

## THE ELECTRIC BIKE

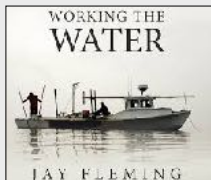
And the winner is ... Congratulations **Anne Menotti!** Our bike raffle was a



great success, thanks to many generous supporters. Over 300 tickets were sold and the proceeds will help cover some of the costs of the new Museum windows and the new "Dependency" coming this fall.

## THE MUSEUM STORE

The Museum Website Store is open! **Jay Fleming's** photos from our summer window exhibit, along with his book, **Working the Water**, are available for purchase.

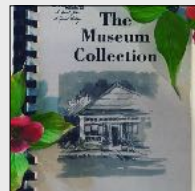


OXFORD MUSEUM COLORING BOOK  
For kids of all ages!



**Museum Cookbook**, along with many books on the History of Oxford and the area, from the Museum collection.

Be sure to check out the **Museum Coloring Book** featuring Oxford area artists and the



Go To: [www.oxfordmuseummd.org](http://www.oxfordmuseummd.org)



## President's Message WE ARE RESILIENT

Summer continues in Oxford with all of its heat and humidity. Somehow, this stifling heat wave is a lot easier to handle here. We can stroll to the water, hop on the ferry, or perhaps our own boat, find some cool breezes or a shade tree or two in the Park.

We continue to fight the COVID beast, now in its sixth month, as we wear face masks to protect ourselves and others, respect social distancing guidelines, elbow bump instead of handshake, and provide a welcoming atmosphere to all we meet. The Museum will remain closed until strong medical advice says otherwise.

But we are resilient! The Museum is alive and well and planning for the future. Behind our changing exhibit windows, volunteers have been busy sprucing up the building and grounds. With the help of a Maryland Humanities grant, we are able to replace our aging front windows with new Marvin windows which will look like the originals. You need only look to the Mews or the Oxford Social for models. What a difference it will make.

The Museum Garden has been carefully maintained by the Oxford Garden Club and is as beautiful as ever. Earlier this summer the benches were cleaned, the fence was painted, and you're welcome to enjoy the space anytime. Well, maybe not at 5 am when the sprinklers come on...



With the help of grants and donations, we petitioned the Historic Commission and have been granted permission to replace our poor old shed. No one can remember when the shed was built, although not historic, we think it was from the 70s. It is tired and rotted and its time has come. A new "dependency" building will be added soon.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with a myriad of projects. We need help with a new audio walking tour, transcribing old documents, researching Oxford's African American heritage, and so much more. Please contact the museum via email ([theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com)) or phone

## SPRING CLEAN UP

Chair of Building and Grounds Committee  
John Tochko led our clean up day in April.

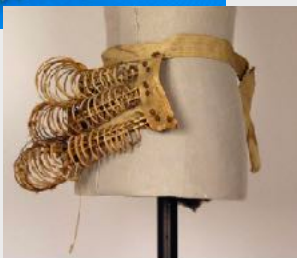


Thanks to the many board members who also participated and gave the Museum such a great spring spruce up!!

## WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Old photos and books are always exciting to stumble on but who expects to find a skirt, a bustle and an undergarment over 100 years old?

Oxford has its treasures and this one was recently found in the attic eaves of the **Academy House**.



*From the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, this pinterest.com photo shows the 1880's metal and wire coil bustle secured with a cotton waistband as displayed.*

So...What's in your attic?

(410-226-0191) if you can help. It's a great way to get out of the heat and learn some history. Have a great rest of the summer.

-Julie Wells, President

## The Bustle DID YOU KNOW

The recent discovery of a bustle form in an Oxford attic, raises the question, why a bustle? Such an unattractive contraption of metal and material, why would any woman wear such an awkward thing, aside from being 'slave to fashion' as they say. Did it serve any real purpose?

Well, apparently it did. A little internet research reveals a connection between the bustle and a full skirt. The full skirt was considered necessary to create the impression of a small waist. Depending on material used (think wool for winter), a full skirt could be quite heavy and tended to pull toward the back. Something was needed to help keep the skirt up and off the ground - voila, the bustle.

The bustle, which replaced the crinoline in fashion, was developed after the overskirt of the late 1860s was draped up toward the back and support was needed for the new draped shape.

The bustle was worn in different shapes for most of the 1870s and 1880s, from pads to more elaborate constructions, with a short period of non-bustled, flat-backed dresses in vogue from 1878 to 1882.

The bustle reappeared in late 1881 until 1889 when it was replaced by the corset. Today some fashion designers have used the bustle concept in their designs but I think most of us ladies would much prefer the figure friendly and easy to wear muu muu.

## Development Committee SECURING OUR FUTURE

In July, the Museum launched its new Development Committee, tasked with charting a three-year fundraising strategy and plan to secure our continued role as an active, vital member of the greater Oxford community. And, importantly, to build on its position as an ongoing steward of Oxford's unique heritage. The Museum's role is multi-faceted. It includes:

- Preserving the artifacts, stories, photographs, videos and documents that make up the tapestry of Oxford's history
- Presenting exhibits, tours and events (once it is safe to do so) that are educational and community-building
- Enhancing the Museum's presence in and contribution to the Town, museum members and visitors.

The development plan will identify special programs and projects that

## “THE DEPENDENCY”

The new shed being installed in the museum backyard is going to offer the museum much more than just the function of a shed, so what should it be called?

Board members are mulling on “**The Dependency**” for the name of the new shed. Colonial properties referred to their kitchen, privies and other out buildings as their dependencies. Stay tuned!

## EMPTYING THE SHED

John Tochko, Stuart Parnes, John Pittman, and photographer Scott



Rensberger (missing from the photo) remove the Kunher engine before the shed is demolished.

## NEXT UP EVENTS

**Community Open House** Sept. 5  
Oxford Community Center Lawn 9-11 am

**Oxford Picket Fence Auction** Sept. 25  
Oxford Community Center Patio 5 pm

support these missions, prioritize them, and map out budgets - again, with the goal of creating a three-year plan. It will explore and incorporate every avenue of potential funding: Grants, planned giving, membership/annual fund, special events, Town of Oxford contributions and more.

Two projects underway are a self-guided audio walking tour, which has been partially funded by an anonymous gift, and a “new shed” that is on order. It’s placement will begin the first phase of our backyard development plan. So...watch this space to see how our “securing our future” course evolves.

-Lisa Harrington, Chair of the Development Committee

## Curator’s News COMING NEXT TO OUR WINDOWS

### A Missing Piece of our Collective History

From the very beginnings of Oxford in the 1680’s, enslaved Black people have played critical roles in this community’s growth. Freed Black people continued to live and work in Oxford and made Oxford their home. Many opened stores, ran businesses, built churches



and contributed greatly to the success of the town. Their lives shaped the place we see today, yet the museum has not done enough to document and celebrate their contributions. This small exhibit is a first step. It grows out of recent work done in collaboration with members of the Waters Church and John Wesley Church, to collect their stories and preserve historic images of life in the village. As all of America re-examines the role of Black lives in our nation’s history, Oxford must do no less.

And don’t forget to ride the **Oxford-Bellevue Ferry**. Newly illustrated panels were installed last month to tell the Ferry’s 340-year story, a story that can be told in the time it takes to cross the Tred-Avon River. Amazing! This exhibit is funded by a grant from Maryland Humanities.



-Stuart Parnes, Curator

