

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

May 2018

Fahnestock House Memories



Josephine Schindeldecker

On a blustery day in April, Josephine Woodring Shindeldecker returned to the Fahnestock House where she was born on August 3, 1927.

Josephine was one of eight children born to Jacob Elmer and Ada Mary Woodring. The Woodring family lived in the home until she was 11 years old.

A typical morning at the house included waking up to a breakfast of eggs, scrapple and biscuits. Josephine said they ate more food at breakfast than some kids had all day. After breakfast they milked the cows and gathered eggs before school. After chores she and her siblings walked to Wayne Heights School.

Upon returning home the kids would make sure Mom had enough wood and cut some if needed. They'd retreat to the house to complete their homework and finish up chores before dinner.

Josephine's favorite meal was her Mom's fried chicken, homemade biscuits and home grown canned vegetables.

The children were in bed by 7—7:30 pm each evening. Josephine attributes that to the fact she doesn't remember the siblings quarreling because they were so tired from school and chores.

She laughed remembering one evening she and her sister Betty, whom she shared a room with, going to bed. It was so cold because they didn't have heat and the linoleum floors were cold. They pulled the covers back from their faces and you could see their breath. They started giggling because they were "smoking". Daddy yelled up the stairs, "go back to sleep, one more word from you and you're coming downstairs." The girls quickly pulled the covers up over their faces and went to bed.

Jacob was a hard worker and would walk across the creek to go to work at Baer Brothers. Her Mom managed the house and canned as much as she could. Ada Mary would can tomatoes using molasses jars and seal them with string. Josephine said at one time they must have had 1000 jars canned down in the cellar. Although she wouldn't allow the kids to help can, they were able to snap beans and prepare the food to can. She prepared meals on the cookstove in the kitchen.

Josephine would walk down to the limestone house, now known as the Royer house, to pull weeds for Mrs. Beaver.

Renfrew Museum and Park
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Waynesboro, PA 17268

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

-Marcus Garvey

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Fahnestock Memories Continued...

She received .10 cents for her work and would take it down to Wards and purchase penny candy with her money.

Josephine would also wash dishes for Mrs. Beaver. On the rare occasion her Mom would send her to the market with 10 cents to buy an 8 cent item she splurged on a couple of more pieces of candy.

When she had free time she would play marbles and cut out dolls with her sisters.

The Naugle's lived in the tenant house where the gristmill was. Her older sister, Lillian, married a young man with the last name of Wishard and they moved into the house.

Josephine was amazed by how the house had changed. Over the years Ed Miller encouraged her to stop and

visit but the opportunity never presented itself. The one time she did visit was Christmas on the Farm a few years ago when the Fahnestock House was open. However, it was too dark to see anything.

Seeing the house in the daylight she commented on how completely different the house looked. She laughed as we drove back the Fahnestock Lane. She said the lane wasn't there and they would walk from Route 16 back along the left side of the Royer House to get to their house.

The three story structure in the back of the house has been torn down and the inside of the house has been completely redesigned.

Their old front door has been converted into a window and the main

level where we conducted the interview was their kitchen and the fireplace wasn't there.

We hope Josephine enjoyed her walk back in time. It was a pleasure meeting her and capturing her memories of living here.



Flora, Fauna, and Folkways of Earlier Times Art Show



Our 2018 season kicked off with the Cumberland Valley Artists "Flora, Fauna, and Folkways of Earlier Times Art Show." In its fifth season, the show welcomed 12 artists featuring 34 unique prints. The paintings consisted of water colors, black and whites, and impressionist paintings.

Becky Dietrich put together another dynamic art show with talented local artists. The artwork is for sale and each piece is numbered. This year we are hosting a Best of Show contest and are asking all that come to see the show to vote on their favorite piece of artwork.

The art will be on display 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 1 pm to 4 pm.

An artists' reception was held at the beginning of the show on April 14 and the public was invited to meet and greet the artists while being served light refreshments.

The art show has been well received since Opening Day.

Dietrich is an active, go getter who organizes the show each year and coordinates the artists and their themes. Dietrich and friends can be seen during the summer sitting on the back lawn eating lunch and working on additional pieces.

Each piece is signed and numbered by the artist that created the work. We are pleased Becky was able to join us at our Opening Exhibit this year.

All art is unique to the painters style and we can't wait to see which one you select as being best in the show. We will tally all the votes after the three month time period and will announce the top three vote winners in our August newsletter.

Summer Concert Series



Hot Summer nights are about to hit Renfrew. Just as hot are the bands and solo acts that play during our free Summer Concert Series.

Summer concerts are held every Thursday night between June 7 and August 30. Pull up a chair or relax on a blanket and listen to the sweet melodies and harmonies that surround Renfrew during our popular

community concerts. The concerts are sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles 1758. Artists represent all genres of music.

Jazz is America's music and the U.S. Navy Band Commodores, the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, have been performing the very best of big band jazz for the Navy and the nation for over 40 years. Formed in 1969, this 18-member group continues the jazz big band legacy with some of the finest musicians in the world.

Led by Senior Chief Musician William C. Mulligan, the Commodores' mission includes public concerts, national concert tours,

ceremonial support to honor our veterans, jazz education classes and clinics, and protocol performances for high-level military and civilian government officials.

Renfrew will host the US Navy Commodores on Thursday, August 23 at 7pm. The concert will be held in the auditorium at the Waynesboro Area Senior High School.

The Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide Antietam Dairy ice cream for those in attendance that evening.

Please check our calendar of events for a complete lineup of summer talent.

Accessions Committee



The word accession means a new item added to an existing collection of books, paintings, or artifacts.

Renfrew's Accessions Committee is a dedicated group of men and woman that meet weekly to accession items that have been donated to the museum. They meet Wednesday mornings in the Wagon Shed to catalog and record donated items and plan future exhibits in the Museum changing gallery.

The historians look for period appropriate items that will enhance our current collections and add to existing exhibits Renfrew has throughout

the year. Our Accessions Committee is a diverse group of volunteers that research items for historical importance, and put together memorable displays that visitors will want to see during their tour of the house.

They seek out John Bell pottery to add to our collection. Renfrew has the largest public collection of John Bell.

Our Accessions Committee recently accessioned a J. H. Johnson flint lock long rifle with a tiger maple stock and forged steel brass barrel with breech inlay. The rifle donated by Wayne Martz originally came from Waynesboro circa 1840.

The rifle will be placed in the Museum House for guests to enjoy during tours. A Johnson rifle currently sits atop the mantel in the Men's Parlor and the newest rifle will be showcased above the fireplace in the kitchen as you enter the Museum House. Both rifles are in excellent condition.

The amount of donated items that they accept and track can total into the thousands. Each item is cataloged and maintained on paper and in a computer database so information is our at fingertips at all times. That way we know where each piece is when a question arises.

Our Accessions Committee is looking to expand their group. If you have a love of history and antiques and a few hours a week that you could volunteer please call the Renfrew office for additional information.



Emma & Edgar's Home Circa 1973

The Royer Museum House is furnished with Emma's furniture and collectibles. The kitchen may have been reverted back to how it would have looked in the 1800's, but did you know that Renfrew still has the Frigidaire Flair stove Emma Nicodemus used to cook her meals is still in the house?

The stove is stored in the basement and is completely functional. The stove is fired up once a year to prepare the Christmas dinner auctioned off during our Oktoberfest celebration. The exquisitely prepared meal using Emma's stove adds another cool feature of the dinner and atmosphere of the evening.

The nostalgia of the house is evident to those that care and maintain it. You can feel the excitement our guests

share as they go through the house for tours and events.

Ed Miller often mentioned how proud Emma would be of the work that has been done and how the Museum and Park continues to grow.

We wanted to step back in time and share a couple of the Nicodemus house photos with you. The top right photo is Emma's kitchen. The bottom right photo is the kitchen door entrance to the left into the dining room. The wall paper has been taken down, but the corner hutch and chair are still in the same spot they were when Emma lived there.

Ironically, much of the house remains the same as when Emma and Edgar lived there for guests to enjoy for years to come.



Renfrew's Photography Policy

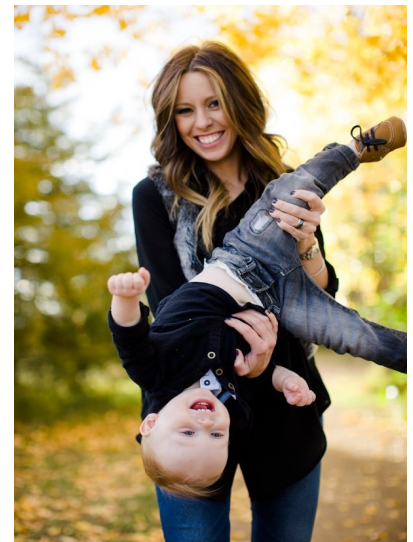
As we open our 2018 season, we'd like to remind professional photographers of our park's photography policy.

Professional photography is defined as any photography for which income is derived. All professional photographers must register at the Renfrew Visitors Center and purchase a Photography Membership for \$125 per calendar year. Photography Members will receive a signed copy of the registration and a Photography Member Pass marked with the pass holder's name, company name (if applicable) and the date obtained.

Passes are valid for one calendar year from the date of purchase. Photographers must prominently display their pass at all times while photographing on Renfrew property. Unregistered photographers will be asked to register or terminate the photo session.

1. Photography passes are not required for amateur or student photographers not working for income.
2. Photography passes are not required for media photographers working for purposes of journalism.

3. Photography passes are not required for professional photographers whose clients have rented Renfrew facilities, during the hours of the rental.



Volunteer Spotlight: Red Mohn



Red Mohn began volunteering at Renfrew in 1998 after he was invited to come to an Accessions Committee meeting. They believed Red would be a good fit for Renfrew because of his love of antiques and history.

Red began his career at Renfrew on the Accessions Committee and it spurred him to join the Renfrew Executive Committee (REC) and become even more involved.

Red's favorite time of year at Renfrew is spring when the grounds and park come back to life with the flowers and colors of the season.

At the young age of 12 he started attending auctions with his parents.

One of his first purchases was a spinning wheel. From there he was hooked, he loved attending auctions, looking forward to meeting new people, grabbing a hot dog for lunch and anticipating what would be up for bid.

Never knowing what you might find at an auction adds to the thrill of attending one. John Bell pottery has always caught Red's eye and one of his best auction purchases was a John Bell jug for \$1.25 in Leitersburg, MD. He smiled the whole way back to the car.

As chairperson of the Accessions Committee, Red oversees and runs the weekly meetings and plans the agenda. He researches sales and auctions that could have time period appropriate items for Renfrew.

Appointments are made with potential donors and the Accessions Committee makes site visits to look over potential donations to the Museum. Some items are used to replenish displays in the house, some are given to the Renfrew Institute for their educational programs, and some are sold and the funds used to support Renfrew.

When asked which of the Renfrew Bell pieces were Red's favorites he didn't hesitate and said, "the lions." They are Red's favorite because they are unique and there is only one other set in existence in the United States. Red said the other set is housed in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI.

Red is an instrumental part of our volunteer group. In addition to his work on the Accessions Committee, Program and Events Committee, and REC he volunteers to be a docent during Christmas on the Farm and the Royer Farmstead Day. He can also be found serving soup during Pumpkin Festival and helping to set up for Oktoberfest.

For the dinner auctioned off during Oktoberfest, Red is charged with buying the wines and pairing them with the food and dessert served during the meal.

Red has been married to Wendy Mohn since 1960 and they have two sons and a granddaughter and grandson. When they aren't volunteering and working, the Mohn's enjoy traveling and attending wine festivals.

Museum Needs

- **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.
- We are in search of tea pots, tea cups and saucers still in good condition. Our holiday teas were a success this year and we'd like to offer year round teas to groups. If you are willing to donate tea pots, cups and saucers please contact the office.
- **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.
- **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
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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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