

# der Wetterhahn

CELEBRATING OUR 35TH YEAR!



Volume XVIII, Issue 5 The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Fall 2010



## Frakturs... A Record of the Past



Renfrew has a new addition to its collection— a fraktur produced by Schoepflin, a printer of Chambersburg. Schoepflin, his first name is unknown, lived and operated his printing business two houses north of the German (Zion) Reformed Church on South Main Street, where he also printed a German newspaper.

There are now three frakturs in the Renfrew collection—one in the Urban bedroom hanging over the mantel, another undergoing restoration, and the latest addition in the Children's bedroom.

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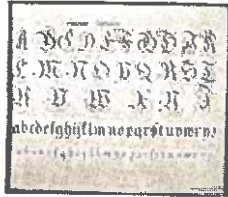
The Urban bedroom fraktur was drawn by Abraham Huth, a well known local artist and schoolmaster at Kimmerlings Schoolhouse in Lebanon Township in Lebanon County, PA, produced many of these colorful records. This one is of John Brandenberger born to John Nathaniel and Maria Baer Brandenberger on October 10, 1822 in Middletown, MD, and baptized on April 3, 1823 by Rev. Helfenstein.



Fraktur for  
John Brandenberger

The word Fraktur refers to the “fractured” or broken letters derived from German Gothic style of writing. Over the years it has come to mean the entire document, usually a birth or baptismal certificate (known in German as a Taufschein), but also could include marriage certificates “Trau-schein”, death records “Totenschein”, student writing samples “Vorschriften”, bookplates, poems, and illuminated choral books.

Donald A. Shelley, author of "The Fraktur-Writings or Illuminated Manuscripts of the Pennsylvania Germans," calls the fraktur "the most important single aspect of Pennsylvania German Folk Art."



The manner of writing with the decorated letters and borders dates back to the Middle Ages when monks hand-copied religious manuscripts, in many cases using decorative letters to introduce a text.

With the advent of the printing press, handwritten documents were gradually replaced, although some frakturs featured elements of both, with decorative elements added by hand.

The tradition of making frakturs came to America from Europe, and was practiced mainly by Pennsylvania Germans, according to Dennis K. Moyer, author of "Fraktur Writings and Folk Art Drawings of the Schwenkfelder Library Collection."

The birth certificates usually include information on the name of the child, the parents, the date and place of birth, the name of the officiating clergyman, and witnesses.

The same style was also used for marriage certificates, handwriting instruction, and religious texts. Schoolteachers, such as Huth were the main producers of these documents.

Frakturs are characterized by vivid colors with symbols of flowers, birds, and other natural elements such as the sun and moon surrounding a middle field containing personal information. The images of lions, crowns, and unicorns are taken from heraldry.

The iconographic elements used each carried their own special significance.

Among the favored flowers was the tulip, often used in groups of threes, which according to some, represented the Trinity. One researcher maintains that the tulip could be symbolic of life, love and immortality.

Hearts were also common, some of which were designed with two circles, round and "heavy looking," according to Shelley. "In priority of use on Frakturs, the Heart might even proceed the Tulip, so popular it is, he added.

Several birds were also used, among them doves, peacocks, and eagles. The latter, "both single and double-headed, appears in every medium of Pennsylvania German Folk Art and on both hand-drawn and printed Frakturs," said Shelley. The single-headed eagle became more prominent in the 1800's, often shown with a shield; images in the second half of that century also depicted it with a ribbon in its mouth on which various inscriptions were noted.

Angels were, naturally, a frequent figure, with the early frakturs using only the angel's head with wings. Sometime after that, the full figure of an angel was included, with the addition of a trumpet or a palm. Pairs were also drawn, with one angel on each side of the central theme.

A survey of Pennsylvania German frakturs describes the general standards followed. "No landscape effects are attempted to any extent. The rules of perspective drawing are absent. Generally speaking, also the use of plants, flowers, birds and animals appear as separate settings without being incorporated into the decorative whole." (From Pennsylvania German Illuminated Manuscripts," by Henry S. Borneman.)



Fraktur  
Children's Bedroom

The fraktur in the Children's Bedroom is simple in color-green and yellow with black lettering-with one cupid on the upper left bearing a harp, a center design of an eagle with a shield featuring another harp, and bearing arrows in its left claw, while another winged cupid holds two tree branches. On the bottom on both sides are fruits, most likely local.



In the middle field a five-stanza poem is divided in two around a center heart. Within the area of the heart is the standardized format in German with a space left free to enter the name, birth date, and place of birth (including city and county). A simple border surrounds the entire fraktur.



Fraktur  
Country Bedroom

The Country Bedroom fraktur artist was Rev. Lobach of Grindstone Hill School near Chambersburg, PA, not far from Route #16. Lobach, an itinerant school master, who started his educational career in the late 1700's in the Benjamin Church, Westminster, MD. He then passed through Franklin County and ended up in Bedford County, PA according to Frederick Weiser.

Rev. Lobach, called the "nine heart artist," the center heart is the child (Leib) and the two smaller hearts are the parents and it affirms that they were married.

According to Glenn Cordell, an authority on frakturs, the Leib child married a Wertz woman from the Quincy area in the mid 1820's. The fraktur remained in the family until 1981 when a Mr. Thomas obtained it. Renfrew Museum purchased the fraktur in 2008 from a private owner.

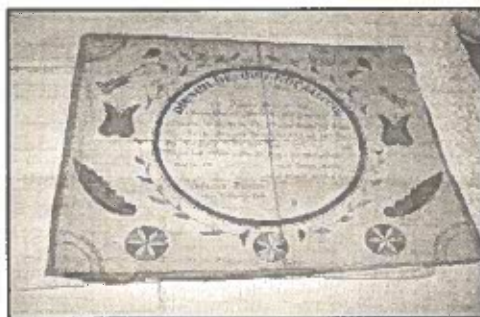
From simple origins—pen, ink, and paper, these talented artisans produced an object not only of singular beauty but of genealogical importance, leaving a heritage for future generations to treasure.



... and of  
Local Interest

Renfrew Museum has also added another fraktur to its collection. This records the birth of a son to Johann (John) Bauman and his wife, Barbara (nee Lemann) residing in Letterkenny Township in Franklin County. The son, Johannes Bauman, was born on July 11, 1816 under the Zodiac sign of the Waterman and baptized by Herr Pfarrer.

The charm of the fraktur lies in its simple decorative elements. This one features an inner circle wreathed by leaves in a light brown with touches of red, five circles with flower symbols, stylized tulips and birds, and possibly angel wings. It may not have been completed as a space has been left empty for the hour and minute of the birth which would normally have been recorded.



In addition to the fraktur, Renfrew has also received a dauguerrotype of young Bauman and his wife. The circumstances of the portrait of the couple are unknown, but it was most assuredly taken after 1839. On August 19 of that year, the French Academy of Sciences in Paris announced the invention of this new photographic process by Louis-Jacques-Mande Daguerre. Considering that it took time for dauguerrotype photography to reach the Chambersburg area, this one probably dates to the 1850's.



Dauguerrotypes used a rather clumsy system, requiring heavy equipment and a lengthy exposure time, originally from 3-15 minutes, later reduced to about one minute. It used a very delicate surface to expose the object being photographed, however, no negatives were produced. The popularity of this type of photography lasted about a decade when it was replaced by other forms of photography which were faster and less expensive.

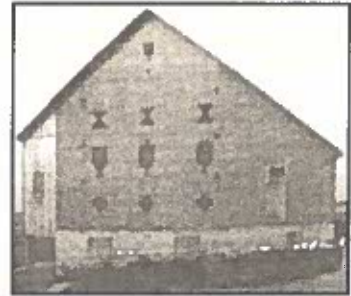
Brick End Barns



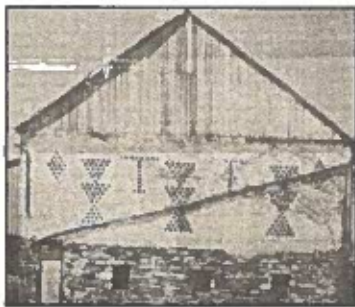
Gabler Farm Chambersburg



Phil Schaff preparing for lecture!



Shelly Farm  
 Peters Township



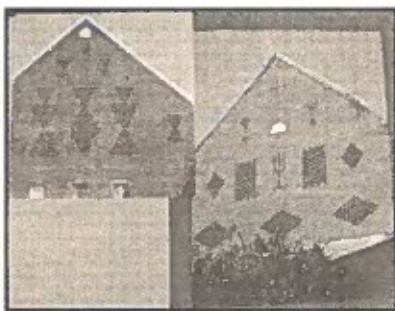
Cathcart Farm  
 Path Valley Road



Brick End Barn Poster

BARN ICONS		
	Wheat Sheaf or Hourglass	41
	X + Horizontal Diamond	19
	Water or Bushel Measure	16
	Easter Lily	15
	Bushel Measure	9
	Wheat Sheaf + Triangle	7

Frequently used  
 barn icons



Left- Diller Farm  
 Grindstone Hill Road  
 Right- Five Forks Fruit  
 Clay Hill Road



Sollenberger Farm  
 now Norlo Park  
 Guilford Township



Miller Farm Waynesboro



Civil War Encampment



Entertaining the troops  
2nd Carolina String Band



## Brick End Barns

In late September, Renfrew's Visitors Center was filled with an audience drawn by a talk on Brick End Barns given by two local experts on this topic: Phil Schaff, photographer (pictures on page 4) and Dianna Heim, author of "Cumberland Valley Barns: Past and Present."

"My goal was to document designs in brick in Franklin County," said Schaff, in describing the motive for his multiple-year project which covered the years 1999-2004.

A few of the 107 brick end barns he has found now exist only in Schaff's photographs; the actual buildings have been lost to time for various reasons. "One by fire, a couple of housing developments, and others were torn down for their poor condition," he noted.

Schaff has gone beyond just photographs, documenting various icons on the barns and their frequency, such as the Easter Lily designs, squares representing bushel measurements, and a wheat sheaf with a triangle top.

Heim was attracted by Franklin County barns when she moved to this area over 20 years ago. Her grandfather, who left Dusseldorf, Germany to escape conscription into the Kaiser's army, worked for the railroad making keystones for the train tunnels. Fond memories of his barn inspired her four-year quest to trace local history.



Dianna Heim

Brick end barns came into existence after 1830. Heim traces their origins to barns in Switzerland. They came in two basic shapes: asymmetrical on the gable end or symmetrical on the gable end which were easier to add onto.

Franklin County was the epicenter of brick end barns, important for the ventilation they provided. "Spontaneous combustion was a problem," noted Heim, "and the brick end barns were a remedy for that."

Brick end barns were not inexpensive. Factoring in the cost of the bricks alone, whether made on site or brought from Waynesboro or Greencastle, a barn might run upwards of \$6,000, a hefty amount in those days.

## Stone Houses Christmas Tour

Christmas will take on new meaning this year as Renfrew expands its open house event with the addition of tours to two nearby stone houses on Welty Road. All three will be open on Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4.

The Welty Road houses stand on land that was originally one farm. In 1767, Jacob Sheet was granted a warrant for the acreage by the Penn family. Some twenty years later John James and David Parks received another Patent to the land; the spring there still bears Parks' name.

The land then went to Jacob Hollinger and later to Christian Keagy, who died at the age of 37 leaving a widow and 15 children. He is said to have built the northern end of the larger house.

By 1825, the land passed to Christian Frantz, a Bishop of the Reformed Mennonite Church. When his wife died in 1847, he transferred the deed to his son John Frantz, Sr. He also passed on a life interest to his two sisters in the small stone tenant house near Parks Spring, situated north of the mansion house.

The larger house is now owned by Dick and Barbara McCracken, who purchased it in 2009. The lovely two and half story limestone home sits at the edge of a natural spring-fed pond.



The stone base at one time was covered by stucco, since removed. The roof is now covered with modern wood shingles, while brick chimneys are located inside the end walls and the interior of the house. The kitchen sits directly above a spring and an opening to the well can be seen.

The neighboring house, owned by Frank and Bonnie Damazo, is also of limestone. It was renovated in the 1980s and the Damazos continued to work on the house, adding custom woodwork to the kitchen and restoring the heart of pine floors. The first floor displays bricks salvaged from Waynesboro's original brick sidewalks.

The Christmas adult-only tours will be \$5.00 each, available by advance purchase only at the Visitors Center.







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

Donation from Civil War Coordinator- Don Biesecker  
Donation from Second N.C. Light Infantry-Civil War participants  
Additions to the Steck/Graham Collection-Steve Graham  
Sponsorship of the Annual Pumpkin Fest- M & T Bank  
Sponsorship of the Christmas Open House-Franklin County Visitors Bureau  
Donation of a plank bottom rocker- Nancy Smith  
Donations to the Katherine Maxwell Memorial Fund- Mark & Judy Elden, Stephen and Maxine Beck, Stevenson Family, Eunice G. Statler, Steve Graham, Martha Adams, Audrey Eshleman, Thomas and Yvonne MacBride, William and Elizabeth George, Mr. and Mrs. Wolff, Charles and Undine Warner, Mr. and Mrs. George Buckey, Mrs. Angela Weagly, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. William Shank, William J. Stevenson, Sr, and Mrs. William Shull, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bender, John W. Keller, Lynn MacBride and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fogg  
Christmas Stone House Tour Fundraiser- Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCracken, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Damazo

***In Remembrance***

It is with regret that we note the passing of Mrs. Pauline K. (Kauffman) Maxwell, beloved wife of LeRoy Maxwell.  
A friend to many including Renfrew Museum and Park.

**New Members  
For 2011**

**Family Memberships**

Dr. Garrett Blanchet & Elena Kehoe  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller  
Charles Mancini & Gayle Ann Underwood

**Individual Membership**

Mrs. Eve Adkins  
Mrs. Sharon Bates

**Renfrew Committee, Inc.  
Members-2010**

Douglas Tengler, President  
Allison (Allie)Kohler, Vice President  
David Hykes, 2nd Vice President  
George Buckey- Treasurer and Director  
A. J. Benchoff- Director  
Judge John W. Keller, Director  
Alice McCleaf, Director & Assistant Secretary

**Renfrew Executive Committee  
Members-2010**

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

**Renfrew Museum and Park  
Staff-2010**

Bonnie Iseminger-Administrator  
John Frantz-Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
Bob North-Traveling Trunk Outreach  
Cheryl Keyser-Visitors Services Personnel  
Judy Elden- Visitors Services Personnel  
Jim Diller-Maintenance Personnel

**Renfrew Museum and Park  
Volunteers-2010**

Bonnie Barlup	Eugene Martin
Marilyn Bender	Ellie Miller
Linda Blubaugh	Alice Noll
Dan Carbaugh	Anita Pfeuffer
Phyllis Croson	Gretchen Potocheny
Karen Day	Virginia Rahn
Emily Elden	Bernadette Raimondi
Mark Elden	Peggy Sandel
Peggy Eter	Helen Shelley
Anna Hartford	Bill Smith
Phyllis King	Roy Struble
Chris Kostka	Mary Unger
Carol MacDougall	Judy & Craig Welterlen



**Renfrew's  
Gift Showcase**

Gift Shop hours as of October 17th- Monday-Friday noon until 4 p.m. Closed on weekends!

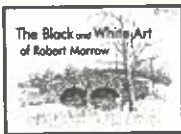
New arrivals of stone arrowhead pendants and necklaces are not to be missed.



Autumn



Christmas



The new book, "The Black and White Art of Robert Morrow", is now on our bookshelves.

Bonnie Iseminger-Editor  
Contributors: Articles by: Cheryl Keyser and Bonnie Iseminger  
Photos: Bonnie Iseminger, Barn photos: Phil Schaff

**Renfrew  
Upcoming Events**

Friday, December 3 from 6-8 p.m. come celebrate the season with Renfrew Museum's Annual Open House. Continued on Saturday, December 4 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. FREE!

**Special event!!** A tour of the stone houses on Welty Road is being added this year; it will be for adults only.

The fund-raiser for Renfrew Museum and Park will give you an opportunity to visit the two stone houses on Welty Road close to Renfrew.

Tickets must be purchased at the Visitor Center, in advance for the price of \$5 ( No refunds.) Note: No tickets will be available on the day of the tour. Parking at lower parking lot and overflow at Township offices- in designated areas.

der  
**Wetterhahn**

Renfrew Museum and Park  
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(717)762-4723 Email: renfrew@innernet.net  
Website: www.renfrewmuseum.org  
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Waynesboro, PA  
17268  
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**CELEBRATE THE SEASON  
AT RENFREW**



**A  
CHRISTMAS  
OPEN HOUSE**

**Come keep the spirit  
of Christmas with  
the rooster!**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3      6-8 PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4    2-4 P M  
   6-8 P M**

*A holiday tradition!*

*In the museum house savor the aroma  
of fresh seasonal greens  
and period music.*

*In the Visitors Center enjoy fresh baked  
cookies and mulled cider.*

Sponsored by:



**FRANKLIN COUNTY | PA**

Great moments along the way.

