

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 2016

Christmas On The Farm



The sideboard decked out in the Candy Wonderland theme in the Dining Room from Christmas 2015

Please join us the first weekend of December for our 4th annual Christmas on the Farm.

What better way to kick off your holiday season by joining us on the farm? We welcome you to take inspiration from the house to your own homes and share in our joyous mood.

The Royer Farmstead transforms the museum house into a magical winter wonderland with beautiful decorations and themes in every room. The house comes alive with the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas.

You will begin your self-guided tour in the Visitors Center with cookies and cider. Be sure to stop by the Wagon Shed to hear the stories of "Miracle in the Wilderness" and "The Belsnickler".

Throughout the nineteenth century two Belsnickling traditions were popular throughout Pennsylvania: the rural and urban.

The rural Belsnickel would make

rounds with bags of nuts and cookies in one hand and a switch in the other to reward or punish little children depending on their behavior in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The urban Belsnickel consisted of a group of masked youth who would band together on Christmas Eve and they went from house to house entertaining on musical instruments and singing. They did this with the intention of being rewarded in return with Christmas goodies and small coins.

Along the walkway to the house you will be greeted by twinkling luminaries and beautifully lit cresset baskets. Inside the kitchen a crackling fire will welcome you along with the smell of homemade pies. Your walk throughout the house will take you back in time to experience a family Christmas in the 1800's.

Carolers and musicians will be on hand during the weekend to add to the festival mood. Interpreters in period dress will be throughout the house to enhance your experience.

We hope you and your family are able to attend this event. The event is free to members and there is a small admission fee for the public. Adult admission is \$8, seniors \$7, ages 7-18 \$5, children 6 and under are free.

We'd like to thank our dedicated board members and volunteers who decorate the house and provide tours over the course of the weekend. The decorating committee is chaired by Barb McCracken and Shelley Benchoff.

Please check the calendar of events on Page 5 for event times.

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

Fun Fact of the Month:

Originally only reserved for Christmas time, people started leaving candles in windows because it made the house seem more welcoming!

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, Chairman
Terry Barkdoll
Bob Benchoff
Doug Burkholder
Bill Conrad
Connie Huet
Allison Kohler
Barb McCracken
Richard Mohn
Tom Moore
Alice Noll
Virginia Rahn
Jim Rock
Rick Shindle

Leaving Board Members

We would like to recognize and thank some of our board members who will be leaving us at the end of December when their term limit ends.

Alice Noll, a member of REC, will be saying goodbye to her board position but she will be saying hello to the Traveling Trunk. She has been a great volunteer in addition to her time on the board for four years. We are happy she will be continuing to volunteer and become a part of such a wonderful program!

Jim Rock, also an REC member, will be leaving. He was on the board for over three years, and we thank him for his time here!

Lastly, George Buckey will be leaving RCI at the end of this year. You can read more about his time here at Renfrew in this edition's Spotlight!

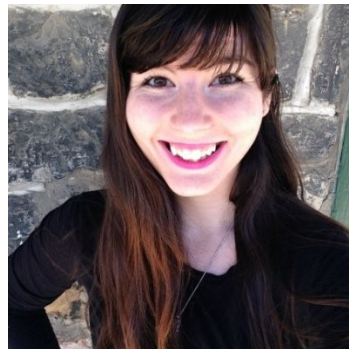
Leaving Renfrew Staff

Renfrew said goodbye to Lindsay Dukes, our Volunteer and Media Coordinator at the end of October.

Lindsay took over the brand new position in April of 2015, and was responsible for all of the volunteers, the press Renfrew received during her time here, the newsletter, and many of the pictures and posts on Renfrew's Facebook page.

"I couldn't have asked for a better place to start my career, and to be part of such an amazing organization. I have enjoyed my time here so much, and I will always have a spot in my heart for Renfrew," said Lindsay.

We thank Lindsay for all of her hard work and wish her the best of luck with her young career as she relocates to Charlottesville, VA.



Good luck to Lindsay!



Welcome to Renfrew, Kim!

Welcome New Board Members

With the departure of the aforementioned board members, we are happy to welcome new members to the Renfrew boards.

We would like to welcome and introduce everyone to our future board members who begin their terms January 1, 2017.

Doug Parks, our resident baker for the Summer Kitchen, will be joining REC. Doug has been involved with Renfrew on and off for many years as a volunteer, and we're looking forward to having him join the board.

Twila Flohr will also be joining REC. Twila has been involved with Renfrew volunteering in a variety of positions.

You may recognize her as our very own "Emma" at Christmas On The Farm. We are pleased to have her become part of the board, and add another layer to her Renfrew experience.

Lastly, we are welcoming Bob Benchoff to RCI. Bob is currently on REC, and has been involved with Renfrew for many years. He is involved with multiple committees, and also frequently volunteers his time to work at various events. We are very happy to welcome him to RCI.

Welcome New Renfrew Staff

We are thrilled to welcome and introduce Kim Eichelberger to our Renfrew family.

Kim will be taking over the Volunteer and Media Coordinator position for Renfrew.

Kim has over 20 of marketing, public relations and event planning experience. She has worked for the Hagerstown Suns, TransIT Services of Frederick County (MD), the Washington Heritage Trail and she runs her own network marketing business.

"I look forward to working with the staff and Board of Directors to further Renfrew's mission and market a beautiful destination for local residents and tourists."

Kim is a graduate of Shepherd College and resides in Smithsburg, MD with her husband and three daughters.

Maxine Beck to Write New Trilogy

Maxine Beck's trilogy, *The Royers of Renfrew*, was an exciting historical fiction about the Royer Family.

Beginning with *A Family Tapestry* we are introduced to the Royer family of 12 and how they lived from 1812-1813. We learn about the everyday family struggles, religion and how death affects 9-year-old Susan Royer.

Threads of Change is the second volume in the trilogy and depicts the Royers as hardworking Pennsylvania Germans managing daily life and the strain that the war put

on their family's religious beliefs.

The *Fabric of Life* completes the trilogy ending with Susan, now 19, facing the challenges of adulthood. This trilogy comes to a natural end when Susan marries and leaves the area.

Maxine Beck's trilogy will be told by Nancy Royer and will expand on the decline of the Royer Farmstead, the onset of the increased tenant farming and the rebellion of Rebecca Royer. Rebecca rebels against her father's opposition to women's roles outside the family by becoming an abolitionist.

You will be able to sense the pre-civil war tension between the abolitionists and slave owners.

The release date for the first book in the new trilogy is tentatively Christmas 2017.

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



Ed's Corner

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

Some of our most memorable talks started in 1969 with Emma. We met everyday to discuss the property and her wishes for the property after she was gone. Some of these talks would last fifteen minutes and some would go on for three hours. On Sunday mornings we would talk over the delicious piping hot spoon bread that Emma made with fresh cream. We always ate well and had amazing conversations.

One day Emma made me promise her two things that were not to be discussed with anyone, including my wife. I kept that promise until the day she died, four years later.

Those two promises were that I would see that she was never put into a home and that I would never leave the property.

I told Emma that I couldn't make her those promises. She asked me, "why?" I told her that she would only be put into a home

when it became necessary for her welfare. I couldn't promise not to leave the property since it was being willed to the Borough and they would have to want me to stay. Her response was, "well if they don't take you then they can't have the property." We talked and both agreed that wasn't right, that decision would be left up to the Borough.

I believe that some people felt that Emma was eccentric. I always thought she was a visionary. She was a very private person and wouldn't allow tours of the house while she was alive. However, she would host the most amazing parties and was a gracious host and cook. My favorites meals were her homemade ice cream made with double cream, her crab soup, and the most scrumptious were the homemade beaten biscuits filled with Smithfield Virginia ham.

Edgar and Emma had separate wills and I don't believe that he had any idea what her plans for the property were once she passed.

I received a call from Emma's nurse early one morning that she was asking for me. I dressed and went to the

house where Emma thanked me for coming over and asked me to call her doctor. The doctor arrived and together we decided that it was best that she be taken to the hospital. I accompanied her to the hospital and sat with her, sadly she passed the next day.

A third and final request was made that I agreed to. I was to see that Emma was buried beside Edgar. I thought that was strange because it seemed so logical. After she passed I received a call from David Grove, who was the undertaker at the time, informing me that we can't bury Emma beside Edgar. I asked why? His response was the tombstone was on top of Edgar's grave. I simply said, "that's easy move the tombstone, the cost doesn't matter. The tombstone can be moved back." David was able to assist me in keeping my final promise to Emma. The tombstone was moved, the graves reset and the headstone replaced. Emma and Edgar were together again.

Emma was just a great person, thank God for her and her preservation of the past. We need more people like her. I am just so thankful to be a part of this. "The past has a lot to do with the future and everybody has a story to tell."

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Spotlight: George Buckey



George Buckey has been a constant supporter of Renfrew serving in multiple capacities since 1984.

During his time on the Board of Directors George was involved in many projects. Assisting with the implementation of the Renfrew Institute and the Pumpkin Fest were the most visible to the community.

In the late 80's the Renfrew Museum and Institute become their own entities and housed their own staff. The Renfrew Institute was launched when it became evident that paid positions were required and that paid teaching positions were needed in addition to the volunteers.

Pumpkin Fest began in 1993. George served as the Pumpkin Fest co-chair and worked tirelessly to help raise funds. This year Renfrew celebrated its 23rd annual event and it has developed into one of our biggest fundraisers. Over the years monies raised from the Pumpkin Fest have been used to restore both the Fahnestock Barn and Fahnestock House.

George was drawn to Renfrew and its mission to preserve history because of his love of farming and the outdoors. George has enjoyed working with the dedicated people looking to preserve the history of

Waynesboro.

The Nicodemus legacy of leaving the Farm to the Borough was amazing. The fact others have made bequests to Renfrew proves the community supports Renfrew and they enjoy the programs we have started. The contributions made by many will sustain the Museum for years to come.

George left the Waynesboro area and moved to Chambersburg in 2008. Although he was still involved with the events at Renfrew he started to scale back and recently announced his retirement from RCI and REC.

We wish George all the best and thank him for his years of service and commitment to Renfrew.

Pumpkin Festival

Renfrew Institute and Renfrew Museum once again came together last month to host the 23rd Annual Pumpkin Festival!

The day was full of fun activities for all ages. The pumpkin chuckin' trebuchet the crowd favorite as always.

Preliminary numbers indicate around 1,617 individuals enjoyed the festivities, breaking our attendance record!

The event raised a total of \$16,000. The proceeds will be split between the two organizations.

A big thank you to all of the committees, board members, and the 190 volunteers that made this event possible.

And of course a big thank you to everyone that came out to this great event to support Renfrew!



Some highlights of Pumpkin Fest include:

Record-breaking crowds enjoying the festivities

A busy scarecrow building station

Marv Ashby & High Octane providing great bluegrass music all day

John Frantz keeping busy giving hay rides for the entire event

Photos by Trey Gelbach



Oktoberfest

Renfrew held their first Oktoberfest last month at the Waynesboro American Legion.

The event was created as a fundraising effort for the museum, and was a huge success for its first year!

We sold 182 of 200 available tickets, and after expenses will net a profit of \$11,462 from the ticket sales, donations, and the auctions that were at the event.

A huge thank you to the American Legion for providing the space and the food and to all of our other sponsors to make this possible.

We would also like to thank the committees, board members, staff, and everyone involved in creating and running the event!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who donated items for the auction, and everyone that came to the event and supported the museum and park!

Our Oktoberfest will always be held the first weekend of October. Mark October 7, 2017 on your calendar for next year and join in on the fun!

Needs of the Museum and Park

- 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 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 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.
- Coffee Sponsor: For next year's season, we are looking for someone to sponsor our coffee station once again. The approximate cost for the year would be \$400.

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.

Calendar of Events

December 1 -Chamber of Commerce Mixer 5-7 pm

December 2-Christmas On The Farm 5:30-8:30pm

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

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



Some highlights from the First Annual Oktoberfest:

The horse-drawn beer wagon coming through town at the end of Market Day to kick off the event

Executive Director Dade Royer pouring some of the delicious craft beer from Rivertowne Brewing Co.

Board member and auctioneer Bob Benchhoff persuading people to bid on great items

An almost sold out crowd enjoying their time!

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

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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.

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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