



# THE DISCOVERY & GIFTS OF THE REMICK GNOMES

**EARLIER THIS FALL**, as the weather cooled and thoughts of the coming winter season came to her mind, Remick farm manager Lindsey noticed some of her daily farm chores were getting done before she arrived at work. She was puzzled by this and asked farm team members Ryan and Harmony if they were starting their workdays earlier than usual. They were not. Someone was helping her take care of the animals and farm, but who?

Lindsey shared her quandary with the Remick Team, which raised even more questions. Carol and Shannon suspected someone was helping with weeding and watering on their days off, and Faithe mentioned that she and Cayle had observed the exhibit areas were being tidied, as if on their own. Things were becoming stranger by the minute, so Lindsey asked Joanne and Sharon if visitors had mentioned unusual activity or sights around the museum and farm, but no one had. It all was the makings of a museum mystery!

The Team was deeply curious about these discoveries and ready to help solve the mystery. Jim F. suggested placing motion-sensor cameras in the barns to see if the culprit could be identified, and Dawne and Jim C. offered to help install the necessary equipment. Over the next few days, cameras were gathered and set in place. Extra lighting was installed in hopes of capturing clear images, as the mysterious helper seemed to do its work at night after the staff left for their homes.

After several days, Cara sat down at her computer to review the camera footage. She was shocked by what she saw and excitedly called the staff together. “We have gnomes!” she cried. “They are working all over the museum and farm, helping us every day. Some live in the barn, others live in the greenhouse, and there are even some in the Museum Center’s second-floor apartment! Every night they’ve been coming out to help take care of the animals and other farm and museum tasks.”

The Team was stunned and, to be honest, a little fearful. Where had the gnomes come from and why did they choose to inhabit this particular farm? After much discussion, Lindsey thought she had the answer. “*Tomte*, or gnomes, are legendary in Sweden, where my grandma comes from,” she said. “In my family, we have a tradition of honoring our ancestry by celebrating the holiday season with gnomes, which I have continued with my own family. Perhaps they settled here due to my lifelong connection to their history and because I am the farm’s manager.” A glimmer of understanding settled among the Team.

Lindsey went on to explain, “There’s no need to be afraid. Gnomes can be mischievous but if treated well, are gentle caregivers of farm animals and assist with farm chores. An unusual thing is that typically only one gnome lives on a farm, but we have so many buildings and animals that an entire village of gnomes must have settled here to take care of things!”

The Team became excited as Lindsey continued to explain, “Gnomes live peacefully on farmsteads and ask very little of the humans they help. They demand only the respect and trust of the farmer and a bowl of buttered porridge on Christmas Eve.”

The Remick Team looked at each other and smiled. Each was grateful for the help they had received and the extra care bestowed upon the farm animals. They slowly relaxed into the idea of their discovery and were ready to make the gnomes feel as welcome as possible. They realized the museum and farm was in very good hands and now it was time for them to get to work, for they were eager to provide their newfound friends with a large pot of hot, buttered porridge on Christmas Eve!

When you visit Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm this holiday season, know that the gnomes are here. You may catch a glimpse of them as you explore the buildings and farmstead. And if you’re lucky, you may even get a chance to try some of their Christmas porridge.

From all of us at Remick (including the gnomes),

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**