

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

May 2017

Remembering Ed Miller 1924-2017



Ed Miller—A Legacy of Renfrew History

Ed Miller was a staple at Renfrew Museum and Park. He was our resident historian having worked for the Nicodemus' until Emma's death in 1973. Ed continued to work at Renfrew and take care of grounds until his retirement in 1994.

Ed Miller's sparkling eyes, rosy cheeks and smile were his trademark. However, it was his willingness to lend a hand and his love for the Waynesboro community that endured him to so many people.

On Thursday evening February 23, 2017, Ed unexpectedly passed from this earth. Earlier that morning he was in the Renfrew office talking and joking with our staff, saying how grateful he was to still be able to be out and about. After leaving our office, he was going to Quincy to visit friends and had a busy day planned.

Ed was a gentle soul and always willing to help. Ed's face lit up when he spoke about Edgar, Emma, and how grateful he was for Emma's foresight and generous gift of Renfrew to the Waynesboro community. Emma was a visionary and he couldn't have been prouder of Renfrew. It was an honor for him to carry out Emma's final wishes and share this gem with the Waynesboro community. He enjoyed his time work-

ing at Renfrew and we respected the time, energy, memories, insight, and the stories of events that took place over the years.

Whenever Ed was scheduled to speak or make a presentation about Renfrew the place would be packed. He spoke with sincerity and he remembered stories as if they had just happened. At times during a story Ed would sit back and pause, almost as if he was in the moment and had gone back in time.

He and his wife, Ann, joined us for Christmas on the Farm this past December. When Ed was acknowledged in the crowd prior to the Belsnickel story, he blushed and waved. He was there to experience Christmas on the Farm and wanted to see the play, not be recognized. Later, while touring the Museum House and seeing all the people going through he said, "Emma would have loved this." Ed was instrumental in carrying out Emma's wishes and plans for the property once she passed. Ed enjoyed watching the success Renfrew has had as it developed and continues to grow.

He served on the boards of the Renfrew Museum and Renfrew Institute for many years after he retired. Ed was a family man and active in the Waynesboro Lion's Club where he had perfect attendance for many years. He was also active at Trinity United Church of Christ and was a frequent patron of the Parlor House. He enjoyed meeting up with friends at the American Legion.

Ed will be missed at Renfrew. In his memory, we dedicate this newsletter to him. We would like to thank those that were generous with their time to meet and do interviews, as well as share their stories, pictures and remembrances of Ed.

At Ed's packed memorial service we remembered a caring, selfless, gracious and generous man who was the change he wanted to see in the world. A man who was grateful for his family and the life that he led. He was humble and kind.

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

**"Everybody has
a story to tell."**

- Ed Miller

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Lions Club Service

Ed Miller was an active member of the Waynesboro Lions Club for over 40 years. During his time with the Lions he served in the capacity of Tail Twister, Lion Tamer, Secretary, Vice President, President, Zone Chair and Regional Chair. According to Lions Club President, Cathy Baker, the only position Ed didn't hold was District Governor.

When asked what made Ed so special Cathy replied, "he was a generous soul who had time for everyone." When Ed served as a Greeter at the Lions Club meetings he would always greet Cathy with, "Hi Darlin', how are you?" He was always willing to give advice or provide insight and had a kind word for everyone.

Ed was friendly, outgoing, and always willing to help those in need. During

Christmas time, Ed was instrumental in working with Human Services to make up Christmas baskets for those in need. He had a generous spirit and he was always visiting local establishments and building relationships.

Ed was a rockstar when it came to selling ham sandwiches and brooms to help the Lions Club raise money. Cathy recalls Ed selling as many as 700 ham sandwiches. He would make his rounds and stop by all the factories in town to collect orders, and then cheerfully deliver them when they were ready. Cathy jokingly said that Ed's blue Cadillac was his office on wheels and he would always have brooms in the car in the event he'd run into someone looking to buy one.

Cathy loved to hear Ed's stories about the different jobs he held throughout his life and how much he loved Renfrew. Regardless of what he was doing, his family always came first. Ed built relationships with people and he would never just give you a passing "hello". He would make time to have a conversation and ask how you were and how was your family.



Breakfasts with Ed as told to Maxine Beck



Maxine Beck originally met Ed Miller at Trinity Church in Waynesboro years ago. She worked with him at the Institute. Former Renfrew Museum and Park Administrator, Bonnie Iseminger, was always telling Ed he needed to put his stories on paper so everyone could enjoy them. He eventually did record interviews that were taped on cassettes. Those cassettes are being made into digital copies.

Maxine approached Ed about the possibility of working on the book. They met regularly every other Tuesday at Christine's in town for 3-4 hours. They would meet, she would go home and write the chapter, and bring it to Ed the following week.

Ed had such a good sense of humor, he was a giver and was full of gratitude. Ed was one of the those people that talked the talk and walked the walk. He never forgot a favor and gave people the benefit of the doubt in situations.

Ed appreciated nature, history and was an asset to the community. He was looking to preserve and share the history of Renfrew for guests for years to come.

Earlier this year, Ed mentioned to Maxine that he was considering working on another book. When asked if they were considering another book about Renfrew Maxine replied, "no." Ed was considering a book titled "The Characters I've Known" but he told me, "we'd have to be careful with that one."

"My biggest compliment on the book, *Breakfasts with Ed*, came from Ed's wife, Ann. She told me reading the book was like listening to Ed talk."

The Renfrew gift shop still has limited copies of *Breakfasts with Ed* for sale.

Renfrew Institute remembers Ed

Melodie Anderson-Smith, Executive Director, Renfrew Institute for Cultural & Environmental Studies, met Ed over 30 years ago while volunteering at Renfrew. Ed served on the Renfrew Institute Board and was treasurer for a few years. They worked together daily at Renfrew for many years. According to Melodie:

“Ed was a special person and his love of life and for people was amazing. He had a positive outlook on everything. However, Ed was very practical and smart.

No matter what was going on at work, or in our personal lives, Ed

always said, “something good will come of this” and he was right.

Ed was very helpful to me when I was designing the first environmental education program for Renfrew in 1985-86.

When I said I wanted to build a big crawl-inside “leaf” in the woods so the 4th graders could learn about photosynthesis, Ed didn’t hesitate. He helped me get the materials and we built it. He even played an acting role as Sam Slick, the prospector in that first program called Green Energy.”

Ed’s Corner

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

I never imagined when Ed and I met in January to do the interview for our February newsletter that it would be the last interview we would do for Ed’s corner.

It was a cold January day and he came to the office. He told me how Edgar was your typical bachelor and lived with his Aunt in Zullinger. He and Emma dated for years before they married in December of 1942. Emma always loved the property located at 1010 East Main Street because she came here as a child with her father to fish and explore the property. After 10 years of the bank owning the property, the Nicodemus’ purchased it in 1942 and moved into the current property Ed described as a fixer-upper in 1944.

Ed reminisced about driving Emma to New York for her tailor made clothes. Ed would drive her to NY, and drop her off, and

she would be there as many as three days. Then he’d return to get her and take her home. Emma loved to wear knit clothes and attended shows while in New York. She enjoyed staying at nice hotels.

Ed would take her to Baltimore to get her hair done and they would always stop at Hutzler’s Department Store in Towson so she could shop. On the way home they would drop by Victor’s Market to purchase fancy foods. Emma would buy canned peaches by the case because she loved to make peach cobbles and always put peaches on something.

Ed often said “the past has a lot to do with the future and everybody has a story to tell.” Ed was the last living Renfrew historian that relayed the events of the past to us to preserve and share the Nicodemus story and Renfrew with the Waynesboro community. His passing has left a huge void at Renfrew that will never be filled.

Ed was grateful man. He was grateful for everything in his life. His time at Renfrew, his wife, his daughters, and his grandchildren, and his friends.



Ed and I were talking about how he would celebrate his 93rd birthday in August. He said he would be looking forward to having a Rumtopf similar to what Emma use to make. It was made in a crock and filled with strawberries, sugar, and rum. After it cured, it was served over ice cream and was simply delicious.

In the short time I knew Ed he touched my life. I cannot imagine the loss his family, friends, and the Waynesboro community feel.

The last time I saw him he was leaving the office and I said “see you next time Ed.” He smiled, winked and responded, “I sure hope so Kim.”

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.” Dr. Suess.



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

Memories of Ed by Dade Royer

My earliest memories of Ed Miller go way back to when I was young. My father's family was from Zullinger and were friends with Ed's family. But I really got to know Ed better when I came to Renfrew in 2010.

As you get older, you learn to appreciate people and the things they do so much more. Ed was always community minded and involved. However, it was his kind, easy going personality that made him such a good friend. Ed and I got along well and ribbed each other a lot. It was hard to put one over on Ed.

My grandfather, Earl Royer, was the lead carpenter for the restoration of the Nicodemus home in the early 1940's. According to Ed, Emma thought a lot of my grandfather and

she named one of her cats Mr. Royer.

When I became the Executive Director at Renfrew, Ed came over to congratulate me on getting the job and he talked to me about how focused Emma was with her intent to maintain and share Renfrew with the community.

The night before Ed passed away we met up at the Legion and had a cold beverage. The following morning Ed stopped by the Renfrew office so we could finish up our conversation. We began by talking about the bathroom renovations planned for his house. We were going to create a walk-in shower for easier access. Then we started talking about the possibility of resurrecting the old Mill House. Ed described it to me in detail, including where it was, how many windows it had, and how many stories.

We talked about life and had a nice spiritual conversation. At that point Ed paused, and looked down at his coffee. I was waiting for something profound to follow. Instead, Ed looked up, smiled and said, "this coffee could grow hair on your chest" and we both laughed.

I equate Renfrew Museum and Park to a painting where everyone who works, volunteers and visits has the opportunity to add their personal brushstroke. Ed left many artistic brushstrokes on the Renfrew portrait for all to enjoy.

Renfrew will continue to work on the masterpiece to ensure Emma's wishes for her property are met and maintained. We look forward to continuing the tradition and expanding. We are heading in the right direction. In the future, we look forward to resurrecting the Mill House to add more depth to our guest experience.

Memories of Pappy by AJ Benchoff

Growing up I looked up to my Pappy, Ed Miller, because of his dedication to our family, his faith, and Renfrew. He was always helping the community and he was a wonderful husband, dad, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend.

He was one of seven children, and the first in his family to graduate high school. He hoped to attend college to become a Veterinarian but never did. His father had a knack for working with and handling animals, livestock, and horses. He must have come by his love for working in the outdoors and with animals honestly.

Pappy had a strong work ethic and he was devoted to the maintenance of Renfrew. He took his job very seriously. Whether opening the gate in the mornings, mowing grass, or maintaining the house, he was always focused on moving Renfrew forward and he took pride in the Franklin County treasure.

My earliest memory of my Pappy was that he was a hard worker and always willing to give back to the Waynesboro community. I remember riding around with my cousin, Katie, in Pappy's old jalopy, to help sell brooms. He'd drop us off and we'd go door to door.

He took pride in gathering the family together and was instrumental in planning and carrying out the Miller Family reunion held annually in Zullinger. The family looked forward to getting together around Christmas and celebrating with a family meal at the Parlor House.

There is no doubt that family was the center of his life and it showed. He loved them so much and spoke of them with so much joy.



Calendar of Events

May 13—Indian Dash, Fundraiser for the US Veterans.

June 1—Summer Concert, Lucky Punk, Scrappy old school rock and roll. 7pm.

June 8 —Summer Concert, Tresa Day Trio, A beautiful voice and music not to be missed. 7 pm.

June 15—Summer Concert, US Navy Band, Country Current. Country done the Navy Way. 7 pm.

June 22—Summer Concert, Wayne Band, Waynesboro's hometown band since 1899 . 7 pm.

June 29—Summer Concert, Mateo Monk, A magical musical journey. 7 pm.

July 1—Walk Back in Time Children's Book Exhibit featuring the collection of Michael Schnebly, through August 31.

July 1—Art Display , "Renfrew—From the Inside" in the Wagon Shed. Organized by Becky Dietrich, through July 31.

July 6—Summer Concert, Rob Rowe. A little bit of country, a little bit of rock and roll. 7 pm

July 13—Summer Concert, Center of Gravity. Local classic rock and rollers. 7 pm.

July 15—Royer Farmstead Day, A Day in the Life of the Royer Children. Sponsored by John and Deb Beck.

July 20 -Summer Concert, Mountain Ride, Sweet Bluegrass, 7 pm.

July 27—Summer Concert, New Horizon Band, Regional Community Jazz Band, 7 pm.

August 3—Summer Concert, Drew Adams, Very gifted local musician and singer. 7 pm.

August 10—Summer Concert, Regional community concert jazz band. 7 pm.

August 12—Royer Farmstead Day. A "Walk Back in Time."

August 11-13 Civil War Encampment, The original blue vs gray game.

August 17—Summer Concert, On Tap. Sip on some cool classic and rock and roll. 7 pm.

August 24—Summer Concert, Yesterday Once More, 60's-70's Music. 7 pm.

August 31—Summer Concert, Slackwater 4, A dynamic and eclectic rock quartet. 7 pm.

October 7— Second Annual Oktoberfest at the American Legion

October 21—Pumpkin Fest, Fun for the Entire Family.

December 1—Christmas on the Farm, 5:00 -8:00 pm

December 2—Christmas on the Farm, 2:00 -8:00 pm

December 3 Christmas on the Farm, 1:00 -5:00 pm

Our May Newsletter Sponsor Thank you!



February Newsletter Correction

Emma Nicodemus purchased the Bell Rooster at the auction of Dr. Mark Heefner for \$570, not for \$550 from Clyde Forney's auction as stated in the February newsletter. We apologize for the error.

Museum Needs

- 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.

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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