

# Der Wetterhahn

CELEBRATING OUR 34TH YEAR !



Volume XVIII, Issue 4 The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Winter 2010

## The Man Over the Mantel

Who is that distinguished man whose portrait is hanging over the mantel in the front parlor of the Museum House? On tours he is identified as the step-grandfather of Emma Nicodemus, but little more seems to be known about him.

His name is Samuel M. Hoeflich (pronounced Hafley).

He was born in Washington Township on December 21, 1831, the son of William and Susan Royer Hoeflich. Susan was the niece of Daniel Royer who built the Renfrew House.

Hoeflich, the oldest of seven children, was educated in Waynesboro and, at age sixteen, began working in a dry goods store owned by Peter Fahnestock. In just a few years, he was acknowledged as the top salesman.



Samuel Hoeflich's portrait over the mantel in the Museum House front parlor.

### -IN THIS ISSUE -

<b>The Man Over the Mantel</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>A Call to Arms; Poetry Corner; Fall News and Notes</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>The Rooster Ran to Harrisburg photos</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Harrisburg photos- continued</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>The Rooster Ran to Harrisburg</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Recognition of Individuals and Business Organizations; Renfrew Memberships; Renfrew Committee Members; Renfrew Executive Committee Members; Renfrew Staff; Renfrew Wish List; Volunteer Recognition; Remembrances</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Renfrew's Gift Showcase, Upcoming Events</b>	<b>Page 8</b>

That store closed in 1849 and Hoeflich found another position at Besore and Balsely.

In 1862, Hoeflich was drafted into Company E of the One Hundred and Fifty-Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry where he was named Orderly Sergeant. That same year he was promoted to First Sergeant and later to Second Lieutenant. He left the service in 1863.

On his return from the war, he resumed his job with Besore and Balsley, and when Besore passed away, Hoeflich bought Besore's share of the business.

In 1864, Hoeflich and Joseph Price combined their two businesses under the name Price & Hoeflich. Over time both men bought shares in both Landis and Frick Company, where Hoeflich served on the Board of the later until 1896.

Continued Page 2



Price eventually sold his share of the business to Mr. D. M. Good, and the company name was changed to Hoeflich & Good.

Hoeflich also served for a time as a director of the First National Bank of Waynesboro, later consolidated with the Peoples National Bank, and was involved in the establishment of Waynesboro's water works.

He was Chief Burgess of the City Council and an Elder of the St. Paul's Reformed Church for twenty-five years.

On January 10, 1865, Hoeflich married Maria Vandrau, widow of Benjamin Mentzer and daughter of William Vandrau of Greencastle.

She passed away in 1896 and two years later he married Emma Filbert, widow of Thomas Filbert and daughter of John Saylor.

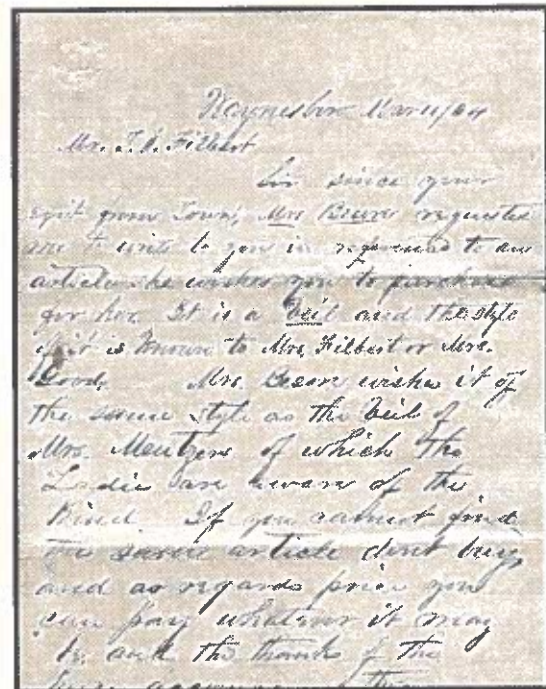
Emma Filbert would become the grandmother of Emma Nicodemus. In his will, Hoeflich left bequests to both Emma and her sister, Hazel Geiser.

In a letter to Samuel Hoeflich dated December 22, 1905, a friend, R. F. Gibson, Justice of the Peace and Notary Public wrote: "Only think of dear old Waynesboro 56 years ago, and then the present Waynesboro. The strides which she has made, and the city airs which she has put on.

"You my dear Hoeflich, cannot even imagine the great pleasure it would afford to me, could I just drop into your city, and with my white head and beard, pass along your streets. I am very sure that no person would think that they had ever seen me.

"And then, such a very cordial invitation, as you have given to me, to partake of knout and backbone, just makes me hungary (sic) for some of Pennsylvania's luxuries."

Hoeflich passed away in April 1907. In a note addressed to his wife from Charles Hamilton Coon, D. D., Pastor of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation of Brooklyn, N.Y., Coon said of him:



Letter from Samuel Hoeflich to  
Thomas J. Filbert  
March 11, 1864

"His life was an honorable one—full of good deeds and kind words. His Christian character made its impress upon all who knew him.

"My acquaintance with Mr. Hoeflich extends back to my boyhood days, and through all those years I esteemed him as a kind friend and admired his integrity."

In addition to the small collection of letters addressed to Hoeflich, Renfrew also has a letter (see above) written by him to Thomas J. Filbert on March 11, 1864. This charming communication deals with a simple request, but shows his concern for others even in the smallest details.

In the letter, Hoeflich notes that Mrs. Besore has requested Filbert to purchase a veil for her.

She wishes it to be "of the same style as the veil of Mrs. Mentzer of which the Ladies (Mrs. Filbert and Mrs. Good) are aware of the kind. If you cannot find the same article don't buy, and as regards price you can pay whatever it may be...."



### A Call to Arms

Sounds militaristic, doesn't it? Well, we can't compel people to join our ranks of volunteers - nor would we want to do that! Even the Army declares that volunteers are better than draftees.

Yet, we do need arms! Your arms, along with the rest of your faculties to become a volunteer here at Renfrew. We need to "fill up our ranks!"

Volunteers put a friendly face forward in enhancing the goals of this museum and park. Of course, we need folks to guide our visitors in the Museum House, but some of you may consider yourself too shy to be in that role. We have other needs for your talents as well. For instance, there are gardens to tend, bulk mailings to process, a gift store to man, or... bring your idea to us - we'll most likely agree that, "Yes - good idea - you can help like that!"

Arms have hands, and an old saying states that, "Many hands make light work." Please consider joining your hands into our efforts here at Renfrew. In fact, bring a friend along as well. We need you!

Contact Bob North at the Visitor's Center - phone number 717-762-4723.

Article by: Bob North

### The Poetry Corner

...and on the topic of helping hands, this issue's selection:

#### Volunteers

By George M. Leader, former Governor of Pennsylvania

The world is so full of people who say,  
"What can I do to be happy today;  
Do I share life with others or keep it for me?  
Shall I make a decision or just wait and see?"

At some point in time, we are bound to observe  
That we get out of life just what we deserve;  
If we keep on taking and just fail to give  
We are bound to discover it's a poor way to live.

If we'll give of our love and show our concern  
It keeps coming back as quickly we'll learn;  
That life is a circle and good things come 'round,  
As those who have tried it already have found.

So to volunteers here and all over the world,  
May all of us here with the voice of a herald,  
Say we love you and honor you each day of the year,  
And we hope that your life will be full of good cheer.

### Fall News and Notes

#### Franklin County Ghosts

Renfrew's Visitors Center hosted an evening with Athena Varounis and Deborah Heinecker for their recently published book, "Franklin County Ghosts." The pair, who have formed Vesuvius Investigative Consultants for exploring everything from paranormal phenomena to current and cold criminal cases, talked about their experiences and how they joined forces to check on the "ghostly" possibilities in the area.

Included in the book is a chapter on Renfrew, where the ghost they encountered may have been Daniel Royer. They have also written about ghosts at Wilson College, the Allison-Antrim Museum, the Capitol Theatre, and other local sites.

Deborah has also written an account of her experiences with the paranormal, "The Reluctant Psychic".

The evening event attracted one of the largest turn-outs in the area with more than 70 people filling the Visitor's Center to overflowing. Many purchased copies of Athena's and Deborah's books, both of whom signed copies.

For anyone who wishes a copy of Athena's book, there are some still available at Renfrew's Gift Showcase.

### Fall News and Notes

#### Emma's Birthday

For the first time, Renfrew celebrated the birthday of Emma Nicodemus on October 22, 2009 with a ladies night only.

Renfrew volunteers and women from the business community were invited to attend the simple birthday celebration of cake and punch. The excellent cake, prepared by Rhoda Custer, was decorated with an edible photo of the Museum House and anecdotes on Emma's life were recounted.

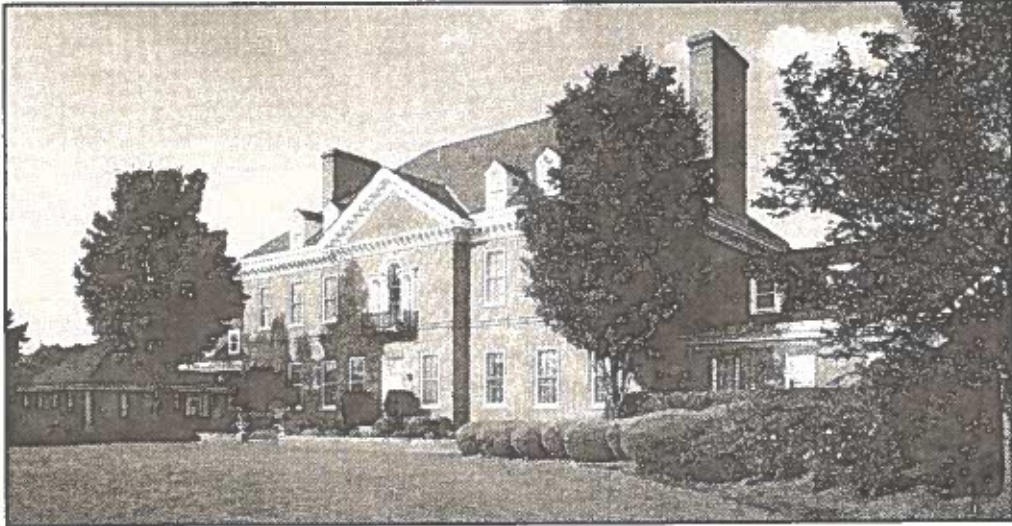
Carol McDougal brought several floral bouquets. Several birthday cards were presented. One from Virginia Rahn expresses well the importance of Emma's contribution: "Emma, we are grateful to you for your special gift of your prized possession, Renfrew. Many of us spend many happy hours here and enjoy all that it has to offer."

The party will be held again this year, and there will be a surprise twist. Stay tuned.



# The Rooster Ran to Harrisburg

Our first stop:  
the  
Governor's  
Mansion



Met by both of our State legislator's, our group enjoyed a personalized tour of the Capitol.



## Pictures from the Fall Trip



Representative Todd Rock gave us a personal account of how the House of Representatives operates.

Although called away, Senator Rich Alloway ensured that we had a special tour of the Senate, including time on the "floor."



Tired, but well satisfied, our last stop was the **John Harris Mansion**, built in 1766 by the son of the original ferryman at the site that would become Harrisburg.



## The Rooster Ran To Harrisburg

On October 27, 2009, under weeping grey skies, a friendly group gathered and boarded a coach bound for our state's capital city. As with other trips, there was a feeling of excited anticipation- new sites to see and learn about along with a congenial band of interesting folks.

First stop: the Governor's Mansion. Since the state's long budget crisis had just ended, there was some joking about, "I'm going to tell the Governor..." Fortunately for him, we only toured the grounds and public - first floor - of this substantial and well appointed home. Among many anecdotes about former occupants, one stands out; in 1972 as Hurricane Agnes swelled the waters of the Susquehanna, visible beyond the front yard of the Mansion, Milton Shapp and his staff hurriedly tried to protect as much as they could as the waters rose into the building. He and others splashed into rowboats and floated out the door to safety! A marker well up on the wall of the first floor labels the high water mark. On our way back to the bus, there was some friendly bantering about wanting to run for governor in order to live in this beautiful place.

Our main focus for the day was the magnificent Capitol Building... which includes a cafeteria with an array of tasty choices, so, food came first - lunch among the multitudes of this busy building. Our tour began on the capitol's grand staircase under the Rotunda. Words are inadequate to describe the immensity, superb artistry, beauty, and splendor of our capitol. Besides an excellent guide, we also were fortunate to have both Representative Rock and Senator Alloway meet us. After a group picture, they both spoke a few words and took questions from our party, putting a personal touch upon their representation of us in Harrisburg.

Although Sen. Alloway needed to meet another appointment, he did provide for us to get onto the Senate Floor. Our guide treated us to an excellent tour of the Senate, Supreme Court Chamber, Governor's Executive Office, and the House of Representatives. Rep. Rock met us again and supplied a more personalized tour also, leading us onto the House floor and inviting us to sit at the front as he answered our questions about the workings of the House.

Originally called Harris' Ferry, the second John Harris, who took over his father's ferry, trading post, and farm, decided to build a stone house upon higher

ground in 1766. (In 1785, the extensive land holdings of this influential man were plotted off to become the town of Harrisburg, the seat of Dauphin County. In 1812, after a short tenure in Lancaster, Harrisburg became our capital city.) We came to tour this stone house, which now is the headquarters of the Dauphin County Historical Society. Like our museum, the rooms are filled with period antiques and interpretations of both local history and specifics about John Harris and his heirs.

A quick personal note: I led twenty-some elementary fieldtrips to Harrisburg over the years, but never had a group that was better behaved and interested than this group last fall!

And it's time to think about a trip this spring... where would you suggest we go? Some possibilities are Cumberland, MD, a tour of some of Franklin County's historic sites, Carlisle, or a trip down toward Washington, D.C. to see some "off the beaten path" places. We would appreciate your input as to where or how we plan these excursions, these "stepping out of daily routines," these chances to enjoy interesting places with interesting and friendly people.

Article by: Bob North





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

All those who contributed to the Edgar Hykes Memorial Fund  
Support of the Traveling Trunk Program-Steve Graham  
Sponsoring the Christmas Open House-Franklin County Visitors  
Bureau  
Support of the Traveling Trunk Program-Howard North  
Decorating the Museum House for Christmas Open House-  
Blue Ridge Garden Club and Toll Gate Garden Clubs— under the  
direction of Virginia Rahn  
Items for the Steck/Graham Collection-Steve Graham  
Appraisal of Steve Graham Collection and select John Bell loaned  
items-Bob Benchoff

**Volunteer  
Louise West**

Long time docent, Louise West, will no longer be able to serve as a volunteer at Renfrew Museum and Park. Circumstances have made it necessary for Louise to step down from her dedicated role. Her vast knowledge of Renfrew history and her soothing manner will be sorely missed!

**In Remembrance of:  
Max Hoover, Jr.**

We regret the passing of long-time Life Member of Renfrew Museum and Park, Mr. Max Hoover, Jr.

**In Remembrance of:  
Edgar Hykes**

November 8th marked the passing of one of Renfrew Museum and Park's Directors, Edgar Hykes.

Mr. Hykes was a native son of Waynesboro, who lived a life of service to his home town.

Family and community were of paramount importance to the friendly, unassuming man, who always stepped up to assist.

We shall miss his warm smile and firm handshake that put you immediately at ease, a man of substance!

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

Douglas Tengler, President  
Allison (Allie) Kohler, Vice President  
David Hykes, 2nd Vice President  
George Buckey— Treasurer and Director  
Al Porter— Alternate 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-Visitor Services Personnel  
Cheryl Keyser-Visitor Services Personnel  
Jim Diller— Maintenance personnel

**Renfrew  
Wish List-2010**

Decorative items, including glassware, stemware and bottles in use prior to 1850  
Butchering kettles and tools  
Pewter or wood plates (pre-1840)  
Underwriting for programs and events-business or private individuals would be welcome  
Flowering plants; bulbs, perennials and shrubs  
Volunteers for gardening and museum guides  
Amicable members

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. Call 717-762-4723. Thank you for your support!



### Renfrew's Gift Showcase

Our gift showcase has many items to choose from for that perfect gift for any occasion. From the very inexpensive to the very affordable, we have something to tempt you.

During our "closed" season the gift shop hours will be noon until 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Tell your friends about the Gift Showcase! Let's not keep it a secret!

Bonnie Iseminger-Editor

Contributors: Articles by: Bob North, Cheryl Keyser,  
and Bonnie Iseminger

Photos: Bob North and Bonnie Iseminger

### Renfrew Upcoming Events

Friday, February 26- 6:30 p.m. -? Fourth annual German Heritage Dinner. See included flyer for details and registration.

Saturday, March 27- 8:30 a.m. -? Park clean-up day!  
A day for preparing the park for the season.

Saturday, April 3-1:00 p.m. -Brothers of the Brush  
Easter Egg Hunt at Renfrew 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