

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



Summer 2023

"Cultivate Inspiration"

der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm

Rooted firmly in Renfrew's past, we will cultivate inspiration for today, harvesting a shared history for tomorrow.

Sowing the Seeds of Connection

In this issue:

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- ♦ New Visitors Center Exhibit Panels
- ♦ Upcoming Programs and Events
Oktoberfest; Coffee, Tea, and Emes; Farmstead Taste & Tours; & More!
- ♦ Welcome Our New Staff Member!
- ♦ Artifact Spotlight: Reverse Painted Glass Portraits

Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org

Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK



1010 East Main Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268

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Renfrew Museum and Park



@renfrewmuseumpark

HOURS OF OPERATION
Summer (Mid-April—Mid-October)
Wed.-Fri. 9am—4pm; Sat. 1pm—4pm
Farmstead Tours: 1:00, 2:00, & 3:00pm
Winter (Mid-October—Mid-April)
Tue.-Fri. 9am—4pm
Park Grounds Open Daily, Dawn to Dusk

Our Mission

Renfrew Committee, Inc. supports the Borough of Waynesboro in its stewardship of Renfrew Museum and Park by preserving, interpreting, and educating others about its historic Pennsylvania German farmsteads, Early American decorative arts collection, built environment, and cultural landscapes. Creating lasting connections to Renfrew's distinctive character and dynamic heritage through unique experiences, we foster a meaningful sense of place for visitors of all ages.

Our Vision

Rooted firmly in Renfrew's past, we will cultivate inspiration for today, harvesting a shared history for tomorrow.

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 strive to be exceptional in everything we do. |
| People: | We are committed to being a memorable and welcoming destination where everyone can cultivate inspiration and be recognized for their inherent worth. |



RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

Board of Directors

Laurie Hovermale, President
Bruce McLaughlin, Vice President
Patti McLaughlin, Treasurer
Kari Saavedra, Secretary
Dade Royer
Harold Mumma
Valorie Dick

Staff

Becky LaBarre
Executive Director & CEO
Steve LaBarre
Manager of Visitor Experiences
Kirsten Lamb
Visitor Experiences
Representative
Gene Kelley
Manager of Buildings and
Grounds
Kallen Flannery-Knight
Buildings and Grounds
Representative

A Message from our Executive Director:



Summer is a great time to connect.

Whether its on a family vacation, over a cold glass of iced tea or lemonade on the porch, at a neighborhood block party, wedding, garage sale, or a walk around town, summertime seasonal activities just draw us together. We inevitably connect with others everywhere we go this time of year, growing relationships and a sense of community throughout these warm summer months.

Here at Renfrew, we're "Sowing the Seeds of Connection" and keeping our fingers crossed for a bumper harvest. We invite you to spend your summer with us, connecting with this special place and all it has to offer. Ultimately, our hope is that you *Cultivate Inspiration* which, as it so happens, is Renfrew's new tag line.

In this issue we are delighted to unveil Renfrew's recently revised mission, vision, and value statements (*pages 2 & 3*). I am personally so proud of the hard work put in by our dedicated board and staff during this important process. Renfrew's leadership engaged in thoughtful discussion over a two-month period to craft institutional statements that more accurately express Renfrew's unique identity, purpose, and audience. The result is an articulate, professional expression of how our organization connects with all of you!

From engaging new exhibit panels (*page 4*) to collections-related programming like our *Famous Faces* pop-up exhibit featured in this issue's Artifact Spotlight (*page 10*) and upcoming material culture presentation *Coffee, Tea & Emes* on Tuesday, August 22nd (*page 7*) we're looking to connect our visitors to the fascinating stories behind Renfrew's decorative arts collection.

This season, we're also gearing up for some really great signature programming! Join us for our 8th Annual Oktoberfest, a Renfrew fundraiser event (*pages 5 & 6*) on Saturday, September 16th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Tickets go on sale August 1st! Several tables also remain for our popular Summertime Farmstead Taste & Tour (*page 8*)—but don't wait too long to make your reservation as these fill quickly. Don't forget to mark your calendars for Christmas on the Farm, coming up on December 1st & 2nd (*page 8*).

Lastly, we're pleased to introduce new Renfrew team member Kallen Flannery-Knight who joined the Buildings & Grounds Department back in May (*page 9*). Be sure to connect with him and say hello on your next visit.

We hope you discover something that will inspire you this summer at Renfrew!

Rebecca J. LaBarre

Cultivate Inspiration

A Recommitment to Renfrew's Mission, Vision, and Values

Museums such as Renfrew are expected to have a formally stated and approved mission that states what the museum does, for whom, and why. A museum's mission statement is the primary benchmark against which to evaluate the museum's performance. It defines the museum's unique identity and purpose, and provides a distinct focus for the institution. A mission statement articulates the museum's understanding of its role and responsibility to the public and its collections, and reflects the environment in which it exists. Likewise, both vision and values statements express what the museum wishes to accomplish in the future and the organization's ideals to which it holds true in its daily operations. It is aspirational, hopeful, inclusive, and seeks to make a better world for ourselves and others long-term.

Professional organizations such as the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), both of which Renfrew Museum and Park is a member, recommend that these essential institutional statements be reconsidered about every five years to ensure they continue to align with the museum's daily operations, strategic plan, and currently accepted best practices in the museum field. Renfrew's existing mission, vision, and values statements were most recently updated in 2015. Renfrew Committee, Inc. (RCI) adopted the following revisions on May 15, 2023.

Our Mission

Renfrew Committee, Inc. supports the Borough of Waynesboro in its stewardship of Renfrew Museum and Park by preserving, interpreting, and educating others about its historic Pennsylvania German farmsteads, Early American decorative arts collection, built environment, and cultural landscapes. Creating lasting connections to Renfrew's distinctive character and dynamic heritage through unique experiences, we foster a meaningful sense of place for visitors of all ages.

RCI is a nonprofit organization created in 1996 by a public entity, the Borough of Waynesboro, to manage a public place, namely Renfrew Museum and Park, and its publicly held assets (collections, buildings, landscapes, etc.). These are held in the public trust by way of Emma Nicodemus' bequest to the municipality. Renfrew Committee, Inc. has a legal and moral obligation to support the Borough of Waynesboro in the stewardship of these assets. Therefore, RCI is responsible to the public by virtue of its accountability to the Borough to manage, care for (steward), and interpret Renfrew appropriately in perpetuity for the benefit of the public. The terms for Renfrew's full-time care by RCI are governed by Emma's Will (1973) and a lease between the Borough and RCI (last updated in October 2020). RCI has full autonomy to act in the best interest of Renfrew as both manager and fiduciary, but is ultimately accountable to our parent organization, the Borough, for Renfrew's continued existence and growth. RCI's operations are supported through trusts, charitable giving and earned income, without the benefit of municipal tax distributions or other funding allocations provided by the Borough of Waynesboro.

An effective museum mission statement helps introduce the institution by stating why it exists, what it does, who it serves and how. Key terms that reinforce the organization's identity and purpose were selected to convey Renfrew's broad scope. Our revised mission statement emphasizes Renfrew's duty to preserve, interpret, and educate by providing specific museum and cultural landscape expertise in the areas of historic interpretation, collections management, building and landscape preservation, nonprofit leadership, tourism and more — specialized skills the municipality does not possess. It was important for the RCI board of directors and staff to ensure the mission statement expresses Renfrew's position as a supporting organization to the Borough of Waynesboro and our commitment to helping the municipality fulfill its obligations to the site's appropriate perpetual care.

Our Vision

Rooted firmly in Renfrew's past, we will cultivate inspiration for today,
harvesting a shared history for tomorrow.

A vision statement expresses what the museum wishes to accomplish in the future. It is aspirational, hopeful, inclusive, and seeks to make a better world for ourselves and others long-term. With so much to pack into our mission statement, RCI's new vision statement is a more succinct, forward-looking expression that conveys our organization's desire to "cultivate inspiration" in everyone who experiences Renfrew Museum and Park.

The above revised vision statement uses agriculturally-themed language as wordplay to convey both our farming heritage and vision to make a lasting impact. The words *rooted*, *cultivate*, and *harvesting* evoke double meaning which point to a desire to affect growth and change. Likewise, *inspiration*, "the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative" was consciously selected to embody the special qualities of Renfrew as a place and institution that evoke emotion, passion, and creativity in so many people. As an organization, we wish to cast a vision in which we actively seek to cultivate that inspiration among our visitors so they can apply it to bettering their own lives and pass it on to others. Finally, we envision a *shared history*. Renfrew Museum and Park can bring diverse people together on both literal and figurative common ground. When an individual finds something they can personally identify with, then shares it with the larger collective group, it creates strong bonds, greater levels of understanding, and empathy for one another. Reinforcing our commitment to past, present, and future RCI has drawn out the phrase *Cultivate Inspiration* to encapsulate this message. Regardless of ability or experience, everyone can *cultivate inspiration* in their own way through the experiences and sense of place offered at Renfrew—no matter what aspect they are drawn to. Therefore, our new tagline *Cultivate Inspiration* extends an open-ended, inclusive invitation to visitors of all ages to find relevance and value in Renfrew from their own unique perspective.

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.

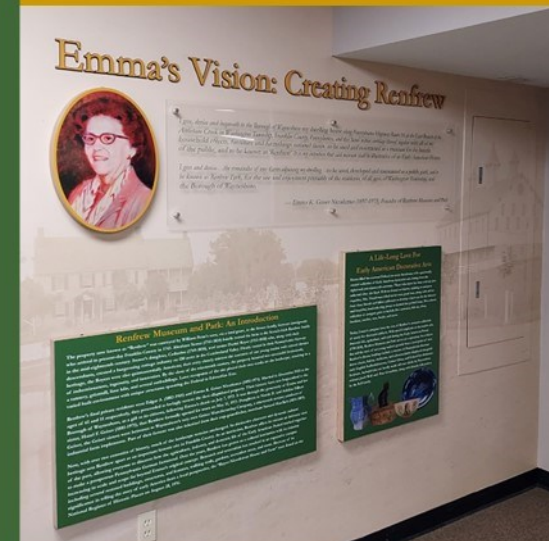
Excellence: We will strive to be exceptional in everything we do.

People: We are committed to being a memorable and welcoming destination where everyone can cultivate inspiration and be recognized for their inherent worth.

Values convey what is most important to an organization. When universally held by the entire institution they help support the organization from within so it can be impactful in fulfilling its mission. They provide guidance to museum leadership, including the board, staff and trusted volunteers, to assess our behavior and help align our everyday operations, programs, and messaging to the strategic plan. Values must be authentic, meaningful, and clearly defined in order to be effective. Therefore, Renfrew's values inform all of our decisions and actions in order to ensure consistency and transparency.

The process of reevaluating and revising Renfrew's mission, vision, and values statements during the spring of 2023 allowed RCI to perform a deep dive into the organization's core identity and purpose as a museum and historic site, taking us through a comprehensive examination of what is truly important and relevant to us as an organization and reinforcing our commitment to providing the best stewardship possible. In answering the key questions—Who are we? Why do we exist?; How are we responsible to the public?; What do we do?; What sets us apart from others doing this work?; Who do we serve?; So what? To what end? How do we make a difference?—RCI has forged a path forward as we approach Renfrew's 50th anniversary. We hope that the groundwork laid by our current leadership during this important period will leave a lasting mark upon the institution and future generations of visitors who will experience Renfrew Museum and Park as a shared place to Cultivate Inspiration.

New Visitors Center Exhibit Panels Funded Through PHMC Grant



Check out the new exhibits on your next visit!

Renfrew was able to design, fabricate, and install professional exhibit panels and ADA accessible reader rails to assist visitors with self-guiding through the galleries in accordance with museum best practices. The project included creation of a large wall-mounted exhibit in the southwest corner of the gallery beside the Joh Bell pottery case titled *Emma's Vision* (shown above) that introduces the visitor to Renfrew with a brief history of the farmstead and information about the life and vision of our founder Emma Geiser Nicodemus. Previously, this type of crucial orientation only existed with verbal presentations by our staff and docents. Components of the project also include a panel exhibit titled *The Industrial Farmstead* on the northern wall of the Wagon Shed Room (see below), tying the history of the Royer Family to seven original watercolors by artist Clyde Roberts as well as four floor-mounted reader rails in the main gallery discussing the importance of Renfrew's decorative arts collection (right).



Special thanks to Wayne Driscoll of Custom Sign Studio in Waynesboro for fabrication of all exhibit panels.

WANT TO HELP RENFREW CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO PRESERVE & INTERPRET ITS COLLECTION? DONATE TODAY! Give at www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Donate





Programs & Events



OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER

**"A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION OF
HISTORY AND THE HARVEST!"**
Saturday, September 16, 2023

12:00pm - 4:00pm
Live Music & Biergarten
Tours & Activities
German Food
Silent Auction

**TICKETS ON SALE
AUGUST 1ST!**

Ticket Options:

- ♦ General Event Admission (12:00 - 4:00pm):
\$15 per person (age 18+) / \$10 Children (ages 3-17)
Kids ages 2 & Under Admitted Free. Pre-Registration Encouraged.
Walk-ins welcome! Please purchase admission at the Welcome Tent upon arrival. Cash or credit accepted.

Available for Purchase during the Event:

- ♦ Biergarten: \$5 Pours from 12:00-3:00pm / \$3 Pours from 3:00-4:00pm (Age 21 +, Photo I.D. Required. Please drink responsibly & designate a driver.) Not included with general admission, sold separately.
- ♦ Food and Beverage: Available for purchase are German and American fare and beverages from local caterer *A Matter of Taste*. German Bratwurst, Hotdogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, desserts, etc. Not included with general admission, sold separately.



2023 WEBSITE LAUNCHES & TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 1ST
RenfrewMuseum.org/Oktoberfest

Come enjoy a fun-filled day at Renfrew's Eighth Annual Oktoberfest! This seasonal favorite is set amongst our beautiful historic farmstead to take full advantage of the scenic views and unique period setting. As always, this traditional event will have a distinctive Renfrew feel as we honor the German roots of the Royer family that worked this land. It's fun for everyone with a one-of-a-kind family-friendly celebration of history and the harvest. Your admission includes entry into the festival featuring live music, abbreviated tours of the 1812 Royer House, historic trade demonstrations, silent auction, children's farmstead activities, games, and so much more! Relax in our fenced, tented Biergarten and sample local craft beer. With so much to do, you're bound to have a great time! Show your support for Renfrew's German heritage as we celebrate Oktoberfest together.

Live Traditional German Music

Blaskapelle Shippensburg German Band 12:00pm-4:00pm

Biergarten

Open 12:00 - 4:00pm

\$5 Pours from 12:00-3:00pm / \$3 Pours from 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Enjoy locally crafted beer in our tented biergarten

Happy Hour Specials 3:00pm - 4:00pm!

\$3 Pours

(Age 21 + only. Photo I.D. Required. Please drink responsibly and designate a driver.)

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Bid on a wide array of fantastic donated items to benefit Renfrew.

Historic Crafts & Trades Demonstrations and Fall Harvest Inspired Activities

Enjoy family-friendly fun with crafts, games, and more!

Royer Museum House Tours & Family Fun Area

Open 12:00pm-4:00p.m. Take time to tour and explore the history of Renfrew and the Royer family led by costumed docents.
NEW FOR 2023: Pretzel-making in the Royer House Kitchen!

Event Sponsors Needed!

Four Levels Available
Looking for a way to
promote your business and
support a great cause?
Visit the Oktoberfest
website to learn more.



Mark Your Calendar!

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

- ♦ **#RenfrewOnTheRoad: Pippinfest Fairfield, PA**
Sunday, September 24, 2023 from 9:00am-4:00pm
- ♦ **#RenfrewOnTheRoad: Mainstreet Waynesboro Market Day**
Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 9:00am-4:00pm
- ♦ **"Treasures From the Collection" Members Only Event**
Thursday, October 12, 2023 Reception 6:30pm, Program 7:00pm
- ♦ **Christmas on the Farm**
Friday, December 1, 2023 and Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 3:00-8:00pm both days.
- ♦ **Historic Wreath Making Workshop**
Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 9:00am-12:00pm.
- ♦ **Holiday Farmstead Taste & Tour**
Tuesday, December 12 & Friday, December 15, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm

COFFEE, TEA & EMES

Polishing up our understanding of the silver collections at Renfrew

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

6:30pm — Light Refreshments

7:00pm — Presentation

Enjoy an evening of *Coffee, Tea & Emes* as we polish up our understanding of the silver collection at Renfrew presented by Kirsten Lamb.

Explore new insights into Emma Nicodemus' personal silver collection. Learn about the work of women in the silver trade, including the influential Rebecca Emes, a prominent silversmith in 19th Century England. Discover a few of the men who also crafted silver during the Early Republic — from big cities such as Baltimore, Maryland to small towns like Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Registration Required
\$10 per person/ Renfrew Members Free

RSVP to (717) 762-4723 or
Register Online at:

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/presentationsandworkshops

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



Farm-to-Table Dining Experience

Three-Hour Program Package
from 11:00am to 2:00pm

Select 2023 Dates Only:

Tuesday, August 15 Friday, August 18

Tuesday, Dec. 12 Friday, Dec. 15

Offering guests the opportunity to sample seasonal, locally sourced fare inspired by the traditions of our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead.

For Further Information and to
Reserve Your Table Go To:

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/tasteandtour

Treat yourself or someone special to a delicious farm-to-table dining experience at Renfrew Museum and Park this season. Our 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 early 19th century clothing will wait upon you with old-fashioned hospitality.

Start with a hearty coursed meal of soup, salad, and a selection of fresh-baked breads with preserves followed by a delicious entrée. 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. For listing of menus go to: www.RenfrewMuseum.org/tasteandtour*



All dishes are freshly prepared by Chef Delaney Blubaugh of Delaney's Delicacies, Waynesboro, PA especially for guests of Renfrew Museum and Park.

Save the Date! Christmas on the Farm

Friday, Dec. 1st 3:00-8:00pm
& Saturday, Dec. 2nd 3:00-8:00pm



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 traditions evolved over the centuries.



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.

More to come in our next issue!



Welcome Our New Staff Member!

Kallen Flannery-Knight, Buildings & Grounds Representative

Kallen joined the Buildings & Grounds department team in May 2023 and is off to a great start! A recent graduate of Smithsburg High School in Smithsburg, Maryland, he comes to Renfrew with experience in construction, landscaping, and home improvement projects. Kallen says “working in construction in the past has helped me learn the importance of detail, cleanliness, and diligence.” Working closely with Gene, Kallen has already taken on maintenance work integral to Renfrew’s daily operations such as tree removal and park beautification along with building paint initiatives starting with the Visitors Center and Museum House. In his free time, Kallen enjoys caving and is a member of the Franklin County Grotto. Be sure to say hello to Kallen the next time you’re visiting us at Renfrew!

Let Your Retirement Account Work for You!

Have you considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

If you are over 70-1/2, you may make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA directly to Renfrew Museum and Park.

A QCD can help you reach your Required Minimum Distribution without having to pay income taxes on your donation.

Donation information is as follows:

Renfrew Committee, Inc.
1010 East Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268
Our Federal Tax Identification Number
is Available Upon Request
Visit: RenfrewMuseum.org/donate



Early American Reverse Glass Painted Portraits

from the collection of



From June 23rd - 25th, Renfrew’s #RenfrewOnTheRoad initiative took us out to the 50th Annual Gettysburg Civil War Collector's Show hosted by Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA). We showcased our pop-up exhibit titled "Famous Faces: Early American Reverse Glass Painted Portraits from the collection of Renfrew Museum and Park." We give special thanks to the GBPA for recognizing Renfrew with a 2023 Exhibitor Appreciation Award!

Reverse painting on glass is an art form consisting of applying paint to a piece of glass and then viewing the image on the reverse, which creates an illusion of depth.

It is often referred to as *verre églomisé*, the art of cold painting and gilding on the back of glass, named for the French decorator Jean-Baptiste Glomy (1711–86), who framed prints using glass that had been reverse-painted. In German it is known as *Hinterglasmalerei*.



A reverse glass painting has three fundamental steps: line art, painting of internal areas, and background. An illustration of this type is usually painted on the opposite side of the glass (the one not presented to the audience), following an opposite succession of layers of paint, applying the nearest layer first and the background layer last. In these artworks, the final result must be well thought out before starting the piece and must be taken into account with each layer applied. In realism, for example, pupils and eyebrows are painted first, before applying color to the skin. With origins in the ancient world, this process was revived and found immense popularity in Renaissance era Italy, spreading widely across the globe. Each country specialized in different themes. Starting in the middle of the 18th century, it was preferred by the Church and the nobles throughout Central Europe. In France, it was influenced by Rococo decorative arts; in Italy and Switzerland, landscapes and small figures dominated the glass painting scene. In India, Syria, and Iran, it is inspired by Persian miniatures but also draws attention to Islamic religious themes. Germany specialized in allegories (The Four Seasons, The Continents, The Elements), regional costumes, and hunting scenes. Spain and Italy had significant production, the themes of which were close to the German models. In Eastern Europe, reverse glass painting was influenced by iconography and in China artists were creating beautiful works with great delicacy and excellent skills. With the emigration of Swiss and German immigrants to Pennsylvania, this artform soon graced the



halls and parlors of many Early American homes in the Mid-Atlantic region by the first half of the 19th century. Through the success of cheaper color lithographic prints, however, reverse glass painting eventually declined in popularity.