

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

August 2017

A Day in the Life of the Royer Children



On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon in July, Renfrew celebrated "A Day in the Life of the Royer Children." John and Deb Beck sponsored the grant which provided free admission and food and spotlighted how the Royer children worked, lived and played during the 1800's.

A Day in the Life of the Royer Children was held on July 15. The event, a first of its kind for Renfrew, welcomed over 600+ guests and many first time visitors. Families enjoyed hot dogs, sipped lemonade, snacked on cookies and cooled off with Antietam Dairy ice cream while enjoying activities in the backyard.

In a shady spot on the back lawn, a petting zoo was set up by Party Animalz Farm. Children interacted with over 30 animals. On the main stage, Slim Harrison and Sunnyland Band performed. The Sunnyland band is an interactive jug band where kids sing, dance and play instruments. It was a hit with kids and their families.

Hay bales were scattered around the property where children could sit and enjoy playing dominos and checkers.

Various stations were staged throughout the back lawn where children experienced the art of writing with a quill pen, or chalkboard slates. They could dress up in period clothes for picture perfect memory of the day.

Everyday children's chores were demonstrated and kids got the chance to assist with washing clothes and beating rugs. A quilting station was available for those that wanted to try their hand at quilting and a carding and spinning demonstration was provided.

Vintage toys were purchased and passed out as souvenirs to kids who stopped by the different toy tables. The cup and ball toys kept children entertained testing their hand-eye coordination, while other children focused on decorating their cup and ball. Some enjoyed the simple pleasure of the button string toys. Children were able to make hankie dolls using handkerchiefs and wool as they were a popular toy during the 1800's. Not only did the children work to make their own dolls, they were able to take the keepsake home with them.

Not much has been documented about the Royer's 10 children. Renfrew wanted to offer the children attending a better appreciation of what a day in their life was like and to get a better appreciation of how children dressed and what their roles were in society during the time the Royers lived on the property.

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

"The more you know
about the past, the better
prepared you are for
the future."

-Theodore Roosevelt

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Bell Pottery Collection Recognized by Antique Week



Renfrew's Bell Pottery collection, the nation's largest collection, was featured in the May edition of Antique Week. Antique Week has the largest paid circulation of any antiques and collectibles publication in the United States.

Writer, Susan Emerson Nutter, who lives in Lisbon, OH, has been an antique/folk art writer since 1990 and decided to focus on the Bell family

their pottery after speaking with Tony Zipp of the Crocker Farm. Crocker Farm, located in Sparks, Maryland, is a family owned and operated business. They have been selling stoneware and redware since 1983, and possess an unsurpassed knowledge of the art form. According to their website, they are the industry leader in auctioning antique American stoneware and redware pottery, realizing many world auction records over the years.

Nutter researched the Bell family and their connection to Waynesboro, PA. Nutter's article, *Shenandoah pottery by Bell family favored by collectors* highlighted the history of the Peter Bell family, his pottery business and how many generations of Bells followed in his path. The article highlights how John Bell utilized a tin glaze that produced a white surface, a first for an American potter.

"Bell developed glazes and techniques that mimicked those that dressed the Rockingham and Bennington pieces that were popular with the higher class." Bell created pottery with glazes suggested luxury, but at affordable prices. Then John W. Bell carried on the family tradition after the death of his father in 1881. He continued the family business in Waynesboro and established his own mark as a potter. Sadly, in 1908, despite the efforts of John W. and Samuel Bell's sons, the Bell family pottery ended production.

Nutter ended her article with "to learn more about the Bell family potters, enthusiasts should definitely visit Renfrew Museum and Park in Waynesboro, PA."

The Bell and Shenandoah pottery collection can be viewed Monday—Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Art Show

This is the fourth year artists of the Cumberland Valley have been invited to display their paintings in the Wagon Shed of the Visitors Center. Organizer, Becky Dietrich, named the 2017 art show "Early American Treasures."

The art show was comprised of 12 local artists and consisted of 25 watercolor and oil based paintings. Artists were invited to take photographs of the interior of all the buildings at Renfrew for reference material for paintings. This included the Museum House, Fahnestock House, Milk House, Smoke House and Summer Kitchen. For the first time, antiques and artifacts of early American treasures in the Renfrew Museum buildings were featured through the eyes of regional artists. The show was a magnificent representation of Renfrew.

The art show was held from July 1-31.

Oktoberfest

Come out for a fun-filled evening at Renfrew's Second Annual Oktoberfest. Oktoberfest will held on Saturday, October 7, from 4 pm to 9 pm at the Waynesboro American Legion. Space is limited and only 200 tickets will be sold for this event.

This traditional German event will have a distinctive Renfrew feel as we celebrate the German roots of the original family that worked this land.

Admission is \$50 per person and includes a buffet of traditional German foods and a Daniel Royer craft beer brewed especially for this event. There will also be live music, and an auction with fantastic items for guests to bid on.

The live auction will provide the highest bidder the opportunity to a private dining experience for eight guests in the

Museum House. The auction winners will be surrounded by the magical and festival Christmas decorations from Christmas on the Farm. Following dessert, guests will be given a private tour of the house by Dade Royer, Renfrew's Executive Director.



Volunteer Spotlight: Virginia Rahn



Virginia Rahn was born and raised in Mercerville, NJ and moved to Waynesboro, PA in 1975 with her husband, Willard, and their four children. One day while driving past Renfrew her second son said, “why can’t we

buy that house?” Virginia laughed and said, “because it’s not for sale.”

The following year Virginia and Willard began volunteering at Renfrew. An active volunteer for over 40 years, Virginia remembers sitting at a small desk inside the front door collecting quarters as the admission fee for the tour. One of her first volunteer assignments was to work with two other ladies to sew curtains for one of the upstairs bedrooms.

Virginia was one of the first teachers at the Renfrew Institute. She currently assists with the Institute’s Royer legacy program for elementary

school children. She remembers when her Girl Scout troop was asked to make Mrs. Sun for an educational program teaching about leaves and photosynthesis.

Virginia assists with the Traveling Trunk program which takes Renfrew on the road to those physically unable to visit the park. She enjoys sharing the Renfrew history with others.

Virginia serves on the Renfrew Executive Committee and the amount of growth she has witnessed has been phenomenal. “The grounds are beautiful and the family events that are offered are an asset to the community.”

Women Through History Program & Exhibit

Our Women Through History Program, funded in part by The Franklin County Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), kicked off our season and opening day on April 22. The exhibit was set up through the end of June. The program garnered a lot of support from the community. Without them, and the items they loaned to the museum, it wouldn’t have been so successful.

The Women Through History exhibit and display items were set up, courtesy of the community who generously loaned their family heirlooms to the museum for the duration of the exhibit. Renfrew staff and volunteers staged the exhibit and it was enjoyed by guests as they toured the house. Renfrew was overwhelmed by the community support, their willingness to loan us their family heirlooms, and their openness as they shared their stories with us.

According to Renfrew staffer Cindy Fink, who organized the Women Through History program, the museum received four times the amount of loaned items they expected.

“The exhibit was a wonderful opportunity to showcase items from many local families and it was very touching to learn the histories and accomplishments of the ladies ancestors. This program truly gave us the opportunity to walk back in history.”

In addition to the exhibit, Fink organized five seminars and one class. Ranging with attendance from 20-30 guests per session, the seminar topics included: A Portrayal of Growing up and Living in an Early Brethren Family –The lives of Catherine and Nancy Royer, Ed Miller’s stories of Emma Nicodemus, Herbs in History and Modern Times, Preserving food in the 18th and 19th century, and the Summer Kitchen. The class, “How to Preserve and Care for your Family Textiles,” taught guests how to care for their family heirlooms. This was presented by Dr. Karin Bohleke, Director of the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University.

The Smithsburg Historical Society loaned us the flying uniform and many newspaper stories and clippings about Helen Cox Bickle, the first female commercial pilot, who flew passenger flights in and around the area. The story was an exceptional one. It was fascinating to see the story unfold over the years and

the eventual teaching of more women pilots by this aviatrix. We were very thankful for the opportunity to add this story to our exhibit.

The grant we received for Our Women Through History Program was featured in the latest TFEC newsletter and on the TFEC website as their “featured grantee”. Renfrew was honored to be highlighted for our successful program.



Reginald Minnick's Family Memories at Renfrew



John and Earla Minnick rented and farmed the Royer House from 1912 until 1931. Four of their children were born there. Four more came along after the family moved to Green Hill Farm.

Reginald "Reggie" Minnick was one of the children born at Green Hill Farm, but shared stories his family passed down from living at Renfrew.

His dad, John, was a tight-lipped man with an 8th grade education. He was a hard working tenant farmer who raised cows, chickens, and hogs and grew grain and corn.

Earla had a 3rd grade education and was a strict disciplinarian. There were many times siblings and Reggie received the knife handle up against their heads for doing something wrong. However, they were both fair and good parents.

During the family's time at the Royer house, his brothers shared a room and his parents would ride the trolley from

Renfrew to Pen Mar Park.

Reggie's brothers told him how they would hide in the bushes outside of the Royer House, jump on the trolley, ride into town, and then come back later in the day.

The Minnick's befriended the Dayhoe family who lived in the Fahnestock House and were great friends with the family. The Dayhoes lived in the house for years and raised chickens. Sadly, after the Dayhoe's moved to New York, the families lost contact.

Years later, Reggie was given a beautiful painting by Frances M. Buchanon of the old smokehouse. He proudly displays it in his house and the gift means a lot to him.

Renfrew Hosts Automobile Club of America Founders Tour

On June 6, Renfrew's Fahnestock Lane transformed into a car enthusiast's dream when we hosted 127 vintage cars and over 260 guests. Renfrew hosted *The Gettysburg Region on the Antique Automobile Club of America Founders Day Tour*.

Renfrew was a stop along the Antique Automobile Club of America Founders Tour sponsored by the local Gettysburg Region of the AACA. The Gettysburg Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) encompasses the south-central region of Pennsylvania and also northern Maryland. The AACA has approximately 70,000 members worldwide.

The Founders Tour has been two years in the making. Annette Yost, Vice President of the Gettysburg Region AACA and Co-Chair of the 2017 Founders Tour, said they chose Renfrew for their June 6 stop because they

have brought their local club to Renfrew and enjoyed it. So when planning the Founders Tour, Renfrew was naturally a location to be considered. According to Yost, "we were glad we could include a gem like Renfrew." This will make the first time Renfrew has hosted the car show and welcomed guests from as far away as Canada, Louisiana, Texas and Minnesota.

The vintage cars, bustling up the Fahnestock Lane kicking up dust, made a grand entrance as guests stood in the grass watching them park and stage their cars. Once the cars were in place, owners and passengers got out of their cars and began to explore the property. While AACA members were given tours of the property and all the outbuildings, guests walked up and down the lane

taking photos of their favorite cars and sharing memories of once owning similar cars. One young man, who came with his grandmother, posed for pictures along side many of the cars that he liked and had models of at home.

It was a gorgeous day at the park to step back in time. The cars parked along the Fahnestock Lane were quite a site.



Summer Concerts

The 2017 Summer Concert Series has been a huge success. We thank patrons for coming out to support our weekly local talent, and the always popular Navy Band.

Throughout the summer, 14 bands and solo acts perform for guests in the backyard of the Museum House. This year we were excited to welcome back repeat acts and introduce a few new ones to the stage.

Each concert draws between 100-300 guests. Guests sit in the shade, some tap their feet, and a select few get up and dance to the beat of the music.

Concerts are provided free to the public and are sponsored by the Fraternal Order of the Eagles 1758. We kindly remind guests that Renfrew is a smoke and alcohol free park. We hope to see you next year and look forward to scheduling another exciting line up of local talent.



Mountain Ride—Photo credit Mike Clem

Museum Needs

- **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.
- **Community Partnership Opportunities:** Renfrew is excited to offer three new community partnership levels to sponsor park events and programs. Please contact Kim Eichelberger or Dade Royer for additional information.

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.

Group Tours



On June 6, Renfrew hosted a great group of guests from Elite Coach. We were one of the stops along the progressive barn tour of Franklin County. Each spot served one course of a meal and provided then a tour of the property. Refreshing ice tea and lemonade were served with a delicious farm salad prepared by Christine's Café.

During lunch, Renfrew staff provided a welcome and historical information on the museum and park. Guests took a tour of the Museum House and park grounds before boarding the coach to continue to their next destination.

Renfrew hosted another group on June 26 that was affiliated with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museums and Gardens in Winston Salem, NC. MESDA teaches a 4-week graduate class every summer in conjunction with the University of Virginia on the material culture of the early South.

According to June Lucas, who organized the trip, “the group very much enjoyed our tour of the Royer house and its PA artifacts, but our primary focus was on the Bell pottery exhibit. At MESDA we have several pieces of Bell family pottery, including our famous “Winchester,” a large lion made by John's brother Solomon Bell in Strasburg, VA. In fact, some would argue that Winchester is the mascot of MESDA. Seeing the related figural animals made by John Bell was a highlight of our visit to Renfrew!”

“The students had a much better and broader understanding of the forms related to the Bell potteries after seeing the Renfrew collection. Because of the Bell family pottery we have at our museum, we have long known of the Renfrew collection, although this was the first visit our MESDA Summer Institute has made to the site. We were so thankful to the museum staff for accommodating us on a day the museum is generally not open to the public.”



Thank You!

Thank you Carol Brown from Waynesboro who graciously sponsored the purchase of 10 textile boxes for Renfrew to house our quilts and coverlets properly.

Renfrew Museum and Park
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Waynesboro, PA 17268

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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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