

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 MUSEUM & PARK



Cultivate Inspiration

Spring 2024



der Wetterhahn

The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm

Spring into Engaging Experiences In this issue:

- ♦ A Message from Our Executive Director
- ♦ For the Pleasure of Your Company Comedy: A 19th Century Dining Disaster
- ♦ Renfrew Mill: Phase I Completion Update
- ♦ Upcoming Programs and Events
Opening Day; Summer Concert Series; Arbor Day; Yoga Flow; Farmstead Tours Return; Workshops; & More!
- ♦ Artifact Spotlight: Children Feeding Chickens

Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org



RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

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Executive Director & CEO
Steve LaBarre
Manager of Visitor Experiences
Kirsten Lamb
Visitor Experiences
Representative
Gene Kelley
Manager of Buildings and
Grounds

A Message from our Executive Director:



Cheers to five years!

This spring, I'm celebrating my fifth work anniversary at Renfrew Museum and Park. The time has sure flown by and, as I reflect on half a decade with you here at Renfrew, I'm continually reminded of how much we've accomplished together, farmstead friends!

One of the things I'm the most proud of during my first five years is the depth and breadth of engaging experiences that have been introduced to our operations. Enhancing the distinctive character and dynamic heritage of Renfrew, we have doubled our efforts to offer unique experiences that encourage everyone to "Cultivate Inspiration" in whatever way is most meaningful to them.

As Renfrew begins its 49th tour season, we invite you to "Spring into Engaging Experiences" and discover all the exciting things waiting for you on the farmstead. Learn about our temporary exhibit installation "For the Pleasure of Your ~~Company~~ Comedy: A 19th Century Dining Disaster" (page 2), developed as a #RenfrewOnTheRoad outreach initiative, now back home in the Wagon Shed Room and on view through April 13th. Your understanding of Early American life and social customs will be further enriched with a look at this issue's Artifact Spotlight (page 10) featuring original framed artwork of children feeding chickens—one of my favorite pieces!

You won't want to miss our spectacular lineup of springtime programming starting with Renfrew's 49th Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 13th (page 5). Our annual free day of living history and good old-fashioned family fun kicks off the return of general Farmstead Tours for the 2024 season, which begin on Wednesday, April 17th (page 9). Join us for the 152nd Arbor Day on Friday April 27th (page 7), and check out our popular signature foodways programming including Farmstead Taste & Tour, Historic Hearth Cooking Lessons, and our new Bread & Butter Workshop (pages 8 & 9). We're also eagerly looking ahead to summertime with the return of Yoga Flow @ Renfrew (page 7) and the 2024 Judy Elden Memorial Summer Concert Series (page 6).

Finally, we'll share exciting news about our 2024 Americana Corner Preserving America Grant award (page 3) and updates on the Renfrew Mill Project (page 4).

Thank you for the honor of serving you as Renfrew's Executive Director & CEO for the last five years. I'm looking forward to celebrating the new season with all of you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Barre

For the Pleasure of Your ~~Company~~ Comedy, A 19th Century Dining Disaster



Kirsten chose to meld with the ladies present, dressing to represent France.

#RenfrewOnTheRoad: Dinner was served, and what a disaster!

In February, Renfrew went on the road as a guest designer for the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (WCMFA) fundraiser, "Amazing Tablescapes". Located in nearby Hagerstown, MD, we were thrilled to connect and collaborate with a fellow museum like WCMFA. As one of 17 tables by 29 designers, the goal was to bring out our inner artist, stretch our creativity and let our imagination soar. The results were beautiful, fantastical, and fun tables for "dining" and inspiring. For one week, visitors of WCMFA purchased admission to view this special exhibit in person, with the ability to vote for their favorite table or tables with monetary donations. At an exclusive evening reception, museum guests met and mingled with table designers. Renfrew's Visitor Experience Representative, Kirsten Lamb, promoted Renfrew Museum and Park and shared the fascinating historical and material

culture behind our tablescape. After the tables came down, online voting remained up until the end of February. The tablescape with the highest number of votes won the "People's Choice" award. The exhibit's admissions and voting proceeds support WCMFA's mission to "provide a vibrant place for presentation and exploration of art aimed at benefiting a diverse public through intentional art collecting, lively interpretation, diligent preservation and care, active education programs and opportunities for social interaction."



Renfrew's tablescape entitled "For the Pleasure of Your ~~Company~~ Comedy: A 19th Century Dining Disaster", focused on 19th century social etiquette, social commentary and the satirical stories and cartoons they provoked. Derived from the cartoon "The Fall of the Leaf" from the Comic Almanak of 1843 (see left), we planned our own early 19th century dinner party with some very special "guests" and promptly "turned the table". Dinner was set to be at its finest – details mattered, and decorum was *de rigueur*. What happened when excess took its toll and carefully choreo-

graphed beauty suddenly went topsy-turvy? What did it look like when every rule of etiquette was broken? Why, chaos and comedy ensued of course! The dos and don'ts of polite society, as prescribed in period household manuals, dotted the table. Our dinner guests committed quite a few dining *faux pas* and the evening was not complete until the curious household cat joined the party!



The portraits represent real historical figures or allegorical themes.

"For the Pleasure of Your ~~Company~~ Comedy: A 19th Century Dining Disaster" is on display in the Wagon Shed Room at Renfrew's Visitor Center until April 13th. Stop in to view this temporary installation—No Reservations Required.



Genre paintings of the 19th century often include pets.



BIG NEWS! Renfrew Museum and Park is pleased to announce that our organization is an Americana Corner 2024 Preserving America Grant awardee! In honor of George Washington's birthday, Americana Corner awarded more than \$1.4 million in grant funding to 121 organizations across 29 states and the District of Columbia. Renfrew has been awarded a \$7,500 grant to support the refurbishment, preservation, and interpretation of our historic Federal Era Milkhouse.

Because of their less pretentious lines, frequently diminutive dimensions and utilitarian nature, accessory buildings are too often overlooked in the formulation of preservation programs for historic properties. While the main house illustrates concepts of domestic space, architectural style and cultural backgrounds, the accessory structures are often the key to understanding the basic household functions and lifestyle of a particular building. Renfrew is exceptionally fortunate to retain several of these structures as well as numerous archaeological sites of other now vanished outbuildings. The two outbuildings that flank the Royer House, the Milkhouse to the west and the Smokehouse to the east, played their own part in the day-to-day workings of the farmstead. They provided the means for storing animal protein and fat over time.

The Milkhouse at Renfrew is an amalgamation of both the Germanic "Speicherhammer," or provision shed, in design, form, and use, and yet also a "Milchhaus," or milkhouse, in its functionality and use. No natural spring is evidenced within the structure's flooring, however. Historically, a "tree pump" was installed on a platform in front of the building to draw water. A pipe system attached underground from the well to the interior of the lower chamber of the building allowed for water to be diverted into a stone water trough; the trough being approximately 15' long by 2' wide, with a water depth of 8-12 inches. Therefore, the designation "milchhaus" is commonly associated and correctly designated to this structure on the property.

The Milkhouse underwent a full restoration in the early 1990's, which included the installation of cedar shake shingles to the roof. With over three decades worth of exposure to the harsh elements of Pennsylvania weather, the materials have severely degraded to the point of needing an entire rehabilitation. Sourcing and installment of new, historically accurate hand-split cedar shake shingles will conform to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Furthermore, within the last three years, a renewed commitment to interpreting the Early American Era, along with the agricultural and ethnic heritage of Renfrew, has resulted in a robust approach to historical foodways programming. Accordingly, continued efforts to further educate visitors in the day-to-day domestic skills of food preservation and dairying has resulted in the need to reactivate the Milkhouse as a serviceable outbuilding once again. Through the continued conservation and interpretation of the Milkhouse, a grant provided from Americana Corner will assist Renfrew Museum and Park in furthering its goal and mission to help visitors understand the rhythms of life on the farm; learning not only how our ancestors processed, preserved, and stored their food, but also gained nourishment from both plant and animal sources on the farm. The refurbishment of Renfrew's Milkhouse will greatly aid in our efforts to educate visitors in the culinary, architectural, and cultural legacy of our Pennsylvania German heritage and its impact on Early America. We are so grateful for the generous support of Americana Corner! Stay tuned for updates on this very special project as the year progresses.

Renfrew Mill Update: Phase I Nearly Complete



South elevation of the Renfrew Mill in progress.

Renfrew Museum and Park is almost a year into its exciting construction of a fully-functional mill on the industrial farmstead. The first phase of the project, which broke ground last spring, is nearly complete with both the mill and ancillary pumphouse/ restroom buildings in place. Designed by Don Smith, principal of Smith Co. Design & Architecture of Waynesboro, PA, the three-story timberframe mill measuring 50' x 50' is beautifully clad in limestone and brick veneer with custom-built wood windows and doors. Crews from GRC General Contractor, Inc. of Zullinger, PA, who have been hard at work all year, are currently putting the final touches on the interior finishes as we near the end of Phase I.

A ribbon cutting ceremony, previously planned for Renfrew's 49th Opening Day on April 13th, has been postponed due to slight changes in the construction timeline. Look for announcements of when work is finally complete and we can welcome all of you inside to celebrate with us a little later on this season. Stay tuned!

PHASE II FUNDRAISING BEGINS:

\$1.5 Million Left to Go — Let's Get the Mill Moving!

Representing this key piece of our agricultural and industrial heritage in the form of a fully-functioning interpretive structure adjacent to the historic location is so important. A \$5M project, in two phases, it has been partially funded through a generous \$2.5M donation by benefactor James Luty, a \$1M bridge loan from Patriot Federal Credit Union of Waynesboro, and a \$1M Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant awarded through the PA Office of the Budget. **Renfrew is now seeking your help to "Get the Mill Moving!" by joining us in our final phase.** By raising \$1.5M in support for custom millworks, a recirculating pump system, interpretive exhibit materials, and more, visitors to Renfrew can experience the rebirth of the lost gristmill in its new form. The Renfrew Mill has the potential to give the Waynesboro community, and its many outside visitors, an exceptional experience that, when combined with our site's other offerings, helps to foster a life-long appreciation for the agricultural and industrial heritage of this special place. Please join us in realizing the final component of this important addition to Renfrew's museum campus with a donation to Phase II. Thank you for your support!



The Renfrew Mill Phase II Capital Campaign kicks off soon! Look for further information and construction updates in the coming months.

"LET'S GET THE MILL MOVING!" HELP US IN OUR EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE CONSTRUCTION & INTERPRETION OF THE RENFREW MILL! DONATE TODAY! Give at www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill

Pictured is one of two pairs of original 19th century grindstones sourced for the Renfrew Mill. With custom built millworks, they will ultimately be employed in the grinding of grain.

Your generous donation to Phase II will help bring the mill to life so we can demonstrate traditional milling techniques to visitors of all ages at Renfrew.





Programs & Events

FREE

Explore the Fahnestock Farmstead!

Living History Demonstrations
Historic Hearth Cooking
Learn about the Renfrew Mill Project
Antique Farm Tool Display

Tour c.1807 Farmhouse,
PA Foursquare Garden,
Barn, & Limestone Kiln
Family-Friendly Activities



Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK
Cultivate Inspiration

49th Annual Opening Day Celebration

Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Free Admission · Fun for all ages! · Tours & More

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/OpeningDay

You're invited to join us on Saturday, April 13th for this free event to kick off our 49th season. Enjoy springtime at Renfrew! Activities will be centered exclusively at the Fahnestock Farmstead. Explore our industrial farming heritage and learn how the families who once called Renfrew home made a life for themselves here.

For more information see: www.RenfrewMuseum.org/OpeningDay

Fahnestock Farmstead

12:00pm - 4:00pm

- ◆ Fahnestock House (first floor only)
- ◆ Historic Crafts, Games, and Trade Demonstrations Inspired by Spring on the Farm
- ◆ Historic Hearth Cooking in the Fahnestock Farmhouse Kitchen
- ◆ Antique Farm Machinery on Display
- ◆ Peruse the Pop-Up Renfrew Museum Shop and More!

*Visitors Center Closed for the Day.
All activities at Fahnestock Farm.*



Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK

Purchase Food & Drink

12:00pm - 4:00pm

- ◆ Baked goods to include: Sourdough loaves, French sourdough boules, pies, sweet cakes, and baguettes.

- ◆ Assorted pre-packaged light snacks and beverages



2024 Judy Elden Memorial Summer Concert Series

Thursday evenings June through July

Sit back and enjoy live music in a beautiful setting on the lawn behind the Museum House. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are free to the public. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Kindly remember that Renfrew is a non-smoking facility and alcohol is prohibited on the property.



Rebekah Foster
June 6



Drew Adams
June 13



Lucky Punk
June 20



East of Antietam
June 27



Shade Tree Collective
July 11



Note Riders
July 18



Tresa Day & Joel Newman
July 25



Welcome Tent Concessions

Stop by the Welcome Tent, located west of the Royer Milk House, during concert evenings for info on upcoming programs and to peruse our selection of museum shop merchandise. Items include Renfrew apparel, children's toys, pet items, and more. Assorted pre-packaged light snacks and beverages are available. We are able to accept payment by cash or credit card. Every purchase supports the mission of Renfrew Museum and Park. Thanks for your support!

Learn more online at: www.RenfrewMuseum.org/SummerConcerts

Mark Your Calendar!

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

- ◆ **9th Annual Oktoberfest**
Saturday, September 14,
2024 from 12:00pm-
4:00pm
- ◆ **#RenfrewOnTheRoad:
Mainstreet Waynesboro
Market Day**
Saturday, October 5, 2024
from 9:00am-4:00pm
- ◆ **"Treasures From the
Collection" Members
Only Event**
Thursday, October 10,
2024 Reception 6:30pm,
Program 7:00pm
- ◆ **Legend of Sleepy
Hollow: A Dramatic
Reading**
Tuesday, October 29,
2024 5:00pm-6:30pm &
7:00pm-8:30pm
- ◆ **PRESENTATION:
Christmas with the
Nicodemus': A
Wartime 1940's Holiday**
Thursday, November 21,
2024 Reception 6:30pm,
Program 7:00pm
- ◆ **Christmas on the Farm**
Friday, December 6, 2024
and Saturday, December
7, 2024 from 3:00pm-
8:00pm both days.



Renfrew Museum and Park Arbor Day 2023

Renfrew Museum and Park 152nd Arbor Day Tree Planting

Friday, April 26, 2024 at 4:00pm

Founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska City, Nebraska, National Arbor Day is observed annually on the last Friday in April. On the very first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted!

Each year, thousands around the country celebrate together by planting trees in their communities. Join the Borough of Waynesboro Council, Shade Tree Commission, and Renfrew Committee, Inc. at Renfrew Museum and Park on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 4:00pm for a ceremonial planting and dedication of a Pink Dogwood in memory of Linda Martz, donated by her family.



Complementary Blackgum seedlings available from Bartlett Tree Expert (while supplies last).

For more information visit: www.RenfrewMuseum.org/ArborDay

Yoga Flow @ Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK

Friday Mornings, June-August 2024
9:00am to 10:00am • Free Admission

Guided by Certified Instructor
Laurie Hovermale



Presented in Partnership with
WBO
HEALTH & FITNESS

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/YogaFlow

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



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

Select 2024 Dates Only:

Tuesday, August 6 Friday, August 9

Tuesday, Dec. 10 Friday, Dec. 13

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 menu options 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.



Hands-on baking and dairying workshop with tours of
the Renfrew Mill, Milkhouse, and Summer Kitchen!

\$100 per person • Limit four (4) Guests • 10:00am to 1:00pm

Three Dates Only: April 27, June 11, & October 14, 2024

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/BreadAndButter



FARMSTEAD TOURS ARE BACK FOR 2024!

Docent-led guided tours of the Royer Farmstead
return for the 2024 season starting Wednesday April 17th!

Tours depart from the Visitors Center at the top of the hour
Wednesday-Saturday at 1:00, 2:00, & 3:00pm.

General Admission: \$12 · Seniors 65+: \$10

Children 3-12: \$6 · Children 2 & Under: FREE

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/FarmsteadTours

Historic Hearth Cooking Lessons
Personalized instruction for
groups of up to four guests



Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK  Now Booking for the 2024 Season!
www.RenfrewMuseum.org/HistoricHearthCooking



Renfrew Object# 1992.013a. Gift of William S. Bowers

In this issue of *der Wetterhahn's* artifact spotlight, we feature a sweet barnyard scene of two children with a rooster and hen, c.1850. An original piece of artwork measuring 5.5" high by 7" long, the picture was drawn in pen and ink on paper then hand-tinted in watercolor by an unknown artist - possibly from life or influenced from a painting by British artist John Russell (1745-1806) (*see below*). Its modest, pine frame enhances the quaint, country charm of this picturesque image of nineteenth century farm life.

To guarantee that the crops and livestock were adequately tended to, the Early American farmstead was filled with daily tasks and much labor. Everyone had to do their part and contribute to its success. It was, therefore, not an uncommon site to witness children tending to their daily chores in and about the farmstead or barnyard.

Having established herself as one of the foremost contributors to published household manuals in the mid-19th century, author Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880), provides assurance and advice to the domestic housewife and mother regarding ways to occupy her children. In *The Mother's Book* (1831), she recommends embracing children's innate desire to help by allowing them to assist with small tasks:

The disposition to help others should be cherished as much as possible. Even very little children are happy when they think they are useful. 'I can do some good—can't I, mother?' is one of the first questions asked. To encourage this spirit, indulge children in assisting you, even when their exertions are full as much trouble as profit. Let them go out with their little basket, to weed the garden, to pick pease [sic] for dinner, to feed the chickens, &c.

Look for this artifact on your next tour of the Museum House at Renfrew. This little picture hangs on the south wall of the Northeast Chamber, above the bedside table.



British Museum of Art,
Object No.1877,1013.1144