

More on Piga-figa-licious...

The silent auction is one good reason most attendees look forward to this favorite Museum event. Boat cruises, gift certificates, dinners in private homes, various services, Orioles tickets, parties, crab cakes, winter boat storage, and much more will be offered to the successful bidders. And as always, Highland Creamery ice cream will be available for purchase.

Piga-figa-licious is a not-to-be missed Labor Day activity with something for everyone. We'll see you there!

Why Old Places Matter*

Continuity: Old places create a sense of continuity that helps people feel more balanced, stable, and healthy.

Memory: Old places help us remember.

Individual Identity: Old places embody our identity.

Civic, State, National and Universal Identity: Old places embody our civic, state, national, and universal identity.

Beauty: Old Places are beautiful, and beauty is profoundly beneficial.

History: Old places give us an understanding of history no other evidence possibly can.

Architecture: Old buildings are part of the history of civilization and they place us on the continuum of time.

Sacredness: Sacred old places provide deep spiritual and psychological benefits of peace, serenity and inspiration.

Creativity: Old places inspire creativity and entrepreneurship.

Learning: Old places teach us about the past and give us perspective on the present in a way nothing else can do.

Sustainability: Old places--through their embedded energy, the avoided impacts of demolition and new construction, use of traditional design features compatible with local climates, and locations, close to existing infrastructure--are inherently "green."

Ancestry: Old places connect us to our ancestors, giving us a sense of identity and belonging.

Community: Old places give people a sense of shared community.

Economics: Old places foster a sustainable and equitable economy.

*Taken from a recent issue of *History News*. This article was entitled "Why Old Places Matter" by Thompson Mayes, VP and Senior Counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



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The
Oxford
Museum, Inc.

*A special place.
A special heritage.*

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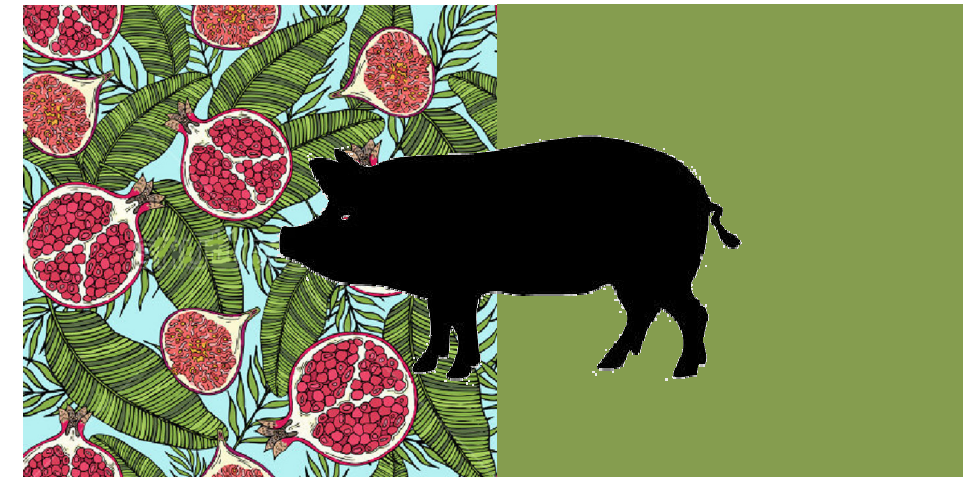
Summer 2017



1683

The Oxford Historian

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PIGA-FIGA-LICIOUS

SEPTEMBER 4, 2017: THE PIGS ARE BACK
NOON TO 2 PM, OXFORD FIRE HOUSE

Roast chicken, roast pork and all the fixin's
Iced tea or soda; Cash bar - wine and beer

Music by DeeJay Chris Startt

Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle

\$25/person; \$35 after September 1
(under 10 half price)

Tickets available at The Oxford Museum
(410-226-0191)

BENEFIT FOR THE OXFORD MUSEUM

2017 CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 New "Scoundrels and Scandals" Exhibit Opens
- 2 Member Cocktail Party, Museum and Gardens
- 18 Cocktail Party, Museum Board and Docents
- 28 Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM at OCC

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Piga-figa-licious, Noon - 2 PM, Oxford Fire Hall

OCTOBER

- 2 Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM at OCC

NOVEMBER

- 12 Museum Closes for the Winter

DECEMBER

- 8 Museum Holiday Party

Museum re-opens on Oxford Day - April 2018



Upcoming Exhibits

Religion and Historic Churches of Oxford and Beyond
A Bountiful Harvest: The Story of Farming in Our Region

Video Project

The Oxford Watermen video project;
you'll be hearing more about this in 2018

Museum Hours through November 12

Saturdays - 11 to 4; Sundays - Noon to 3
Mondays and Wednesdays - 11 to 3
Fridays - 11 to 1

Oxford History Talk a Resounding Success

More than 150 people attended the Museum's "Oxford: The First Three Centuries" lecture held on May 12 at the Oxford Community Center. Lisa Harrington, President of the Oxford Museum, presented the lecture, which was jointly sponsored by the Museum and the Community Center. The talk was based on the book of the same name, written by Dickson Preston and photographically illustrated by Norman Harrington, Lisa's father.

Membership Renewal

Memberships expired on July 1. If you have not yet renewed, please return your completed forms or call the Museum Office. Your membership dues are used to meet our daily expenses, and we are grateful for your support.

Attention New Residents: If you are new to Oxford, please call the office at 410-226-0191 for your complimentary one-year membership.

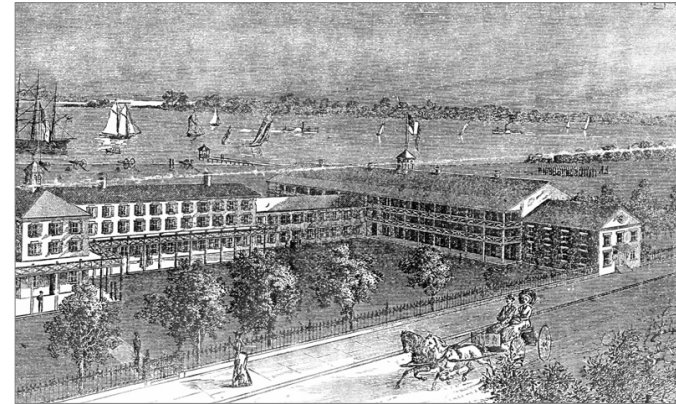
Museum Unveils "Scoundrels and Scandals" Exhibit

In 1885, a group of Oxford citizens launched the most ambitious project ever undertaken in the town - the opening of the Maryland Military and Naval Academy. By 1888, the school was out of business.

Why?

Not because of under-enrollment, high costs or too-low tuition. But because someone absconded with the school funds. Benedict J. Burgess, the school's superintendent, and/or his top associate, Professor J.C.M. Johnston, were suspected of being that "someone." Both men left town.

In an exhibit previewing on August 2, the Oxford Museum will tell the story of the ill-fated Academy and the scandals that plagued it. Over the coming months, this exhibit will expand to include the stories of additional colorful Oxfordians, including Robert Morris Sr. and General Tench Tilghman. The stories of their



lives, their adventures and escapades will be brought to life for the first time in many years. We'll introduce a new "scoundrel or colorful character" every couple of weeks between now and our close for the season in November.

More on the ill-fated academy...

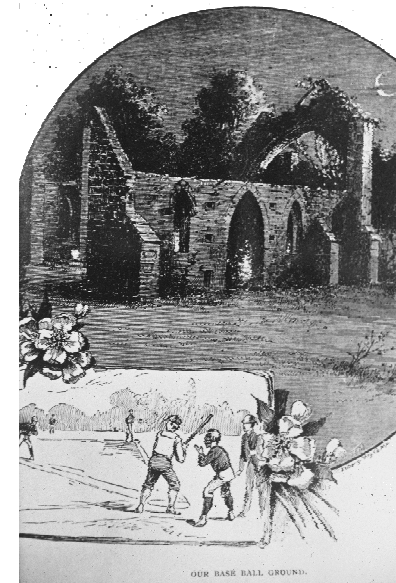
Lofty promises - the best ever! According to the Academy's marketing brochure, the school "is the only one in the US - or indeed the world - combining the systems of instruction of West Point and Annapolis and still more - adding full classical and scientific education." A later catalog said the school was a good preparatory school for Annapolis or West Point, or a "cram school" for those who flunked their entrance exams to either military academy on their first attempt.

Discerning (?) admissions policies. The school was depicted as a cheerful, friendly place catering only to "well-bred, high-minded boys and young men" who must be of good moral character, at least 14 years old and not less than 4'6" tall. Nothing was said about academic qualifications.

A bargain - for some! Tuition for most entrants was \$120 a year. Add expenses and the uniform cost, and the price rose to just under \$300. In today's dollars, that's about \$6,600.00. Definitely a bargain by today's standards, given what a four-year college costs. BUT...there was a catch. For boys "without an appointment" - i.e., those applicants the superintendent wished to discourage from entering, tuition was \$500 a year - or \$11,350.00.

Be forewarned - nothing frivolous here!

The school espoused a policy of firm discipline - but no corporal punishment. That's the good news. However, the school catalog issues a warning to prospective applicants: "A cadet who enters with the idea of having a good time in frivolous sport will find himself in the wrong place. Such a one is advised not to enter." One other caveat - reading of salacious "novels" was strictly forbidden.



President's Message

Just a quick note to let you know what we've been up to at the Museum. And - of course - to remind you to rejoin if you haven't already.

We were awarded a \$5000 grant! The Oxford Museum won a \$5000 grant from Talbot County to start work on digitalizing the Museum - creating a digital Oxford Experience. We're tremendously proud that we won this award. It will provide the seed money to fund the work we are doing to create a "digital" Oxford Museum - what we're calling "The Oxford Museum Interactive Experience Center." We intend to digitize our collection and create a series of digital collection assets that will be available to the public via smartphone, via the web on computers, and so on. This digital "presence" will allow the Museum to expand its reach beyond just its physical footprint on Morris Street.

So, watch for news on this effort as we begin work in September.

A new exhibit. In August, we'll unveil the first part of our next exhibit - "Scoundrels and Scandals: Tales from Oxford's Sensational Past." Our first scoundrel: Benedict Burgess, Superintendent of the Maryland Military and Naval Academy - who is thought to have absconded with the school's funds, thereby causing its untimely demise.

A record turnout. We had standing-room-only attendance at the "Oxford: The First Three Centuries" lecture in May.

Please be a docent! If you're not already a docent, please consider please consider volunteering. It's easy, doesn't require much time, and you get to meet some interesting folks. Just call the Museum to sign up.

Thanks as always for your support of the Museum. Have a great rest of the summer.

Lisa Harrington

Oxford Clerk/Treasurer Receives Hanks Award

The highlight of the Museum's annual meeting on June 9 was the presentation of the Douglas Hanks, Jr. Award for preservation within the Town of Oxford. Over the eleven years since the first presentation, the recipients of the award have represented many different efforts to preserve Oxford's treasured heritage.

This year the award recognized Cheryl Lewis, whose efforts as a very dedicated Administrator Clerk/Treasurer went above and beyond the scope of her position. Cheryl has exhibited her dedication to the town with a high degree of commitment and leadership. She has secured grants relating to the Oxford Mews property, she represented the town in the development of the Oxford Conservation Park, providing the town with a picturesque entrance to the town. She has also worked well with citizens and the Historic District Commission to improve and preserve historic properties. She is truly a public servant, and Oxford's citizens and the Oxford Museum are very appreciative of her efforts.

Congratulations Cheryl! Keep up the good work.