



NEWSLETTER

RENFREW MUSEUM AND PARK

DECEMBER 1979

DOES IT SEEM LIKE DECEMBER ALREADY? Time sure has flown and once again Renfrew Museum will decorate for Christmas and welcome the last of this year's visitors. We want the year to end with a BANG!!, so we have planned an activity for everyone!

"CHRISTMAS AT RENFREW" Beginning December 1 through December 23, Renfrew will be decorated in traditional Christmas decorations. Extensive research into the types of decorations used in Early American households has been done by the Associate Curator for this year's program. Once again we are most grateful that the Antietam Garden Club has donated their materials, time, and talent for the museum's exterior decorations, as well as, mantel treatments in the kitchen and back parlor. We would like to thank the Club for all the projects they have done for Renfrew this year. The remainder of the house was decorated by Ed Miller and Letitia Allen.

If you have visited Renfrew in the past to see the decorations, you'll see a little something new again this year. The dining room will be set for the dessert course of a Federal period Christmas dinner. The front parlor will be decorated for a Christmas Day tea. Both rooms will have traditional Holiday foods on exhibit and will be based on research done at the Winterthur Museum and the Library of Congress. Upstairs our well known Victorian period Christmas tree will dazzle the eyes and delight the hearts of young and old. The lovely cedar tree was donated by Bercaw's Village Barn and is decorated with many ornaments from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A brief booklet describing the origins of the Christmas decorations and foods used in the museum will be available for visitors to take with them.

Renfrew will be open throughout the month of December Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 1-4 p.m. or by appointment (Call 762-4723).

Our well known CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR WEEKEND (already a Christmas tradition here in Waynesboro) will be held two nights this year instead of one. Mark Saturday and Sunday December 8 and 9, 7-9 p.m. on your calender and come out and enjoy the Christmas decorations, cookies, and punch at Renfrew. Saturday night we will be very pleased to feature a concert by the very popular ELIZABETH TOWNE RECORDER CONSORT from Hagerstown. They will be playing 16th, 17th, and 18th century music to set the atmosphere of an early Yuletide celebration. We are so pleased to bring this fine group of talented musicians back again for the Christmas program and more pleased that they were kind enough to fit us into their busy concert schedule.

For those of you who might have trouble coming in the evening, we will be open at our regular time 1-4 p.m. December 8 and 9 for regular tours and will be serving refreshments both days.

If the Christmas decorations aren't enough to bring you to Renfrew this month, we have some more programs to offer!

SPECIAL BELL POTTERY SHOW In the Changing Exhibit Gallery, we will feature our collection of John Bell and Bell family pottery. The pottery will be exhibited in new cases built by the Consultant/Curator just for this show allowing more of the museum's collection to be shown than ever before. It will feature some new pieces never before on public display. And if you would like more in-depth information on the Bell stoneware, don't miss Renfrew's Consultant/Curator Jim Koenig's fine article in this month's issue of Antique Collecting magazine. Jim will be available by appointment throughout the month to give special detailed tours of the Bell exhibit to any of you pottery enthusiasts. Come out and see all of Jim's hard work.

HYMNAL FROM EPHRATA Also on exhibit for the month of December only will be a very rare and unusual songbook from the Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata, Pa. The director of the Ephrata site museum visited Renfrew in November and has determined that the 1747 songbook, "The Song of the Turtle-Dove" is part of the group of the first hymnals printed at Ephrata, the oldest printed hymnals of original compositions in the Western World. Also interesting and very unusual is that the hymnal still has it's original cover and binding. The songbook, on loan from the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library, will be on exhibit on the second floor of the museum.

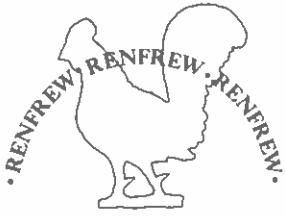
THE FREE FILM PROGRAM CONTINUES All films are shown between 1 and 4 p.m. in the museum basement.

December 1, 2 "Potters of the USA" some of the famous American potters and their work.

December 8, 9 "American Realists" the lives and works of painters and Artists from the American "Realist" School.

GIFT TO RENFREW And there is still another reason to visit Renfrew this month. We are proud to announce the gift of a lovely Simeone Coon Lyre Wall Clock from Mrs. Florence Trupp of Baltimore, Md. The clock is already hanging in the dining room and adds a great deal of elegance and interest to the room. We are very excited about this new addition and know that when you see it, you will be too.

POSTCARDS ON SALE To remember your visit to Renfrew, we are now able to offer postcards of the museum and the collection. Three postcards from photos by Bruce Christian Pierce of Waynesboro, are now on sale for 20¢ each or 3 for 50¢.



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DECEMBER 1979 cont.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR! We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all the Renfrew Volunteers who worked so hard this year. The whole Renfrew staff and Board of Directors is grateful to all of you who donated your time, money, and talents to keep us moving on.

And we wish to send out special thanks to Mrs. Anne Mitchell, our most dedicated volunteer. To those of you who don't know Mrs. Mitchell, you can meet her any Sunday when the museum is open, as she meets and greets all of Renfrew's visitors. She has missed only one Sunday this year and we think that deserves recognition!!

We hope that this year as in years past, Renfrew has managed to add a little more history and enjoyment to your life. We're going to work even harder next year and make it the best year yet.

IN CLOSING, the Renfrew Museum and Park Staff would like to send the warmest regards for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

See you next year! Renfrew Museum and Park will be closed from December 31st until March 1980. The staff will still be available during this time for information or spring tour schedules.

Sincerely,

The Renfrew Museum and Park Staff

Edward A. Miller: Superintendent

James M. Koenig: Consultant/Curator

Letitia D. Allen: Associate Curator