying racks
Local history books
If you have any of the above-mentioned items or would like to help us purchase one of them, please call the museum—717-762-4723 and ask to speak with Bonnie Iseminger, the Administrator.
If you need assistance with a pick up of items, we

If you have any item, dated prior to 1840, you would like to donate, we would love to talk with you!

will be happy to arrange a time.

## Update on Renfrew Memberships

Life Membership Barbara Kercheval Betty Thompson

Individual Membership Bonnie Barlup Cheryl M. Bomar

Donor Membership Charlene Balistrere Grace M. Baylor Carolyn Boyer Ruth W. Pflager Anita Pfeuffer Helen Shelley

Family Membership Lou and Jackie Barlup Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shook Betty and Bob Waring

**Standard Business Membership** Johnson Controls



#### A Memorable Occasion

Saturday, April 5th was a special day at Renfrew. We had a visit from the Members of the Friends of Royer Mansion from Williamsburg, PA. Two members, George Dempsie and Patty Hatch, gave a power point presentation on the Royer Mansion to our "experienced" docents.

Much was learned about the Royer Mansion and the connection to the Royer farmstead here in Waynesboro.

Daniel Royer and his brother John (who was from Centre County) built Cove Forge on the Juniata River. The year was 1811 and the industrious brothers would not stop there. In 1815 they bought part of Springfield Farm on Piney Creek and established Springfield Furnace.

The Royer farmstead history states that Daniel built his house in 1812 and added the kitchen in 1815.

About 1820, the brothers Royer purchased more land, including the stone house that would become the Royer Mansion in Williamsburg. Then, in 1821, Daniel's son Samuel moved into the house with his first wife Sarah. That union produced 6 children and unfortunately Sarah passed away in 1832.

Samuel remarried a woman named Martha in 1835 and had 4 more children. He passed away during the Civil War years (1864) and the house remained in family hands until 1965.

The house was sold to the PA Fish Commission, which planned to use it as a fish hatchery. The project languished, and in 1984 the Blair County Historical Society purchased the site for \$1.00. (This is thanks to a motivating force, George Dempsie, who persevered in saving the mansion.)

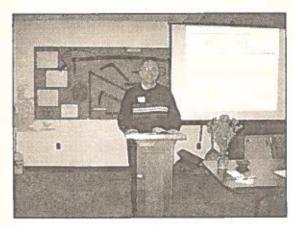
Today, the Friends of Royer Mansion maintain loving care of the house and property. It is a lovely experience to visit the site.

We so enjoyed having Patty Hatch, George Dempsie, Don Dietz, Susan Tremmel, and Betsy Domitrovich visit on this very memorable occasion.

Note: Please see pictures on page 4.



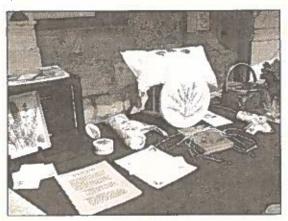
## "What is so rare as



the rest of the story, by George Dempsie



enthralled audience



lovely botanical imprinting



making shaker boxes



glass bead treasures

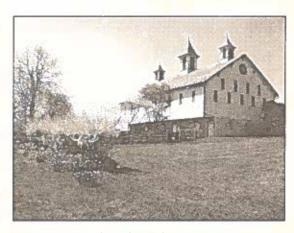


# a day in June"

James Russell Lowell



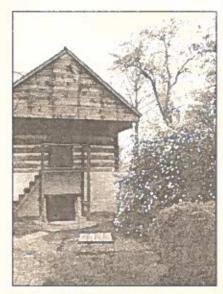
driveway with a view



the colors of spring



forsythia's springtime bloom



water pump "before"



water pump "after"

#### The Weathervane, Page 6 Summer 2008

## A Season of Changes

Things never stay the same, and change is inevitable!

Just as spring is turning into summer, there are changes occurring here at Renfrew Museum and Park.

Sue Smith, the Supervisor of Visitors Services has taken a position as a Director of Community Life and Volunteer Services at Quincy Village. This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity for her.

During Sue's time here she, as Emeril LaGasse would say, "kicked up our programming a notch". For that we are grateful and wish her all the best in any and all endeavors in her new position and life.

Another change after many years of serving on the Park Committee, both George Buckey (President) and Willard Rahn (Committee member) have both announced they are retiring from the group. They have been very instrumental in forming and maintaining the facility we call Renfrew Museum and Park. It is with the deepest gratitude that we acknowledge all they have done to make this a haven for all to enjoy. Well done, George and Willard, and thank you!

#### Have you Seen?...

Have you seen our new "old" water pump in front of the milk house?

We installed the water pump this spring as another interpretation of the milk house and the pump. Because the milk house did not have a spring underneath, water would have to be transported to the trough in the lower portion of the milk house for the diary items which were kept there.

The pump will add to a more complete history of the Royer family farmstead.

Note: Please see a before and after picture of the milk house area on page 5.



## Bell Family Trivia – Answers

- 1. John Bell married in 1825 in Winchester, VA
- 2. Bells' wife was Elizabeth Fry.
- John W., Mary Elizabeth, Edward, Henrietta, Matilda, Charles, Upton, Victor and Margaret.
- 4. His brothers were Solomon and Samuel.
- 5. Bell's son Edward worked for his uncles.
- 6. Bell was confirmed in the year 1820.
- 7. The church Bell was confirmed in was St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Hagerstown.
- 8. Bell's sons John W., Charles, Victor and Upton carried on the pottery business.
- 9. The pottery business was severely damaged by Fire on December 19, 1899.
- Bell taught Solomon the technique of making figurines of earthenware painted to look like plaster-of-Paris (chalkware).
- 11. A barrel of little ornaments were handed out to children when they visited the pottery.
- 12. A "bird" mold created by Charles Cronson- a mentor of Bell.
- 13. Bell began producing "faux" stoneware in 1850.
- 14. Bell died on January 21, 1880.
- 15. Bell is buried in Green Hill Cemetery.
- 16. The rare piece of pottery is the picture frame.
- 17. The "Whippet" is the pottery piece. Whippets were not bred until after Bell's time. They were really greyhound.
- 18. Cobalt was the color used in the glazes.

#### The Weathervane, Page 7 Summer 2008

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

Presentation on Royer Mansion-George Dempsie and Patti Hatch Donations to the Steck-Graham Collection Steve Graham Rug brochure development- David Hykes Dog Registrations at Yard Sale- Helen Shelley David Hykes and Richard Mohn for operating table-Yard Sale "Opening Day Volunteers" who made the day a success-Virginia Rahn, Ellie Miller, Gretchen Potocheny, and Peggy Wright Wheelbarrow donation-Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hammond Copper cap on wooden well pump-Mr. Robert North Watercolor print-Wheat Harvest-Mr. Charles Brown Joe Shoemaker, Ed Beard, Sharon Magee, Anita Pfueffer, Becky Dietrich and Charles Brown-for participating in Opening Day for the 33rd season at Renfrew Museum and Park-see pictures page 4 Many hours dedicated to inventory-Richard "Red" Mohn and Alice McCleaf Proof reading skills-Carole Rau

#### Renfrew Museum and Park Docents -2008

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

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Give us a call! We have many opportunities!

717-762-4723.



Renfrew Committee, Inc. Members-2008

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

Renfrew Executive Committee
Members-2008

David Hykes, Chairman George Buckey Sue Smith, Acting Secretary Steve Graham Richard "Red" Mohn Thomas Moore Allison "Allie" Kohler Virginia Rahn Charles Strausbaugh, Treasurer

> Renfrew Museum and Park Staff-2008

Bonnie Iseminger-Administrator
John Frantz-Supervisor of Buildings and
Grounds
Ron Harbaugh-Building and Grounds
Personnel

Renfrew Museum and Park Garden Volunteers-2008

Phyllis Croson Bob Waring Judy Welterlen

#### The Weathervane, Page 8 Summer 2008

### Renfrew's Gift Showcase

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

There are quite a number of new items offered. Just a few are: kitchen towels, new pottery by Jannine Davis, a variety of rooster items, and new jewelry pieces. Now available, a book on Shenandoah and Cumberland Valley Pottery by Dr. George and Connie Manger.

There are also frakturs by Patti Rutman from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Contributors to "der Wetterhahn" Bonnie Iseminger—Editor Photos-Bonnie Iseminger



## Renfrew Upcoming Events

## Mark your calendars for these events:

June 21-7:30pm until 9:00pm—A Summer Serenade with the Navy Cruisers—see full story page 1.

August 8,9,10 -Annual Civil War Encampment at Renfrew-many special activities.

September 13th-10am until 5 pm-Fourth Annual Cumberland Valley Pottery Fest at Renfrew Members of the Cumberland Valley Craft Guild and Mont Alto Pottery Cooperative— a joint event with the Nicodemus Center.

October 18—11am-4pm- Annual family event!

Check our website for information on these events and much more, www.renfrewmuseum.org.

#### 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