

The Rooster Herald

All the news that's fit to crow about!



Renfrew Museum and Park

Renfrew's 45th Opening Day is April 18



-Photo Credit Lisa Kerhin

This year Renfrew Museum and Park celebrates forty-five years of the Royer and Nicodemus family history and we are thrilled to share this milestone with our members, supporters and park guests. Throughout the year we will offer special programs, events, and speakers to celebrate and commemorate our local history and heritage.

The museum held a ceremonial opening on April 3, 1975, in order to meet the terms of Emma Nicodemus' will and then closed the next day to continue with renovations inside her home. Join us on Friday, April 3, 2020 when we replicate the ceremonial opening and offer forty-five cent per person Museum House admission between 1 pm and 4 pm. You'll be greeted by one of the first Renfrew docents, Virginia Rahn as she collects your admission fee on the front porch just like she did in the early days. Later in the evening, join us between 5 pm and 7 pm as we invite guests to participate in a family friendly *Turn Back Time 1970's* party. Come dressed in your best '70's attire and celebrate with dancing and refreshments in the Wagon Shed Room.

On April 18, we officially kick off our 45th anniversary season from 11 am to 4 pm offering free admission on Museum House tours and outbuildings along with craft demonstrations.

Our Accessions Committee will host a tag sale fundraiser at the Fahnestock Barn with proceeds supporting care and acquisition of Renfrew's collection of artifacts. Additional information on the tag sale is located on page four of this newsletter.

Emma Nicodemus loved cats and in her memory Renfrew will partner with the Antietam Humane Society to help find homes for the one hundred and twenty cats and other animals currently housed at the shelter. The Humane Society will bring a few animals onsite for a meet and greet and we encourage the donations of pet food and kitty litter that day. Pet applications will be available on April 18 for anyone interested in adopting a forever pet. Animals and staff will be set up under the Kentucky Bean Tree in between the Visitors Center and Museum House.

While you're at Renfrew please register your dog, if you haven't already, for our Park Pals program. A Park Pal membership is five dollars and good for the life of your pet. All dogs walked through the park should be registered as a Park Pal and owners should have their tag visible to park staff. Opening Day is the perfect time to support Renfrew and help an animal.

February 2020

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

Phone: 717-762-4723

www.renfrewmuseum.org

An Anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes for tomorrow. -Unknown

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Bob O'Connor Presents "Ward Hill Lamon Recounts the Life of Lincoln"



-Author Bob O'Connor as Ward Hill Lamon

The Royers and Fahnestocks lived through a time of rapid change as the fledgling United States grew during the nineteenth century. No single issue divided the country more during their lifetime than slavery, and no historical figure embodies this turbulent era more than President Abraham Lincoln.

Even in rural Franklin County, the life of Abraham Lincoln was a subject of great interest to many citizens once he rose to national prominence and even more so following his assassination at Ford's Theater.

In honor of President's Day, join author and historian Bob O'Connor on February 8 in the Wagon Shed Room of the Visitors Center at 1 pm as he examines the life of Abraham Lincoln through the eyes of attorney Ward Hill Lamon. A close friend of the sixteenth president, no one had as much access to Abraham Lincoln during his presidency than Ward Hill Lamon who spent many a night sleeping outside the president's bedroom on the floor to protect his friend from harm. But in early 1865, Abraham Lincoln sent Lamon on

assignment and went to Ford's Theater against his bodyguard's advice. The rest, they say, is history.

O'Connor's engaging first-person presentation is based on the Lamon papers discovered by O'Connor himself at The Huntington Library in California. The previously unpublished manuscript, written circa 1880, was edited by O'Connor and released in 2010. Bob has also written a historical fiction account of the life of Ward Hill Lamon, the only work on Lamon to date, titled "The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln" (Infinity Publishing, 2007). It has been named finalist in both the Best Book Awards and The Indie Excellence Awards. Copies of both books will be available for purchase.

Becky Dietrich Memorial Art Show and Sale



- Becky Dietrich

Renfrew Museum and Park mourns the loss of our wonderful friend and advocate, artist and historian Becky Dietrich. Becky was a longtime volunteer and tireless supporter of Renfrew, serving as a member of the museum's governing board Renfrew Committee, Inc. as well as developing

a variety of innovative arts-based programming for our guests to enjoy. Becky's enthusiasm for the unique beauty found here at Renfrew was contagious, as was her boundless energy, creativity, and joyous spirit.

Becky's magnetic personality drew fellow artists to this special place, to capture its visual splendor and historic charm. Many of us are familiar with her coordination of an annual springtime art show at Renfrew featuring works by local artists and craftspeople inspired by the rich heritage of our historic farmstead and surrounding countryside – always a highlight of our season!

Renfrew will kickoff of our 45th anniversary season on Saturday,

April 18 from 11 am to 4 pm by hosting the "Becky Dietrich Memorial Art Show and Sale" as our opening exhibit in our Wagon Shed Room with an artists reception from 12 noon to 2 pm. Dietrich's past art show has been a staple during our opening day festivities and this year we plan to honor Becky for her dedication to Renfrew and her love of local art.

With the help of her dear friend and fellow artist, Mary Ellen Selvaggio, we will continue the art show and sale in Becky's memory. The art show will contain prints, pottery and jewelry. Becky was beloved by many in the community and we looked forward to working with her each year. She will be missed at Renfrew.

Koons Family Adds Local Henry Noll Longrifle to Collection

- Article submitted by Bob Benchoff



When Dennis and Curtis Koons learned Renfrew Museum and Park was establishing a longrifle collection, they knew they'd found a place to display their family's heirloom Henry Noll rifle.

Renfrew's vision to grow and preserve its collection of Pennsylvania-Kentucky longrifles, powder horns and accoutrements through a permanent interpretive display attracted Dennis and Curtis to last November's longrifle show and sale which featured examples of PA-KY rifles from Franklin County and the surrounding region including Maryland and Virginia.

The longrifle show and sale day formal dedication of a ten rifle showcase custom built for Renfrew by Wayne Martz and Bob Crouse was the public's first view of the exquisite showcase where visitors could discover the beauty, craftsmanship and heritage of these antique firearms, each a unique work of art.

Renfrew was very excited to introduce the public to the showcase and the collection of four Waynesboro gunsmith John H. Johnston longrifles and one Great Western Gunworks

longrifle plus several other longrifles on loan, an N.R. Tyler Rifle Works longrifle and three other John H. Johnston longrifles. The show and sale excitement grew as Dennis and Curtis brought their family's Henry Noll longrifle into the Visitors Center and offered to place it into the showcase.

According to William S. Bowers in his book *Gunsmiths of Pen-Mar-Va 1790-1840*, pages 34-35 "Henry Noll is first listed in the assessments in 1812, but as a laborer. It is not until 1819 that the assessor lists his occupation as gunsmith. He had one acre of land and a cow. By 1825, he had acquired sixteen acres of mountain land." The assessor notes in the tax year 1842 Henry Noll, gunsmith, was an invalid and by 1846, was called old- no taxes.

The Waynesboro Village Record carried the following obituary: "The almshouse, on 24th December 1855, Henry Noll, aged 61 year. Henry Noll lived a short distance from the village of Quincy, over near the mountain on his small place of seven and a half acres. The house was a small two story log covered with weather boarding.

This is in Quincy Township about five or six miles from his birthplace in Washington Township. Noll is buried in the Quincy Cemetery."

Bowers concluded his information about Henry Noll with the following: "His wife Mary B. Noll survived him by many years dying in 1892 at the age of 91. Henry Noll was a good gunsmith and much influenced by his father, but pursued ideas on his own that led him away from the traditional eighteenth century designs. However, he did vary his designs and made interesting work."

Renfrew Museum and Park is grateful to the Koons family for making their Henry Noll longrifle available for visitors to see and appreciate. We look forward to further growing this collection by providing a place where these treasures are available to the public.

Henry Noll's father, esteemed gunsmith, John Noll, resided in and made longrifles in Washington Township. John Noll will be highlighted in a future newsletter article when one of his longrifles is added to the collection.



Help us share the beauty, craftsmanship, and history of the Pennsylvania-Kentucky Longrifle with future generations by considering either a monetary donation or the gift of authenticated longrifles, powder horns and period shooting accoutrements to Renfrew Museum and Park.

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Hearth Cooking Classes



- Learn to hearthcook with Becky LaBarre

Historic Hearth Cooking

Private Lessons for up to Four Guests

\$200 per 3-hour session

Enjoy an intimate, hands-on culinary experience inside Renfrew's 1814 Summer Kitchen. Guests will be taught the basics of early nineteenth-century open hearth cooking techniques by preparing their own period meal under the guidance of one of our domestic life historians in period dress.

Menu selections reflect the seasonal ingredients available to local families like the Royers during the early nineteenth century and can be tailored to participants' dietary needs. You will learn about historic hearth equipment, how it works, and use it safely to create a delicious and hearty repast. Nothing tastes better than a hearth-cooked meal made by your own two hands! Contact us to schedule a date for your personalized instruction in historic cookery today.

Participants are encouraged to wear long sleeves and long pants in natural fibers. Avoid hairspray or scented body products that may contain alcohol or other flammable materials.

You are welcome to bring your own apron if desired. Period hot-pads, utensils, and dishware will be provided. Children ages

twelve and over are welcome with a responsible adult. Reservations are required and classes can be scheduled by calling the Renfrew office at 717-762-4723. This exciting experience will be hosted by Renfrew Executive Director Becky LaBarre.

In the Spring, Renfrew will add a twenty by thirty foot garden behind the Summer Kitchen and will grow our own vegetables to be used in the hearth cooking classes and demonstrations.

We look forward to harvesting our own vegetables to use on site and at events we host throughout the year. The new garden will be a welcome addition and we look to recruit volunteers to help with the planting and weeding of the garden. Work will begin once the ground thaws, if you've got a green thumb and would be interested in helping, please contact us.

Accessions Committee Tag Sale

WANTED---Donations of antiques and collectables, furniture, coins, jewelry, artwork, or other exceptional valuables and home furnishings for Renfrew Museum's Accessions Committee fundraising Tag Sale.

This sale of select, valuable donations will be held in the Fahnestock Barn from 11:00am to 4:00pm on Renfrew's Opening Day, Saturday, April 18, 2020 and will support the acquisition and care of Renfrew's museum artifact collections.

To express interest in donating items to the Tag Sale and schedule a time for the Accessions Committee to review your proposed items, please contact Renfrew Museum and Park at (717) 762-4723 or email photos to info@renfrewmuseum.org with "Accessions Committee" listed as the subject.

Members of the Accessions Committee will be happy to review potential Tag Sale donations and pick up items from your home or business at your convenience.

Please note that Renfrew's Accessions Committee reserves the right to accept or decline items for sale in accordance with the Tag Sale's guidelines.



45th Anniversary Calendar of Events February—June

February 8—Author Bob O'Connor impersonates Lincoln's bodyguard Ward Lamon at 1 pm in the Wagon Shed. Admission is \$5 per person and Renfrew Members are free.

February 22—Floorcloth Winter Workshop. 10 am to 1 pm \$30 per person, Renfrew members \$15. Registration required, limited to 12 people.

February 22—Renfrew will have a booth at the Chamber Expo at WASHS from 7 am to 11 am.

February 27—Renfrew to attend WASHS Families First Transition Night at the WASHS 6—7 pm.

March 7 - Renfrew to promote our walking trails at Waynesboro Health Fair—WASHS 7:30 am to 11 am.

March 11—Volunteer Meeting 10 am and 6 pm in the Wagon Shed for anyone interested in Renfrew volunteer opportunities during 2020.

March 21— Renfrew Docent-Tour Guide Training in Wagon Shed 9 am to 12 noon.

March 28— The Bell Family – A Pottery Making Dynasty Presentation in the Wagon Shed Room. Two sessions available and free to the public. Reservations required: 10:30 am to 12 noon **OR** 1:30 pm to 3 pm.

April 3—Ceremonial 45th Museum Opening Day. Offering .45 cent Museum House admission from 1 pm to 4 pm and Turn Back Time 70's party in the Wagon Shed from 5 pm to 7 pm, family friendly. Dress in your 70's best.

April 11—Brothers of the Brush Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm, behind the Museum House. Free to the public.

April 18— Renfrew 45th Official Opening Day, Accessions Committee tag sale, and pet adoption 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is free to the public.

May 2—Scherenschnitte Workshop in the Wagon Shed 1 pm. Registration required and supplies provided, limited to 15 people. Cost is \$20 per person and \$10 for Renfrew Members.

May 14—Author Mindy Gulden Crawford Presentation at 7 pm in Wagon Shed Room. *Historic Pennsylvania: A Tour of the States 100 National Landmarks*. \$5 per person/free to Renfrew members. Her books will be for sale.

June 4—Shippensburg German Band Summer Concert, 7 pm.

June 11—The Note Riders Summer Concert 7 pm.

June 18—Rob Rowe Summer Concert 7 pm.

June 25— Summer Concert—US Navy Band Sea Chanters, WASHS, Auditorium, 7 pm.

Museum Needs



- **Vacuum:** We are in need of a used but in good condition upright vacuum for our cleaning staff.
- **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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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 Renfrew member, please contact Visitor Services Representative Suzanne Toms or visit our website and go to the “Support” tab for more information.

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!



Renfrew Museum and Park



@Renfrewmuseumpark