

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

Renfrew to Celebrate 45th Anniversary in 2020



On April 3, 1975 Waynesboro Mayor Tom Painter cut a red ribbon to symbolize Renfrew Museum's grand opening and in his remarks paid tribute to two sisters, Emma Nicodemus and Hazel Geiser, for giving the Borough this house which "many people have admired for years so it can be enjoyed by everyone." The next day, Renfrew closed.

Renfrew's brief ceremonial opening was to meet the terms of the Nicodemus will. The official park opening date for the public was held just three months later on July 5, 1975. The Royer-Nicodemus House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Many changes have occurred at Renfrew since we opened. In addition to caring for the historic farmstead and Emma's incredible collection of early American artifacts, The Institute at Renfrew was created in 1989 as an educational partner to provide cultural and environmental programming to area youth. Ten thousand school students come through the field trip program annually.

Renfrew Museum and Park has experienced growth in our programming over the years and is pleased to offer, in addition to regular house tours, annual events

like Oktoberfest, Pumpkin Festival, Christmas on the Farm, a summer concert series, bus tours, ladies' teas, and a variety of other visitor experiences.

Renfrew has acquired the largest National collection of John Bell pottery and we plan to expand our Visitor Center showcases in the coming years. Our collection boasts some of the original Bell molds which makes our display unique.

Earlier this month we received a handmade longrifle case for the Visitors Center (see page 3) which will house our current Pennsylvania-Kentucky longrifles and support this new collection initiative.

Plans are underway to celebrate our 45th anniversary and we hope that Emma would be proud. An ad-hoc committee will be created to plan special events throughout the year and oversee our Anniversary Fund Campaign. Be sure to check the Renfrew website and Facebook page for additional information on what we have planned for the coming months and we hope that you will make an effort to join us at our special events and help us make memories for years to come.

We cannot thank Emma and her sister Hazel enough for their generosity and forethought in turning Emma's beautiful home and grounds into a museum and park for all to enjoy. As we strive to fulfil her wishes, we eagerly look forward to hosting new and unique guest experiences in our 45th season.

November 2019

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."
- James Cash Penney

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Holiday Gift Giving Inspiration



The Royers of Renfrew Four-Volume Gift Set

Visitors Services Representative Suzanne Toms has been working hard to rejuvenate our gift shop as a year-round one stop shop.

We have gifts for all occasions ranging from historical toys and craft sets, jewelry, Renfrew t-shirts, ball caps, crocks, mugs, along with home

décor and inspirational messages. There's something for everyone.

Renfrew members receive 10% off on gift shop purchases!

The gift shop boasts colorful cards and the ever-popular *Royers of Renfrew* books written by Maxine Beck and Marie Beck. The complete series of four novels is \$60 and includes a set of free notecards.

Suzanne has done a great job with rotating in seasonal items to freshen up the displays as well. Our gift shop contains reasonably priced items for all of your gift giving needs. A Farmstead theme offers a variety of unique items featuring roosters and seasonal gifts for home decorating or gift giving.

We also offer Bell reproductions made by Charles Bell, the last living potter from the John Bell family, and his pottery is currently being offered at 25% off.

The Renfrew gift shop is located in the Visitors Center and is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm throughout the year. We are closed for certain holidays so please call the office before stopping by to ensure we are open.



Beautiful seasonal items on sale now!

Longrifle Case Dedication



Wayne Martz and Bob Crouse

A beautiful cherry handcrafted longrifle case made by Wayne Martz and Bob Crouse was dedicated on Sunday, November 3. The case will be permanently housed in the Visitors Center gallery.

Dedicated as part of our 18th & 19th Century Pennsylvania - Kentucky Longrifle Show & Sale, the case has capacity for ten longrifles with seven currently on display. Five are owned by Renfrew and two are on loan: a John H. Johnston from Sam Perry of Taneytown, MD and a Henry Knoll rifle from Dennis and Curtis Koons of Waynesboro, PA.

With plans to expand its longrifle collection, this show helped Renfrew promote its existing Johnston rifles and will hopefully entice others to help us add to our collection.

The longrifle show drew around 150 guests and welcomed eleven exhibitors for a total of fourteen tables. Guests from as far away as Winchester, VA and up above

Harrisburg, PA made their way to Renfrew to view the longrifles and accoutrements on display. Historic gunsmiths of Franklin County and surrounding areas were represented.

The longrifle show also served as a fundraiser for our Accessions Committee, which oversees collections intake and displays. Monies collected from the exhibitors, admissions and raffle tickets sales will go towards continued acquisition and care of these unique artifacts.

The Accessions Committee was pleased by the turnout and exhibitor participation during the show. The participants' knowledge of the history of longrifles and accoutrements added to the visitor experience and success of the show.

Christmas on the Farm Returns to the Simple Joys of Yuletides Past



“Walk Back in Time” through over 200 years of celebration at our annual *Christmas on the Farm* event on December 6th, 7th and 8th. Follow the soft glow of flickering luminaries and the fiery blaze of torches to the beautifully decorated Museum House where you’ll encounter how treasured holiday traditions evolved over the centuries. Guided tours will begin every fifteen minutes.

Renfrew’s Executive Director, Becky LaBarre, says changes to the program offer a chance to rediscover the simple joys of Christmas past with a more authentic period experience for our guests.

“Amid the hustle and bustle of the twenty-first century holiday, it’s easy to get overwhelmed,” LaBarre explains. “Renfrew’s goal is to offer visitors a chance to step out of the modern-day fray, away from the glitzy lights and high tech, and just enjoy some good old-fashioned fun with their loved ones. Christmas on the Farm is an opportunity to slow down, simplify, and take inspiration from holiday traditions of the past.”

The Decorating Committee is already hard at work adorning the Museum

House with festive, natural-looking greens and cheerful accents to represent the evolution of Christmas celebrations in the United States throughout the nineteenth century. As guests progress through the house, each beautiful room on the first floor will represent a different time period peopled with authentically-attired living history interpreters along the way. Live traditional music provided by the Weavers will take place on Friday and Saturday in the Dining Room. There’s more to see upstairs with the hall, bedrooms, changing gallery and Snow Hill Room decorated and open to view.

Even more fun awaits outside. Explore some of our farmstead outbuildings, occupied by historic tradespeople showcasing the beauty and artisanship of their craft or stop by the Summer Kitchen for period cooking demonstrations. Boy Scouts of America Waynesboro Troop 96 will host a tree lot on the grounds and a cozy warming circle will present holiday stories read aloud at designated times. When you’re ready to come inside for a while, step out of the chill into the festive atmosphere of our Visitors Center to enjoy a goodie and warm beverage, peruse our permanent exhibits, or shop for that special gift. Our Wagon Shed Room will become “Craft Central” with three opportunities to make a hand-made treasure to take home. Create a fragrant orange and clove pomander, Victorian scrap

art ornament, or mini Renfrew photo frame. With so much to do, you’ll be sure to enjoy this unforgettable holiday experience and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Renfrew’s Christmas on the Farm is just three days only: Friday, December 6 from 5:30-8:30pm; Saturday, December 7 from 2:00-8:00pm; and Sunday, December 8 from 1:00-5:00pm.

Renfrew Museum Members receive FREE ADMISSION and are invited to our members-only preview event on Saturday at 1:00pm – one hour before the general public.

Regular admission is \$12 for adults, ages 18-64; \$10 for senior ages 65+; and \$6 for children ages 7-17. Kids under 6 are free.



Friday, December 6
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday, December 7
2:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Sunday, December 8
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

“Walk Back in Time”

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Christmas on the Farm Luminary Sponsorship Opportunity



Renfrew is offering something new this year as part of our Christmas on the Farm celebration. Please consider supporting Renfrew by sponsoring a luminary to light the way for our many guests during *Christmas on the Farm*. Each \$5 donation will supply this beloved program with the warm glow of the holiday season, enhancing the magical transformation of Renfrew.

Your luminary will be labeled to acknowledge your generous gift and may be dedicated in honor or memory of anyone you wish.

If you'd like to support our new endeavor please fill out and return the sponsorship form below with your payment and we will take care of the rest. Payment may be made via Pay Pal, cash, check or credit card.

Christmas on the Farm will be held on December 6-8, 2019. Hours are as follows: December 6 5:30-8:30 pm, December 7 from 2 pm to 8 pm, and December 8 from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Rediscover the simply joys of Christmas past at Renfrew Museum and Park this holiday season! Walk back in time through over 200 years of celebration at our annual *Christmas on the Farm* event. Follow the soft glow of flickering luminaries and the fiery blaze of torches to the beautifully decorated Museum House where

you'll encounter how treasured traditions evolved over the centuries.

Explore some of our historic out-buildings, enjoy songs and stories around a cozy warming circle, or step out of the chill into the festive atmosphere inside our Visitors Center where even more family fun awaits. Enjoy a goodie and warm beverage, make a craft, or shop for that special gift. We invite you to join us at Renfrew this December for an unforgettable holiday experience and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Christmas on the Farm admission is \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 ages 7-18 and kids 6 and under and Renfrew Members are free.

To purchase luminaries online please go to <https://www.renfrewmuseum.org/christmas/>

Christmas on the Farm Luminary Sponsorship Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Luminary \$5 each: _____ Total _____

Message to put on luminary bag(s): _____

Record Breaking Pumpkin Festival

Pumpkin Festival setup was a little unusual this year. We put up Big Red, our trusty old food tent, on Tuesday to avoid the rain on Wednesday. Wednesday we unloaded over 300 pumpkins in the pouring rain. Thursday Big Red ripped with the high winds we experienced and had to be taken down. Sadly, Big Red is now retired for good.

Despite the blustery conditions earlier in the week, on Pumpkin Festival day we couldn't have asked for better weather. During setup the air was

cool and frost glistened on the ground and tables.

As the morning progressed temperatures rose and gorgeous skies combined for a perfect day. A record breaking number of guests came through the admissions gates beginning at 11 am.

The ever-popular pumpkin chucking trebuchet unfortunately broke during the first launch of the day, but it didn't put a damper on the fun.

The hayride tractor made 32 trips up and down the Fahnestock Lane as musicians Marv Ashby and High Octane entertained guests at the festival.

Our scarecrow station was packed all day and we replenished as many supplies as we could during the day. Over 275 scarecrows were made over this year.

Soups were kept pipping hot in black kettles and guests were treated to chicken corn soup and vegetable soup.

Ponies rides were popular and given throughout the day, providing hours of entertainment to the children who took over 200 rides.

Face-painting, pumpkin bowling, the corn crib and making corn necklaces kept kids busy and parents engaged.

Photo boards provided family fun memories as you entered the backyard.

An estimated 185 volunteers worked Pumpkin Festival and helped distribute 1,488 wristbands for attendance, and they helped serve 125 gallons of soup and over 700 hotdogs.

This was the best attendance in recent years and we netted over \$13,000 that will be divide equally among the Renfrew Museum and Park and the Institute at Renfrew. Thank you for your support of Renfrew.



Thank you, Patrícia A. Edwards of Waynesboro, for graciously sponsoring our November newsletter.



Museum Needs

- **Collections Care:** Clean used 100% cotton or cotton/poly blend plain white t-shirts and flat bedsheets; Items should be washed once, then rinsed through thoroughly a second time without any detergent, and dried without any kind of fabric softener or dryer sheets.
- **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
1010 East Main Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Address Service Requested

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Waynesboro, PA
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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.

To renew your membership or to become a Renfrew member, please contact Visitor Services Representative Suzanne Toms or visit our website and go to the “Join” tab for more information.

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!



Renfrew Museum and Park



@Renfrewmuseumpark