

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK

"Walk Back In Time"



Winter 2021

der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm

Looking Back, Moving Forward

In this issue:

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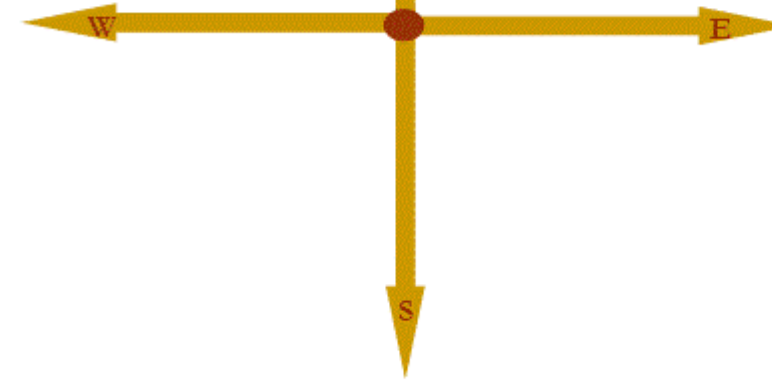
Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org

Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK



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Our Mission

To preserve, enhance, promote, and interpret the Royer family Pennsylvania German farmstead, the Nicodemus and Bell collections, and the surrounding Park.

Our Vision

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.

Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!



Renfrew Museum and Park



@renfrewmuseumpark



RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

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Executive Director & CEO
Steve LaBarre
Manager of Visitor Experiences
Suzanne Toms
Visitor Experiences
Representative
John Frantz
Supervisor of Building and
Grounds
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A Message from our Executive Director:



Welcome to 2021, friends! We're so excited to begin a new year at Renfrew Museum and Park, inviting you along to experience all the wonderful things we have planned at everyone's favorite farmstead. Last year caused many of us to reflect on what's most important and, at Renfrew, we've embraced both the tradition of our forty-five years as an institution while eagerly looking toward current trends in the field. This includes reaffirming our commitment to interpreting the site's Pennsylvania German heritage, along with its extensive agricultural history over more than two centuries of occupation on this scenic land.

As always, our incredible decorative arts collections frame the story of life in Franklin County, both close to home and around the Cumberland and Susquehanna Valley region, helping us to better understand who we are as a people reflected back to us in the artifacts, architecture, and landscape we steward. From everyday items to high style art objects, vernacular architecture to heirloom gardens, Antietam Creek, manmade and natural features, Renfrew shares the authentic stories of the past for everyone to enjoy and find relevant meaning in their own lives today.

The theme of this season's newsletter issue is "Looking Back, Moving Forward." A significant change you'll notice immediately is the return to the publication's original title *der Wetterhahn*. First introduced in Spring 1988, Renfrew's newsletter was named in honor of the John Bell pottery shop rooster weathervane, Renfrew's mascot. Learn more with an excerpt from our inaugural issue on page 6. The return of *der Wetterhahn* emphasizes our standing commitment to Renfrew's mission to "promote, preserve, enhance, and interpret the Royer family Pennsylvania German Farmstead, the Nicodemus and Bell collections, and the surrounding Park." We're honored to share the uniqueness of Renfrew, our institution's own special character and history, while eagerly looking to the future as we engage new and diverse audiences.

In this issue we'll also welcome board members and staff, highlight exciting new programs and events, as well as ways you can further connect with Renfrew Museum and Park. Be sure to save the date for our 46th Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 10, 2021 and we look forward to seeing you this year!

Sincerely,

Becky LaBarre

Welcome New Board Members and Staff

Renfrew Committee, Inc. is pleased to introduce several new volunteers who have recently joined the board of directors. Each of these extraordinary people brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and special skills to assist with advancing Renfrew's mission and move our institution forward. Join us in welcoming them to Renfrew's leadership team!

We are also excited to announce the creation of a new staff position, the Manager of Visitor Experiences. RCI selected historian Steve LaBarre to fill this important role which is responsible for historical interpretation, education, volunteer recruitment and development, community engagement, collections management, and event programming at Renfrew. Look for Steve around the farmstead and be sure to say hello!



Valorie Dick, Board Member

A lifelong community volunteer, she has served on multiple boards, including the Waynesboro School Board, Beneficial Fund, as chairwomen of Summit Health, and most recently with Hearthstone Retirement Home, among many others. She holds a master's degree in organizational management from Mount Saint Mary's University. Val and her husband, Bill, have four adult children and many grandchildren who have enjoyed Renfrew's grounds. She enjoys creative pursuits like gardening and sewing. Hoping to continue the rich heritage of Renfrew for many generations to come, Val is looking forward to being a part of a solid team of leaders to listen, learn, and lead, planning strategically for the future.



Laurie Hovermale, Board Member

After 32 years as a civilian employee with the U.S. Department of Defense, Laurie retired as Chief, Business Operations Division, U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity at Fort Detrick, MD. Laurie has been an active volunteer at Renfrew, already an experienced museum docent, and serves on the Program and Events Committee. Laurie also led the coordination of last year's successful Oktoberfest auctions. A devoted member of Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ in Wayne Heights, Laurie has served on the administrative board and in a number of church ministries. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Shippensburg State College and a Certificate in Contracting from the U.S. Army Logistics Management College.



Patti McLaughlin, Board Member

Patti is Office Manager at McLaughlin's Energy Services, a family owned and operated business that was started 64 years ago by her father-in-law, Bruce McLaughlin. She and her husband, Mark, will have been married for 40 years this coming May. They have three children and eight grandchildren. Along with enjoying photography, gardening, and spending time with family and friends at Raystown Lake in Pennsylvania, Patti looks forward to the opportunity to serve on the Renfrew Board of Directors by making positive impacts in the community she loves.



C. Harold Mumma, Board Secretary

Raised in Greencastle, PA., Harold began his career working for Landis Tool Company first as an apprentice, moving up to advanced supervisory positions. Upon leaving Landis, he and his wife, June, operated a successful landscaping business. Active in the Waynesboro community, he has been a member of the Lions Club, Waynesboro Historical Society, Boy Scouts of America, Waynesboro Church of the Brethren, and Waynesboro Borough Council on which he currently serves as president. He and June have enjoyed living in Waynesboro for over fifty years.



Steve LaBarre, Manager of Visitor Experiences

With over twenty-five years in developing and executing engaging experiences for guests of all ages, Steve holds a master's degree in public history from the University of Nebraska, Kearney. He has developed interpretation at historic sites around the country, is a certified teacher, and researcher who has published in both academic journals and authored a full-length regimental history on the 5th Massachusetts Colored Cavalry. Steve has presented for numerous museums, as well as for the National Park Service, local news and radio outlets, including American History TV on C-SPAN 3. His periods of research are early-to-mid-19th Century material culture, the American Civil War, military history, along with the study of African-American history of the same period.



Programs & Events



Renfrew Museum and Park is pleased to present its new Historic Site Spotlight Series! This bi-monthly program will feature fellow historic sites with similarities to Renfrew. Drawing on shared themes from architecture and preservation, to artifact collections, ethnic and agricultural heritage, community engagement and more, we'll explore the vast landscape of the exciting things happening in our region and across the country together – virtually. In a time of great difficulty and challenge for local museums, Renfrew is committed to partnering with peer institutions in the field to increase awareness, interest, outreach, and support. Travel with us on this virtual adventure and discover new historic sites that you're sure to love!

\$5 per person / Free for Friends of Renfrew Members

TWO WAYS TO ATTEND:

1. Online via Zoom (*Link will be emailed.*)
2. In-Person Watch Party at Renfrew (*Limit 20. Masks and Distancing Required.*)

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00pm — Washington County Historical Society, Hagerstown, MD

Join Curator Brett Peters for this fascinating introduction to the Washington County Historical Society in Hagerstown, Maryland. Learn about the Miller House, discover the mission and collections of WCHS, and some exciting new initiatives at this neighboring institution – including a new exhibition of Bell Family historic folk pottery opening this spring!

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00pm — Historic Smithfield, Blacksburg, VA

Come along with William Preston's Smithfield staff for an exclusive virtual tour of the Smithfield Manor home. This tour will introduce you to some of the most important stories and themes for Southwest Virginia and beyond. It will include a history of Smithfield, the Preston family, and the 200 enslaved individuals who lived at Smithfield. This tour will be presented by the Smithfield-Preston Foundation's Executive Director, Ryan Spencer, and Operations Manager, Kenna Jewell. Join us and gain perspective from the past, insight for the present, and inspiration for the future.

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7:00pm — Rose Hill Manor Park & Museum, Frederick, MD

Explore Rose Hill Manor with Museum Manager Kari Saavedra. Built in the 1790s by Pennsylvania Germans John and Anne Grahame, the site was originally known as Rose Garden. The property, which now features a manor house, icehouse, log cabin, blacksmith shop, carriage collection, and two barns, was later renamed Rose Hill by Maryland Governor Thomas Johnson in 1778. The Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor opened its doors in 1972, providing a hands-on learning approach to history. The Museum focuses on providing children opportunities to experience life in early America from learning to card wool, to grating spices, to playing with toys from the past, as well as the history of agriculture and transportation in Frederick County.

Learn more and register online at: RenfrewMuseum.org/presentations-and-workshops

Farmstead Taste & Tour

3-hour program package from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Select dates only:

Tuesday, March 16	Tuesday, December 7
Friday, March 19	Friday, December 10
Wednesday, August 18	Tuesday, December 14
Friday, August 20	Friday, December 17

Sold by the table. Limit 18 per session.

Must register no less than 48 hours in advance. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, tables will be distanced 6'-0" apart and must be reserved by family unit, household, or party. Available as (2) tables of up to 2 at \$50 each, (2) tables of up to 4 at \$100 each, or one (1) table of up to 6 at \$150. Table need not be filled to capacity to participate, but table price still applies. Masks must be worn at all times except while seated and dining. Thanks for your cooperation. We look forward to serving you!

Treat yourself or someone special to a delicious farm-to-table dining experience at Renfrew Museum and Park. Our new Farmstead Taste & Tour program offers guests the opportunity to sample seasonal, locally sourced fare inspired by the traditions of our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead. Your meal will be hosted in Renfrew's Wagon Shed Room inside our converted Victorian barn. Servers dressed in authentic period clothing will wait upon you with old-fashioned hospitality.

Start with a hearty coursed meal of salad, soup, and a selection of fresh-baked breads accompanied by Dutch Valley preserves and creamy, churned butter followed by a trio of sandwiches. After lunch, enjoy a tour of the farmstead outbuildings and 1812 stone Museum House, then return for a scrumptious dessert.

Our menu changes seasonally and reflects the rhythms of life on the farm. Produce is sourced from Greensburg Farms, Hagerstown, MD and prepared by our friends at Keystone Family Restaurant, Waynesboro, PA.

Visit RenfrewMuseum.org/taste-and-tour

PRESENTATION: Bandboxes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00pm

\$5 per person /

Free for Friends of Renfrew Members

TWO WAYS TO ATTEND:

1. Online via Zoom (*Link will be emailed.*)
2. In-Person Watch Party at Renfrew (*Limit 20. Masks and Distancing Required.*)

Learn about these pretty and practical nineteenth century storage containers with historian Nanci Gasel. Talk will feature an overall history, construction techniques, and images of originals from museum and private collections—including Renfrew! *Registration information coming soon.*



46th Open Day Celebration

Saturday, April 10, 2021 from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Free Admission

Planning is underway for this free event to kick off our new season and enjoy springtime at Renfrew. Activities include Museum House tours, historic demonstrations, wagon rides, family fun area, and more! Our gift shop and Visitors Center galleries will be open along with the Royer farmstead outbuildings for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks and check RenfrewMuseum.org/ opening-day for updates. Looking forward to welcoming you to Renfrew Museum and Park for our 2021 season!

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS: Historic Activities for Families

Tuesday Mornings
from 10:00-11:30am
Select dates starting
April 13, 2021
\$5 per child /
\$2.50 for Friends of
Renfrew Members

Limit 16 per session. Recommended for kids ages 6-13, but all are welcome. Must be accompanied by a responsible adult admitted at no charge. Masks and distancing required.

Come for a new adventure every week! Learn about life on our historic Pennsylvania German Farmstead while making fun craft projects inspired by the authentic stories found in our collections, buildings, and landscape. *Registration information coming soon.* Visit RenfrewMuseum.org/terrific-tuesdays for complete list of dates and program descriptions.

Mark Your Calendar!

(More info and registrations to follow in future issues.)

- ♦ **Friday Yoga Flow at Renfrew** with Wendy Royer
Friday Mornings
June 4-August 27, 2021
from 9:00-10:00am
- ♦ **Judy Elden Memorial Summer Concerts in the Park Series**
Thursday Evenings
June-August 2021
from 6:30-7:30pm
- ♦ **6th Annual Oktoberfest**
Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 12:00-7:00pm
- ♦ **"Treasures from the Collection" Members Only Event**
Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 4:00pm & 7:00pm
- ♦ **Longrifle & Early American Collectors Show**
Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00am-3:00pm
- ♦ **Christmas on the Farm**
Friday, December 3, 2021 from 3:00-8:00pm
and Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 12:00-8:00pm



Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies Exhibit Case

Renfrew and the Nicodemus Center for Ceramic Studies (NCCS) have partnered to create a brand new exhibit case for NCCS's collection of historic folk pottery on permanent loan to the museum. Previously displayed in the Changing Gallery on the second floor of the Museum House, these 59 significant pieces of Cumberland and Shenandoah Valley folk pottery have now joined our Bell Family Pottery exhibit in the Visitors Center gallery. Renfrew houses the largest publicly displayed collection of Bell Family Pottery in the nation and we are grateful to exhibit the NCCS artifacts alongside our own, bringing this extensive collection to over 300 pieces! The exhibit features works by John Bell, his sons John W. and Upton, his brothers Samuel and Solomon (Strasburg, VA), along with pieces by Daniel Baker, Jacob Hart (Chambersburg) and Jacob Kimler (Smithsburg, MD). A significant portion of funding for the project was provided through the generosity of Alma Oyer for whom the case was dedicated on November 8, 2020. The handmade tiles on the floor of the case were crafted by NCCS guild member Lynette King. Be sure to admire this incredible addition to the Visitors Center gallery on your next visit to Renfrew and visit NCCS at their studio at 13 S. Church Street.



2021 Volunteer Info Sessions

Renfrew is seeking volunteers! As we approach our 46th Opening Day, we're looking for friendly, community-minded people to help us provide great experiences to our visitors during the upcoming season. Volunteers at Renfrew Museum and Park assist professional staff with a wide variety of tasks including our popular programs and events, artifact collections and exhibits, interpretation, tours, gardening and grounds keeping, guest engagement, outreach, and so much more! If you're interested in learning how you can help us advance Renfrew's mission, please plan to attend one of our informational meetings scheduled for **Wednesday March 10, 2021 at 10:00 am or 6:00 pm**.

The meetings will be held in the Wagon Shed Room located at the Visitors Center with simultaneous livestream online via Zoom. A recording will be distributed to all registrants so, even if you can't join us live, you'll still be well-informed. This hour-long session will be led by Renfrew's Executive Director, Becky LaBarre, and Manager of Visitor Experiences, Steve LaBarre. Join our dedicated team of volunteers and help Renfrew fulfill its vision "to be a welcoming and memorable destination where everyone can walk back in time." **Register online at: [RenfrewMuseum.org/support/volunteer-opportunities](https://www.renfrewmuseum.org/support/volunteer-opportunities)**

Renfrew ParkPals Program

It's always "walking season" with our dogs. Renfrew is the perfect place for you and your furry friend to get outdoors, relax and enjoy the beautiful park. We are happy to allow visitors to enjoy our many trails, open grounds and the Antietam Creek with their leashed dogs. We do require all pets to be registered. It's a simple process that can be done online, in person at the Visitors Center (Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm), or by phone via a credit card. There is a small fee of \$5 that is good for the lifetime of your dog and provides you with a tag that must be displayed on your dog's leash or collar when walking in the park. The fee helps to cover the cost of the tag as well as assisting in funding the three waste stations. When you get a chance, be sure to stop in the Visitors Center Gift Shop and pick up a collapsible water bowl that has a carabiner hook for just \$5. These bowls provide a convenient portable drinking container for your dog and help to support our mission at Renfrew Museum and Park. We look forward to seeing you and your dog pal in the park this year.

Learn more at: [RenfrewMuseum.org/support/parkpals](https://www.renfrewmuseum.org/support/parkpals)



The Story of John Bell's Weathervane

der Wetterhahn

Translated from the German, *der Wetterhahn* means the weathervane or, more literally, the weathercock. The icon of a rooster was often used by Pennsylvania Germans as an adornment above a house or a shop to insure and promote the good health and good fortune of those who lived and worked beneath its roost.



The logo of Renfrew Museum is a direct adaptation of the

der Wetterhahn

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weathercock that once stood watch over the potting shed of John Bell, Waynesboro's potter of the last century. Given the current value of a John Bell pot, the weathercock is still bringing good fortune to the works of his old master. Given Renfrew's current state, the old bird hasn't lost much of his charm.

Above: Excerpt from the inaugural issue of Renfrew Museum and Park's newsletter "der Wetterhahn" from Spring/Summer 1988.

Below: Recent photograph of the tin rooster showing a variety of colorful paints still visible nearly 190 years after it was first mounted atop John Bell's pottery shop in downtown Waynesboro.

The John Bell pottery rooster weathervane has significant historical ties to the early days of Waynesboro. Its humble origin is not clearly documented. However, we do know that the weathervane rested atop a huge stone jug on the peak of the roof of John Bell's pottery business, which was established in Waynesboro in 1833.

The one-and-a-half story brick dwelling and workshop was located on the corner of Main Street and Leidersburg Road (now the corner of West Main and Potomac Streets). The property extended down to the alley that today is beside the ruin of St. Paul's Reformed Church. It became a common saying around Waynesboro that, "The weather depends on John Bell's rooster."

Confederate soldiers passing through Waynesboro in 1863 used both the jug and Bell's weathervane as shooting targets. The jug was broken, but the rooster was only slightly damaged in the encounters. Bell's rooster remained faithfully on duty until the day the building was razed as the result of a fire in 1899.



The resilient rooster then became one of the prized artifacts in the private collection of the late Dr. Mark Lester Heefner. Thanks to our founder, Emma Geiser Nicodemus, this battle-scarred tin rooster is now perched over the bell pottery exhibit at Renfrew Museum and Park. The rooster form was adopted as Renfrew's logo with a patent that was registered on August 9, 1977.

Special Thanks to Our Retiring Staff and Volunteers!

Renfrew wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated people who have announced their retirement from service at this year.



John Curfman
Maintenance Staff



Alice McCleaf
Accessions Committee



Red Mohn
Accessions Committee