

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

Remembering Allie Kohler 1938-2019



-Allie Kohler

Allie Kohler was a staple at Renfrew Museum and Park for many years. He served as the President of Renfrew Committee Inc. for most of them. In a word, Allie was selfless.

Energetic and gregarious, Kohler oversaw programs, events, staff and growth at Renfrew Museum and Park over the last twenty years.

A Waynesboro native and former middle school teacher, Kohler was known throughout the community. Allie was well-liked and respected and gave his time and energy to multiple organizations.

Kohler began his journey with Renfrew over 20 years ago. He was a champion for Renfrew, presided over countless meetings and is attributed to much of the growth we witnessed during his tenure at Renfrew.

Kohler was treasurer and an active member of the Waynesboro Area Gala Cancer Auction. He spearheaded the event for many years and helped raise

thousands of dollars for cancer research. During his own battle with the disease he continued to attend Board meetings, committee meetings and events.

Last July, Allie participated in A Day in the Life of the Royer Children by helping with the food station. He and his wife, Jo Ann, sold glow necklaces at Oktoberfest. In December, Allie cut and strung the Christmas on the Farm ornaments given to our guests as part of the Museum House tour.

Although Allie wasn't able to attend Christmas on the Farm, he still took part in the behind the scenes laborious task of cutting and tying ornaments.

The Kohlers are active participants in the community and well-known over town for their philanthropic involvements and hours of volunteer service to many organizations.

Dade Royer, Renfrew's immediate past Executive Director, worked closely with Allie over the years. When asked what he will miss about Kohler, Royer responded, "Allie was a very dedicated volunteer, board member, and president of Renfrew Museum and Park for over two decades. His energy, compassion, time, smile, and leadership will never be forgotten."

Kohler leaves behind his wife, two sons, and their families.

Renfrew would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Kohler family.

May/June 2019

Renfrew Museum and Park
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Waynesboro, PA 17268

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

"Well done is better than well said."

-Ben Franklin

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Renfrew Welcomes Suzanne Toms



Renfrew would like to extend a warm welcome to Suzanne Toms. Suzanne began in March and is our new Visitors Services Representative.

A Waynesboro native during her elementary and junior high years, she graduated from James Buchanan high school. Suzanne attended Shepherd University in West Virginia, graduating in 1986.

After living in Washington County, MD for a period of time, she and her husband Rusty purchased a home and moved back to Waynesboro in 2008.

Introduced to Renfrew as a young girl scout, Suzanne remembers performing a skit with her troop about Sarah and Jane Renfrew, the Renfrew sisters allegedly scalped by Indians down by the Antietam creek. The park is named after them.

Suzanne and Rusty have a furry four-legged baby they enjoy spoiling and bringing to Renfrew for walks through the park.

Suzanne worked in retail for 19 years bringing years of valuable customer service and sales experience to her new position.

Rusty and Suzanne love to travel and at least three times a year they visit family in Garden City, SC. She also enjoys heading out to Arizona and the Grand Canyon.

Last year, she and her Mom were fortunate to take a two-week cruise along the Nile in Egypt. Suzanne tells us it was amazing to see how well-preserved many of the buildings and graves were. Of course, seeing the pyramids and sphynx were highlights of the trip. During an excursion she rode a camel.

She's also been to Great Britain, France, Italy, Monaco, and Greece. She has experienced the beauty of other countries in addition to trying their excellent cuisine.

Join us in welcoming Suzanne the next time you're in the Visitors Center.

Royer Retires



After almost seven years of serving as Renfrew Museum and Park's first Executive Director, Dade Royer has retired.

Royer announced his retirement earlier this year and agreed to stay at the helm of the ship until a replacement could be hired and trained. His successor, Becky LaBarre, started on May 20. Royer's last day will be June 21.

Royer plans to spend more time with family; including his newest grandson Dashel, fishing with his oldest grandson Noah, and serving on the Borough Council of Waynesboro.

Last year Dade coached Noah in wrestling; the two enjoyed the experience and he looks forward to next season. Royer says it brings back memories of when he coached his own sons.

An avid Penn State and Pittsburgh Steelers football fan, he and wife Wendy can now go on the road in the camper without having to worry about getting back to the office. He hopes to add more leisure time to his schedule.

His son Jared and daughter-in-law Lauren moved back to the area making day trips to see their family

easier than visiting in Vermont.

Royer's tenure at Renfrew included restoring the lime kiln, adding the summer kitchen, additional pieces of John Bell pottery to the museum collection, creating the Oktoberfest fundraiser, and beginning talks with a private donor to possibly rebuild the gristmill on the property.

A civic-minded person, Royer also serves on the Borough council and is up for re-election this year. Royer will be missed at Renfrew but he will easily be found around town doing what he loves, being involved in worthwhile causes. Royer will take a seat on the Renfrew Board beginning July 1 and looks forward to volunteering in the coming year.

We wish Dade the best of luck with his next adventure.

18th & 19th KY-PA Long Rifle Display and Exhibit



Renfrew is working on launching a new gun display featuring 18th & 19th Century PA-KY long rifles. An onsite long rifle show will take on November 3, 2019 from 11 am to 4 pm in the Visitors Center.

Our current long rifle collection features two Johnston rifles in the Museum House and three other long rifles temporarily housed in the John Bell pottery case. A cherry case is under construction. Once completed, it will hold up to ten long rifles.

The case will have a permanent home in the Wagon Shed room. The three most recent guns added to our collection were purchased by the accessions committee from Donnie Stoops and Wayne Martz in 2019.

The long rifle collection will add to the local historic value Renfrew offers visitors to the Museum and Park. We are thrilled to display the craftsmanship from area gunmakers and hope to add additional rifles in the future.

On Sunday, November 3 from 11 am to 4 pm exhibitors will set up a variety of long rifles for a gun exhibition for the public to view.

Owners will discuss the gun makers and their use with the public during the event hours.

Renfrew hosted a similar event back in 2013 & 2014 and we are thrilled to

be able to bring it back with the help of the Kentucky Rifle Association.

The gun exhibit is slated to draw over 50 long rifles. The cost of the event will be \$5 per adult, \$2 per person ages 12-18 and children 12 and under will be free of charge.

Antique guns sales will be permitted onsite and must follow all federal rules and regulations. Security will be provided on site.

To promote the event and introduce the collection to a broader audience, the accessions committee will be displaying at the 46th annual Gettysburg Civil War Artifacts and collectibles show on June 28, 29, and 30 at the All Star Expo Complex in Gettysburg, PA.

Mark your calendar for our November 3 long rifle show.

Remembering Judy Elden

Judy Elden was the voice that greeted you when you called the Visitors Center and the first person you saw as you entered the Visitor Center. Judy worked at Renfrew for six years and sadly passed on March 10, 2019.

After working at Landis Machine Company and Beck Manufacturing, she came to Renfrew looking to volunteer a few hours a month. Instead, she was offered a part-time job. Judy loved Renfrew.

A Waynesboro resident her entire life, she enjoyed seeing friends, family and former neighbors come to Renfrew.

Her pride and joy were her son Matt, and her granddaughters Emily, Sarah, and Jessica.

She looked forward to Friday nights as she watched the girls perform in the Waynesboro Area High School color guard. She could be found sitting in the bleachers, enjoying her baked potato and tapping her feet along with the band.

She participated in knitting club and played bridge with friends once a month. At seventy-seven years old she would get out and go. She'd spend her evenings chatting with friends on the phone or watching the Game Show Network.

Judy managed the Renfrew gift shop, completed payroll, worked closely with our accessions committee, handled the day to day office operations and attended the

summer concerts which have been named in her memory.

One of the last messages Judy sent to Renfrew was to tell everyone "I love and miss them." The office won't be the same without her. Rest easy Judy, we'll take it from here.



Buchanan Trail Quilters Quilt Show



The talented ladies from the Buchanan Quilters guild provided the beautiful quilts displayed during Christmas on the Farm.

The ladies will be back Saturday, August 10 from 11 am to 4 pm to participate in a quilt show.

According to Kathy Helfrick, who helped plan the quilt show, the Buchanan Trail Quilters Guild began in the early to mid 1900's. Membership has risen to over 65 members from local communities. The group is searching for new members.

"A Community of Quilts—Old and New" quilt show will coincide with Royer Farmstead Day. Quilting demonstrations will be in some of the buildings on the property and over 25 quilts will be showcased.

The quilt show will feature work from the local community as well as surrounding areas. Quilts will depict the past and reflect on the Civil War era, the early 1900's, and 1930's. The "new" display will offer brightly colored quilts with a modern influence. Visitors will see more common materials that quilters used such as 30's reproduction fabrics, Civil War reproduction fabrics, and newer popular fabrics including batiks and hand-dyed. Traditional block patterns and trendy blocks will also be shown.

All the buildings on the property will open for visitors to tour on Farmstead Day.

The ladies will be dressed in period clothing and will be available to answer questions visitors have as they enjoy the Civil War Encampment, Royer Farmstead Day and the quilt show.

The quilters are an active group from Waynesboro and have shows throughout the year in various venues. Renfrew is thrilled to welcome them to our farmstead this year.

The guild meets the second Monday of every month September through July, which includes a fabric shopping trip in August. The meetings take place at the Church of the Apostles on Barnett Avenue in Waynesboro beginning at 6:00 pm.

The main goal is to share their love of quilts with others, create an interest in the art of quilting, and keep the art of quilting alive for future generations.

Colton Side Board

One of the most unique pieces of furniture in the Museum House is the Colton Side Board in the dining room.

As you enter the dining room from the kitchen, the beautiful eight legged mahogany sideboard is on the right. The side board was made by Rhodolphus Colton (1784-1838). He was the son of William and Hannah Colton of Springfield, Massachusetts and the nephew of Aaron Colton.

He was part of a family of prominent Hartford area cabinetmakers. His Uncle was Aaron Colton, a famous cabinet maker. Our sideboard is

believed to have been made after 1800. The side board is the most significant and most valuable piece in the dining room. Side boards typically had four to six legs, ours has eight. The serpentine shape makes the table unique as well.

This beautiful piece was part of the Nicodemus bequest. Emma was an avid antique collector and enjoyed going or sending people to auction to look for pieces for her. She liked to purchase high end antiques.

Emma Nicodemus' home showcased her passion for antiques. She loved to entertain, so this piece is an exquisite representation of her personal taste.

The side board would be used to store extra dishes and serving utensils. It is believed the sideboard is only one of two left in the United States.

Stop by for a Museum House tour Monday—Saturday from 1-4 pm to see all of the Emma's beautiful antiques. The last tour starts at 3 pm.



Renfrew milk house 1976 vs 2019

To the right of our Museum House is the Milk House. The Pennsylvania German word for milk house is “millichhaus.” Even though often referred to as a spring house, no natural spring flows through the area. Instead, a tree pump was installed on a platform in front of the building to draw water from a well and through the cooling troughs inside the lower level of the building.

The two-level structure is modeled after a Central European type known as the Speicherkammer. The lower level, built on stone, contains a trough into which the water flowed to keep perishable dairy products like milk, cheese, butter and eggs cold.

The upper level, constructed of wood, was used for the storage of dry goods such as grains, flour and salt, and for root vegetables like potatoes, carrots, and onions. The structure is believed to have been built in 1805.

This building is open during Royer Farmstead Day as part of our heritage celebration which will be held on August 10 from 11 am to 4 pm.

The photo from 1976 was found in the application packet when Renfrew applied to be on the National Historic Register. The photo was taken a year after Emma Nicodemus willed the property and all the buildings to the Borough of Waynesboro.

According to Ed Miller, prior to the Nicodemus family living on the property, the milk house was used as a residence for the nephew of a tenant farmer.

During Ed’s time with the Nicodemus family he used the upstairs of the milk house to keep produce.

The milk house is currently open one time a year during Royer Farmstead Day. Join us on August 10 from 11 am to 4 pm when the building will be open to view.



Museum Needs

- Renfrew is seeking a used hand truck/dolly. If you can donate one please contact John Frantz or Becky LaBarre.
- Docents and Volunteers wanted: whatever your interest or availability, if you can help, let us know. Please contact Kim Eichelberger.
- 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.
- Community Partnership Opportunities: Renfrew is excited to offer three community partnership levels to sponsor park events and programs. Please contact Kim Eichelberger or Becky LaBarre.

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 Suzanne 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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