

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

37th Annual Civil War Encampment

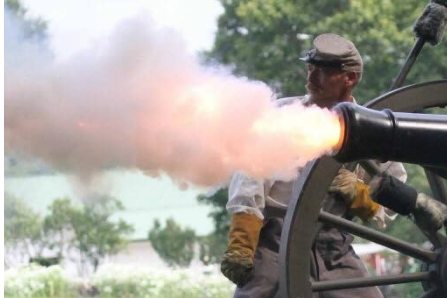


Photo credit - Noel Kline

The original blue-gray game played out on the back lawn of Renfrew Museum and Park during a sunny weekend in August. The grounds of Renfrew Museum and Park were transformed into a Civil War encampment and reenactment.

This was the 37th year Renfrew has hosted the encampment and we welcomed over 300 reenactors and campers. Reenactors began arriving on Friday night and setting up camp and joining their infantries. Smoke from the campfires filled the air as they started fires for food prep. Throughout the evening, camps began popping up throughout the park, along the trails, and behind the Fahnestock Barn.

The weekend consisted of tactical exercises, a ladies' tea, military nine count firing, a camp dance open to the public, a dress parade, church service, and a staged battle to close out the weekend.

Generals on horseback led the charge and gunshots echoed as smoke filled

the air and cannons resonated throughout the park as both sides of the Union recreated the battle of Sharpsburg.

The Royer Farmstead Day was held along side the encampment on Saturday. Royer Farmstead Day celebrates our Pennsylvania German Heritage. We share the Royer family story and offer free walkthrough tours of the buildings hosted by interpreters dressed in period clothing.

A flurry of activity kept Renfrew busy for the weekend. It was a memorable experience for visitors to witness what life was like during the 1800's.

Civil War buffs, and others who simply hadn't been out to Renfrew, joined us to make this a record breaking year for attendance. Our staff and volunteers spoke to many people who were first time visitors to the park. The reenactors themselves gave many compliments about Renfrew and the accommodations they received over the course of the weekend.

Although free admission was offered for the encampment and Farmstead Day, all monies made from the concession stand were donated to Renfrew Museum and Park. The reenactors also provided a donation to the Museum and Park.

According to Justin Dorsey, the event coordinator, "this years event was by far the most successful that I've attended." Several reenactors provided feedback to Dorsey that this was "the best event" they have been to this year.

November 2017

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

"History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon."

- Napoleon Bonaparte

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Royer Farmstead Day

To celebrate our history and Pennsylvania German Heritage, Renfrew offered a Royer Farmstead Day in August.

Daniel and Catherine Royer built the original 2 1/2 story 4 bay stone dwelling in 1812 and added a 2-bay addition in 1815. They were a wealthy family during that time period. They resided in the house with their 10 children and owned 150 acres of land. Daniel was a successful farmer, tanner, mill owner, county commissioner, justice, iron master, and a member of the PA Assembly.

Nancy, one of the 10 Royer children, married Peter Fahnestock and they lived in the stone home and worked the farm in the back of her parent's property.

Farmstead Days are special because it is the only time of year that all of the buildings on the property are open to the public. Interpreters dressed in period clothing are strategically placed throughout the property to answer

questions guests may have during walk through tours.

This year Farmstead Day was held alongside the Civil War Encampment. We welcomed not only reenactors, but the general public as well.

The Museum House, Milk House, Smoke House, Summer Kitchen, Fahnestock House and Barn were all open to the public for walk through tours.

We welcomed guests from as far away as Michigan. The couple had three young boys and the children loved seeing the horses that were here for the encampment. They thought it was cool they could go through all the buildings and run around in the field behind the Museum House and Fahnestock House. A couple came from Hagerstown after seeing the event on Facebook.

They ended up spending most of the day visiting each building and thoroughly enjoyed their time at Renfrew. They appreciated the knowledgeable interpreters and expressed interest in coming back for future events.

Royer Farmstead Day gives the public a birds eye view of how much land the Royer's owned and how prominent in society they were. It reminds us all of a simpler time and way of life.



Oktoberfest



Renfrew's second annual Oktoberfest was celebrated by a sellout crowd on October 7 at the Waynesboro American Legion. The event kicked off with Mayor Dick Starliper tapping the keg in front of the Legion. The keg was carried through the cheering crowd into Oktoberfest.

The Blaskapelle Shippensburg German Band provided live entertainment as guests arrived, while they dined on a delicious traditional Ger-

man buffet, and enjoyed specially crafted Daniel Royer draft beer brewed for Oktoberfest.

After the meal and tasty dessert, the crowd sang songs including Sweet Caroline and Country Roads. The KOPF oder PO game (heads and butts), had the crowd in stitches laughing to see who would be the winners.

Throughout the evening, over 30 silent auction items were on display and bidding took place until the end of the live auction. The highlight of the evening came when Board Member and Auctioneer, Bob Benchoff, took the stage and auctioned off six fabulous prizes that were graciously donated to the Museum and Park.

A beautiful original painting signed by Virginia Hair of the Museum House and the private Museum House dinner

for eight were the highest grossing prizes of the evening.

The winners of the meal will join us on December 9 in the Museum House to dine on a scrumptious five course meal paired with wines. After enjoying coffee and dessert, the winners will be given a private tour of the house by Renfrew's Executive Director, Dade Royer.

This year's attendees helped us raise over \$11,000 for the Museum and Park.



Pumpkin Festival



Renfrew's 24th annual Pumpkin Festival was held on October 21. The shining sun and warm temperatures made for a picture perfect day. Over the course of the day, over 1,500 people attended the event and were assisted in activities by 225 volunteers.

The trebuchet, always a crowd pleaser, launched the first pumpkin in the air around 11:30 am. The oohs and aahs from the crowd could be heard around the park.

The pumpkin landed just shy of the

hay wall that was built up and slowly knocked down by pumpkins flying through the air during the day. Lots of activities filled the backyard to add to the family fun.

Cornhole boards and pumpkin tic tac toe were set up and guests could make their own scarecrows along with corn necklaces. Face painting and pumpkin painting were also popular throughout the day. For the first time, we sold out of pumpkins in the late afternoon.

Admission included homemade soups and breads along with apples and cider. A la carte food items such as sodas, bottled water, hot dogs and french fries were available for purchase.

High Octane performed for the second year in a row, providing live bluegrass music throughout the day.

Parents sat and listened while children played at various stations throughout the park. A steady stream of visitors throughout the park enjoyed hayrides and kid and family friendly activities.

We offered chances on beautiful raffle baskets, 50/50 ticket sales, guess the number of candy corns, and raffle tickets for beautiful photographs of Renfrew. It was a successful joint venture between the Museum and Park and Renfrew Institute that helped raise over \$10,000.



Christmas on the Farm December 1-3



This year's theme for Christmas on the Farm is Christmas Bells. This year in addition to the beautifully decorated Royer-Nicodemus Museum House, we are pleased to announce the addition of the large McCracken stone house at 13028 Welty Road as part of this year's holiday celebration.

We invite you and your family to join us for refreshments, live entertainment. Your Christmas on the Farm experience will begin in the Visitors Center where you pay your admission fee, snack on homemade cookies and

sip on cider. Guests are invited to exit out the back of the Wagon Shed and follow the luminaries and flaming cresset baskets that light the way to the Museum House. On the porch, you will be greeted by an interpreter dressed in period clothes directing you into the kitchen.

Throughout your self-guided tour of the house you will be surrounded by merry decorations featuring our Christmas bell theme, knowledgeable volunteers, and the sounds of the holidays. On Friday and Saturday nights, live entertainment will be provided by Bill and Joyce Weaver playing colonial Christmas music. Sunday we will be joined by the Johnson family singing Christmas carols.

After you complete your walkthrough tour of Renfrew you are encouraged to visit the stone house on Welty Road that has been added to our Christmas celebration with your paid admission.

This year Christmas on the Farm will

be celebrated: December 1 from 5:30 –8:30 pm, December 2 from 2:00 – 8:00 pm, and December 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Admission fee is \$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$5 children 7-18 years of age and free to children 6 and under. Admission is also free to Renfrew Museum and Park members.



Staff Spotlight: John Frantz



John Frantz has been Renfrew's fun-loving Maintenance Supervisor for the last 21 years. John, a life-long resident of Waynesboro, grew up on the Frantz family farm located on Buchanan Trail.

Years ago John's wife, Jean, was at Renfrew with their two children when they ran into Ed Miller. Ed told Jean he would be retiring soon and the park would be looking to hire another Maintenance Supervisor. The rest is history.

John and his staff are constantly in motion around the property. Whether mowing grass, cutting trees, painting fences, or collecting trash, John can be assured that no two days on the job are ever the same.

In the 1970's and 80's, John was a Miami Dolphins football fan. John's signed Larry Csonka football is a special reminder of the Dolphins undefeated 1972 season. These days John is an avid Penn State football and Blue Band supporter and attends all home games as a proud season ticket holder.

John loves a home cooked meal. His favorite is country ham, fried potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and raspberry pie. His favorite sweet treat is a chocolate milkshake from the PA Dairymen's Association at the Farm Show.

His experiences as a young child working on the farm led to his interest in agricultural history. One of his favorite topics is grain harvesting. The Conestoga wagon also

captured his interest. In 1955, John's dad, J. Herbert Frantz, provided the horses, mules and expertise to recreate the historic scene of a Conestoga wagon hauling freight in Bridgeton, NJ to commemorate the opening of a highway bypass. After that his Dad had opportunities to pull other Conestoga wagons for various celebrations.

John was active in 4H and FFA during his high school years. After graduation, he worked on the family farm and at various local feed mills. For four years he had the opportunity to travel with the Schlitz 40 horse hitch and the O's Gold 40 horse hitch, both based in Zearing, Iowa. Prior to working at Renfrew, he was employed at the former Grove Technical Retreat Center in the grounds department.

John and his lovely wife, Jean, have been married for 39 years and have two children, Harrison and Louise. Harrison married in September and the Frantz's welcomed daughter-in-law Jessica to the family.

Team Rubicon Ash Tree Removal



The Emerald Ash Borer has been busy at work feasting off Ash trees at Renfrew. Approximately 100 trees were affected. Team Rubicon came in on October 28 & 29 to complete a successful community service mission.

Team Rubicon is an international disaster relief organization that has over 60,000 members worldwide.

Their mission is to unite the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Through continued service, they seek to provide our veterans with three things they lost after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving with others; and self-worth, from recognizing the impact one individual can make. Coupled with leadership development and other opportunities, Team Rubicon looks to help veterans transition from military to civilian life.

The team convened at Renfrew and provided a sawyer ops course for their volunteers, called gray shirts,

to ensure they were safety trained and adequately prepared for the community service project.

According to John "J.C." Mendyka, District Coordinator Region III community service projects act as reunion of sorts for many of the gray shirts. They also serve as practical experience to prepare for when the team is called upon for disaster relief efforts.

Team Rubicon saved Renfrew approximately \$10,000 by donating their time for this project.



Renfrew Calendars



Looking for a unique holiday gift? Love Renfrew or just looking to be more organized in 2018?

We've got a solution for you. Renfrew is pleased to offer a 16-month calendar featuring gorgeous photos taken at Renfrew throughout the year, providing an intriguing look inside Renfrew.

The calendar shows off our beautiful property, highlighting events we host throughout the year.

Not only is it beautiful, it serves as a calendar of events for 2018. You don't want to miss buying one. The calendar is only \$10 and available for purchase in the Visitors Center. It can be mailed upon request for an additional charge.



Estate Planning

Nothing made Emma Geiser happier as a child than tagging along with her dad to go fishing and exploring on what is now the Renfrew property. Emma loved the property. When the opportunity arose for her and her husband, Edgar Nicodemus, to purchase the house they didn't hesitate. Emma and Edgar enjoyed many happy years at Renfrew before they passed and her final wish was to share the beauty of the facility and the history of the property with others for years to come. Renfrew has truly become a gem of Franklin County.

A gift to Renfrew Museum and Park is a way to return to the community some of what you have been given. Arrangements may be made in consultation with your attorney or bank trust officer. A simple amendment to your will as part of your estate planning will ensure philanthropy to help meet future needs of the community.

By making a full tax deductible life-time gift to Renfrew Museum and

Park, you will be able to see your generosity at work. By providing for Renfrew Museum and Park in your will, your spirit of charitable giving is extended, touching the lives of generations to come. A simple bequest through a will or estate is enough to continue Emma's tradition of giving and benefit the community in the future.

Your gift to Renfrew could go a long way in sustaining Emma's legacy. For additional information please contact Dade Royer.



Emma with her favorite cat, Holly

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.
- **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.
- **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.

Renfrew Museum and Park
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Waynesboro, PA 17268

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Permit No. 405

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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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Renfrew Museum and Park



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