

# The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



*Renfrew Museum and Park*

**February 2019**

## Renfrew Committee Inc.

In her will, Emma Nicodemus' wanted her property turned into a museum and park within two years of her death. Renfrew, as she wished it to be called, would be given to the Borough of Waynesboro and governed by a committee consisting of community leaders and bank members. The first Renfrew Museum and Park Board meeting was held on October 29, 1973.

The board consisted of seven uncompensated members appointed by the Town Council of the Borough of Waynesboro to a seven year term.

In 1997, the Renfrew Park Board became known as the Renfrew Committee Inc. (RCI) Our current RCI board members are Greg White, AJ Benchoff, Doug Burkholder, Bob Benchoff, Doug Parks, and Annie Gomez Shockey. Allie Kohler served on the Board for many years before retiring at the end of last year.



Greg White is a graduate of Waynesboro High School and remembers walking over the hill from Summitview Elementary school for field trips.

After graduation he attended James Madison University and studied business and economics. He began serving on RCI after being approached by a co-worker asking if he'd be interested in the opportunity to serve on the board and he gladly accepted the board position. He currently serves as RCI President and represents M&T Bank per Emma's will.

White currently serves on the Board of the Waynesboro Beneficial Fund Association and is a committee volunteer at Trinity Lutheran Church in Smithsburg, MD. He previously served a term with the Waynesboro Industrial Corporation Board and the Waynesboro YMCA.

Pumpkin Fest is White's favorite Renfrew event and he started a tradition with his work team several years ago to support this event. It's a great way to see everyone from the community outside of M&T Bank. Greg loves to see the kids having fun.



AJ Benchoff has the most unique ties to Renfrew. His earliest recollection of Renfrew was helping his grandfather, Ed Miller, make rounds and lock up the bathrooms and gates at Renfrew at dusk when he was 4 or 5 years old. He'd spend the night with his grandfather and nanny and remembers feeding Holly, Mrs. Nicodemus' cat in the basement of the Museum House.

Benchoff attended Mount St. Mary's College and studied political science with a minor in business. He earned his B.A. in Political Science in 1999 and his J.D. from Dickinson School of the Pennsylvania State University in 2002.

Alice McCleaf asked Benchoff if he'd be interested in serving on the RCI Board in 2008 and he was nominated and later approved by the Borough Council.

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

**Phone: 717-762-4723**

**[www.renfrewmuseum.org](http://www.renfrewmuseum.org)**

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

## RCI Board Members:

President  
Greg White

Vice President  
AJ Benchoff

Secretary  
Annie Gomez Shockey

Treasurer  
Doug Burkholder

Bob Benchoff  
Doug Parks  
Dade Royer, Staff

## REC Members:

Doug Parks, Chairman  
Wayne Bartholow  
Bob Benchoff  
Bobbi Blubaugh  
Roz Freeman  
Derrick Furry  
Dick Lewis  
Jim Markell  
Richard Mohn  
Tracy Ross

## The Rooster Herald

### RCI Continued....

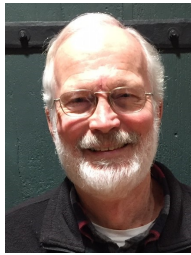
Benchoff completed his Eagle Scout project at Renfrew which consisted of overseeing the making of 10 split-log benches with antique tools used at the park.



Doug Burkholder was born and raised in Greencastle and moved to Waynesboro after he graduated college and began working. Some of his earliest memories of Renfrew involve walking on the trails during his lunch breaks.

Burkholder initially joined the Renfrew Executive Committee (REC) a few years after college graduation and served for five years. After a brief hiatus he rejoined REC and was appointed to RCI for his current term.

Burkholder also serves on the board of Mainstreet Waynesboro.

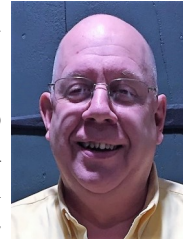


As a young child, Bob Benchoff played and fished the creek on the Nicodemus property.

Following high school graduation he attended Penn State University and majored in elementary education.

Benchoff served on REC before joining RCI where he's been a member for three years. He is an active member of the Renfrew accessions committee.

Bob enjoys Farmstead Day and the opportunity to dress in period clothes and interpret Renfrew.



Doug Parks hails from Chicago, IL and has been involved with Renfrew for several years.

Parks serves as REC chair and on the Property and Grounds committee at Renfrew. His favorite event is Pumpkin Fest.



Annie Gomez Shockey is the newest member of RCI and has served for a year.

She is a graduate of Shepherd University with a major in Political Science. She serves on the Penn State Mont Alto Advisory Board and serves on various committees at the Franklin County Courthouse.

### Our Hometown Holiday

Our Hometown Holiday was a three day celebration of Waynesboro Memorabilia and Christmas cheer.

The decorating committee led by Bobbi Blubaugh and Wendy Royer highlighted Waynesboro's history and memories of Christmas past in addition to showcasing items loaned from D.L. George, Jeff Mace and other community members.

As you walked through the house, Christmas cards received from Emma Nicodemus' family and friends were hung in the window in the Nicodemus room.

Entering the foyer, guests marveled at the pictures of Ed Rudy as Santa and enjoyed the men's parlor displaying Waynesboro sports memorabilia.

Christmas music played softly in the background as guests enjoyed their walk through tour of the house.

Live entertainment in the Wagon Shed welcomed the Boro Bravos, the WASHS small ensemble, the Wayne Band and Pat Beard and friends.

Refreshments provided in the Visitors Center offered guests a sweet treat while they waited in line and enjoyed the model train display from Quincy Village Model Railroad Club.

The committee worked two to three times a week from October 22 through Thanksgiving to make sure all the details were taken care of and everything was in its place. We welcomed over 800 guests during the three day festive event.

Christmas on the Farm 2019 is scheduled for December 6–8 and the theme will be Candyland at Renfrew.

We look forward to see what the ladies will come up with next year.



## Landis Whitsel Artist Proof



Thanks to the generosity of Jeff Mace and Karen's Custom Framing we were able to add a Landis Whitsel artist proof raffle to our Christmas on the Farm weekend. Mace donated the beautiful artist proof to help raise additional funds for Renfrew Museum and Park. Karen's Custom Framing took care of matting and framing the photo in a neutral colored scheme.

Tickets were sold throughout the month of December. The busy three day Christmas on the Farm weekend provided the most tickets sales in addition to four holiday teas and walk in sales throughout the month.

## Holiday Teas

This Christmas season we hosted four holiday teas and welcomed over 65 additional guests to Renfrew during the month of December.

The teas began at 11:30 am. Upon entering the Wagon Shed, guests were offered two different types of piping hot tea. After a welcome from Renfrew staff the various courses were served.

A marinated bean salad followed by a squash soup kicked off the lunch. Breads with apple butter, jam and butter were served next followed by four different types of delicious tea sandwiches presented to guests using Emma Nicodemus' glass cups and dishes.

On December 20 a video documented the event as staff drew the winning ticket. The video was uploaded to our Facebook page. We'd like to congratulate Melissa Johns from New Freedom, PA who was the winner of the artist proof.

Staff called Johns to congratulate her and she couldn't believe that she was the winner of the gorgeous proof.

The raffle generated over \$480 for Renfrew Museum and Park. An artist proof is one of the first ten prints from an original, signed by the artist. Artist proofs are printed prior to a larger run of the print.

Renfrew would like to thank everyone that purchased a ticket to support the Museum and Park and Jeff Mace and Karen's Custom Framing for their generous donation. During Christmas on the Farm, an identical print was showcased above the mantel in the front parlor.

After the lunch, guests were given a private tour of the Museum House still beautifully decorated from Christmas on the Farm.

Upon returning to the Wagon Shed after the tour, guests were served a yummy plate of Christmas cookies and more tea.

During 2017, we hosted two Christmas teas and this year we doubled that number. Teas can be scheduled throughout the year with advance reservations.

Groups of 15-20 people are welcome. The tea and food come from local businesses.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the 2019 season. A meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 at 4 pm in the Wagon Shed Room of the Visitors Center for anyone wishing to learn more about Renfrew's volunteer opportunities. The meeting will last about an hour and training packets will be given to those in attendance.

We are looking for volunteers willing to be trained to be tour guides in the house, and assist with mailings, the gift shop, membership and gardening. Volunteers are also needed on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm during the season to help in the Visitors Center. We also need an individual to take over our traveling trunk program.

If you would like to volunteer this year but the meeting date doesn't suit your schedule, please call our office to arrange a time to speak with a staff member about your volunteer interests.

We thank the groups who scheduled teas with us and the volunteers who came in and helped serve our guests and clean up after the teas.





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## 2019 Program and Events

**April 13**— Opening Day 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Opening exhibit *Buggies, Carriages, Sways, and Wagons of the Past* Art Show through June 29.

Artists reception 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Visitors Center.

**April 20**—Easter Egg Hunt Brothers of the Brush 1 pm

**June 6**—Die Shippensburg German Band Concert 7 pm—Oompa music

**June 13**— Tresa Day-Sams Concert 7 pm—A beautiful, soulful voice

**June 20**— New Horizon Concert Band 7 pm —community concert band

**June 27** Center of Gravity Concert 7 pm—Local rock n rollers

**July 11**—Summer Concert Band To Be Determined 7 pm

**July 13**— A Day in the Life of the Royer Children 11 am to 4 pm

**July 18**— Wayne Band Concert 7 pm —Waynesboro's hometown band

**July 25**—The Note Riders Concert 7 pm —Jazz Rock, Jazz Fusion, & Classic Rock

**August 1**—Drew Adams Concert 7 pm —Gifted local musician

**August 8**—Rob Rowe Concert 7 pm —Country & Rock and roll

**August 9-11** Civil War Encampment

**August 10**—Royer Farmstead Day and Quilt Show 11 am to 4 pm

**August 15**—US Navy Band, Country Current, WASHS 7 pm

**August 22**—New Horizon Pops Ensemble- 7pm community concert

**August 29**—Summer Concert Band to be determined 7 pm

**October 5**—Oktoberfest

**October 19**—Pumpkin Festival 11 am to 4 pm

**November 3**—18th & 19th Century PA-KY Rifle Show 1:00 pm

**December 5** Chamber Mixer

**December 6-8** Christmas on the Farm

These events are subject to change based on weather and additional programs and events made be added, please check on the Facebook page and our website for additions as well.

*Mark Your Calendar* 

## Biking come to Renfrew

In November 2018 it was announced that the Borough of Waynesboro received a grant from the Franklin County Commissioners to extend the walking trail through Renfrew to Otterbein Community Park on Welty Road.

The \$87,824 grant will assist in the completion of the new trail connecting Memorial Park through Renfrew Park to Otterbein Park.

The trail project is expected to be completed in 2019 and will travel approximately a mile through Renfrew and will allow for biking, which is a first for Renfrew.

The new paved trail will begin at the Ed Miller Memorial Trail at the top of cemetery hill, run parallel to the Hollengreen Trail, follow the Memorial Trail down along the right side of the Fahnestock Barn, go between the Fahnestock house and four square garden, connect to Blue Heron Trail and finish at Otterbein Church park on Welty Road.

The completion of the new trail will add even more walking options for visitors that come out to walk the trails throughout the year. Once the trail is completed, it will be named and dedicated.

The trail project is set to begin once the ground thaws. A ground breaking ceremony will be scheduled and the public is welcome to attend.

"We're really excited, this is a great project," stated Dade Royer, borough councilman and Executive Director at Renfrew Museum and Park. "This is a good example of local and county governments working together to benefit the communities. We're thankful to the commissioners for approving this project."

## Volunteer Spotlight: Bobbi Blubaugh



Bobbi Blubaugh was born and raised in Waynesboro. She attended East Junior High where she met her husband, John Blubaugh.

After high school graduation she attended Millersville University. Bobbi taught in the Waynesboro Area School District for over thirty-two years. The majority of her career was spent teaching elementary school children which she loved.

Bobbi retired in 2016 and is enjoying less stress, and using her teaching expertise with her grandchildren and her Sunday School preschool.

Dating since junior high, John and Bobbi will be celebrating thirty-eight years of wedded bliss this August and have three children and five grandchildren.

Bobbi has a naturally bubbly personality and after years of attending field trips at Renfrew was asked to join the Renfrew Executive Committee. Once she had a few meetings under her belt, she offered to be on the Program and Events committee and volunteered to co-chair the Christmas on the Farm committee with Wendy Royer.

This fall and winter Bobbi kept busy assisting with the Oktoberfest fundraiser downtown, the Pumpkin Festival and Christmas on the Farm.

She graciously stepped in as the Scarecrow at Pumpkin Fest filling the void left by Cookie Beck's passing. She organized donations of clothes and newspapers and manned the station the entire Pumpkin Fest day, overseeing the many volunteers at the Scarecrow station.

The Christmas on the Farm decorating committee put in many hours over

the course of six weeks getting the house ready for guests who attended Our Hometown Holiday.

After working all three days of Christmas on the Farm, Bobbi offered to help with a couple of the holiday teas held in the Wagon Shed Room. She served food, cleared the tables, helped with dishes and gave house tours.

In her spare time, Bobbi loves to make trips to the beach and is looking forward to a well-deserved family vacation to the Pocono mountains this summer. John and Bobbi also look forward to their annual Caribbean island trips with friends.

A Penn State supporter, Bobbi is a lifetime learner and loves to share with others. She believes Emma Nicodemus would be ecstatic to see the farmstead being useful to the community, and would be proud of the care that has been taken to preserve the property.

**“There is nothing bigger  
than the heart of a  
volunteer.”**

**—Unknown**

## 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.
- **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.
- **We are in the process of archiving and storing textiles and in search of 100% Cotton Sheets.** The sheets will be used in the packing and storing process. If you would like to help, please contact Melanie Desmond.

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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Waynesboro, PA  
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Permit No. 405

**RENFREW STAFF:**

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Associate Executive Director  
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**Melanie Desmond**

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**John Frantz**

Supervisor of Buildings and  
Grounds

**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.

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***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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