

der Wetterhahn



Celebrating our 37th year!



Volume X Issue 1 The Newsletter of Renfrew Museum & Park

Winter 2012

Renfrew Museum Turns 200

Milestones are important in history, and this year Renfrew Museum turns 200 years old.

Land to be used for the farmstead was purchased by Daniel Royer from Abraham Stoner, father of Catharine (Stoner) Royer in the 1790's.

Construction began on the stone house in 1812, by a then 50 year old Royer, who was replacing his 24' x 24' log cabin which had been the family home. Local stone was used as well as pointing from the limestone kiln located on the property to build the Pennsylvania German Federal style house.

An addition was added on in 1815 with a new kitchen and upstairs rooms which connect to an upper porch.

The Royer farmstead house remained in the family many years with few alterations. A slate roof was added to the farm house during the time Nancy Royer Fahnestock owned it from 1884 until it was sold.

Dr. A. H. Strickler purchased the Royer property in 1895 and it remained in the Strickler family for a number of years. After Dr. Strickler's death in 1911 his son, Harry Strickler owned it and then it passed to the daughter, Belle Strickler in 1926.



After Belle Strickler died in 1937 First National Bank became the owner. And in 1942 Mr. Edgar Nicodemus purchased the property from the bank, which was owned by the Nicodemus family until Mrs. Emma Nicodemus passed away in 1973. The Nicodemus family did extensive interior renovations and installed a new roof.

In 1973 the Will of Emma Nicodemus gave the property to the Borough of Waynesboro.. It would take two years for the house and property to be made into a museum and park.

The name of Renfrew comes from the legend of the two sisters, Sara and Jane Renfrew, who were allegedly killed on the property in 1764. Emma Nicodemus, who believed the story, named the property in honor of the two girls.

Today Renfrew, under the direction of Renfrew Committee Incorporated, is a thriving part of Franklin County and beyond. In addition to the Museum and outbuildings, the almost five miles of walking trails are used daily by many visitors, such accompanied by their Pet Pals. There is also a 150 seat pavilion.

We look to the future with hope that interest in Renfrew will continue to grow, and through the support of members, volunteers, and bequests to keep Renfrew a viable and vital part of the Cumberland Valley for generations.

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Jacob Wolf

Jacob Wolf was born in 1795 (unknown town and state) and died in 1865 at the age of 70 years. He is interred at Green Hill Cemetery, Waynesboro alongside his wife. Wolf was not born in Waynesboro or Waynesburg as it was known until about 1831. There is false information in print that Jacob Wolf bought one of the first lots (Lot 7 which would have been directly across the street from the current townhall) from John Wallace in 1798. If you do the math Wolf would have been 3 years old at this time. Jacob Wolf was known to be in Westminster, Md area from 1815-1818 according to their tax records. There is a tallcase clock in the Carroll County Historical Museum in Westminster, Md bearing "Jacob Wolf Westminster" on the dial. Wolf migrated to Uniontown, Md. and set up business from 1818 until the mid 1820's according to advertisements in the Uniontown "Star of Federalism" newspaper. Uniontown is a small town near Taneytown, Md. Jacob Wolf arrived in Waynesburg about 1824 and all records indicate he set up home and shop on Lot #41 (formerly J. C. Penny store location). There have been articles written that Wolf was an elusive clockmaker and discussion as to why he moved his business so much in his early days. I think quite simply that this is explained as he was seeking a larger market share for his services. In Taneytown during the late 1700's and into the early 1800's Eli Bentley was the main maker of tallcase clocks. Whether Wolf apprenticed under Bentley is unknown. Uniontown may have been a short stopping point on his way to Waynesburg which was a fast growing town in population and personal income.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, &C.

HAVING just returned from the City, the subscriber is now exhibiting a splendid assortment of the most Fashionable *JEWELRY*, to which he invites the attention of the Ladies and Gentlemen of Waynesboro' and the public generally. His stock embraces among other articles, Gold bracelets, finger rings, ear-rings, gold pencils, *brooches*, medallions, cuff pins, silver and other trinkets, gold guard keys, chains, &c.

Clocks and watches carefully repaired at the old stand, and warranted to perform or no charge. An assortment of the best watches always on hand.

June 29, 1854] JACOB WOLF.

According to the first assessment in Waynesburg in 1826 Wolf was listed as a watchmaker. It is important to note that Wolf did not make watches. He only repaired the imported foreign watches as American made watches in this part of the country did not exist at this time in our history. As with most of the clockmakers in the early 19th century Wolf did not actually manufacture the timepiece entirely but simply assembled the gears and parts that were mostly made in England and imported into America. The dials on the clocks were painted by an artist not the clockmaker and the cases were made by a local cabinetmaker few if any of which were signed.

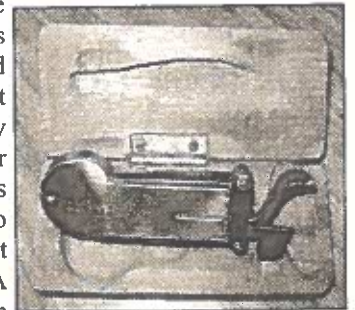
From 1827 until 1840 Wolf was listed in the Waynesboro tax assessments and local advertising as a clockmaker. In 1846 he was listed as a silversmith only. Renfrew has some examples of Wolf's silversmith work in the form of spoons signed with the "Jacob Wolf" stamped impression. And now, Renfrew owns the first example of Wolf's work in the form of a fleam or bloodletting lancet used by physicians and veterinarians at the time to cut open veins. From 1853-55 Wolf advertised as a watchmaker and jeweler. In the mid 19th century demand and taste for tallcase clocks declined as the cheaper "Yankee clocks" from New England infiltrated the American market as a cheaper alternative to the expensive and large tallcase clock. Wolf's health also declined during this period and on May 7, 1864 Wolf's estate at Lot #41 was sold at public auction including his watch and clock tools. In the auction advertisement he was listed as Jacob Wolf-lunatic. Wolf died the following year 1865.

Article by: Rick Shindle

Jacob Wolf's Fleam

Renfrew Museum recently acquired the only known fleam (bloodletting lancet) that was made and stamped by Jacob Wolf Waynesboro's clockmaker, watchmaker, jeweler and silversmith. The fleam measures about 4" long and has a 1/2" wide blade. The brass case has been polished and lacquered. At this size it would have been used by either a physician or veterinarian to cut veins and let blood to supposedly cure a patient of sickness and disease. A frequently used practice in the 18th and much into the 19th century. The fleam exhibits the same impressed "Jacob Wolf" stamp as the spoons made by Wolf that Renfrew Museum owns. The fleam is also inscribed with a cursive monogram "A.G. Nevin" which would have been the owner. According to the book "History of Franklin County, Pennsylvania," published in 1887 by Warner, Beers & Co. Chicago, page 953 A.G. Nevin was a railroad contractor working for the P.R.R. 1830's-40's. He was involved in getting the Gettysburg extension built. He was also the postmaster at Waynesboro from 1864 to 1866 and again from 1868 to 1875. He died in 1875. His son, T. S. Nevin was the proprietor of a confectionery, baker and grocery store in Waynesboro. This is wonderful provenance to be able to state that this fleam was made by Waynesboro's Jacob Wolf during the time he was a silversmith.

Article by: Rick Shindle





American Furniture

A stunning new edition of the annual publication, "American Furniture", features the 1792 "Gaudy" or Dower chest in the second floor bedroom in the Renfrew Museum house. There are two photographs on page 50, a front view of the chest and a side view, both taken last year when a representative of Winterthur came here to photograph it.



The Winterthur representative called this chest the finest example of its kind in the state of Pennsylvania. The accompanying article, written by Lisa Minardi, notes that it bears the name "Hannes Lautermilch", of Heidelberg Township. "The decoration on this example is the most elaborate...with birds, flowers, and compass stars interspersed with the heart and arched-head panels on the façade and sides", noted Minardi.

More information can be found at the University Press of New England website (www.upne.com). Click on New Titles and scroll down to American Furniture. The book will be available in March of this year.



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Bell Pottery

Renfrew Museum has acquired a new Bell piece—a 2-gallon jug with the classic blue tulips adorning the upper third. Renfrew has a large collection of Bell's work and is always on the look-out for additional pieces, especially unique ones.

John Bell (the original spelling of the name was Beall) came from a family of potters, originally located in the Shenandoah Valley. He was born in 1800 in Hagerstown, Maryland where his family was then living.



His father, Peter Bell, was a well-known potter, but not a particularly good businessman, failing to collect on debts owed to him. Finally, he moved the family to Winchester, Virginia and opened a new business.

Bell was a precocious child who was considered a master potter by 13 years of age. By 14, he was travelling between Winchester and Hagerstown to deliver pottery orders.

Bells' original training in pottery was using German techniques, he later worked with Jacob Hart in Chambersburg and added English techniques to his skills. This experience taught him the making of molded pieces. He also picked up a Hagerstown method of using tin in the glazing process, uncommon then in the country.

In fact, Bell's pottery became so well-known for its quality and abundance that it just about eliminated pottery production in Hagerstown.

In 1833, Bell opened his pottery shop in Waynesboro on Potomac Street where he maintained production until his death of heart problems in 1880.





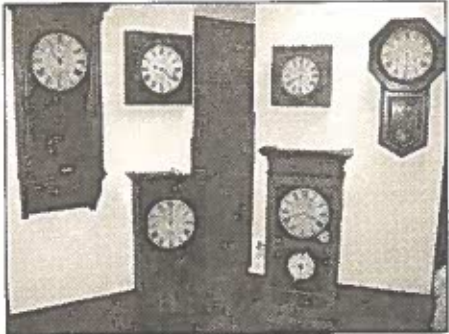
Clocks of Waynesboro



Rick Shindle with Wolf and Newcomer Clocks



Rick Shindle & Moving Assistant Wayne Martz



Landis Time Clocks



Jacob Wolf Dial



Ghost Tales



Athena Varounis and Michael Albert Ghost Story Tellers

The evening of Saturday, October 22nd brought a special event to Renfrew. A presentation of Ghost Tales by Athena Varounis and Michael Albert was dedicated to paranormal activities in many local homes, museums and more.

Varounis, a former FBI agent, spoke of "haunting" experiences and gave a guide to avoiding developing a connection with the spirit world. Author of the book, "Franklin County Ghosts," Varounis and her business partner, Deborah Heinecker continue to explore ghostly occurrences of those who seek their assistance in explaining the unexplainable.

Michael Albert's firm, Historic Preservation Services, concentrates on restoration of old structures in Franklin County and beyond. Albert, a local historian, is widely known for telling ghost stories of people and places in Franklin County.

The 60 people who attended were probably looking over their shoulders as they left the building.



Christmas Wrap-Up

It is hard to believe the holiday season has passed. Now it is time to savor the memories of the events that touched our lives during this magical period.

The Stone House Tour and More fund-raiser was a great success! Many people enjoyed the beautiful decorations that adorned each house. The LL Trolley, which transported guests from Renfrew to the Oller House was also a highlight of the tour.



Many thanks are to be offered to all who donated or volunteered to make this special program happen:

Board of Directors and Volunteers
Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCracken
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Damazo
Franklin County Visitors Bureau
Tower Bank
Waynaires
Keeney Fire Extinguishers
Waynesboro Fire Police
Tom Eyler of Eyler's Concrete
Mr. and Mrs. David Hykes
Renfrew house decorators: Barbara McCracken, Shelley Benchoff, Waynesboro Garden Club and the Blue Ridge Garden Club
Girl Scout Troop 80880
Schlosser Family
John Hykes
Twilla Flohr
Dr. Terry Musselman— musician
Anita Pfeuffer
Gwen and David Koons
Waynesboro Historical Society
Mrs. Ruby Hykes
Dan Mack— musician
Cookie bakers for the event
Model A Club from Baltimore

Plans are underway for the 2012 Christmas event. This year will be very special because of the 200th anniversary of Renfrew Museum House. Do mark your calendars for Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8. As always, it will be an occasion to remember!

"Roads from Gettysburg"

Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00p.m. brings noted Civil War historian, Rev. John W. Schildt to speak on "The Roads from Gettysburg" at the Visitors Center.

Schildt has written some 20 books on various Civil War topics, a fascination that began in his childhood when his great grandmother told him tales of feeding Union troops on their way to Gettysburg, hiding horses from enemy troops, and burying the silverware in a mattress.



In 1951, while in high school he published his first article about the Battle of Antietam. And throughout his years in the ministry, he continued to write, producing a book every five to six years.

His newest title is "Frederick in the Civil War: Battle & Honor in the Spired City", others include "Roads from Gettysburg", "Roads to Gettysburg", and "Roads to Antietam", and several on Stonewall Jackson, including Jackson's doctor, Hunter Holmes McGuire.



With five titles on Antietam alone, Schildt knows his field from both the military and the civilian aspects, reporting in detail on corps and campaigns, as well as the homefront, using original letters and other documents.

In addition to writing books, Schildt also gives tours at Antietam and Gettysburg. He has lectured at the Gettysburg College Civil War Institute, the Chicago and Baltimore Civil War Round Tables, and many other groups. He has also taken groups to Normandy on tours and took part in the joint commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the landing on D-Day in 1944.

Schildt was ordained a minister in the United Methodist Church in 1962. After initially serving at a church in Wolfsville, Md., he spent 38 years at the Bethel United Methodist Church in Chewsville, Md., from which he is now retired, and still preaches periodically at churches in Washington County.



**Renfrew Committee, Inc.
Members -2012**

Allison (Allie) Kohler, Director
David Hykes, Vice President/Director
George Bucky-Treasurer and Director
A.J. Benchoff-Director
Judge John W. Keller-Director
Barbara Gaydick- Director and Secretary
Alice McCleaf Director and Assistant Secretary

**Renfrew Executive Committee
Members -2012**

David Hykes-Chairman
George Bucky-Treasurer
Allie Kohler
Terry Barkdoll
Robert Benchoff
Doug Burkholder
Steve Graham
Wayne Martz
Barb McCracken
Richard "Red" Mohn
Tom Moore
Virginia Rahn
Dade Royer
Rick Shindle

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Employees -2012**

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

**In Remembrance of
J. Howard North**

It is with sadness that we share the passing of a good friend to Renfrew, Mr. J. Howard North on December 25th. Mr. North was a great supporter and volunteer of Renfrew Museum and the Traveling Trunk Program. He was the father of our own, Bob North.

**Renfrew Museum and Park
Volunteers-2012**

Bonnie Barlup	Gene Martin
Cookie Beck	Eleanor Miller
Marilyn Bender	Alice Noll
Billie Biesecker	Anita Pfeuffer
Daniel Carbaugh	Gretchen Potochney
Anne Conrad	Virginia Rahn
Phyllis Croson	Bernadette Raimondi
Emily Elden	Helen Shelley
Peggy Etter	Roy Struble
Connie Huet	Carol Thornburg
Phyllis King	Mary B. Unger
Chris Kostka	Pamela J. Wagner
Carol MacDougall	Craig & Judy Welterlen

**Recognition of Individuals and Business
Organizations for Recent Contributions to
Renfrew Museum and Park. Thank you!**

Additions to Steck/Graham Collection-Steve Graham
Christmas Decorating-Barbara McCracken, Shelley Benchoff,
Waynesboro Garden Club and Blue Ridge Garden Club
Clocks of Waynesboro Talk-Clock Expert-Rick Shindle
Donation of decoration items for Christmas event-Barbara and
Dick McCracken
Donation to the Memorial Fund for J. Howard North-Steve Graham
Museum basement clean up crew-Barbara McCracken, Twilla Flohr,
David Hykes and Wayne Martz
Hog shed clean up crew-Wayne Martz , David Hykes, Richard
"Red" Mohn, and Allie Kohler
Donation of a butter mold- Rick Shindle
Donation of an antique carpet stretcher- Stanely Grube
Donation of artificial Christmas tree- Gwen and David Koons
Upper barn clean-up crew-Wayne Martz, David Hykes, Rick
Shindle, Richard "Red" Mohn, and Barbara McCracken
Memberships- new and renewal memberships

**PA German Festival
September 8,2012**

Know of a craft person or artisan that would like to demonstrate their skill at PA German Festival here at Renfrew Park on September 8th? Give us a call and give us the names or have the artisan get in touch with us. This will give visitors the opportunity to participate and interact with various artisans and craft persons.



Renfrew's Gift Showcase

Visit our Gift Showcase Monday through Friday noon until 4:00pm to see our adorable, cuddly bears. They are just waiting to go to a new home.



Bonnie Iseminger-Editor
Contributors: Cheryl Keyser, Rick Shindle and
Bonnie Iseminger
Photos: Bonnie Iseminger; John Schildt photo from
Library Thing

Renfrew Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 21-Opening Day – noon-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 9-A talk by John Schildt on “The Roads from Gettysburg”-7 p.m.
- Monday– July 9– 7p.m.– Wayne Band Concert
- Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12-Civil War Encampment at Renfrew Park
- Saturday, September 8-Pennsylvania German Festival at Renfrew– more details forthcoming
- Sunday, November 4– A Talk with Rick Shindle
- Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8– Christmas at Renfrew– more details later

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