

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

Summer 2024



der Weathervane

The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm

Renfrew: Your Summer Destination

In this issue:

- ◆ A Message from Our Executive Director
- ◆ Renfrew Museum and Park: Your 2024 Summer Travel Destination
- ◆ Bell Family Pottery: Museum Shop Flower Pots
- ◆ Upcoming Programs and Events
 - Oktoberfest; Legend of Sleepy Hollow; Farmstead Taste & Tours; Summer Concerts; Yoga; & More!
- ◆ Welcome Our New Staff Member!
- ◆ Artifact Spotlight: 19th Century Traveling Trunks

Visit us at www.RenfrewMuseum.org



RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

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- Steve LaBarre
Manager of Visitor Experiences
- Kirsten Lamb
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- Gene Kelley
Manager of Buildings and Grounds
- Joshua Reis
Buildings and Grounds Representative

A Message from our Executive Director:



Make Renfrew your summer travel destination! That's our invitation to you this season. Here on the farmstead, we're eagerly looking forward to the many visitors who descend upon Renfrew once school is out for the summer and vacation time starts. It's wonderful to walk through the grounds and see families (and dogs!) exploring our trails, viewing historic buildings together, picnicking, playing in the creek, and stopping into the Visitors Center to view our galleries and take a guided tour. Renfrew truly comes alive during the summer months and, whether you're from the area and need an affordable "staycation" or you're just discovering us from a far off locale, we're glad you're here! Come along with us this summer and travel to a special place; our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead has just the thing to "Cultivate Inspiration" in you.

In this issue, we're kicking off our summer travel theme with images and articles that evoke both a sense of the past and anticipation for what's next. The photo on our front cover showcases an authentic Conestoga wagon exhibited at Renfrew several years ago, courtesy of collector and retired Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds John H. Frantz, sets the tone for our feature (page 2) on the importance of Renfrew's location along historic toll road Pennsylvania Route 16. This issue's artifact spotlight (page 10) reinforces the ever-present need for sturdy luggage with a look at a remarkable c.1820-30s hide covered trunk in our museum collection.

With a spirit of adventure, we also look ahead to some of our engaging summer programming including Renfrew's 2024 Judy Elden Memorial Summer Concert Series, the return of Yoga Flow (page 9), and the popular Summertime Farmstead Taste & Tour farm-to-table dining experience (page 8). You'll also find teasers for fall events including our 9th Annual Oktoberfest Fundraiser coming up on September 14th (pages 5-6), and a new immersive dramatic reading experience *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* held inside the Museum House on October 29th (page 7). Be sure to also save the date for our beloved holiday event Christmas on the Farm coming up in December (page 8).

If you're looking for a souvenir from your visit with us this summer, be sure to stop into the Museum Shop for unique finds inspired by the history and beauty of Renfrew. An exciting addition this season is a limited line of self-watering flowerpots in bright, summery colors handcrafted by Bell Family pottery descendant Charlie Bell.

Lastly, we're pleased to introduce new Renfrew team member Joshua Reis 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 can't wait to welcome you this summer, friends. Happy travels and see you soon!

Rebecca J. Hoover

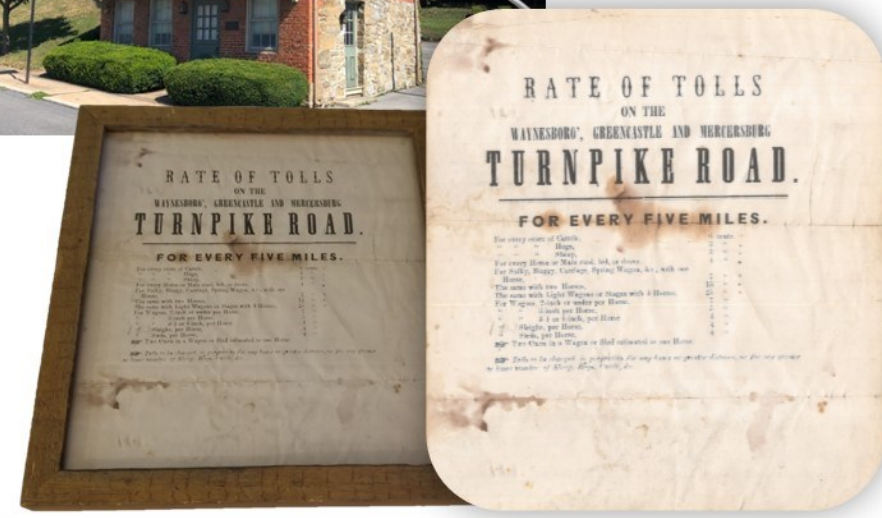
Whether simply taking advantage of gardening, grilling and barbecuing, or lounging poolside with a refreshing glass of ice tea or that special summer spritzer in your own backyard, summer is a great time to get outdoors, explore, and travel. For those feeling a bit more adventurous you might plan a trip further afield to the beach, hike and explore both national and state forests and parks, enjoy a variety of amusement parks, or even enrich your summer experience by partaking in historic destinations and attractions. Speaking of historic attractions, we invite you to consider Renfrew Museum and Park as your 2024 SUMMER TRAVEL DESTINATION!

Today, Renfrew Museum and Park sits along Pennsylvania Route 16 or what commonly is known locally as Buchanan Trail East. Many of our readers or those who have traveled throughout Pennsylvania are certainly familiar with the modern day Pennsylvania Turnpike which runs west to east across Pennsylvania from the Ohio state line. Passing through urban centers such as Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia the turnpike crosses over the state line from Bucks County into New Jersey. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission was created in 1937 to construct, finance, operate, and maintain the road. Since its initial development the turnpike has served commuters both locally, regionally and nationally alike. Renfrew shares in the storied history of America's historic turnpikes and transit systems that intertwine throughout the country.

The terms "turnpike" and "toll road" have their origins going back centuries to England. "Turnpike" derives from the word "pike" or lance which was placed horizontally across a road to halt oncoming foot or mobile traffic. A toll or payment would be paid at the tollhouse adjacent to the pike, with the pike raised to open the way for travelers to proceed. Similar concepts evolved in the United States and by 1791 the first Pennsylvania toll roads were established when the legislator passed a charter for the Philadelphia & Lancaster Turnpike Company. From that point forward it would be the model for other similar turnpikes throughout the state and country.



Pennsylvania Route 16 (Buchanan Trail East) which runs in front of today's 107-acre Renfrew Museum and Park property, was originally one of three major Native American trails in Franklin County. It ran down the mountain from Monterey, through present-day Waynesboro, Greencastle, Mercersburg, and then over Cove Mountain by way of Cove Gap to McConnellsburg.



Waynesboro Toll Gate House (upper left) originally operated by the Waynesboro-Greencastle-Mercersburg Turnpike Company. Tolls collected from about 1846 until just after World War I. Now owned by the Borough of Waynesboro.

Rate of Tolls on the Waynesboro, Greencastle and Mercersburg Turnpike Road (left). Block printed on lined paper, housed inside faux grained yellow painted wood frame. Toll charged every five miles. — Object #2014.15 Renfrew Museum and Park

Five turnpikes were incorporated in Pennsylvania between 1792 and 1800. On September 20, 1820, the Emmitsburg and Waynesboro Turnpike was completed, connecting Waynesboro to Emmitsburg, Maryland. In 1837, the Waynesboro, Greencastle, and Mercersburg Turnpike was completed. Between 1811-1820 (at the height of Daniel Royer's industrial farmstead operation) 101 were incorporated in the state. Between 1792 and 1845, 342 turnpikes were incorporated. At the time of Daniel Royer's death in 1838, the town of Waynesboro, formerly Waynesburg until the borough's incorporation in 1831, had 850 inhabitants, and 140 to 150 dwellings.



Renfrew Museum and Park

Many days Emma would run alongside his [Norris Geiser, her father] bicycle when he grabbed his fishing gear and headed for the East Branch of the Antietam. He never drove a car. Some folks joked that if Norris couldn't make it to the creek, he'd fish from a bucket in the backyard. Maybe these trips planted the first seeds of the affection Mrs. Nicodemus had for the property she would one day own. — Ed Miller, *Breakfasts with Ed*

The location of Daniel Royer's industrial farmstead—consisting of the main dwelling house, outbuildings, tannery, gristmill, etc., along the banks of the East Branch of the Antietam Creek—was considered especially suitable for business endeavors. Early commerce and trade along historic PA 16 made for an even greater ability to connect travelers and consumers to deliver and purchase supplies, materials, and goods.

As the area further developed throughout the 19th century, additional modes of transportation were constructed. The Chambersburg, Greencastle, and Waynesboro Street Railway, which opened September 24, 1903, provided passenger trips along PA Route 16 from downtown Waynesboro to Blue Ridge Summit and

onto the popular amusement park and resort destination Pen Mar Park. Passengers would have passed in front of the former Royer property, then being occupied by the Lehman family who were tenant farmers renting from then owner Dr. Abraham Strickler from 1896 to 1913. One such passenger was Renfrew's founder, Emma Geiser Nicodemus (1892-1973), a local girl who frequently rode the trolley from her house downtown and accompanied her father on bicycle rides along the historic pike to the old Royer Farm, a special destination which would later become her very own beloved home (*see excerpt above*).

Today, Renfrew continues to be a travel destination for visitors of all ages who come from near and far along the historic toll road. For almost fifty years, Renfrew Museum and Park has invited travelers to find respite from the modern world off the beaten path, immersing themselves in the unmatched serenity of its historic farmstead grounds. Summertime is an especially good season to create lasting connections to Renfrew's distinctive character and dynamic heritage through unique experiences, fostering a meaningful sense of place and cultivating inspiration for your own life.

Make Renfrew your summer travel destination! Join generations of visitors who have discovered and re-discovered Renfrew's history, scenic beauty, and timeless charm. Our 107-acre historic farmstead lends itself to an enjoyable day out for guests of all ages and interest levels. Enjoy a walk, a picnic, or wade in the creek. Enhance your experience with tours, programs, workshops, special events and more! Be sure to take advantage of our exhibits and wayside interpretive markers to enrich your understanding of Early American decorative arts, material culture, foodways, architecture, and folk art. Guided tours depart from the Visitors Center at the top of the hour Wednesday-Saturday at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00pm. We'll look for you coming down the pike!



Bell Family Pottery: Flower Pots



Those who are familiar with Renfrew Museum and Park, know that Charles "Charlie" Forest Bell, a descendant of Samuel Bell (1811-1891), and his wife Laura, donated their family collection of historic Bell Family pottery to Renfrew in February 2016. For those who are just discovering Renfrew's impressive decorative arts collection, the donation included over 140 pieces made by Bell family members and apprentices. It represents works from all of their shops throughout the Shenandoah and Cumberland Valleys including Waynesboro, PA, Hagerstown, MD, and Strasburg, VA. The pieces range from the more unique to items used in everyday life. In addition to the pieces of pottery, Charles and Laura donated original plaster molds, making this assemblage a unique part of Renfrew's decorative arts collection.

Today the Bell family tradition of pottery making continues to live on through Charlie! He, therefore, is the 4th generation to carry on the legacy by producing works in his own Virginia studio. Looking toward his ancestors' iconic designs, he often casts new pieces from originals in both Renfrew's and his own personal Bell collection. From 19th century pitchers, pots and figurines to modern seasonal décor, Charlie keeps the Bell family tradition alive and relevant into the 21st century.



Renfrew is pleased to offer an exclusive brand new line of ceramic flower pots hand crafted by Charlie Bell for the Museum Shop. These colorful self-watering flower pots feature a modern form and design with eye-popping glazes. These unique items are reminiscent of 20th century pottery and will fit in with any home aesthetic. **MAKES A GREAT GIFT!**



PURCHASE YOUR VERY OWN EXCLUSIVE BELL FLOWER POT TODAY!

The Museum Shop is open Wednesday—Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday 1:00pm—4:00pm this Summer!

\$38 EACH + Tax

(variety of glazes available while supplies last)

Self-watering flower pots feature an unglazed insert pot which absorbs water filled at the two side holes of the base.





Programs & Events

Mark Your Calendar!

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

◆ 9th Annual Oktoberfest Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 12:00pm-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.



OKTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER

"A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION OF HISTORY AND THE HARVEST!"
Saturday, September 14, 2024

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Live Music & Biergarten
Tours & Activities
German Food & Silent Auction

Come enjoy a fun-filled day at Renfrew's Ninth 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 3:00-4:00pm

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. Hearth Cooking 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.



PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS 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 CASH OR CREDIT ACCEPTED. (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*. CASH ONLY German Bratwurst, Hotdogs, German potato salad, sauerkraut, desserts, etc. Not included with general admission, sold separately.



2024 WEBSITE LAUNCHES & TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 1ST
RenfrewMuseum.org/Oktoberfest






ICHABOD CRANE

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

A Dramatic Reading

An Immersive Historical Experience
Set In The Year 1820
Inside the Royer Museum House
Tuesday, October 29th, 2024
Two Select Seatings
5:00pm—6:30pm or 7:00pm—8:30pm
\$40 Per Person / \$30 for Renfrew Member

-  Partake in a tasty sweet bread whilst enjoying a hot cup of cider warmed over the kitchen hearth, served by hosts dressed in authentic early 19th century attire!
-  Gather in the fully furnished dining room by candlelight!
-  Hear author Washington Irving's tale of the headless horseman!

Limited Seating Available—Two Select Times—Register Today!

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/SleepyHollow

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 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. 6th 3:00-8:00pm
& Saturday, Dec. 7th 3:00-8:00pm

Rediscover the **simple joys** of Christmas past at Renfrew Museum and Park this holiday season! "Cultivate Inspiration" 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.

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!



2024 Judy Elden Memorial Summer Concert Series

Select Thursday Evenings at 6:30pm

Great Music. Fun for All Ages!

Presented by

Renfrew
MUSEUM & PARK



FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED!

www.RenfrewMuseum.org/SummerConcerts

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

Welcome Our New Staff Member!

Joshua Reis, Buildings & Grounds Representative (Seasonal)



“Reis”, as he officially goes by, joined the Buildings & Grounds department team in May 2024 and is off to a great start! A veteran of the Armed Forces having served in the Army, Reis brings automotive and building maintenance experience to his position. Working closely with Gene, he has already taken on work integral to Renfrew’s daily operations such as building maintenance and park beautification. In his free time, Reis enjoys hiking, camping, cooking and is active in furniture recovery and restoration, among many other diverse interests. Be sure to say hello to Reis the next time you’re visiting us at Renfrew!



Hide Covered Trunk - #1994.2
Gift of James and Martha Hyatt
Renfrew Museum and Park

This issue’s artifact spotlight draws inspiration from a colored engraving for the *Phoenix Line* (see below), which ran stagecoach service between Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD in five hours during the early 1830’s. George Beltzhoover, a resident of Hagerstown, MD owned and operated the stagecoach having a vested interest in providing accommodations both by way of stage travel and established places of rest for travelers. Beltzhoover was, besides a stagecoach line owner, a well known operator of the *Globe Tavern* in Hagerstown. The *Globe* was, for its day, known to be a heavily established rendezvous point for wagons transporting produce, along with other materials and goods, on their journey towards both the National and Great Wagon Roads.



Phoenix Line, "safety coaches" Owned by Beltzhoover & Co. running between Washington and Baltimore, time 5 hours / M. Swett, invt. et del. ; lith. of Endicott & Swett, N.Y. c.1835. Library of Congress

One of Renfrew’s many artifacts which provide us with a tangible link to stagecoach travel during this era is this early 19th century (c. 1820-1830) traveling trunk with domed lid (see above). Measuring 21" L x 10 3/4" W x 11" H, it is made from wooden pine slat panels covered in deer hide. It features applied iron side handles, front lock plate, along with ornamental copper alloy stud tacks accentuating the trunk throughout. The interior is handsomely lined with original hand-blocked wallpaper; having a cream colored ground and highlighted with blue sunburst designs throughout. Additionally, the underside of the

dome lid has an applied maker’s label for *Thomas Eaton and Samuel Gray, 28 Marlboro Street, Boston, Massachusetts – Saddlers, Harness, & Trunk Makers.*

Indicative of designs for use on horse-drawn wagons or for stagecoach travel, two leather straps tacked into place by copper studs on the front surface allow for strapping the trunk down to the carriage or wagon. The exterior hide shows remnants of hair throughout. During its period of use, the hide covering would have provided both a pleasing and attractive appearance. It was functional in that it repelled the harsh elements associated with daily handling and travel. Thus, it assured its internal contents and the travelers personal items to be clean from both dirt and weather.

The next time you pull out those luggage cases, or as you tote them through the airport to your destination, Renfrew hopes that you will harken back and be reminded of the travel accessories our early American ancestors owned and used in their own extended journeys.