

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



Fall 2022

“Walk Back In Time”

der Weathervane

The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm

Our mission is to preserve, enhance, promote, and interpret the Royer family Pennsylvania German Farmstead, the Nicodemus and Bell collections, and the surrounding Park.

Home for the Holidays: Celebrate, Create, & Give

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Christmas on the Farm Two-Day Event

Presentation: Christmas in Early America

#GivingTuesday

Historic Wreath-Making Workshop — and more!

Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org

Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK



1010 East Main Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268

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HOURS OF OPERATION
Summer (Mid-April—Mid-October)
Tues.-Fri. 9am—4pm; Sat. 1pm—4pm
Winter (Mid-October—Mid-April)
Mon.-Fri. 9am—4pm
Park Grounds Open Daily, Dawn to Dusk

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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Manager of Building and Grounds

A Message from our Executive Director:



Happy Fall, everyone! As we welcome another autumn at Renfrew Museum and Park, we're winding down from a busy tour season and amping up for the last quarter, eagerly looking ahead to the holidays. It's a time to celebrate, create, and give — and there's no other place for a homey, historic holiday than Renfrew!

This issue's theme "Home for the Holidays: Celebrate, Create, & Give" gathers together the very best of old-fashioned fun with highlights from our upcoming 2022 holiday season. Discover the heirloom Yellow Crook Neck squash in "Preserving the Bounty of the Harvest at Renfrew: Part 2" (page 2) and learn how to prepare it using a recipe from America's oldest cookbook. Check out our progress on the Renfrew Mill (page 3) and recent visit from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) on September 30th (page 4).

Celebrate with Renfrew as our beloved Christmas on the Farm two-day event returns on December 2nd and 3rd (pages 5 & 6). You'll re-discover the simple joys of Christmas past with over 200 years of holiday celebration. Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides, live music, Christkindlmarkt, historic presentations, and more! You won't want to miss this unforgettable holiday experience to make memories that will last a lifetime. Tickets are on sale now. Want more out of your Christmas on the Farm experience? Join us on Tuesday, November 22nd for Christmas in Early America (page 7). This special presentation by Yours Truly kicks off Christmastime at Renfrew and is a great primer for anyone interested in how some of our most treasured holiday traditions were introduced and disseminated during America's first hundred years.

Let's get creative with a Historic Wreath-making Workshop (page 9) on Saturday, December 10th. We'll build traditional wreaths, like those decorating the farmstead, from fresh greens, citrus, and holly. We also feature the artisans of both past and present with unique finds in the Renfrew gift shop (page 8) and Artifact Spotlight (page 10) on an Early American watercolor from the museum collection.

Giving and unfettered generosity are the true joy of the season, so we hope you'll accept Renfrew's hospitality and take advantage of an old-fashioned homecoming this holiday. Our gift to you is a curated collection of unique experiences, celebrating the simple blessings of togetherness and tradition. Hope to see you at Renfrew soon!

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. LaBarre



Preserving the Bounty of the Harvest at Renfrew: Part 2

Autumn is upon us once again here at Renfrew Museum and Park. Readers might recall last fall's newsletter installment of "Preserving the Bounty of the Harvest at Renfrew" when we highlighted the storied tradition of harvesting and preserving the bountiful produce acquired throughout the growing season and how the tradition is woven into the very fabric of Renfrew Museum and Park (see Fall 2022 issue of *der Wetterhahn*).



This was a difficult growing season with a cold start to the spring resulting in the majority of our seed having to be planted in early June. While some of the vegetables did poorly, it was a great year for squash! One of the heirloom squashes grown at Renfrew is Yellow Crook Neck, a pre-1800 variety with a slightly bent, gooseneck top and waxy yellow skin. As the fruit matures, it develops a bumpy, warty texture. Best for sautéing when small, young, and tender, late harvest Yellow Crook Neck lends itself well to boiling and mashing.

Typically considered a summer squash, Yellow Crook Neck continues to grow into the early fall months. In fact, as of this writing (first week of October), several of the plants are still producing fruit, though the recent cold snap here has slowed production considerably.

Our Early American ancestors were introduced to squash by the Native Americans and by the time of the Royers and Fahnestock families in the Federal period, most housewives were familiar and comfortable preparing squash for the table. *American Cookery* by Amelia Simmons (1796), considered the very first cookbook published in the young United States, contains a recipe for Crookneck Pudding.

"A Crookneck, or Winter Squash Pudding. Core, boil and skin a good squash, and bruise it well; take 6 large apples, pared, cored, and stewed tender, mix together; add 6 or 7 spoonfuls of dry bread or biscuit, rendered fine as meal, one pint milk or cream, 2 spoons of rose-water, 2 do. wine, 5 or 6 eggs beaten and strained, nutmeg, salt and sugar to your taste, one spoon flour, beat all smartly together, bake one hour.

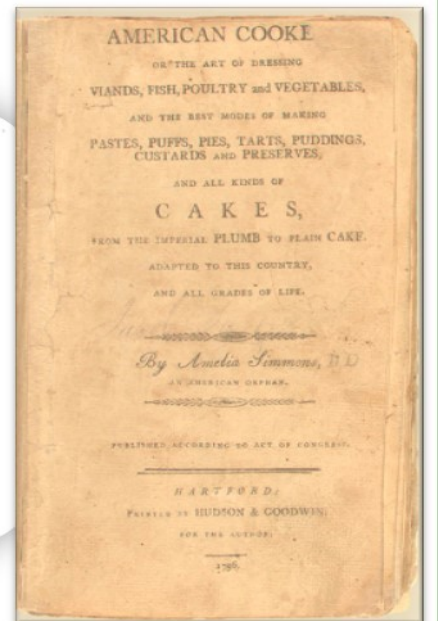
The above is a good receipt for Pompkins, Potatoes or Yams, adding more moistening or milk and rose-water, and to the two latter a few black or Lisbon currants, or dry whortleberries scattered in, will make it better." (American Cooke, p 34.)

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This recipe is essentially a sweet spoon bread or custard, similar to a stuffing or filling. Its fairly straightforward ingredients list is easily replicated by the modern cook. Instead of rose water try almond extract, lemon juice, or vanilla as a substitute.

As the golden days of summer give way to the crisp, coolness of fall we invite you to try your hand at making a warm pan of Crookneck Pudding for yourself and those you love.



Cover of *American Cookery* by Amelia Simmons. First edition: Hartford, 1796. Printed by Hudson & Goodwin, for the author.

Reconstructed Royer Mill: An Update



Two historic grindstones from the Hoover Mill in Fannettsburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania were sourced and removed in May 2021. They are being stored for future use in the fully-functional Renfrew Mill.

Preparations for the Renfrew Mill, a full-scale working interpretive structure to be located adjacent to the original site of the Royer Mill, are still being made on the farmstead. Frequent visitors to Renfrew will have noticed a wide swath cut through the hayfield behind the Museum House and along the newly installed Buckey Trail adjacent to the Pennsylvania German Foursquare Garden at Fahnestock Farm. This area will soon become a gravel fire lane and provide access for construction vehicles to the future site of the mill and nearby pumphouse/restroom building.

While required for modern safety considerations, this new lane coincides with the approximate location of a historic wagon road that ran through the property during the colonial period and early 19th century. To blend in with the historic landscape at Renfrew, the lane will be lined with period-appropriate fencing to create delineated pasture and farm fields. The new gravel lane will loop back around to Fahnestock Lane, providing a scenic walking route for visitors.

Check out our other updates about the Renfrew Mill below and follow our progress at www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill.



Work is now underway by the Borough of Waynesboro and subcontractor F. E. Harrison Directional Drilling for installation of utilities service to the future construction site which include a 5" electrical conduit, 2" communication line, and 1-1/2' sanitary sewer force main, October 2022.



Mill Committee member, archeologist Will Sheppard, inspects one of forty (40) test pits dug this season in preparation for construction of the Renfrew Mill and pump house, Spring 2022. Findings were nominal and unsurprising. Mostly late 19th and early 20th century building debris and domestic garbage, consistent with earlier excavations, was uncovered within and adjacent to the area of impact within and along the small section of millrace to be affected by construction.

A Visit by SPOOM: The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills



On Friday, September 30, 2022 Renfrew welcomed and hosted twenty-seven members of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) to the museum and park for their annual fall meeting.

SPOOM is an international non-profit organization which, as its website states, is "dedicated by its constitution to: promote interest in old mills and other Americana now quickly passing from the present scene." The Society was chartered in Maine in 1972. Its members are made up of a body of individuals that include mill owners, old mill buffs, museum curators, conservators, writers, teachers, artists, photographers, equipment supply firms, and institutions such as libraries. Concurrently, founded in 2004, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter focuses on the mills in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Thus, their mission is to "promote the preservation of and historical research on the mills of the region through education and fellowship" and therefore, "seek to provide a database of mill locations, photos and historical information of the mills of the region."



The Chapter members enjoyed a presentation by archeologist Will Sheppard related to his 1989 archeological research and findings of not only the historic Royer farmstead, but also to the tannery and gristmill sites on the property. Receiving an overview of testing conducted this season in anticipation of construction, the group next took a Farmstead Tour led by Renfrew staff and concluded their morning with a visit to the historic mill ruins and future site of the soon-to-be-built Renfrew Mill!



A Note To Our Visitors:

***Visitors to Renfrew's grounds should be prepared for active construction this season, which may result in closure and/or detours of some trails. Signage will be placed around the park and project information will be shared as it is made available on our website at www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill. We ask you to please pardon our mess and be patient with us as Renfrew embarks on this very exciting addition to the farmstead. We can't wait to share it with you!**

For past articles related to the Mill Project, please refer to "Milling it Over: Reconstructed Mill Proposed" on page 6 of the Spring 2021 issue of *der Wetterhahn* and "Nose to the Grindstone: Mill Project Update" on page 3 of the Spring 2022 issue of *der Wetterhahn*. Back issues can be viewed online at: www.RenfrewMuseum.org/newsletter.



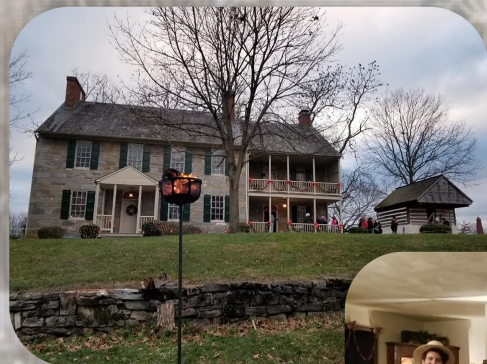
Programs & Events



Rediscover the **simple 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 lanterns and the fiery blaze of torches to the beautifully decorated Museum House where you'll encounter how **treasured holiday traditions** in America evolved over the centuries.

Explore some of our historic outbuildings where period-attired interpreters will share even more **holiday cheer!** Enjoy a cozy warming circle while you wait to take a horse-drawn wagon ride down Fahnestock Lane or enjoy a goodie or warm beverage from one of our vendors. Step out of the chill into the **festive atmosphere** inside our Visitors Center where even more family fun awaits. Peruse our gallery, then browse Renfrew's museum shop and **Christkindlmarkt** for that special gift. Your ticket also includes live music, crafts, and more!

We invite you to join us at Renfrew this December for an unforgettable holiday experience and **make memories** that will last a lifetime at Christmas on the Farm.



Christmas on the Farm



Friday, December 2

3:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, December 3

12:00pm to 8:00pm

\$10 Per Person, \$5 for Children, Age 3-12,

Free for Kids 2 & Under

Free for Renfrew Members

Pre-purchase tickets online at:
RenfrewMuseum.org/Christmas

Event Highlights

- ◆ Horse-drawn Wagon Rides Up and Down Fahnestock Lane by Lantern Light



- ◆ First Floor Tours of the Holiday Decorated 1812 Royer House
- ◆ Christkindlmarkt



- ◆ Handmade Historic Gift Demonstrations
- ◆ Hearth Cooking & Baking in the Summer Kitchen

- ◆ Make & Take/Take & Make Holiday Crafts

- ◆ Visits from the Belsnickel

- ◆ Live Holiday Music

- ◆ Food Vendors



Mark Your Calendar!

- ◆ **Final Day of Regularly Scheduled Tours for the Season**
Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 1, 2, & 3:00pm
- ◆ **Winter Hours**
(Unless Otherwise Posted)
Visitor Center Open
Monday-Friday
Beginning Monday, October 17, 2022 from 9:00am– 4:00pm
- ◆ **#GivingTuesday**
Tuesday, November 29, 2022
- ◆ **Closed for Thanksgiving**
Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25, 2022
- ◆ **Visitor Center Closes at Noon:**
Friday, December 23, 2022
- ◆ **Closed for Christmas Eve & Day**
Saturday, December 24 & Sunday, December 25, 2022
- ◆ **Closed Until the New Year**
Monday, December 26, 2022 thru Sunday, January 1, 2022

Christmas in Early America

**Presented by Becky LaBarre,
Executive Director.**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022
at 7:00pm**



Kick off the holiday season at Renfrew with a special presentation on how the celebration of Christmas evolved in Early America!

Join our Executive Director, Becky LaBarre, for a fascinating overview of how some of America's treasured holiday traditions were introduced and disseminated during the nineteenth century. We'll explore roughly 100 years, from just after the Revolutionary War Era to the Centennial Celebration in 1876.

A great primer for anyone planning to attend Renfrew's Christmas on the Farm event, this talk includes an array of original images, primary accounts, and insight to enrich your understanding of the historic period interpreted at Renfrew. You won't want to miss this fun and educational evening program.



**\$5 per person / Free for Friends of Renfrew Members
TWO WAYS TO ATTEND:**

1. Online Via Zoom (Log-in credentials will be emailed.)
 2. In-Person Watch Party at Renfrew (Limit 30).
- Registration will close at 7pm on Monday, Nov. 21st.



Becky LaBarre holds a Masters of Science in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been researching and interpreting Early American life for nearly two decades. Prior to serving as Renfrew's executive director, Becky has worked for numerous historic sites and museums, specializing in 19th century architecture, domestic life, material culture, and folkways.

**Register online at: [RenfrewMuseum.org/presentationsandworkshops](https://www.RenfrewMuseum.org/presentationsandworkshops)
or register by phone to (717)762-4723**

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK  **GIVING TUESDAY**

#GivingTuesday is on November 29, 2022!

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

As a nonprofit organization, Renfrew Museum and Park relies on the generosity of people like you to help us meet our mission and continue to deliver the wonderful experiences you've come to expect from this special place. Your tax-deductible gift of any amount is greatly appreciated.

Please Consider Donating On Giving Tuesday!

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/donate



**Visitor Center and Museum Shop
Winter Hours**

(Unless Otherwise Posted)

Beginning October 17

Open Monday-Friday

9:00am—4:00pm

Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24th

& Friday, November 25th.

Closed for Christmas and New Year's

Friday, December 23, 2022 until

Monday, January 2, 2023

**GIFTS INSPIRED BY OUR
HISTORIC FARMSTEAD**

**Choose from handmade goods, pottery,
apparel, home décor, seasonal items,
& more!**

**FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS
RENFREW'S THE ANSWER!**





HISTORIC WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday,
December 10th
9am - 12pm
In-Person at Renfrew
(Limit 16 participants)
\$50 per person /
\$40 for Friends of
Renfrew Members
Pre-registration is required.

Love the old-fashioned Christmas wreaths decorating the historic buildings at Renfrew? Learn how to make one yourself! Enjoy a warm, festive atmosphere complete with hot cider, light refreshments, and recorded period music as you build your wreath. Participants will be provided with a wire frame and all the materials needed to create a traditional holiday wreath inspired by the rustic simplicity of our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead.

Decorate with natural evergreen boughs, holly, pinecones, and greens harvested on site by Renfrew's staff, make your own citrus and clove pomanders, and finish it all off with a modest homespun bow. Participants should plan to bring their own pair of wire cutters, small pruners, and garden gloves. We also recommend bringing a portable seat cushion.

Workshop takes place in the Wagon Shed Room of the Visitors Center. ***This event is for individuals aged 12 and over. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult, also registered to attend, at all times.***



Register Today at:

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/presentationsandworkshops



Jacob Bechtel Watercolor c. 1825-1850 (Object #1976.244)

Watercolor on paper of two birds in tree, inscribed "Jacob Bechtel did make this" housed in beaded wood pine frame, with natural finish. Small circular embossed mark in lower right corner: "H&L" "So. Hadley Falls" with eagle motif.

Measures: 11 3/4" (29.8 cm) H x 9 1/4" (23.5 cm) W x 1/2" (1.2 cm) D.

Image is drawn with pen and ink on paper produced by the Howard and Lathrop Mill in South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts. This was one of the two larger paper companies established in the decades following construction of the South Hadley Canal in 1795. As passenger traffic increased up and down the Connecticut River, the small village grew and its available water power attracted mill investors. The H & L mill was opened in the 1820's and burned down in 1846. As a result, this small delightful image produced on H & L paper can be dated to around the second quarter of the 19th Century. Currently displayed in the Northwest chamber of the Museum House at Renfrew Museum and Park.