

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



Summer 2021

“Walk Back In Time”



der Weatervane

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.

Celebrating Nearly 300 Years of Our Farming Heritage

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Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org

Renfrew MUSEUM & PARK



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Waynesboro, PA 17268

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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



Minnich Family Heirlooms Return to Renfrew Property

RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

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A Message from our Executive Director:



Summertime is always a busy season for us here at Renfrew.

Just like the families who called this property home generations before us, we're tied to the land. Our staff and volunteers carry forth the tradition in a long line of caretakers who worked and toiled, lived and loved on this farm. From its earliest development by settlers like the Stoners and Renfrews in Pennsylvania's colonial period to the century-long residency of the Royers and Fahnestocks, the ownership of Dr. Strickler and his tenants the Minnichs and Beavers, to the loving restoration by our last private owners Edgar and Emma Nicodemus, Renfrew Museum and Park enjoys a rich farming heritage spanning nearly 300 years.

In this issue, we'll explore some of the stories of Renfrew's more recent residents through the artifacts they left behind. We'll meet John H. Minnich (page 2) who lived and worked on the farm in the early twentieth century, then throw it back to the Swingin' Sixties to recall *Emma's "Flair" for Hospitality* (pages 3 & 4). Even more unique objects from our farming past will be featured in our upcoming "Treasures from the Collection" Members-Only Event coming up on October 7th (learn more on page 9).

Discover the seasonal rhythm of life on the farm at Renfrew's next signature event, Farmstead Day (pages 5 & 6), coming up on Saturday, August 7, 2021. This annual program has been expanded to include a full day of family-friendly activities, living history interpretation, horse-drawn wagon rides, tours, and more! You won't want to miss special exhibits like an original Conestoga wagon, Ed Miller's tractors, and blacksmithing with Tindall Forge. Make a reservation for the Fahnestock Farmstead Dinner at noon, a new V.I.P. dining experience inside our restored early nineteenth century timber frame barn with live violin music and scenic views of the farm.

Even more quality programming is in store this season with Historic Site Spotlight presentations (page 7), #RenfrewOnTheRoad visits to Pippinfest in Fairfield and Mainstreet Waynesboro's Market Day downtown (pages 6 & 7), along with our Sixth Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 18th (page 8). With so much to do, be sure to make room in your summer schedule to "Walk Back in Time" with Renfrew and explore all our centuries-old Pennsylvania German Farmstead has to offer!

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. LaBarre



Carpenter's tools owned by John H. Minnich used during his time living in the historic Royer House at the turn of the 20th Century. Clockwise from left: Plane, adjustable scribe, sliding bevel square monogrammed "J.H.M.", foldable ruler, and pipe wrench. (Given in memory of donor's father, Emory C. Minnich)

This summer, Renfrew received a wonderful gift from member Thomas Minnich, descendent of former residents of the farm. The donation included a collection of tools (pictured at left) owned and used by his ancestor, John H. Minnich, while in residence at what would ultimately become Renfrew.

John H. Minnich was born on May 23, 1855 in Chewsville, Washington County, Maryland to Joseph Minnich, a carpenter, and his wife Catharine Springer; the eldest of their six children. As a young man, he worked as a farm laborer and carpenter, learning the trade from his father. He married Annie L. Kriner (1855-1922) in 1878 and the couple had three children together: Pearl (b.1884), Suddie (b.1887), and John W. (b.1891). By 1900, at age 45, his occupation is listed as carpenter with Minnich owning his home with a mortgage in Washington Township, Franklin County. A decade later he is

listed as farmer employed by himself, renting his home—the historic stone Royer House. By 1914, records indicate that his son, John W. Minnich, had joined him on the Renfrew property. John W. and his wife Earla, had five of their eight children here.

On September 10, 1922, Annie passed away from tuberculosis and John H. Minnich, now a widower, continued to work the farm along side his son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. The Minnich family moved away from the farm in 1933, when residency was then assumed by Clarence and Elizabeth Beaver. The Minnichs remained in Washington Township, continuing to farm. John H. Minnich died at age 82 on December 26, 1937. At the time of his death he was employed on the Leshner Farm with his death certificate indicating he had been a farmer for the last seventy-five years. His is buried beside his wife in Green Hill Cemetery in Waynesboro.

John H. Minnich (c1855-1937), pictured at right, was a tenant farmer on the Renfrew property from about 1910 to 1933. He is pictured here c.1925 in front of the rear door to the Royer House with his grandson Donald, who was born at Renfrew on December 27, 1923. Don lived on the farm until the Minnich family moved away in 1933. He was the grandfather of donor Tom Minnich. (Photo courtesy of the Minnich Family)



Emma's "Flair" for hospitality!

Renfrew Museum and Park's founder, Emma Nicodemus, enjoyed entertaining and having friends and acquaintances over as house guests. Whether it was holding bridge parties with her girlfriends in the lower level of the Smoke House adjacent to the main residence, or baking holiday cookies, cakes, and pies for friends and neighbors, Emma was the quintessential mid-century "hostess with the most-ess"! This flair for hospitality was made a bit easier with the use of Emma's Frigidaire Flair Custom Imperial Electric Range. In the 1960's Frigidaire was a division of General Motors Corporation out of Dayton, Ohio. Touting their modern line of electric ranges, Frigidaire noted, "You won't need a 'post graduate' course in cooking! Keep right on using all your favorite recipes as well as the new ones you're bound to try."

"You'll like cooking with your new Frigidaire Electric Range because it's so clean, so cool, so easy and so accurate." - Owner's Manual

Emma's state-of-the-art range was installed in her modern kitchen on the south end of the historic Royer kitchen in Renfrew's Museum House. Sometime in the early twentieth century, the original open cook hearth had been closed up and a partition wall built down the center of the space to create two rooms. After Edgar and Emma's renovation in the 1940's, the northern room off the porch was used as an informal foyer and breakfast nook with the kitchen area to the south outfitted with crisp white cabinets and laminate countertops. A butcherblock-topped peninsula and suite of brand new Frigidaire appliances including range, refrigerator, and dishwasher completed the look of her gleaming, modern kitchen.

Special features of the Frigidaire Flair range included an adjustable pull-out four Radiantube surface cooktop, electric time signal, built-in clock, and dual ovens with swing up doors to "get maximum clearance for tall utensils on the surface units."

FUN FACT: The Frigidaire Flair range was featured in Samantha Stevens' kitchen on the hit 1960's sit-com *Bewitched*.



Frigidaire Custom Imperial Electric Range owned by Emma Nicodemus

Collection :
Renfrew Museum & Park



Cover of Emma's original copyrighted 1961 and printed April 1962 Frigidaire Flair Electric Ranges Owner's Manual

Collection:
Renfrew Museum & Park

★ "Frigidaire Advanced Appliances...
Designed with you in Mind!" ★
- Owner's Manual

View of northern half of divided kitchen looking eastward toward the dining room. The partition wall at right extended all the way to the west wall. Emma's beloved Pennsylvania Dutch corner cupboard stands in the same location where visitors to Renfrew can still view it today.

Collection: Renfrew Museum & Park



Emma Geiser Nicodemus serves a cool drink to sister Hazel Geiser and a guest at an alfresco gathering in May 1970. Note the fashionable Mid-Mod drinkware on the table!

Collection: Renfrew Museum & Park



Emma's modern kitchen as it appeared prior to the Museum House's restoration in 1975. The edge of her Frigidaire Flair range can be seen at right.

Collection: Renfrew Museum & Park





Programs & Events

Farmstead Day

Celebrate nearly 300 years of our farming heritage!

Saturday, August 7, 2021

10:00am to 4:00pm

\$10 Adults, \$5 Kids ages 7-18

Free for Kids 6 & Under

Free for Renfrew Members



Join Renfrew for a full day of family-friendly activities on our centuries-old Pennsylvania German farmstead and learn about seasonal rhythms of life on the farm for the families that once called our 107-acres home. Your admission includes tours of the beautifully furnished 1812 Royer House (first floor only), 1808 Fahnestock farmhouse, and horse-drawn wagon rides. Complementary activities include visiting our nineteenth century outbuildings, historic gardens and grounds, interactions with historic interpreters, food and retail vendor area.

Event Highlights

- ◆ Hours-drawn Wagon Rides Up and Down Fahnestock Lane
 - ◆ First Floor Tours of the 1812 Royer House
 - ◆ Tours of the 1808 Fahnestock House
 - ◆ Ed Miller's Vintage Tractors on Display
 - ◆ Original Conestoga Wagon with Historic Accessories (*Weather-dependent*)
 - ◆ Blacksmithing with Tindall Forge
 - ◆ Hearth Cooking in the Summer Kitchen
- ◆ Discover what's Growing in Renfrew's Summer Kitchen & Four-Square Gardens
- ◆ Family Fun Area by the Milk House—try milking our faux cows, make a craft, snap a picture at the photo boards, and more!
- ◆ Fahnestock Farmstead Dinner at 12:00 pm (Limited seating, Separate ticket required)
- ◆ Dedication of Allie Kohler Memorial Sundial at 2:00 pm, Museum House Yard



Fahnestock Farmstead Dinner V.I.P. Dining Experience

Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 12:00pm

\$160 per table of up to six (6) guests

Limited Seating.

Enjoy a hearty farmstead dinner inside the c.1810 restored Fahnestock Barn. Menu includes entrée choice of fried chicken or giant stuffed portabella mushroom accompanied by a garden salad, fresh baked rolls, roasted potatoes and vegetable medley of squash and carrots. Also includes beverage choices of water, ice tea, or lemonade along with peach dumpling ala mode for dessert. Musical accompaniment by violinist Scott Matlock and scenic views of the farmstead enhance this exclusive Farmstead Day dining experience.

Flat rate of \$160 per table for up to six (6) guests. Registration closes 24 hours prior to event. Full refunds are eligible only for cancellations made prior to this time. No exceptions. Please note that event is located in a historic building approached uphill with slightly uneven terrain. It is not wheelchair accessible. Due to horse-drawn wagon rides on Fahnestock Lane, personal vehicles are not permitted. Guests requiring special accommodation may request a ride by golf cart to dinner location. Please indicate needs during registration.



You're invited to a very special gathering in the Museum House backyard at 2:00pm as we honor the memory of Renfrew's late friend, Allie Kohler (1938-2019). Allie, who served as board president of Renfrew Committee, Inc. (RCI), was a devoted family man, middle school science teacher, and community leader. A functional bronze sundial, mounted atop field stone from Renfrew's historic grounds, will serve both as a lasting monument to Allie's years of service and an educational tool for the many visitors to the place he loved. Learn more about Allie's life and join us for this meaningful ceremony during Farmstead Day.



Pre-purchase tickets at: RenfrewMuseum.org/farmstead-day/

Mark Your Calendar!

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

- ◆ #RenfrewOnTheRoad: Pippinfest Fairfield, PA
Sunday, September 26, 2021 from 9:00am-4:00pm
- ◆ Longifle & Early American Collectors Show
Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00am-3:00pm
- ◆ Mid-Century Christmas: Fads and Fun from 1945 to 1970
Historian Leslie Goddard
Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:00pm
- ◆ Christmas on the Farm
Friday, December 3, 2021 from 3:00-8:00pm
& Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 12:00-8:00pm
- ◆ Holiday Farmstead Taste & Tours 2021
-Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 11:00am - 2:00pm;
-Friday, Dec. 10, from 11:00am - 2:00pm;
-Tuesday, Dec. 14, from 11:00am - 2:00pm;
-Friday, Dec. 17, from 11:00am - 2:00pm



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. 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 (Log-in credentials will be emailed.)
 2. In-Person Watch Party at Renfrew (Limit 30).
- Registration will close at 12:00pm on the day of event.

Register at: RenfrewMuseum.org/presentations-and-workshops/



Tuesday
August 3, 2021
at 7:00 pm

Discover the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) in Winchester, Virginia, with Curator Nick Powers. Dedicated to preserving and enriching the cultural life and heritage of the Valley, this regional history complex includes a house dating to the eighteenth century, seven acres of spectacular gardens, and a 50,000-square-foot museum featuring changing exhibitions, a permanent display of miniature houses, and an expansive gallery exploring the history and decorative arts of the Shenandoah Valley. The MSV sits on land originally claimed by Winchester founder James Wood in 1735. Today, the MSV is a dynamic and engaging historic site welcoming visitors from around the world to enjoy its campus. Explore the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley with us – virtually!



Tuesday
October 19, 2021
at 7:00 pm

“Go west, young man” and explore Garfield Farm and Tavern Museum in Campton Hills, IL with Renfrew this fall – virtually! Join Executive Director, Jerome “Jerry” Johnson, and Assistant Site Manager, Joseph Coleman, for a fascinating look at Garfield Farm Museum, a 366-acre farmstead with preserved wetlands, savanna and prairie land located 40 miles west of Chicago. Take this virtual journey with us to Illinois and discover how Garfield Farm Museum brings together the farming experiences of the past 150 years with an appreciation of the natural environment settlers found when they arrived. An unspoiled beauty that, thanks to the museum’s preservation efforts for over four decades, folks can still enjoy to this day.



#RenfrewOnTheRoad:
Mainstreet Waynesboro Market Day
October 2, 2021 9am - 4pm

Look for our booth among this wonderful yearly gathering of local artisans and merchants along downtown Waynesboro, PA. Renfrew will offer handmade items along with other selections from the museum gift shop including pottery, folk art, jewelry, décor items, and more! Each purchase supports our mission of preservation and stewardship of this 107-acre community treasure.

We'll also have information about the history of our 200+ year old Pennsylvania German farmstead, upcoming programs, and may even have a fun activity or two. Stop by, snap a pic, and say hello!

Learn more at: <https://www.mainstreetwaynesboro.org/market-day>



“A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION OF HISTORY AND THE HARVEST!”

Saturday, September 18, 2021

12:00pm - 7:00pm

General Admission:

Adults \$10, Children 7-18 \$5.00, Under 6 Free
Biergarten (Age 21+) \$5.00 per drink (limit 4)

Come enjoy a fun-filled day at Renfrew's Sixth 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, retail and food vendors, 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.

NEW FOR 2021

Join Richard Wagner, beer historian, as he demonstrates traditional 18th Century brewing techniques from 12:00pm - 5:00pm!



Pre-purchase tickets at: RenfrewMuseum.org/oktoberfest/



Oktoberfest Vendors Wanted

Renfrew is currently accepting applications for retail and food truck vendors to participate in Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 12:00pm - 7:00pm. We are especially interested in unique handmade items, folk art, traditional craft, fresh produce, preserves, and other items that reflect the spirit of Renfrew's German heritage. Renfrew Museum & Park reserves the right to deny any application, for any reason, that it deems does not align with event standards.

Vendor Space Rates

Food Vendors: \$50; Retail Vendors: \$30; Nonprofit Vendors: \$20

Learn more at: RenfrewMuseum.org/oktoberfest-vendor-application/



**“Treasures From the Collection”
Members Only Event**
Thursday, October 7, 2021
Reception: 6:30 pm, Program: 7:00 - 8:30pm

SPECIAL OFFER! Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park Members who renew or join now through September 30, 2021 are eligible to attend this exclusive evening reception with Executive Director Becky LaBarre and Manager of Visitor Experiences Steve LaBarre. Enjoy light refreshments in the Visitors Center gallery then gather in the Wagon Shed Room as Becky and Steve share a special selection of artifacts from Renfrew’s collection with you. Take turns viewing these treasures up close and personal then enjoy a presentation on the background of each object from the perspective of Renfrew’s resident material culture historians. Don’t wait - book now! Don’t miss your chance for this unique opportunity to experience Renfrew’s collections first-hand. Not a Friends of Renfrew Member yet? Join now or renew your membership online.

Visit: RenfrewMuseum.org/treasures-from-the-collection

Legend of Sleepy Hollow Movie
Friday, October 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm



Get into the Halloween spirit with this special showing of Hallmark’s *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at Waynesboro Theatre.

Follow along as Washington Irving’s beloved characters come to life on the big screen with this historic adaptation—one of the most authentic we’ve seen! You’ll start your cinematic journey in an atmospheric New England tavern then be transported to the “old colony days” where the familiar story of schoolmaster Ichabod Crane unfolds before your eyes. Watch out for the Headless Horseman and be sure to save the date for October 15th!

Look for full details in our upcoming fall newsletter.



Save the Date!
Christmas on the Farm

Fri., Dec. 3rd 3-8pm & Sat., Dec. 4th 12-8pm

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!



**2022 Membership
Early Bird Offer**



As the saying goes, the early bird gets the worm! Won’t you help us start next year off right?

Dear Friend of Renfrew Museum and Park,

August 2021

Thank you for your continued support of our historic Pennsylvania German Farmstead! Whether you’re a regular visitor to the museum and park, or engage with us from afar, your fondness for Renfrew means the world to us. **We love having you in our “nest”, and as “birds of a feather” it’s important we “flock” together!**

Renfrew relies on membership revenues to meet our mission each and every year. Membership funds allow us to maintain and to preserve Renfrew’s historic and natural beauty while offering exceptional programs, events, and exhibits—enabling the Waynesboro community and our many visitors to enjoy this one-of-a-kind place as their very own place to “roost”.

As we look forward to finishing our current season strong and begin planning for even more great experiences next year, we’re asking for your support. **Please consider joining or renewing your annual membership for 2022 early.** Getting a jump start on membership revenues helps us care for our historic collections and landscape, make improvements to our property, and offer a robust calendar of events so there’s even more of Renfrew to enjoy. That’s plenty to “crow” about!

Your “Early Bird” membership will be current through December 31, 2022 and includes:

- Free admission to most Renfrew Museum and Park paid events (excludes fundraiser events such as Oktoberfest)
- Free unlimited admission to the Museum House throughout the season
- Free admission to lectures and presentations
- Reduced admission to workshops
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases (excludes consignment and sale items)
- Print copy of our quarterly newsletter *der Wetterhahn* mailed directly to your home or business
- Exclusive *Members-Only* invitations to special experiences, previews of new displays and events, etc.

★ **RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 30th to receive EXCLUSIVE EARLY BIRD MEMBER BENEFITS** ★

- ✓ 2022 Die-cut Magnet Featuring the Fahnestock House
- ✓ Attendance to “Treasures from the Collection” evening program on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Enjoy light refreshments in the Visitors Center followed by a unique presentation with our museum staff that gives you an opportunity to see special pieces from Renfrew’s collection up-close and personal. Learn more at: RenfrewMuseum.org/treasures-from-the-collection/

Join now or renew online at: RenfrewMuseum.org/support/membership/

Make checks payable to: Renfrew Museum and Park, 1010 E. Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268



Yes! I’m an Early Bird. Please process my 2022 Friends of Renfrew Membership Today!

1010 E. Main St · Waynesboro, PA 17268 · (717) 762-4723 · info@renfrewmuseum.org

- Individual \$30 Family \$75 Supporting \$150 Renfrew Society \$250 Lifetime \$2500
- I would like to attend “Treasures from the Collection” on Thursday, October 7, 2021. Number of guests: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____