

Der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane



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

Winter 2008

Traveling with the Trunk



Off to Shippensburg, or Frederick, or Greencastle, or Williamsport, MD, and many points in between, the Traveling Trunk Program makes its way to points far and near. The purpose is to take “a trunkful” of artifacts along to senior centers, independent and assisted living facilities, and various church and civic groups as requested. This is a way that your museum reaches out to the surrounding area, especially to our seniors.

But all of that misses the point: such an enjoyable and interesting time of sharing artifacts, learning more information, and hearing stories, is itself an enjoyable tale to tell.

One of my privileges is travel with the trunk (and two other suitcases) full of old stuff. At a site, we spread some tablecloths and arrange the artifacts around the opened trunk. Picture a cowbell, tin candle mold, bootjack, a double-screw wood clamp, an open-hearth toaster, dibble sticks, and more than a dozen other objects. We try to arrange the chairs in an open “U” shape, so that those in the audience are face to face as we show and discuss the various items. After a brief introduction, the fun begins. Objects are passed among the audience. Taking turns, they try to name the object, describe its function, discuss its materials and making, and sometimes we talk about its modern replacement.

However, the best part is eliciting stories! Many folks had personal experiences with the object or are reminded of stories passed down through the generations. Some of these are harrowing, some are embarrassing, but these become humorous in the retelling. Some are touching. One story evokes another. These artifacts become keys to wonderful memories. These stories are the best part!

An example of how an object brings discussion is the mournful “ding dong” of a cowbell, and after a quick identification of the object, we ask, “who’s worked with cowbells?” Usually a few hands go up! Choosing someone, we ask them to tell us how the bell is used.

-IN THIS ISSUE -

Feature- Traveling with the trunk-Page 1

The First President; George Washington- ...Page 2
a Different View

PA German Superstitions;
PA Germans’ Home RemediesPage 3

A Valentine for Elizabeth Zody..... Pages 4 & 5

Traveling with the trunk (continued);
Renfrew’s 2009 Membership..... Page 6

Recognition of Individuals and Contributors;
Renfrew Committee, and Renfrew Executive
Committee members; Renfrew Staff,
2008 Docent List; Garden Volunteer List;
In Remembrance; Renfrew Wish List Page 7

Renfrew Gift Showcase;
Upcoming Events.....Page 8

Continued page 6



The First President

"I walk on untrodden ground." With that statement George Washington analyzed his position of being the first American President. Never before had the roughly four million settlers along the eastern coast line and Alleghenies experienced a republican government exercising control over them. This mammoth task was one Washington soon proved to be equal. Forming a forward thinking government, over-seeing foreign policy, setting the legislative agenda, and constitutional precedent concerns, were the formidable objectives that Washington accomplished.

Due to the mix of politics and religion on the calendar, George Washington was actually born on February 11, 1731, not February 22, 1732 as is universally accepted.

We start with Julius Caesar in 46 BC declaring a law that the Julian calendar be adopted by the Roman Empire. This calendar would be the observed measure of a year for 1500 years.

Enter Pope Gregory XIII who made a decree in 1582 that the Gregorian calendar would show the next day after Oct. 4 as Oct. 15, 1582, thus dropping 10 days.

The Gregorian system was finally approved by Britain and her colonies in 1752, thus changing history and Washington's birth date.

On December 12, 1799 Washington rode his normal rounds, for five hours, despite the snow, sleet and hail. The next day he felt hoarse, and during the night sent for his personal physician, Dr. James Craik. The doctor diagnosed his patient's condition as serious and asked for assistance from two local physicians.

The treatment bled Washington four times, taking more than 5 pints of blood. They blistered his neck, and tried to purge his body of infection with laxatives. The infection had infected his throat, and was fatal.

The book on our first president closed on December 14th, 1799. Somewhere between the hours of ten and eleven that evening, the 6' 3 1/2" tall Virginia lost his final battle.

Washington requested to be buried in less than two days, his final spoken instruction.

Source: *His Excellency-George Washington*
Author: Joseph J. Ellis

George Washington A Different View

From the book, *His Excellency, George Washington* by Joseph Ellis, we get a look into a life we thought we knew. Following are some notable facts about the Virginian.

In 1751 Washington accompanied his older brother Lawrence to Barbados, where he contracted smallpox. This gave him an immunity for the much dreaded disease of the time.

Washington's first job, at age 16, was with William Fairfax, a Virginian with extensive land holdings. Washington worked with William's son George on a surveying expedition of the family's extensive Shenandoah Valley acreage. After more than 190 surveys, Washington was able to purchase a 1459 acre plot in the lower Shenandoah.

In June of 1752, with the help of William Fairfax, Washington became an adjutant-general in the Virginia militia. He had no prior military experience.

In the spring of 1758 Washington began courting Martha Custis, a wealthy widow, who had inherited eighteen thousand acres of rich Virginia land. He proposed in June of 1758, and they married on January 6, 1759.

Martha Custis had two children (from her previous marriage) a boy, Jackie, and a girl, Patsy. Jackie died in 1781 (Washington was at his bedside at camp) of what they called camp fever, probably meningitis. As for Patsy, she had suffered seizures since a little girl, and succumbed to her frailty after one of her attacks in 1773 at age 17.

Washington traveled to Annapolis, Alexandria, and Williamsburg for horse races, a passion. His card-playing from the years of 1772 to 1774 amounted to almost twenty-five times a year.

In 1781 Washington had a favorite horse, Nelson, who has been depicted many times in paintings.

Final thought: Henry Lee stated that Washington was "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".



PA German Superstitions

There are many superstitions that have been passed down from generation to generation among the Pennsylvania Germans. Following are just a sampling:

The color of a caterpillar predicts the harshness of the coming winter-if the ends are black, the beginning and end will be severe; if the middle is black, then the middle will be hard.

The number of snows in winter is dictated by the number of days from the first snow in fall to the following full moon; or the first of the following month.

A cat lying on its side and turning its face upward foretells stormy weather.

Morning showers and old women's dancing do not last long.

To make a cake light, always stir the batter the same direction.

Don't plant peas or beans on baking day.

For a good yield, plant peas and potatoes when the corners of the moon are up.

Smoked meats should be taken out of the smokehouse in the dark of the moon to prevent them from becoming wormy.

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

A child should be given some cold water immediately after moving to prevent its becoming homesick.

Never take an old broom, or eggs with you when moving.

If all the food on the table is eaten, the saying is: "Tomorrow will be a clear day."

Source: *Popular Home Remedies and Superstitions of the Pennsylvania Germans* by: A. Monroe Aurand, Jr.

PA Germans' Home Remedies

The following remedies were practiced among the Pennsylvania German communities before a larger acceptance of the science of medicine offered by a physician:

Eye -to remove a foreign substance from the eye, or ease itching or smarting, rub the other eye. (This never irritates the affected part, and gives it some sympathetic attention.) Also, if water from the first snow of winter is used, it is good for sore eyes.

Headache -to prevent a headache, or toothache, you must for the habit of putting your right stocking, first; then your right shoe, etc.

Baldness -during the dog-days, if rain falls upon your head, look out for baldness, or a headache.

Hiccoughs -sit down with a glass of water by your side; let someone put a little water in each ear with the little finger of each hand, keeping the fingers there until you have drunk all the water.

Homesickness -from the garden, take a pinch of ground from the cross path and put it into coffee. A second cure -for women, sew salt and bread into petticoats; for men, sew salt in a seam of the clothing.

Moustache -to make your moustache grow, put sweet milk or cream on your lip and let the cat lick it off.

Rheumatism - wear the eye-tooth of a pig; or carry three potatoes; or the triangular bone of a ham; or put a copper penny into your shoe; wear a ring made from a horseshoe nail; or a brass ring.

Snake bite -to cure a snake bite- catch a toad and tie it to the wound. If the toad dies, repeat the process until the toad lives.

Sneezing -to stop a sneeze, look at the end of your nose with both eyes; or press your index finger hard below your nose.

Sore throat -wear one of your stockings around your neck, with the foot under the chin.

Sprain -for a sprain or dislocation, rub them downward.

Source: *Popular Home Remedies and Superstitions of the Pennsylvania Germans* by: A. Monroe Aurand, Jr.



“This ring is round and hath no end,



Key to Valentine Text

For Elizabeth Zody, circa 1830

Errors of spelling and capitalization and neglect of punctuation are passed along!

1. It blooms still in the Spring.
2. And for your best i do protest, my heart is (thus ?) confined
3. From you I never more will part, your are the chosen of my heart
4. Alas (sae I) loved her blushing sixteen, for her ruddy rose cheeks and her blue eyes.
5. Now if that you do me respect, my valentine you will accept.
6. When shall I see that happy hour
7. The blushing rose crimson and the violet dare not with my love compare.
8. But if that you do me distain return my valentine again.
9. On the fourteenth day (a) February My valentine I drew.
10. My love you are rare and hard to beat, you are everyway compleat.
11. To be with you again
12. When every one did choos his love, My chois) it fell on you.
13. In every heart is nature's art, my love for you is from the heat.
14. The lots (ware) caste and this I drew: and fortune says it must be you.
15. Where you are drest all in your best of flattering neat and finest.
16. The tulip is a handsome flower.
17. The Rose is Red, the violet blue. The lily is white and so are you.
18. You are like venus the morning star that doth all stars outshine.
19. I never loved but one and you and one dear indeed is true.
20. I say you are pretty none can deny. Red are your cheeks and sparking you eyes
21. This ring is round and hath no end so is my love to you my friend.



so is my love for you're my friend.”



A Valentine from the Past

Maybe a little early for Valentine's Day? Or maybe not, if you have the ambition to make one as complicated and thoughtful as the one given to Elizabeth Zody, which is on display in the stairway of our museum house. And, maybe, if you begin now, you'll be able to complete your project before February 14th.

A form of scherenschnitte, the "cutwork valentine" was popular circa 1840. Those of you who traveled with us to Winchester's Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, may remember one on display there. In fact, it has the same message in the middle, "This Ring is Round..." Ours here at Renfrew has more text. The writing is what makes it such an interesting artifact.

Consider our nameless young man as he sits down to work. Carefully, he would fold and make repeated folds in a thin white paper. Even more carefully, he would make repeated and intricate cuts to produce a lacework of hearts, when the paper was unfolded. Upon this white paper he would painstakingly pen his lines of love. Such care, such planning of space, such hope that all this would impress dear Lizzy. Now, he mounted it upon the contrasting red, being careful to get it just so. Finally, picture him nervous as he delivers it. Do you think he took it personally or sent it by a friend?

We think he was nervous. He was not quite sure of himself. There is a sequence in his text that reveals this. Not all of the dates of February are used, but he does enumerate most. On the 14th, he writes, "From you I never more will part, you are the chosen of my heart." Faltering some, on the 15th he penned, "Now if that you do respect, my valentine you will accept." Perhaps remembering all the effort that had gone into this labor of love and perhaps coming to grips with reality, he wrote on the 16th, "But if that you do me distain, return my valentine again."

One has to wonder how Elizabeth received his workmanship. Picture an old couple smiling as they uncover this token of early love, while rummaging through their attic.

Contributor: Bob North



Traveling with the Trunk (continued)

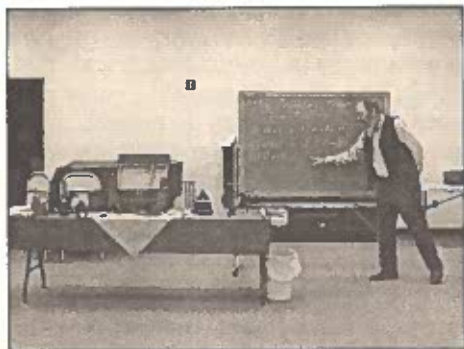
We try to expand upon this by asking others to share their experiences with cows. Most are positive stories. There's the grandmother who enjoyed taking her family cow outside the village. There she got to play with the other children (also watching cows) while brothers and sisters had to stay home and work! Or, there's a girl who stepped on a nest of ground bees, who swarmed and repeatedly stung her. Screaming, she ran back to the house. Her mother scooped her up and drove to the hospital (fortunately close). Two weeks later, she was released. Or there's George. Watching a cow, all alone along a country road, he carved a corn cob into a bowl and used a hollow stem to fashion a pipe. You're right, George smoked some corn silk!

Another artifact that often brings interesting stories is the "pee-pee waterer". This two piece item of crockery has a reservoir that is inverted into a shallow dish. A small hole near the rim of the reservoir allows for the refilling of the dish. From this, remembrances of raising chicks, peeps or pee-pees. There is that special feel and smell of a fluffy piece of life. There is a battle with rats. There is the terrible evidence of a fox some morning. Or, indulgent parents who allowed the chicks into the house on a dreadfully cold winter's night.

We try to take along something that we and others here at the museum are not sure of its name or use. Steve Graham often brings us such mysteries (for the Stack/Graham Collection at Renfrew). To put one of these items out among the others, then tell the participants that, "we have a little mystery...maybe you can help us solve it!" Through this we have learned the name and use of two artifacts! One was variously called a square, a sock or a hem measurer. But, no, it's a seamstress tool used for measuring both the lengths involved from center of the back to shoulder and the sleeve at the same time. Another item was argued to be a pill crusher, bean masher, child's top, but no, it is a mushroom darning tool, used to mend a bigger hole in a piece of clothing.

Not always, but often, we finish on a happy note, a tune on the Nose Whistle. If you don't know about a "snoot flute," ask! You'll learn why this is a happy way to end.

Contributor: Bob North



Renfrew's 2009 Members

Individual members

Marilyn Binder
A. Owen Freas, III
Patricia M. Groff
Susan Hartman
Glen Ann Sabetto
Mrs. Peggy Sandel
William Smith
Doris M. Yeager

Donor members

Charlene Balistrere
Harlan and Betty Bayer
Sam Long—Total Vac
Marilyn McCarney * also Life Member
Ruth Plager
Hannah Rendulich (Andrew Helfrick)

Family members

Jeremy and Andrea Bowersox
Nathan and Alice Green
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miller
Clayton and Polly Moyer
Ginny and Doug Parks
Bob and Betty Waring

Toni and Barry Zimmerman

Sustaining members

Terry and Linda Zimmerman

Curator's Associates

James M. Sanders
Jean Marie Walz

Interested in
becoming a volunteer?
Give us a call!

We have many opportunities!
Please call 717-762-4723.



**The Weathervane, Page 7
Winter 2008**



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

Donation-Second NC Light Infantry Unit
Memorial gifts for Don Shade
Additions to the Steck/Graham Collection- Steve Graham
A sponsor of the Renfrew Christmas Open House-Wal Mart
A sponsor of the Renfrew Christmas Open House- Franklin
County Visitors Bureau
Assistance with accessions- Red Mohn and Alice McCleaf
Volunteers- assisting during the day of the Pumpkin Fest
Quilters from the Buchanan Trail Quiltmakers,
Chambersburg Quilt Guild for demonstrating quilt making
during our recent quilt display in the Changing Gallery
Assistance with various projects at Renfrew- David Hykes
Donation of antique wooden planes- Mr. & Mrs. Jim Daley
Quilting lecture-Professor Cheryl Cheek of Mont Alto
Campus of Penn State
Newest members of Renfrew Museum and Park

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Docents -2008**

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

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

Phyllis Croson

**In Remembrance of:
William Krouse**

Mr. William Krouse the beloved husband of
a veteran tour guide, Carolyn Krouse,
passed away on September 10, 2008.

**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 Illi, 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 of Visitor Services
Ron Harbaugh - Building and Grounds Personnel

**Renfrew
Wish List**

Flint drinking glasses
Large butchering kettles
Pewter or wood plates
Pre-1840 drinking glasses
32" LCD flat screen TV
Large ice chests
Local history books
Listed above are a few items that would enhance
our programs and facilities. All contributions to
Renfrew Museum and Park are tax deductible, as
allowed by law. If you need assistance with a
pick up of your items, we would be happy to
arrange a time. Thank you for your continued
support!



**Renfrew's
Gift Showcase**

With the ending of the season at Renfrew, the Gift Showcase is still available to anyone looking for the perfect gift! Our hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00am until 4:00pm.

Perhaps a book, a piece of pottery, or prints of oil paintings will suit the "hard to buy for" person in your life.! We now have available the 2008 Renfrew Ornaments by Joanna Calimer depicting the Milkhouse. Stop by for a visit!

"der Wetterhahn" Contributors
Bonnie Iseminger-Editor
Visitor Services Supervisor-Bob North
Photos-Bob North

**Renfrew
Upcoming Events**

December 5 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. and December 6 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. and 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. the Annual Christmas Open House at Renfrew. Enjoy the fresh greens of the season in the museum house. Live music, both evenings, in the museum house and visitor center. Cookies and mulled cider in the visitor center for all to help celebrate the season.

February 27th-Third Annual German Heritage Supper. This year our focus will be on our German heritage. More details forthcoming.

April 25, 2009-Opening Day at Renfrew Museum and Park.

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