

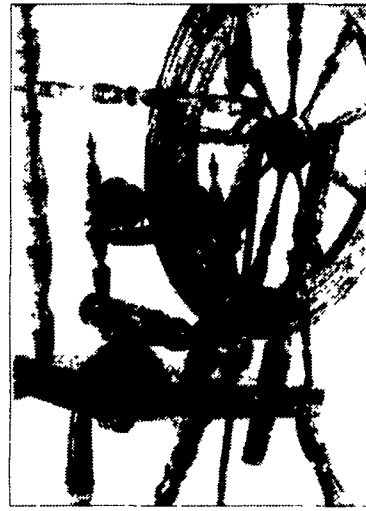
**Family Living
Focus**

by
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Berks County
Extension Agent



**Early American Salesman's Samples
Are 'Heritage In Miniature'**

GEIGERTOWN (Berks Co.) — During the early 1800s settler headed west crossing the Smokey and Appalachian Mountains to reach American's western frontier, making their own practical items and household needs. These artisans or skilled craftsmen became our first real businesses and industry. Some of these colonial craftsmen were furniture-makers.



Miniature flax spinning wheel (replica 1864) presented to the White House for 1999 Christmas tree display. Photo supplied by Don Levorgood.

Based on the early furniture-maker's practice of salesman's samples, "Heritage in Miniature" is a concept developed by craftsman, Don Levorgood. The quarter-scale antiques and salesman's samples can be found at the 27th Hay Creek Festival to be conducted at the historical Joanna Furnace Iron Plantation on Sept. 5 to Sept. 7.

Levorgood began this tradition of miniatures by following the models of the early settlers. With so many small, isolated farms, the traveling salesman was welcomed wherever he went, not only for his product or service but also as a source of news. Rather

than carrying heavy furniture from place to place, the early furniture-makers used small examples of their full-sized pieces to show to their customers. Using miniatures allowed the salesman to display with greater ease a larger variety of his items to potential customers. These models later became known as salesman's samples.

Replicating the salesman's samples, "Heritage in Miniature" are quarter-scale antiques that Levorgood creates by using sketches, drawings, molding profiles, and other dimensional information to reduce each piece to exact quarter size. From there the actual crafting begins, using only old pine for stability and appearance. All joinery, tunings, feet, moldings, and finishes are faithfully reproduced to create an authentic quarter-scale antique.

Each piece is individually documented, numbered, photographed, and the information is kept on file for future reference. Levorgood also reproduces any primitive of customer's choice, and each piece will receive the same numbering and documentation process.

More than 75 authentic Early American Craftsmen will be demonstrating the American life at the Hay Creek Festival. Blacksmithing, broom making, felting, glassblowing, papermaking, soap making, woodcarving, wooden rakes, wood pipe drilling, rug weaving, and tape looming will be demonstrated in the Early American Craft area of the festival.

Joanna Furnace is located on route 10, three miles north of Morgantown. The Hay Creek Festival gates open each day rain or shine at 7 a.m. from Friday, Sept. 5 to Sunday, Sept. 7, with the main attractions from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is free and admission is \$5 on Friday and \$7 on Saturday and Sunday; children 12 and under are free.

Levorgood will be introducing a 'limited edition' miniature flax spinning wheel at one-quarter scale based on an original 1864 Berks County wheel from a private collection in Oley. After extensive drawings to scale, the same design was accomplished at one-third scale and presented to the White House for display on the Christmas tree in 1999.

Started 1975, the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association acquired the 26 acres historic Joanna Furnace Iron Plantation in 1979 and has grown from nearly one hundred members to today approximately 1,200 annual and lifetime members. Receiving state and national recognition for the volunteer efforts and annual student archaeology program, the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association each July hosts 50 gifted students from Twin Valley and Owen J. Roberts School Districts. For more information, contact HCVHA at (610) 286-0388 or go to www.haycreek.org.

ning the path they need to take to reach these goals.

How often do we spend the same time setting goals for what we want to happen in our families? Isn't the time at home as important as time in school?

I encourage you, as your family enters a new school year; to reflect on what it is you want to do as a family. Spend some time together, setting goals and reviewing schedules. As you meet, keep in mind these three "D's." First, decide what is important to your family. Next, what things can you delete from your routine and schedule in order to have more time for what is really important? Finally, remind yourselves that you are a team.

As a team, decide how you can delegate work. Remember more hands will get jobs done quicker, leaving more time for making the most of each day.

As you set the course for your family, remember to take some time to talk with your child's teachers and learn what their goals are for your child this school year. Continue this communication throughout the school year. Share your family's goals as well. A team approach communicates the value you place on school to your child and their teachers.

My boys no longer pose for those "first day of school" pictures and our pear tree is no longer standing. But the memories of those school years remain a part of each of us. Many of the things that I allowed to take up my time during those precious years really were not important.

What was important were the friendships that my children established, relationships with teachers and club leaders, new experiences, their excitement in learning, their growing independence in all areas of life and the times we spent together as a family.

What is important for you and your children? I urge you to use the hours so many others and I wish we had back; to spend time doing what your family finds valuable this school year.

Enjoy those moments of joy when they occur and allow time in your days so you can.

**Communicating Priorities
For The New School Year**

Back into school clothes and school routines bring mixed emotions for most children and parents alike.

Saying goodbye to what may have been more relaxed summer days can be difficult, but there is something to be said about having a routine in life. Routines offer stability and consistency that are so important, especially for young children.

Being able to stick with and develop positive habits can give us a sense of order and benefit us in all areas of our lives for the rest of our lives. However, allowing routines to take over, causing us to miss those unexpected moments of joy in life is something that we should be mindful of.

For our family, taking the "first day of school picture" under the pear tree by our mailbox signaled the start of a new school year. As I reflect on that stack of pictures, I remember the morning rush and homework battles. More importantly, those snapshots cause me to pause and reflect on how quickly time goes by.

Time not only passes quickly, but it is also very precious. Learning to make the most of each day is something many of us say we strive for. Often somewhere between what we say we want and what actually happens, we get caught up in the pace of life that keeps us from making the most of our days.

Teachers have been busy setting their goals for the school year. They have spent time plan-

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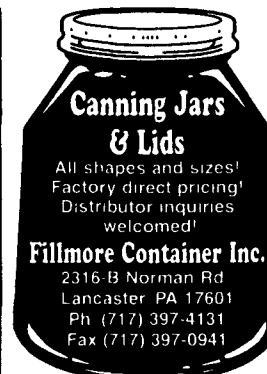
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