

# Der Wetterhahn

CELEBRATING OUR 34TH YEAR!

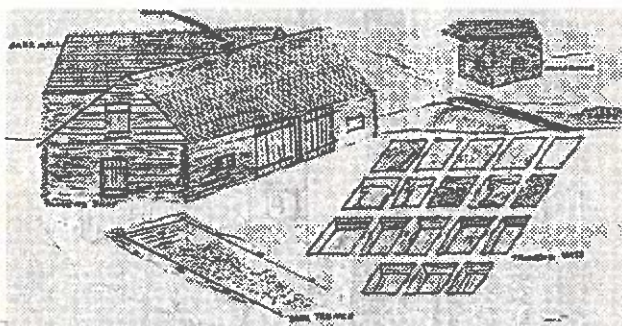


Volume XVII, Issue I The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Spring 2009

## The Royer Tannery

*Rather than a pleasant picnic grounds, set among trees and tucked into a bend in the Antietam, this site from 1798 until 1862 was a busy, messy place. In came the hides, freshly skinned with blood still red and edges ragged from the skinner's knife or maybe not so fresh, but salted to preserve them until they could be brought to Royer's Tannery along the Baltimore Pike.*



An Archeologist's sketch of a portion of the Tannery

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The smells were rank from the matted manure and beginning-to-putrefy scraps of meat and fat still attached to these dirty hides. Not pleasant, indeed, but needed and leading to prosperity for the then-owner of this place, Daniel Royer. With the help of his family and a few employees, these hides were worked into leather, a very important product in pre-industrial society. Leather provided a strong, flexible, and water resistant material fit for a multitude of uses.

Daniel had learned the trade from his father, Samuel, while growing up near Five Forks, north of Wallacetown. From the accomplishments of his life - many more than will be addressed in this article - we can deduce that Daniel was a very dynamic, far-seeing, and influential man. At the age of 13, he bought 900 acres of mountain ground. The wood from this holding could be debarked for tanning, then sold to the iron furnaces to be made into charcoal. In 1779, at he age of 17, he bought some of the acreage that would become his farmstead (and future site of Ren-

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frew Park), adding some other tracts over time. He bought this ground from Abraham Stoner, who would become his father-in-law. Tax records indicate that he took over his own father's tannery, then moved the operation here in 1798. Here, next to the Baltimore Pike, providing access to markets... and here, this flatter area next to Antietam Creek, providing the much used waters for the various operations in the tanning process.

Daniel's oldest son, David, grew up learning the tanner's trade. Upon Daniel's death in 1838, David fully assumed the oversight of the tannery. He operated it until his death in 1860. It took another two years to finish processing and to sell off the business. David never married - perhaps his life's work was too odoriferous to attract a mate!

A woodcut from Diderot's *Book of Trades*, 1763. Though depicting a European site, the processes shown would have been familiar and still in current use by Daniel and David Royer and other tanners up until the middle 1800s.



*Easy to say* - Tanning is the process of transforming a freshly skinned hide into preserved leather, fit for a myriad of uses.  
*Hard to do* - From the time a hide arrived in this tannery, until it left, depending upon its thickness and final use, it may have taken up to two years of handling.

The basic sequence of moving a hide along to become leather would be this:

1. Remove the horns, ears, and tails. Soak in running water to remove blood and dirt.
2. Place in a weak lime pit overnight, then dry for 3-4 days.

Put into increasingly strong lime pits for 8 days, then dry 8 days, over a 12-18 month period (seasons made a difference). During this entire series of taking hides in and out of vats, these hides would be "beamed," meaning scraped over a wooden horse at 4, 5, or 6 week intervals. (In the woodcut, the man to the right is working a fresher hide. The one to his right is working a hide that has come further along in the process.)

3. After all the hair and flesh, fat, and membranes were removed, the hide was again washed in running water, then it was rubbed with a "slicker" to help remove water and lime. (In the woodcut, the man in the background is twisting the hide to remove excess moisture. Most likely his next process would be to use the "slicker.")

4. Usually, the hides went through a "bating" step at this point: in vats or pits, they were layered and worked in a slurry of poultry, dog, or pig dung. The acids from these materials counter-acted the base chemicals left behind by the lime, hastening the next work of accepting tannic acid.

5. Hides were next layered in tanning pits one at a time with a layer of pulverized tanbark between each one, along with water making an "ooze." Daily, then weekly, then monthly, hides were "handled." This layering was repeated numerous times for many months in increasingly stronger solutions.

6. Now, as leather, it was allowed to air dry while stretched by weights upon poles. Often these were stored in the attic of the shop.

7. Oils and fat were then worked into the leather by treading upon it in a shallow bath. Also a wooden mallet, called a "beatle," was employed to soften and make it workable. "Slickers" were again used to work oils into the skin to provide water resistance and then to remove excess. The leather was also worked over a "stake beam" to make it supple. (In the woodcut, the man on the left is "staking.")

**Please remember** - this is a basic outline. A more thorough treatment of tanning, utilizing tannic acid to preserve leather, would reveal many variations on this theme along with the labor intensive handling of hides to produce the various leather products used in differing applications.

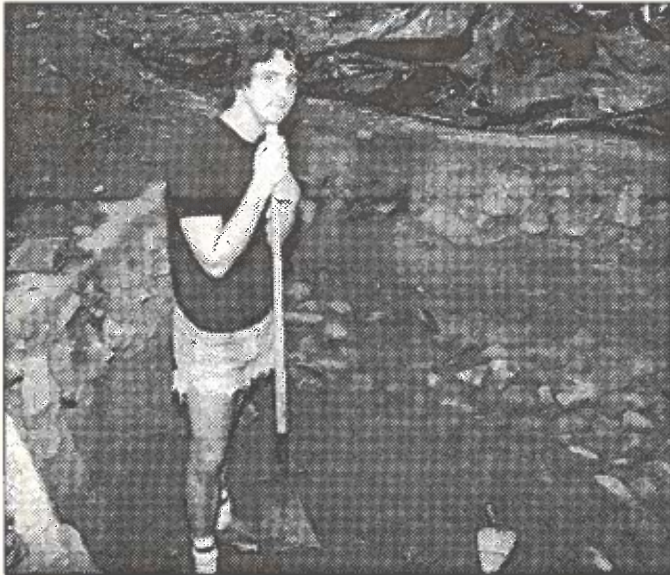
The production of leather was the main pursuit here, however, other parts of the animal were also of value. Hair was sold to the plasterer or upholsterer. Horn could be processed into buttons, combs, or utensils, like ladles. Hooves and scraps of hide were boiled to produce glue.

## The Weathervane, Page 3 Spring 2009



Slicker

Thanks to some archeological sleuthing, we have a good deal of information about the tannery as it was operated here at Renfrew. In 1987-1988, William J. Sheppard had his picture taken while standing in a "dig," showing the cobble stone floor of a building or work area in the Northern Component... identified shortly.



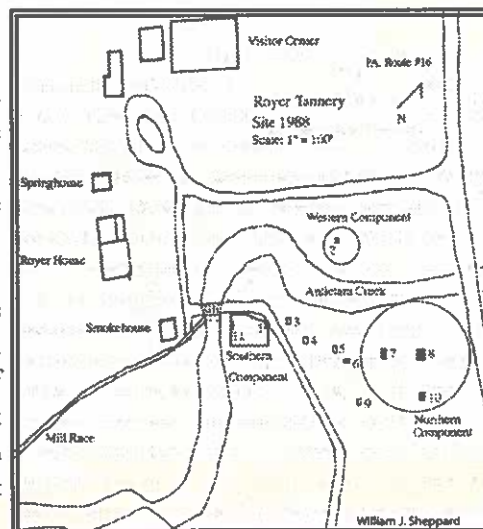
Will, assisted by Chapter #27 of the PA Archeological Society, dug to identify several sites of the tannery. They took photos and collected artifacts. Sheppard also dug through libraries and court records to further advance information about the Royer Tannery:

- It existed in what is now the picnic grounds. Sheppard deduced that the scope of Daniel's tannery would have demanded between 40 and 60 vats, rectangular pits lined with wooden planks. Hard clay was packed beneath and between vats to slow the leakage of water. These vats varied in dimensions, but an average might be four by five and 1/2 feet.
- Three different areas were identified (see map). The Western Component contained lime pits for early steps. Note that it was across the creek, which was used extensively for cleaning work. The Northern Component was least explored, but is believed to have been an intake and shipping area. The Southern Component was the heart of the operation, comprised of multiple tanning vats, a bark mill to pulverize the bark, a bark storage area, and a workshop. Remnants of a foundation may be seen just downstream from the present bridge on the left bank.



*A recent photo of Will showing that one's age can wear well... for a while, at least! Mr. Sheppard is still helping to uncover the past. Currently he is the Eastern Regional Field Representative of The Archaeological Conservancy. At the upper left is a print by Clyde Roberts interpreting the main part of the Royer Tannery, based upon the work that Will and others had done.*

- Upon Daniel's death in 1838, records show that 41% of his non-real estate inventory of \$6,094 came from his main pursuit, tanning.
- 1846 tax records show David's tanyard worth \$1800. Residing as tenants on this property were a shoemaker, 2 tanners, and 3 laborers.
- From the 1850 Digest of Manufacturers, David Royer is listed as a tanner and currier (leather finisher). [He] "...bought 3,500 hides and skins at \$5250 and sold for \$10,050 annually." ...paid 3 employees a total of \$54 per month, ... [used] 300 cords of bark, ... [and] 140 gal. of oil...
- Records indicate a spike in income over the years of the War of 1812. Daniel's log cabin was replaced by the stone house in 1812 and the kitchen was added in 1815.
- Upon David's death in 1860, the value of the tannery was \$7700.



*How would the Royers react to learn that this entire tanning process now only takes about 36 hours with harsh chemicals and machinery... and that there are currently no major tanneries in the U.S. since environmental concerns have shut them down.*

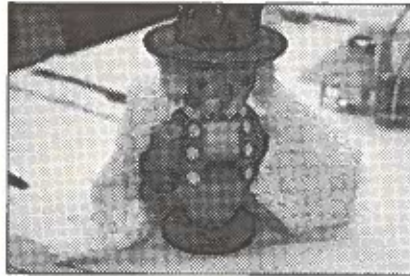
*Um Himmels Willen!*

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**German Heritage Recipe**  
**Grüner Bohnensalat**  
(Green bean salad)

Wash fresh green beans that have had the strings removed and snapped to 1 inch pieces—about 1 pound (can use frozen). Cook in salt water with a piece of pork or strips of bacon (your preference) and some savory, optional. Drain. Mix with minced onion, oil, lemon juice or vinegar, salt, pepper, and a pinch of sugar while hot. Let marinate 1/2 hour. Cool and serve.



**German Heritage  
Supper -2009**



**German Heritage Recipe**  
**Rot Kohl**  
**Red cabbage**



- 2 lbs. red cabbage
- 1 apple
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 bay leaf (remove before serving)
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- Juniper berries
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 1 teaspoon apple or juniper jelly
- 1-2 cloves

Wash and shred cabbage, and slice apple. Melt butter in pan and add the cabbage and apple. Mix thoroughly. Season well with bay leaf, salt, pepper, and a few juniper berries. Cook in one cup of water, more if necessary, for about 10 minutes. (Low heat preferred.) When liquid has evaporated, sprinkle with flour, add wine, sugar, and vinegar to taste. Option: add apple or juniper jelly and cloves instead of sugar and vinegar.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Statler

## The Weathervane, Page 5 Spring 2009



Renfrew Museum and Park  
VIP Volunteers—2009

Bonnie Barlup  
Marilyn Bender  
Linda Blubaugh  
Phyllis Croson  
Karen Day  
Becky Dietrich  
Anna Hartford  
Mia Hoover  
Phyllis King  
Chris Kosta  
Carolyn Krouse  
Carol MacDougall  
Eleanor (Ellie) Miller  
Peggy Nieberger  
Alice Noll

Howard North  
Anita Pfeuffer  
Gretchen Potochney  
Virginia Rahn  
Bernadette Raimondi  
Carole Rau  
Peggy Sandel  
Helen Shelley  
Bill Smith  
Jennifer Statler  
Roy Struble  
Judy Welterlen  
Louise West  
Peggy Wright



### 2009 Volunteer Orientation



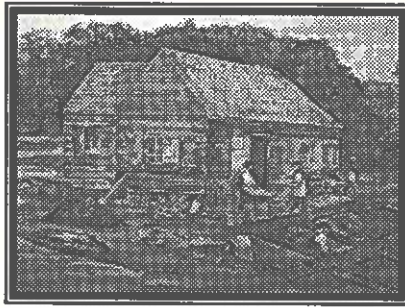
We happily hosted volunteers on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 until 4 pm. Of the 24 attendees, 6 have recently joined our growing list of helpers. We learned about the upcoming tannery interpretation, walked through the house to familiarize ourselves with changes and additions, and enjoyed a preview of the Changing Gallery— an intriguing collection of 19th Century music boxes. We discussed new categories of volunteering and support for our first attempt to man a Food Stand. The capsheaf of the afternoon was Tea with Sweets and Savories...and lots of pleasant visiting. Yet there is room...for you to join in this august group. Call the Museum to see how you can support the rooster.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Statler

### The Royer Tannery

### Clyde Robert's Print of the Tannery



On Opening Day, Saturday, April 25, and into the future, Renfrew hopes to make visitors more aware of this important component of the Royer Farmstead. A large fieldstone with a brass plaque will be placed in the current picnic grounds near the bridge, stating: "Tannery Site Operated by Daniel and David Royer, 1798 - 1862." In the Visitor's Center, an expanded display of tools will include those of the tanner. A brochure to further a visitor's understanding has also been printed. You are invited! Come, see and learn about producing leather. And join us for a short ceremony at 2:00 pm. on Opening Day at the initiation of this new area of interpretation.

This interesting effort, to present the public with information and a collection of tanner's tools, has been underwritten by a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

One last point of interest: another ancient method of tanning, used by native groups around the globe, was "brain tanning." This utilized the animal's brain tissue (and its chemical properties) to provide for the preservation of the hide into leather. Reputedly, only one animal, the moose, does not have enough brains to tan his own hide. Now for the fun part: if someone said to you the idiom, "You don't have enough brains to tan your own hide," you'd know that you'd been disparaged... perhaps! And hopefully, you'd know not to use it!

Much of the information for this article has been gleaned from Will Sheppard's work, "A GOOD SUMMER'S TAN: A REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF THE ROYER TANNERY SITE 1987 - 1988."

Article by Bob North



### La Tana

By: Cheryl Keyser

Today I am the newest addition to the Renfrew Museum and Park staff, but things might have been different. When the administrator's position opened up six years ago, I applied for the job. Luckily Bonnie was chosen and has done and is doing an admirable job.

My direct association with Renfrew began with an article I wrote for the American Antiquities Journal, which circulates in the northeastern U.S. at many antique malls. The piece was on John Bell pottery and included information on Renfrew.

Out of that came the idea for the Pumpkin Pie Contest, which I have been pleased to serve as a judge for the past three years.

By the way of background, I am a free-lance writer for a number of newspapers and magazines, reporting on my "beat"-aging issues-as well as many other subjects. I hold a B. A. in history and have been a candidate for an M. A. in Latin American History, speak Spanish, have traveled extensively in Latin America, especially to Argentina where my husband was born, and formerly worked for the Embassy of Venezuela.

I am looking forward to working with the Boards, volunteers, and other staff of Renfrew, learning more about its mission, helping visitors to understand its history, and adding to broader knowledge of its work.

Note: La Tana is a familial nickname, "the Italian".

### Coming in the Wetterhahn Summer Issue

An extensive article on the music organ exhibit in the museum house.

An interview with John Frantz about his prized possession, the Conestoga wagon, and the story behind his acquiring the "treasure".

A backward look at our spring events, including the bus trip to York, PA.



### Roosters in the Wind

Weathervanes can be as simple as a ribbon in the breeze or as ornate and complicated as a copper dragon, fully sculpted and life-like riding his arrow in the wind. This newsletter, "Der Wetterhahn" translates literally from the German, "The Weather Rooster."

Intended to indicate the direction of wind, weather vanes have been in use for thousands of years. They not only provide evidence of the current wind direction, but also, with knowledge of weather patterns, the direction of the wind can help to foretell conditions over the next day or so. Before our day of mass communication, if a farmer was thinking of mowing his hay and gathering it before a rain, he would be looking at the clouds, his weathervane, and perhaps an almanac before putting blade to grass. With his experience and knowledge (including folk sayings about weather, such as "An east wind brings rain") he could quite accurately predict the weather and plan his work. Here in Waynesboro, it was a common saying that the weather depends on John Bell's rooster. This very rooster, that graced the roof of the John Bell Pottery at the corner of Main and South Potomac Streets, is Renfrew's signature motif!



The first weathervane on record was built by a Greek astronomer, Andronicus, in 48 B.C., depicting the god, Triton. This topped the Tower of the Winds in Athens. Throughout Greece and in pre-Christian Rome, the homes of the wealthy often were topped with weathervanes depicting other gods. Bronze weathervanes have been found among Viking sites. Some of their ships and earliest churches had vanes shaped more like a flag than a pivoting arrow. Our English, word "vane" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "fane" meaning "flag".

Next we have a legend: during the 9th century, A.D. the pope reportedly decreed that every church in Europe should show a cockbird on its dome or steeple. This was to remind the people of Jesus' prophesy that Peter would deny him thrice before the cock crowed twice. (Luke 22:34) Roosters, have been in the church business ever since! An 11th century tapestry shows a rooster weathervane being attached to the spire of Westminster Abbey.

On this side of the Atlantic, the first known

weathervane to be made here, a large copper Indian, was fashioned by Shem Drowne in 1716. His most famous weathervane, a grasshopper, is perched atop Faneuil Hall in Boston. Historically notable also, Thomas Jefferson attached the weather vane on Monticello to a pointer on the ceiling of his home. George Washington commissioned a "Dove of Peace" weathervane for Mount Vernon in 1787.

Down through the centuries, weathervanes have provided the customer and the craftsman an opportunity to create a limitless variety of motifs. These include more themes than can be listed. However, if a tally were possible, the rooster would be at the top of the steeple list.

John Bell simply wanted a weathervane at the top of his business. He mounted his rooster in a large stoneware jug. The story continues that Confederate soldiers couldn't resist this target as they passed through Waynesboro in June of 1863. The jug was destroyed, but the rooster survived...until the building burned in 1899. From the ruins, Bell's weathervane was salvaged and came to be one of the prized artifacts of Dr. Mark Lester Heefner. In 1967, at auction, Emma Nicodemus bought this resilient rooster. Her home has become Renfrew, and the rooster is now on permanent roost.



Some of you may have heard the phrase: "The Rooster is back in the barn." Indeed, our rooster was removed from public display for about a two year period. He was in our "lockup", a secure and climate controlled room in the barn. Some thought he needed to be brought back as part of our public exhibit-and he was. Back in the barn, he again is perched above our pottery, the display of John Bell and other Shenandoah potters' work.

Lately, we've had a little fun with our rooster. On our sign and in letters, we have encouraged membership and fundraising events with the phrase: "Support the Rooster." For our trips by bus to other interesting and historical sites, we've coined the slogan, "Come run with the Rooster." It's probably too cute or trite to use, but may bring a smile-could we call our supporters "Rooster Boosters?"

Article by: Bob North

Information for the article came from many sources, most notably: "The Shenandoah Pottery" by H. H. Rice & John B. Stoudt, "Waynesboro 1900" by Benjamin M. Nead, and "Denninger Weathervanes and Finials" by Alfred and Beth Denninger.



### Come to Your Park

Our name, Renfrew Museum and Park, puts priority upon the Museum. How would it be, if instead we were named, "Renfrew Park and Museum?" Perhaps we need to do a little exercise!

First, exercise your minds: picture your park. In your mind's eye, follow the creek downstream. From a bird's-eye perspective, place the buildings of our park. Fly higher and see this green jewel placed within the larger and enlarging Waynesboro and Washington Township areas. Amble through some memories – picnics, watching children splash in the creek, walking along the creek, crossing the bridge, and returning through the woods.

Try again: remember fishing or watching a fisherman, recall standing along the fence at the old mill site and wondering what it must have been like, or reminisce about that time you picked your way through the brush to find the lime kiln.

Taking the focus off the museum opens up the wonders of the larger park, all 107 acres of it. What a wonderful "backyard" we have. It's big enough to enjoy in groups. It's big enough, even when many others are out and about, to get away and be by yourself - just you in the midst of the natural areas of your park.

It *is* your park! It's public. It's free. And it's open dawn to dusk 365 days a year. Renfrew was a gift to the Borough of Waynesboro by Emma Nicodemus in 1973. We opened as a museum and park in 1975. For 34 years, an invitation to come has been extended... and answered. Come, for Renfrew is *yours* to enjoy!

Second, most of us need to do some physical exercise. Many do here in the park. There are some "regulars," who walk or jog through on a daily basis. Others come occasionally on a whim. They may want a change of pace and scenery from their routines. Grandparents may want to enjoy a stroll through nature with precious young ones, pointing out some of the wonders along the trails to them. Currently we have 262 dogs and one cat registered. They come here to exercise their owners. These critters are fussy about using their leashes and being sure that their human carries a little plastic bag for clean-up duties.

Third, beyond the health benefits of exercising out along the trails, consider the possibilities of sighting some wildlife. Folks have seen deer, foxes, blue herons, minks, and of course, squirrels, chippies, and rabbits. There are over 100 different birds that can be seen at various times of the year.

More than 200 different species of flowers grace the ground. Many species of trees, in various stages of life, rise from or return to the soil. Look more closely, and you will observe intriguing mosses, molds, fungi, and multitudes of creeping critters! Find a place to stand or sit still. Use your senses to drink deeply from the rich diversity of Renfrew Park.

Visit the Museum—that other part - on another day!  
- Bob North

### Renfrew Business Members 2009

Burkholder Company— Beginning  
Representative Todd Rock— Beginning  
Mainstreet Waynesboro— Beginning  
Timothy Misner— Beginning  
Mountain Valley Real Estate— Carol Young— Standard  
Dr. Sharon & Dr. Melissa March— Standard  
Wacco Properties, Inc.— Standard

### Life Members 2009

Daniel W. Arthur  
John H. Bell  
Leonara R. Bernheisel  
Mr. and Mrs. James Bowersox  
Dr. and Mrs. Max Creager  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunlap, Jr.  
Mrs. David E. Eddy  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Fleagle  
Franklin County Visitors Bureau-Janet Pollard  
Mr. William H. Gelbach, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William George  
Philip and Gail Hammond  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight F. Hastings  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Heefner  
Mr. Max Hoover, Jr.  
Mrs. Barbara Kercheval  
Doris R. Large  
Frances W. Levick  
Marilyn L. McCarney  
Margaret L. McCleary  
Mrs. Josephine McCleary  
Mrs. Betsy Payette  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Savage  
Mrs. Stanton Shank  
Mrs. Eunice G. Statler  
Betty Thompson  
Dr. Annette S. Warrenfeltz



**The Weathervane, Page 9  
Spring 2009**



**Individual Members  
2009**

Charlene Balistrere  
Bonita "Bonnie" Barlup  
Harlan and Betty Bayer  
Grace M. Baylor  
Marilyn Bender  
Ferdinand and Frances Betts  
Carolyn M. Boyer  
Nancy K. Brake  
William N. Brevard  
C. Robert Brezler, Jr.  
Mrs. Jean Brinser  
Shirley B. Brown  
Beth Bryant  
Elizabeth Cook  
Phyllis L. Croson  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Davis  
Mrs. Becky Dietrich  
Mr. Ken Duncan  
Mr. Robert Evans  
Debra E. Flinchbaugh  
Mr. Bruce Francis  
A. Owen Freas, III  
Patricia M. Groff  
W. Lehman Guyton, MD  
Virginia G. Hair  
Susan Hartman  
Tracy Holliday  
Margaret B. Honodel  
Ms. Joyce Horst  
Solly and Connie Hummer  
Mrs. Helen Hykes  
Mr. John R. Hykes  
Mrs. Brenda Illi  
Judith Kelsey  
Cheryl M. Keyser  
Mrs. Phyllis King  
Kim Kleppinger  
Mrs. Harold Lombard  
Mr. Sam Long-Total Vac  
Rev. Ritchard Lyon  
Ann Markell  
Tina Martell  
Joseph and Eleanor Miller  
Elizabeth S. Mose  
Aldine N. Moser, Jr.  
G. Barr Newcomer  
Doris Pensinger  
Alesia A. Permansu  
Anita Pfeuffer  
Sally L. Porterfield  
Bonnie Rhodes  
William R. Russell, Sr.

**Individual Members  
2009 (continued)**

Glen Ann Sabetto  
Peggy Sandel  
Mr. Bill Savage  
Helen Shelley  
Rick Shindle  
Karen Shinn  
Ms. Melodie Anderson-Smith  
William H. Smith  
Doris S. Spangler  
Richard A. Starliper  
Mr. Doug Stine  
Mr. James Stock  
E. A. Stonesifer  
D. Roy Stoner  
Mr. Roy Struble  
Lois Good Thompson  
Mary B. Unger  
Deloyce Watkins  
Mr. Phil Wert  
Mrs. Louise West  
James R. White  
Peggy J. Wright  
Doris M. Yeager  
Sarah K. Zimmerman

**Family Memberships  
2009**

Alberta R. Barkley  
Louis and Jackie Barlup  
Stephen Beck  
Bob and Shelley Benchoff  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bittner  
Dr. Garrett Blanchett and Elena Kehoe  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blubaugh  
Donald and Dorothy Bollinger  
Jeremy and Andrea Bowersox  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Brezler  
Don and Phyllis Brothers  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenton H. Broyles  
Mike and Stacey Clever  
Anne and William Conard  
John and Evie Cook  
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Deegan  
Greg and Debi Duffey  
Chris and Kathy Dukes  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Elden  
Mr. and Mrs. Weldon H. Eshelman  
John and Denise Esser



**Family Memberships  
2009 (continued)**

James and Constance Fleagle  
Ron & Karen Freitag  
Doris and Robert Goldman  
Charlene L. Good  
Nathan and Alice Green  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Grube  
Gordon and Sylvia Heidelbach  
David, Diane and Amanda Hykes  
Edgar and Ruby Hykes  
Bob and Bonnie Iseminger  
Amanda Johns  
Cassandra Johns  
Melissa Johns  
Linda, Charlie and "Summit" Jordan  
D. Mark and Elisabeth H. Keener  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kennedy  
Allie and Jo Ann Kohler  
Bill and Kathy Kominski  
Stephen J. Leaman  
Jody and Bernie Lenrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. McCleaf  
Mr. Keith Mc Leaf  
Dr. and Mrs. James G. McKenzie  
Wayne and Debbie Martz  
Richard and Martha Mathias  
LeRoy and Pauline Maxwell, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miller  
Ray and Ginny Miller  
Mr. Wayne Minnich  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mohn  
Harry and Louise Morningstar  
Clayton and Polly Moyer  
Paul and Phyllis Mummert  
J. R. North  
Evelyn and Jim Oliver  
Ginny and Doug Parks  
Mr. and Mrs. John Persun  
William Pflagers  
John and Carolyn Poffenberger  
Willard and Virginia Rahn  
Murray B. Reed  
Jean Rosenberger  
Dade and Wendy Royer  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shook  
Linden and Ruth Showalter  
Mitchel and Katherine Smith  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Steiner  
Christine and Tim Stevenson  
Linda and Sam Stevenson  
Loree and Bryan Stevenson  
Dr. Joseph and Karen Stewart  
Douglas Tengler

**Family Memberships  
2009 (continued)**

Bob and Betty Waring  
Bill and Sandy Weagly  
Mrs. Doris E. Welty  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Willhide  
Andrew and Yvonne Yoder  
Donald and Carrie Yost, Jr.  
Toni and Barry Zimmerman

**Members Plus  
2009- \$75 or above**

Terry and Linda Barkdoll  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beck  
John and Jean Frantz  
Susan E. Smith  
Gordon Thomas

**Sustaining Members  
2009**

Ms. Martha A. Adams  
James, Lisa and Maddie Devlin  
Sanford and Nancy Evans  
Jay and Pat Heefner  
Howard North  
Dr. A. Kathryn Oller  
Mr. James Sanders, Jr.  
Sanford and Helen Smith  
Mary Jane Weagly

**Curator's Associates  
2009**

James M. Sanders, Jr.

**Renfrew Society Members  
2009**

Mike and Denise Beck  
Mr. and Mrs. George P. Buckley  
Steve Graham  
John W. Keller  
JeanMarie S. Walz  
Angela Grove-Weagly



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

Monetary donation- Brothers of the Brush  
Old tools- George Mastrapeter  
Kettle, spider and old tools- William Kaminski  
Additions to the Steck/Graham Collection -Steve Graham  
Endowment contributions- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beck, Jr.  
and Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. McCleaf  
Donation of wall mount for TV- David & Diane Hykes  
Donations to German Heritage Auction- Steve Graham, David  
Hykes, John Hykes, B. Iseminger, Dick and Barbara McCarken,  
Mountain Gate Restaurant, Shawn and Nancy Meyers, Robert North,  
Anita Pfeuffer, The 1912 Hoover House, Totem Pole Playhouse and  
Mr. Richard Wagner  
Auctioneer at the German Heritage Supper- Bob Benchoff  
Assistance with chicken coop repair- David Hykes, Harrison Frantz,  
and Richard "Red" Mohn  
Computer assistance- Bob Iseminger  
Contribution to Traveling Trunk Program- Steve Graham  
Photos of events- Jennifer Statler

**POETRY CORNER**

With this issue, we hope to initiate a continuing venue that shares poetry by our talented readership. The topic: Renfrew! including historic, natural, or cultural aspects of this inspiring place. Surely, some of you already have some lines to share. If not, sharpen your pencil, come to the park, quiet yourself, and follow the muse. Then share. Poems can be submitted in person or by e-mail. Please help "Poetry Corner" be interesting and successful.

**A Barn's Age**

How old is this barn?  
Dust tells the age,  
Not saw mark,  
Not pegs,  
Nor hand-cut threads.  
No, dust  
Tells, dark and fine  
by its smell,  
By its taste,  
Its strength to cling.  
Dust, stirred from habit,  
Telling, telling...  
Centuries of harvests  
Generations of pigeons,  
Ancestral vermin,  
Dust, dark and fine,  
Tell the age.

- J. R. North

Written during the restoration of the Fahnstock Barn, 1988.

**Renfrew Committee, Inc.  
Members-2009**

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

**Renfrew Executive Committee  
Members-2009**

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

**Renfrew Museum and Park  
Staff-2009**

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

**Renfrew  
Wish List-2009**

1800's Flint-glasses (drinking)  
Large butchering kettles  
Pewter or wood plates (pre-1840)  
Pre-1840 drinking glasses  
Local history books  
Interpretation underwriting  
More memberships and volunteers  
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 picking up of your items, we would be happy to arrange a time. Please call 717-762-4723. Thank you for your continued support!

**The Weathervane, Page 12  
Spring 2009**



### **Renfrew's Gift Showcase**

With the opening of the museum on April 25th, the Gift Showcase hours will once again be the same as the museum schedule. **Tuesday– Friday from noon until 4pm, with Saturday and Sunday hours from 1pm until 4pm.**

The Gift showcase is ready for spring, are you? Drop by and see what we can offer you to perk up your springtime.

Bonnie Iseminger-Editor

Contributors: Articles by: Bob North, Cheryl Keyser  
Photos: Jennifer Statler

### **Renfrew Upcoming Events**

April 25-Opening Day at Renfrew Museum and Park– Dedication of the Tannery site; artists and much more! Begins at 10 am and concludes at 4 pm.

April 28-York bus trip– Day trip to historic area of York, with tours of the Martin's Potato Chip Co., and the Wolfgang Candy Company. Leaves Renfrew at 7:30 am returns at 5:00pm.

June 20– Navy Cruisers– celebrating their 10th anniversary will perform in Renfrew Park-6:30pm-7:45pm FREE! Sponsored by the Franklin County Visitors Bureau.

August 8 and 9– Annual Civil War Encampment at Renfrew Park. Camp opens at 8:00am each day, with events planned during each day. Ends at 1:30pm on August 9th.

der

**Wetterhahn**

Renfrew Museum and Park  
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Website: www.renfrewmuseum.org

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