

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2016

September Farmstead Brings Artisans and Crafters



Jim Small, one of our returning artisans, using traditional hand tools to shape wood at one of last year's Farmstead Days.

Our final farmstead tour of the season is set to be a full day. On September 10, we will have wagon rides, a dedication of our new pottery display, and demonstrations from artisans and crafters!

The day will begin at 11am with the official dedication of the new pottery collection. We have worked hard this summer, and are very excited to finally share the completed project. The existing collection has a fresh new look, and the new pieces from Charles and Laura Bell will be in their new permanent home for everyone to enjoy.

The Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies will be joining us for this special dedication, and will be one of the crafters demonstrating throughout the event.

After visiting the beautiful pottery

in the Visitors Center, you will be able to walk around the main circle and the yard of the Museum House to see various artisans and crafters. From woodworkers to quilters, riflemen to scherenschnitters, there will be something for everyone.

The artisans attending this event are:

Ed Beard-Shaker Boxes
Tony Campbell-Broommaker
Bill Hammann-Scherenschnitter
Chris and Pat Holmgren-Woodworkers
Barb Peshkin-Fraktur maker
Randall Shroyer-Rifleman/Leatherwork
Jim Small-Cabinet maker/Woodworker
Christine Souders-Pottery
Dave Sucke-Blacksmith
The Weavers-Period Musicians
Buchanan Trail Quilters-Quilting
Nicodemus Center of Ceramic Studies-Pottery

When you stop to visit the artisans, you will be able to see a demonstration of their craft, ask questions, and even buy some of their products.

To top off the day's activities, Landis Valley will provide wagon rides again this year. Visitors will be able to ride through part of the grounds and make their way to the back half of the property for the full Farmstead Tour.

This will be the last Farmstead Tour of the season. If you haven't had the chance to go through the property recently, please join us for this great event!

This event is free to members. There is a small admission fee for non-members.

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

Fun Fact of the Month:

Rather than celebrating Thanksgiving, many Pennsylvania Germans celebrated "Harvest Home" which normally happened at the end of September with the harvesting season.

RCI Board Members:

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

REC Members:

David Hykes, REC Chairman
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Alice Noll
Virginia Rahn
Jim Rock
Rick Shindle

First Annual Oktoberfest

If you have not already heard the news, we are preparing to celebrate Renfrew's original German heritage with the First Annual Renfrew Oktoberfest on October 1 at the American Legion in Waynesboro.

We will kick the celebration off with our specially brewed craft beer coming in by horse-drawn wagon. Mayor Richard Starliper will tap the first official keg of Daniel Royer Pennsylvania German beer. The keg tapping ceremony is one of the most important parts of any Oktoberfest, and should-

n't be missed!

Included in your admission will be a souvenir beer mug, a buffet of traditional German style foods, and beer.

The event will also include a live auction and a silent auction for patrons to bid on some fantastic items.

There is still time to purchase your tickets. You can visit our website and click on the Oktoberfest tab under "Events".

If you prefer, you can also come to the office or send a check to the office via mail.

For further questions, please call the office. Tickets are limited, so don't miss out on a great evening of fun and support for Renfrew!

NAME CORRECTION: In the May issue's story, "Renfrew's First Opening Day 1975" on page 2, there was an error in a name. It should have read Marilyn McCarney rather than Marilyn McCauley.

Photography Exhibit

Beautiful landscape photography of the Southwest U.S. are currently on display in the Wagon Shed.

The exhibit opened in July in conjunction with the first Royer Farmstead Day of the summer.

Greg Maurer, the photographer, is originally from Waynesboro but now lives in Downingtown, PA with his family.

Allie Kohler, one of our board members, taught Greg a photography class at East Junior High, and was able to set up the show for Renfrew.

The love Greg found for photography in that class stayed with him through his adult life and is now his full time profession.

The inspiration for this show comes from Greg's love of the National Parks Service, specifi-

cally the southwestern landscapes. It is also great timing for the show as this year is the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service.

Greg hopes his photos will inspire visitors, and show them the beauty found in National Parks.

If you haven't been in to see the pictures yet, don't worry! The show will continue until Labor Day weekend so please stop by to come see these beautiful pieces of art.

Photos are also available for purchase.

The footboard for the new Fahnestock bed. Now we just need to get the mattress and accessories, and assemble!

Accompanying story on page 3.



Just one section of the beautiful exhibit on display in the Visitors Center.



Bed Found for Fahnestock House

For those that may not remember, Renfrew received a grant from the Iron Forge Questers Chapter #1462 of Penn National earlier this year. The grant was to fund a “new” bed and bed accessories for the children’s room in the Fahnestock House.

After searching around for the last couple of months, the Accessions Committee was successful in finding a bed.

It is an early 19th century American-made bed. The original red paint

with black spotted brush strokes is found on the steeple headboard, ring-turned posts, rails, and bowling pin feet.

Now that the frame is at Renfrew, the next step is finding period accessories to accompany the bed.

The committee continues to look for a top condition Franklin County (Waynesboro, Greencastle and/or Chambersburg) coverlet or perhaps a quilt and period bed linens.

If you have any of these items or know of someone that would be

willing to sell or donate them, please contact Dade Royer.

Once the bed display is completed, there will be a special opening of the Fahnestock House to view it.

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



Ed’s Corner

All stories are told by Ed Miller from his perspective to Lindsay Dukes.

As we move into fall, I find myself thinking about all of the years I helped run the farmstead here with Edgar. From the time I moved to this house on Thanksgiving Day in 1952 until Emma passed, I was in charge of running the farmstead.

Clarence Beaver, who worked the farms before me, passed in October of 1952. Edgar then approached me with a job offer. He offered 60 cents an hour, this house, a piece of the garden, and all the fruit I could eat. I countered with 65 cents an hour, all of the other perks, and Edgar would buy the fuel for the furnace.

After some discussion, he accepted my counter offer with one condition. He said, “I want you to come stay with us the rest of our life.”

I was 28 at the time, and I didn’t

know how to answer so I just said “I’ll do the best I know how.”

I certainly don’t regret my decision. As I’ve said many times, I believe I had the best job in the world working for some of the best people and I wouldn’t want it any other way.

When I do look back on these early days of work, I have to chuckle at my first day when Edgar and I plowed the corn field that sits on the hill by the cemetery.

We didn’t have any modern equipment, just a simple horse-drawn plow. I don’t think I’d ever worked one like that before, so I asked Edgar, “which one of the horses leads?” He replied he would lead them while I drove the plow.

Now, the two horses did not cooperate very well. We had to make sure they stayed in a straight line and didn’t stomp on any stalks. I used the levers in the plow to correct for their mistakes, but boy was it long and hard work.

We got only about 10 feet in on our first row and hit a large rock. After

struggling to get around it and get the horses back on track, we finally made our way to the end of the row. Then, it was back down the length of the field for the next row, and so on and so on.

When we got about halfway through the field, Edgar finally stopped to look at me and said, “I don’t know about you but I’ve had enough of this.” He promised he’d get me a tractor next spring, and he kept his word. I don’t think I’d ever been happier to see a tractor.

Over the years, Edgar was always willing to listen to my opinions and ideas about how to best run different crops. I’m so grateful he trusted me, and would help get what I needed to make it happen.

With his trust and approval, we eventually got more and more equipment to efficiently run things. In return, I was able to increase production for him.

Even though it was always hard work, I cherish the memories of looking across the fields while working and thinking to myself that I’d found my own slice of paradise. Lucky for me, I can still say that 60 years later. For that, I am forever grateful to Edgar and Emma.

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Spotlight: Gene Kelley



We recognize at least one of our volunteers or staff members in each newsletter to thank them for the wonderful work they do at Renfrew. We truly would not be as great as we are without each and every one of you. That being said, this spotlight is on Gene Kelley!

Gene has been part of Renfrew's family for the past three years with a position on our maintenance staff.

He has been a part of many recent projects at Renfrew, from the big to the small. When we have larger projects such as the Summer Kitchen, or the pottery case expansion, Gene has been one of the primary workers. On a more regular basis, he can be found painting, repairing doors and windows, fixing stone walls, mowing, fixing bathroom floors, etc. He is truly an all-around handy man.

"I really enjoy working here," said Gene. "I have had the chance to learn new skills and help out with a lot of different and interesting projects and that's a really rewarding thing for me."

One of his favorite projects in his time

here was helping to build the Summer Kitchen.

"I got to learn how to work with stone, and I worked with great people. It was great to watch it come together with each passing week and see it become a finished project."

While he enjoys the work he does at Renfrew, he enjoys the people the most. "Everyone here is just so kind. It's like a family here, and you just don't find that very often."

In his free time, Gene enjoys restoring and refinishing furniture, working on projects at his own home, and spending time with his 5 year old daughter.

Lower left: One of Gene's recently completed projects was repainting the Fahnstock barn and repairing boards.

Lower right: Gene's unique view of the Foursquare garden from the scaffolding he used while painting the barn.



Calendar of Events

August 12-14-Civil War Encampment

August 13-Royer Farmstead Tour 11am-4pm

August 18-Summer Concert Series, New Horizon 7:00pm

August 25-Summer Concert Series, Rohrsersville Band 7:00pm (Free Antietam Dairy Ice Cream)

September 10-Royer Farmstead Tour 11am-4pm

September 18- African American Historical Society Presentation, Author Lecture 1:00-3:00pm

September 25- African American Historical Society Presentation, Author Lecture 2:00-4:00pm

October 1- First Annual Oktoberfest- 4:00-10:00pm at American Legion.

October 15-Pumpkin Festival

December 2-Christmas On The Farm, 5:00-8:00pm

December 3-Christmas On The Farm, 2:00-8:00pm

December 4-Christmas On The Farm, 1:00-5:00pm

Project Updates

Lime Kiln: Work began on the Lime Kiln on June 13 by masons David and Ed Horst and John Rissler. As of July 29, the masonry for the project is complete! The final step will be grading and clearing the walking paths for visitors.

Pottery Case: The cases are built, and the pieces of pottery are getting organized and placed. Hagerstown Paint and Glass built the additional cases and Gene Kelley took the lead on the rest of the project. The new display will have an official dedication at the September 10 Farmstead Day.

A look at the completed kiln and our hard working masons!



Needs of the Museum and Park

- Textile boxes for proper storage of quilts and coverlets: \$475. We have 28 quilts and 14 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 would feature your business card or simply a "sponsored by" section with your name if you do not have a business to represent. Please contact Lindsay Dukes 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 us offset that cost, please contact Dade.
- Oktoberfest: If you feel you or your business have an item that would be suited to our oral and/or silent auction please contact Dade. You can also give a monetary donation/sponsorship.

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.

Family Clock Returns to Renfrew

If you've been in the Wagon Shed room in the past month, you may have noticed something a little different. A Peter Grumbine clock now stands in the corner of the room.

Grumbine was a clockmaker in Waynesboro in the mid 1800's, and we have another one of his clocks in the upstairs hallway of the Museum House.

This "new" clock belonged to the Frantz family. Its first owner was Christian H. Frantz, who once lived in the same house that board

member Barb McCracken now lives in on Welty Road.

As the clock was passed through the family over the years and found its way to Sugar Grove, IL.

Over the winter, Cliff Frantz, the last owner of this clock, called Renfrew and asked if we had any interest in this family heirloom. He had been here a number of years ago for a family reunion and knew we had a collection of tall clocks.

Family members did not have interest in the clock, and Cliff felt it would



The Frantz family clock in the Wagon Shed

"be back home where it belongs" as he wrote in a note to Dade.

We willingly accepted this generous donation and are happy to have it on display.

Rick and Julie Shindle and Bob and Shelley Benchoff made a trip out to Illinois to pick up the clock in June. Rick did a little work on it before bringing it to the Wagon Shed.

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

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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.

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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