

# The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



*Renfrew Museum and Park*

Volume 2, Issue 3

February 2017

## Charlotte's Web Antique Donation



*The Freeman Family. Marty and Roz Freeman with their sons and grandchildren.*

Marty and Roz Freeman had their first date at Red Run park in the Summer of 1960. They married and raised three boys. In 1986 they decided to move out West. In 2004, while in Durango, Colorado they launched Charlotte's Web Antiques and it was a successful business.

Roz managed Charlotte's Web's while Marty traveled back and forth across the country and continued his law practice. Sadly, Roz was only able to visit with her grandkids a couple of times a year. In 2013, the Freemans decided to move back East. They brought their entire Charlotte's Web inventory with them and in 2014 opened Charlotte's Web Antiques, Gallery and Catacombs in downtown Waynesboro. At the same time as launching Charlotte's Web's they also had an online shop called Ruby Lane. Ruby Lane was the most strictly juried on-line antique market in the world.

In November 2016, the Freemans offered to donate Charlotte's Web Antiques' entire inventory to Renfrew. The Renfrew houses, barn and furnishings exemplify and preserve late 18th and mid 19th century living history in South Central Pennsylvania. The lion's share of Charlotte's Web antiques date to the same era. After all, both the Freemans and Renfrew

were right here in Waynesboro where Roz and Marty had their first date 56 years ago. It seemed like a perfect fit. The Freemans' also thought this was a great way to say "thank you" to the members of the Waynesboro community who had welcomed them with open arms and accepted them into their community of lifelong friends. Almost as if they had been here since their first date in 1960.

Dade Royer, Renfrew's Executive Director, and several Museum Board Members visited Charlotte's Web gallery and they were genuinely excited about the acquisition. Shortly thereafter, they obtained approval from the Renfrew Board to accept the donation. Transfer of the items was completed on December 15, 2016 and the last items were retrieved and brought to Renfrew on January 6, 2017.

Officially retired from the antique business, Marty still practices law and is the founding partner of Freeman and Freeman, P.C, where he is now a partner with Mark and Tom, two of his sons. He stays active playing golf, going to the gym, and enjoys traveling.

Roz, a true Renaissance woman, has worked as a registered nurse, served as a legislative aide to Maryland Senator Steny Hoyer, was a successful business owner and antique dealer and is a gracious host who enjoys entertaining in her home.

Marty and Roz love to travel but since moving back to the area have been busy renovating their beautiful Waynesboro home. They designed their gourmet kitchen and have added personal touches throughout the house showcasing their own personal style and collection of antiques.

Renfrew is appreciative of the Freeman's generous donation to the Museum. All parties have agreed that the pieces Renfrew is unable to use will be auctioned on Saturday, April 8. The proceeds will be used to fund further projects and programs at Renfrew. The auction will begin at 9 a.m.

Renfrew Museum and Park  
1010 E. Main Street  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Phone: 717-762-4723

[www.renfrewmuseum.org](http://www.renfrewmuseum.org)

### Fun Fact of the Month:

Silhouettes are very popular in German Valentine's Day functions.

### RCI Board Members:

Allison Kohler, President  
David Hykes, Vice President  
Doug Burkholder, Treasurer  
Connie Huet, Secretary  
AJ Benchoff  
Bob Benchoff  
Greg White  
Dade Royer, Staff

### REC Members:

David Hykes, Chairman  
Terry Barkdoll  
Bob Benchoff  
Doug Burkholder  
Twila Flohr  
Connie Huet  
Allison Kohler  
Barb McCracken  
Richard Mohn  
Tom Moore  
Doug Parks  
Virginia Rahn  
Rick Shindle

# The Rooster Herald

## Volunteers Needed

Renfrew is looking for volunteers. Whether you can provide a few hours per month or a couple times a year, Renfrew would be grateful for your help.

Our events and programs are successful because of our wonderful volunteers and the time they put into helping us and enhance the Renfrew experience for the community.

There are many opportunities for volunteering; serving as a docent, gardening, going through archival data and artifacts, or helping out at our larger events.

An informal meeting will be held on April 11 at 4 pm for anyone interested in volunteering. If you would like to join us, please contact Kim Eichelberger for additional information.

There is nothing bigger than the heart of a volunteer.

## Bell Pottery Collection

Did you know Renfrew's Visitors Center hosts the largest private collection of Bell pottery in the Nation?

Renfrew acquired some pieces from the Nicodemus estate. However, the bulk of the collection came from the generous donation of Charles Bell, a Bell family descendent, and his wife Laura who donated their family collection to Renfrew. Their donation added over 140 new pottery pieces and original molds which makes our collection even more unique.

We truly have an amazing collection of pottery and molds. The collection is full of everyday stoneware crocks, earthenware items, and more decorative pieces such as the Samuel Bell lions.

The display is open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

## Christmas on the Farm

Christmas on the Farm was a huge success with over 700 people attending during our three day event held December 2-4. Many guests were first time visitors to the park and the reviews we received were outstanding.

Our decorating committee put in over 500 hours decorating the house to ensure every room was perfect. Each year a new theme is developed and this year's theme was a Winter Wonderland.

Between the beautiful surroundings, live music, caroling, storytelling, roaring fire and our volunteer docents in the house to answer questions, our guests experienced a wonderful family event.

Renfrew hosted the Chamber Mixer on December 1 and over 70 Chamber Members tour the Museum House and Summer Kitchen on Thursday evening.

Next year we will add Holiday teas and promote group tours so even more people can enjoy the decorated house during December.



## John Bell's Rooster

The Rooster weather vane that rested on top of the roof of John Bell's Pottery shop, established in 1833 in Waynesboro, now has a permanent home in the Renfrew Visitors Center.

After Waynesboro resident Clyde Forney passed away, a two day auction was held at the armory. His possessions were up for bid and Emma Nicodemus heard the rooster would be up for auction. She attended the auction with the intent of winning the rooster. Emma loved John Bell pottery and she wanted to add the rooster to her collection. The opening bid was \$50 and Emma won the rooster for \$550. She took it home and added it to her Bell pottery collection.

The rooster that shows visible signs of age and the shots by soldiers who liked to watch it spin. The rooster currently sits atop the John Bell Pottery display.



*Bell Pottery Display & Molds*



*John Bell Weather Vane*

## **Renfrew Hosts Private Dinner for Eight**

On December 10, Renfrew Museum hosted a private dinner party for eight guests in the elegantly decorated Royer-Nicodemus house. Our special guests were the highest bidders for the dinner auctioned off during our first Oktoberfest event held at the American Legion in October.

Bill and Karen Adams, John and Deborah Beck, Jeff and Sheryl Gehr, and Denny and Kim Shockey, were welcomed into the house by “Emma” and greeted by a crackling, cozy fire in the kitchen’s fireplace. Christmas music played

throughout the house while guests were served Pinot Grigio and Merlot and cheese prior to entering the dining room. The 5-course meal consisted of a delicious seafood bisque served with an assortment of breads and sauvignon blanc. A salad of mixed greens with walnuts and pomegranate with a vinaigrette dressing with cheese was served as the next course. The mouth-watering entrees served with cabernet included a braised brisket, turkey roulade with country ham and apricot glaze, scrumptious crab imperial, and a medley of vegetables and Yukon gold mashers. Dessert was a sampler of pumpkin crème

brulee’, mini carrot cake, apple tart, and chocolate mousse served with Prosecco and coffee. After dinner, our guests enjoyed a private tour of the house by Dade Royer, Renfrew’s Executive Director.



## **Ed’s Corner**

*This story was told by Ed Miller from his perspective to Kim Eichelberger.*

When I started working for Ed and Emma in 1952 they had 16 cats on the their property. The cats, mostly strays, found their way onto the property. Although they were wild, outdoor cats they had access to the basement and slept on the asbestos roof of the furnace. The roof provided heat in the cold weather and doubled as a scratching pad for their claws. The cats were allowed inside to eat their food and each of the cats had their own food bowl. Emma asked me to make sure I kept the floor clean. I must have scrubbed that kitchen floor three times a week, so much the design on the linoleum floor started to wear off. We bought cat food by the case.

Emma’s favorite cat was named Holly. Holly’s name came from the time of year he was found. One day close to Christmas, I went to the barn and found a sweet little kitten curled up with my German Shepherd, Flash. It

was so cold I put the kitten in a box with some milk, food and a blanket and left her in the kitchen for Emma. Upon returning to the barn, I searched for Holly’s siblings. Sadly, due to the cold weather conditions, Holly’s siblings didn’t make it.

Holly ended up being the most social cat of all of them. He would allow Emma to pick him up and hold him. As a matter of fact, there is a good picture of Emma and Holly together in the Visitors Center.

Emma ended up naming all the cats and I remember Spoozy and Mr. Royer. This cat was named after Dade Royer’s grandfather Earl. As the cats grew older and passed on, I would place them in a shoebox and bury them in the chicken yard. This is where the Summer Kitchen currently stands. I’d write their names and the date they died on the inside of the door of what used to be the hog pen. It is now used as the maintenance building. The list of deceased cats is still visible today.

It was my job to take them to the vet. One day I was called to take Spoozy to the vet and he was pretty mangled up.

The vet said it looked as though Spoozy was attacked by a dog and all I could think was, “oh no Flash”. I asked the vet not to say anything to Emma. No sooner did the vet see Emma he proclaimed, “I think your cat was attacked by a dog.” Emma never said anything to me but I knew she was upset. From that point on Flash was confined to the barn and barnyard area on the property.

Flash lived to be 16 years old and he was a great dog and my constant companion.

After Emma passed away, Holly would come over every night for a bowl of milk and then head back over to the house to sleep in the basement. Holly lived to be 17 years old before an unfortunate accident took his life. He is buried in the Antietam Humane Society Cemetery.



*Ed Miller shares stories of his experiences with the Nicodemus family for Ed’s Corner.*



# **The Rooster Herald**

## **All the news that's fit to crow about!**

### **Staff Spotlight: Judy Elden**



Judy is the voice that greets you when you call the Renfrew office and she is normally the first face you see upon entering the Visitors Center.

She has been with Renfrew for 6 years and is in charge of Visitor Services. Much of what Judy is responsible for is done behind the scenes.

Judy manages the gift shop, organizes payroll, handles all the Renfrew correspondence, recruits volunteers and schedules newsletter and membership mailings. She serves as recording secretary and prepares agendas and meeting minutes for the REC Board Meetings.

Judy maintains all of the databases Renfrew uses and procures the list of pottery and items that have been donated to the museum.

From April through October, Judy assists in tours of the house along with the Farmstead tours and Summer concerts. She books all the weddings and parties that take place on the property.

A lifelong resident of Waynesboro, Judy attended Juniata College and Hagerstown Business College.

Judy worked at Landis Machine company in cost accounting, the secretarial pool, and the engineering department for 20 years. After that she worked at the tax office and then Blue Ridge Pipe and Nipple Company before landing a job at Beck's where she worked for 24 years.

Judy initially came to Renfrew in 2010 looking for a volunteer position to keep busy and stay active in the community. She ended up being hired part-time.

Judy keeps active by working at Renfrew, volunteering at the Waynesboro Hospital, knitting, playing Bridge and attending dinner shows. Judy follows the Redskins, Penn State, and Waynesboro High football teams. She attends band competitions and supports her two granddaughters who are active in the WASHS color guard.

### **Early American Signature Quilts**

During Christmas on the Farm, the red and white patchwork quilt used in the Gallery of the Museum House prompted many questions to our docents about its meaning.

The red and white signed and dated quilt, is called a signature quilt, was used to cover a chest in the Gallery. The quilt also served as a tree skirt for the Christmas tree that contained picture ornaments of Emma Nicodemus' family. The quilt was acquired with the Nicodemus estate and could possibly have been made by Emma's Mother.

The early signature quilts, based on friendship, were made and given to families as they left the area and moved away. They later became sentimental pieces that leaned more towards romance and nostalgia. A look into one's mortality led to the desire to leave a written legacy to family and friends.

These quilts were made and signed to honor family members and friends at a time when many loved ones moved away and seldom, if ever, returned home to see their families. The quilts served as a remembrance for those families who had only occasional letters to connect them with friends and relatives back home.

Women often wrote political or religious beliefs on the quilts. These quilts also provided money for churches when used as a fundraiser. Many lonely women who lived out on isolated homesteads cherished their signature, or as some called them, friendship quilts. Great care was taken to procure the quilts and as time passed and loved ones were lost, their names on the quilts became even more precious.

Women also created these quilts when money was needed to help soldiers in the Civil War.

Monies would be raised via raffles or by charging the signer a fee per block. These quilts were signed by hundreds of people and raffled off many times. Stories were documented that the same quilt was raffled off many times since its winner would re-donate it back to raise additional funds.

In the 19th century, Signature quilts were a phenomenon because of the discovery of a non-bleeding, non-fading indelible ink.



## **Women Through History Program**

Renfrew Museum and Park received a \$3000 grant from The Franklin County Foundation (FCF), a regional foundation of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, to promote a Woman Through History program. The Women Through History program will reflect on the lives of the women who lived at Renfrew during the 1800 and 1900s. Renfrew will host five seminars and one class in addition to having the display from April 22 to June 30. The seminars and class will be free of charge to the public.

Renfrew will highlight the impact these women had on history with their various jobs and duties throughout history. The seminar dates and topics include:

May 9—A Portrayal of Growing up and Living in an early Brethren Family—the lives of Caroline and Nancy Royer presented by Susie Etter in first person.

May 16—The Story of Emma Nicodemus, as told by Ed Miller.

May 30—Herbs in History and Modern Times, presented by Pat Holmgren.

June 13—Preserving Food in the 18th and 19th Century, presented by Pat Holmgren.

June 20—The Summer Kitchen Program presented by Cindy Fink and Doug Parks.

All seminars begin at 7:00 pm and will be held in the Wagon Shed.

Dr. Karin Bohleke, from Shippensburg University, will also teach a class on how to preserve your family heirlooms at home on May 23 at 7 pm.

Dr. Bohleke served as Director of the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University. She holds a Ph.D in French and literature from Yale University. She also serves as an assistant professor of French at Shippensburg and Penn State, Mont Alto.

An avid seamstress, embroiderer, and lace-maker since childhood, she augmented her studies of vintage clothing styles by creating highly accurate reproduction clothing when introduced to vintage social dancing by her future husband.

Renfrew is seeking assistance from our the communities to loan items for the display to share with the community. The items we plan to use are sewing kits, kitchen items, clothes, pottery, quilts and coverlets, samplers or drawings. Please contact Cindy Fink to arrange a time to stop by the Visitors Center so she can verify the items for loan are period appropriate.

The Women Through History display will be open from Renfrew's Opening Day, April 22 through June 30. The items will be displayed throughout the Museum House, Wagon Shed, Visitors Center and Summer Kitchen.

## **Needs of the Museum and Park**

- **Easter Egg Hunt Sponsor:** We need an additional \$200 sponsor to help purchase Easter Eggs and goodies for the children who participate in the Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. Please contact Dade Royer for more information.
- **Textile boxes for proper storage of quilts and coverlets:** \$475. We have 28 quilts and 16 hand-woven coverlets that need this special type of box to prevent deterioration. Please contact Cindy Fink for more information.
- **Newsletter Sponsors:** The total cost per printing is \$450. The newsletter features your business card or simply a "sponsored by" section with your name if you do not have a business to represent. Please contact Kim Eichelberger or Dade Royer.
- **Pottery Case:** The cost of expanding and building cases for the Bell pottery collection was roughly \$18,000. If you would like to help offset this cost, please contact Dade Royer.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of these endeavors, you do not have to give the full amount. Any amount is welcome and appreciated.

## **Thank You!**

We'd like to thank Barbara Gaydick who sponsored the Visitors Center coffee station for the second year in a row.



Renfrew Museum and Park  
1010 East Main Street  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Return Service Requested

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Maintenance

**John Curfman**

Maintenance

**Gene Kelley**

Maintenance

***Our Mission***— Our mission is to preserve, enhance, promote, and interpret the Royer family Pennsylvania German farmstead, the Nicodemus and Bell collections, and the surrounding Park.

***Our Vision***— Our vision is to be a welcoming and memorable destination where everyone can walk back in time.

***Our Values***—

***Integrity***—With honesty and truth, we will adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards in all our endeavors.

***Authenticity***—We will interpret with historical accuracy all of our exhibits, collections, programs, and events.

***Excellence***—We will be exceptional in everything we do.

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***To renew your membership or to become a member, please contact Judy Elden or visit our website and go to the “Join” tab for more information.***

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