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Waynesboro, PA 17268

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### Renfrew Administrative Staff Contacts

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www.RenfrewMuseum.org



**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*

Fall 2024

## der Wetterhahn

**The Weathervane: News & Updates from the Farm**

**Preservation in Process:  
Preserving, Interpreting, & Educating**

**In this issue:**

- ◆ A Message from Our Executive Director
- ◆ Preservation in Process: Buildings & Wayfinding
- ◆ Legend of Sleepy Hollow: A Dramatic Reading
- ◆ Renfrew Mill Project Update
- ◆ Upcoming Programs and Events

Christmas on the Farm Two-Day Event  
Historic Holiday Presentation, #GivingTuesday,  
Shop Early at Renfrew, Treasures from the  
Collection, Artifact Spotlight—and more!

Visit us at [www.RenfrewMuseum.org](http://www.RenfrewMuseum.org)





RENFREW COMMITTEE, INC.

Board of Directors

- Laurie Hovermale, President
- Bruce McLaughlin, Vice President
- Patti McLaughlin, Treasurer
- Kari Saavedra, Secretary
- Harold Mumma
- Valorie Dick
- Patrick Dunigan

Staff

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

*A Message from our Executive Director:*



Welcome to another fantastic fall season at Renfrew! There's a crispness to the air and the leaves are just beginning to change here on the farmstead. Autumn brings with it great anticipation for our busiest time of year. While the tour season winds down (last day for 2024 General Farmstead Tours is Friday October 18th) we're just getting started with distinctive year-end offerings to help you "Cultivate Inspiration" and make the most of your autumn days.

Part of our responsibility at Renfrew Museum and Park is to steward and preserve the architectural resources on our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead. In this issue, "Preservation in Process: Preserving, Interpreting, & Educating" (pages 2 & 3), we highlight the ways our staff has been preserving, interpreting, and educating others about the historic Pennsylvania German farmsteads, Early American decorative arts collection, built environment, and cultural landscapes this summer! An update on Renfrew's new mill (page 7) provides an exciting glimpse into construction progress to-date. As a nonprofit organization, Renfrew Museum and Park relies on the generosity of people like you to help us meet our mission and continue to deliver the wonderful experiences you've come to expect from this special place. Consider a tax-deductible gift of any amount into our Phase II Mill Capital Campaign and to support daily operations during GivingTuesday December 3rd (page 9).

Join Renfrew for an immersive historical experience set in the year 1820. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow: A Dramatic Reading (page 4) will transport you back in time to a back country tavern, dimly illuminated by candlelight, to hear Washington Irving's thrilling tale of the Headless Horseman! Your experience includes hot cider and a serving of tasty sweet bread—yum!

This issue's Artifact Spotlight (page 10) features a wonderful leather suitcase picnic set owned and embossed by its owner, and our founder of Renfrew Museum and Park, Emma Geiser Nicodemus. We hope that this artifact spotlight inspires you and your friends to consider enjoying all of the outdoor delights Renfrew has to offer this fall season. Want to learn more about the items in our museum collection? Consider renewing your membership or becoming a first-time member and join us for a very special evening at our members-only Treasures from the Collection event (page 7) held October 10th. Space is limited so don't delay!

We kick off our holiday season of programming on November 21st (page 8) as we celebrate a 1940s Christmas at Renfrew! Exploring what life was like for Emma & Edgar Nicodemus, Waynesboro's citizens, and the nation at the height of WWII, this warm and festive evening is the perfect way to welcome the holiday season! Finally, you won't want to miss our capstone signature event, Renfrew's beloved Christmas on the Farm on December 6 & 7 from 3:00-8:00pm (pages 5 & 6). This two-day only celebration takes you on an unforgettable journey through over 200 years of tradition with a variety of holiday activities and experiences including old favorites like horse-drawn wagon rides, live violin music, a Christkindlmarkt and more!

Get ready for a fabulous fall—at Renfrew!

*Rebecca J. LaBarre*

Part of our responsibility at Renfrew Museum and Park is to steward and preserve the architectural resources on our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead. Not only is Renfrew a unique natural setting, the 107-acre museum campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places—a distinction that counts Renfrew among the country's significant places warranting specialized stewardship. Renfrew Museum and Park accomplishes this by preserving, interpreting, and educating others about its historic Pennsylvania German farmsteads, Early American decorative arts collection, built environment, and cultural landscapes.

**WAYSIDE MARKER INITIATIVES**

Keeping an eye and focus toward our four institutional values, specifically *Authenticity* and *People*, Renfrew's Visitors Center and Picnic Pathway info kiosks recently received a much needed facelift.

*Authenticity: We will interpret with historical accuracy all of our exhibits, collections, programs, and events.*

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



Close-up of Renfrew's newly refurbished Visitors Center info kiosk. Special thanks to Wayne Driscoll Custom Sign for fabricating and installing our fabulous panels!

Manager of Visitor Experiences, Steve LaBarre, spearheaded the redesign of these key features at Renfrew with several small but impactful changes to better serve our visitors. Accessibility, improved wayfinding, and beautification were important factors in the info kiosk facelift. The Visitors Center information kiosk (pictured left) received a fresh new design. In an effort to make this area more accessible to all Renfrew's guests, including folks using a wheelchair, the lower doors were removed along with replacing and reinforcing the wood in certain areas. A fresh coat of green and white paint reinforces Renfrew's institutional branding and a new colorful wayfinding panel assists in orienting visitors upon arrival at Renfrew.



Renfrew Visitors Experiences Representative, Kirsten Lamb, and volunteer docent, Michael Keen, model our refurbished info kiosk at the Visitors Center.

The large info kiosk located at Renfrew's east entrance (pictured right) also received a facelift! New cedar shake roof and panels now welcome and orient visitors arriving by way of the Lower Lot. The Picnic Pathway info kiosk with big, beautiful panels designed by our Visitor Experience Department and fabricated and installed by Wayne Driscoll Custom Signs of Waynesboro, PA feature our mission, vision, and values, along with site rules and an overview of our decorative arts collection!





With a continued focus on the historic features of the museum campus, a generous donor has provided funds to erect three interpretive wayside markers in the picnic grounds. These will provide visitors with a better understanding of the tannery operation established by Daniel Royer and his descendants on the property. The tannery and other industrial features tell the story of early American life from a local perspective. Given the large numbers of intact late 18th to mid-19th century features within the area of the Royer Tannery site, both excavated and those that remain undisturbed, the site is a contributing archaeological resource. Look for these and other wayfinding signage this coming fall on your next trip to Renfrew!



Special thanks to our dedicated maintenance staff: Joshua Reis, Buildings & Grounds Representative - Seasonal (left) and Gene Kelley, Manager of Buildings & Grounds (right).

### HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION

Our Buildings and Grounds team has been hard at work making repairs to the doors and painting the Visitors Center Barn. This late Victorian agricultural building is an excellent example of a regional vernacular style Pennsylvania bank barn. Designed with an exaggerated forebay (or overhang) to shelter livestock on the bottom level, an earthen ramp is located on the opposite side to easily roll wagons and farm equipment inside the upper level where hay was stored and grain was threshed. The new door is custom built out of tongue and groove beadboard per the original. Because it's a replacement, the joints are tight. Over time, with expansion and contraction, those grooves will open up a bit and weather.



Manager of Visitor Experiences Steve LaBarre (above) applies a new coat of paint to the Visitors Center information kiosk. While Buildings & Grounds team members Gene Kelley and Joshua Reis (left) install new paneling.

Likewise, the Ed Miller House, has undergone restoration efforts to the side porch by way of a new rubber roof. Further efforts, including a fresh paint initiative, are in place, along with replicating and installing the original railing (see right) that provides both safety and an ornamental architectural element to the 1930's bungalow; now considered a historic building in its own right at 90 years old!



### HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION



Through the continued conservation and interpretation of the Milkhouse, a grant provided from *Americana Corner* has assisted 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. Sourcing and installation of new, historically accurate hand-split cedar shake shingles that conform

to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation have been undertaken and landscape refurbishment and wayside marking are to be implemented this fall. 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. 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*!



**Stop by and check out our progress on your next visit to the Museum!**

**\*You too can help preserve our historic buildings and landscapes!**

**Consider a monetary donation by giving at [www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Donate](http://www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Donate)**



# 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](http://www.RenfrewMuseum.org/SleepyHollow)**





# Programs & Events



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.

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

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



First Floor Tours of the Decorated c. 1812 Royer House



Live Holiday Music Food Vendors



## Christmas on the Farm



### 2024

Friday, December 6

3:00pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, December 7

3:00pm to 8:00pm

\$15 Per Person, \$10 for Children, Age 3-12,

Free for Kids 2 & Under

Free for Renfrew Members

Pre-purchase tickets online at: [RenfrewMuseum.org/Christmas](https://RenfrewMuseum.org/Christmas)

\*Event Page Launches November 1st

## Event Highlights



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



Live Holiday Music



Visits from the German Belsnickel "Nicolas in Furs"



Christkindlmarkt

Make & Take/Take & Make Holiday Crafts



Handmade Historic Gift Demonstrations



Historic Hearth Cooking & Baking

## Mark Your Calendar!

- ◆ **Final Day of Regularly Scheduled Tours for the Season**  
Friday, October 18, 2024 at 1:00, 2:00, & 3:00pm
- ◆ **Winter Hours**  
(Unless Otherwise Posted)  
Visitor Center Open Tuesday-Friday Beginning Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 9:00am- 4:00pm
- ◆ **Farmstead decorated and illuminated for the holiday season.**  
Begins Wednesday, November 27, 2024
- ◆ **Closed for Thanksgiving**  
Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29, 2024
- ◆ **#GivingTuesday**  
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
- ◆ **Closed Until the New Year**  
Monday, December 23, 2024 thru Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
\*Visitor Center Open Beginning Thursday, January 2, 2025 from 9:00am- 4:00pm





Learn more about the collections at Renfrew!

### “Treasures From the Collection”

## A Renfrew Members Only Event

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Reception: 6:30 pm, Program: 7:00 - 8:30pm

Visit: [RenfrewMuseum.org/treasures](http://RenfrewMuseum.org/treasures)

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Current Friends of Renfrew Museum and Park Members, and those who renew or join now through September 30, 2024, 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 before gathering in the Wagon Shed Room where 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.



Help us build the Renfrew Mill!  
Make a tax-deductible gift of support to bring Renfrew’s industrial heritage back to life.

**Renfrew Mill Project Update:** Phase I construction of the Renfrew Mill continues with our general contractor GRC of Zullinger, PA working on final interior finishes, exterior accessibility features, site clean-up, and paving. Multiple invasive trees and stumps have been removed by our excavator, along with grading of the retention pond area in front of the restrooms. Visitors can now view the custom railings for the ramp and deck to the second-floor entrance on the north elevation (located at left in photo) and will soon be able to utilize the restored asphalt walking paths previously removed for construction. Flooring installation continues along with water connection and pressure testing, painting, etc. Per a recent meeting with GRC, we’re now looking toward a completion date of late fall. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned for some time after Renfrew has received the certificate of occupancy; date yet to be determined. That information, along with progress updates and photos, will be made available at [www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill](http://www.RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill).

Phase II fundraising is ongoing with donations being solicited via the local community, grants, and corporate donors. Out of the \$5M total cost to build the project, about \$1.5M remains to “Get the Mill Moving!” with a recirculating pump, custom millworks, and interpretive materials. A booklet about the Phase II Capital Campaign and how to donate is available at Renfrew. Please consider a gift of support to this long-anticipated addition to our historic Pennsylvania German farmstead!

Visit: [RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill](http://RenfrewMuseum.org/Mill)



**DO YOUR PART!  
REGISTER TODAY!**

### CHRISTMAS WITH THE NICODEMUSES: A Wartime 1940’s Holiday

Thursday, November 21st

6:30pm - 8:00pm

In-Person at Renfrew

(Limit 40 participants)

\$20 per person / \$15 for Friends of Renfrew Members

**A SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION!**

Celebrate a 1940s Christmas with Renfrew! Explore what life was like for Emma & Edgar Nicodemus, Waynesboro’s citizens, and the nation at the height of WWII. Discover the beloved Christmas traditions Americans kept alive in the face of adversity and new traditions brought on by the war. What did they decorate with? How did food rationing change their Christmas dinner and favorite holiday treats? Did they send gifts to loved ones overseas? Learn all this and more while enjoying wartime inspired refreshments. This warm and festive evening is the perfect way to welcome the holiday season! Presented by Visitor Experiences Representative Kirsten Lamb and Renfrew Volunteer Sarah Lee. Presentation will take place in the Wagon Shed Room inside of the Visitors Center.

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



**#GivingTuesday is on December 3, 2024!**

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

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

Please Consider Donating On Giving Tuesday!

[www.RenfrewMuseum.org/donate](http://www.RenfrewMuseum.org/donate)



**Visitor Center and Museum Shop  
Winter Hours**

**(Unless Otherwise Posted)  
Beginning October 22  
Open Tuesday—Friday  
9:00am—4:00pm**

**Closed for Thanksgiving  
Thursday, November 28th  
& Friday, November 29th.**

**Closed for Christmas and New Year's  
Monday, December 23, 2024 until  
Thursday, January 2, 2025**

**GIFTS INSPIRED BY OUR  
HISTORIC FARMSTEAD**

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

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



**Leather Suitcase Picnic Set , c. 1930's  
Object #2012.009**

Enamelware and steel picnic set for six (6) in leather case, c.1930. Lined in waxed, embossed navy blue paper. Monogrammed "E. K. G." on outside lid (Emma Katherine Geiser). • Thermos • Plates • Cups • Forks • Knives • Spoons • Can Opener • Salt & Pepper Shakers

Measures: 25"L x 15"W x 7"D; Object was donated by William Leckron.

By the year 1930, sixty percent of American households owned an automobile. There were 9 vehicles for every 10 households and this number would continue to increase as the decades advanced. Transportation, therefore, brought an increase in the ability for Americans to traverse the backroads of America, to travel further, and pursue leisurely activities such as social events and picnics with friends and family.

This simple brown leather picnic suitcase with its accompaniment of serving and place settings pictured here in a snapshot of Edgar and Emma Nicodemus embodies and harkens us back to a simpler time when afternoons spent with friends allowed for leisurely conversation without the distractions of modern life. We hope that this artifact spotlight inspires you and your friends to consider enjoying all of the outdoor delights Renfrew has to offer this fall season!



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