

### WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Preserve Oxford's history, your history, BEFORE treasures become lost or beyond repair! These portraits were found in the attic of a newly purchased Oxford home. The new owner was just as sad as we were about these beautiful portraits. They are featured in our window this month. If you know who they are, please let us know!



### President's Message WINTER MUSINGS

Here we are in the winter doldrums, but the days have been anything but dull. The sun has been shining, the walkers are walking, runners are running, children are playing in the park. A little snow on Christmas made Oxford again, the perfect place to be.

As I write this, Joe Biden, our new president, has just been sworn in. Change is happening and so it is at the Museum. Please be sure to check our changing window displays. The current display features Norman Harrington's winter scenes of the 1940s in one window, and an example of what not to do with your prized keepsakes in the other window.

Recently, as a result of "What's in your attic?" in the Fall Newsletter, a new resident went looking in her attic while she was unpacking. She found several framed photos, most likely there for years. Time and heat were not kind to these photos and without any labeling, we have no idea who they are. Perhaps they may look familiar to you. There's no way for us to conserve these pieces as they are too far gone, but please, contact us if you need help or advice about how to preserve your precious history.

In December, Oxford museum hosted the Annual Caroling Event on ZOOM. Fellow Board member, Louisa Zendt put together a slide show of Oxford lights and decorated houses and with the help of Pat Ingram, they combined music and lyrics. Over 70 people came online to sing with each other in their homes. Great to have this tradition continue.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

We're just waiting, as COVID dominates our lives and dictates our calendar!

Traditionally, the Museum opens on Oxford Day for our "Season" of spring, summer and early fall hours. We expect we will need to delay the opening again this year, but stay tuned for news of other exciting events and unique exhibits ahead!

## THE GREAT OXFORD SCAVENGER HUNT

Don't miss out on the fun while you rack up the miles on your Oxford walks!

In collaboration with the Oxford Community Center, we have a challenge for you: 10 scavenger hunts to stretch your observation skills and add some focus to your winter and early spring walks.



Pick up the first sheet of thumbnail photos of Oxford Icons at the Museum or at OCC. Identify each photo and submit your completed form to the Donation Box at the Museum. Watch your rankings go up on the tally board in the Museum window! Prizes will be given after all 10 hunts are complete.

If you would like to print your own copy, [email the Museum](#) for a pdf.

## President's Message CONTINUED

On a sad note, we mourn the loss of our fellow Board member and past president, Gordon Graves. Gordon was a one-of-a-kind gentleman and friend to many, and is greatly missed.



In response to his wishes, a memorial fund has been set up for Gordon at the Museum. Donations are gratefully accepted.

As a Board, we have been working hard on a strategic plan for the Museum which includes some ambitious projects. You may have noticed our new "Dependency", or shed, in our backyard. Lots more to come in the backyard and around town.

We appreciate deeply your support of our Annual Fund. It's been a successful year despite our restrictions. History lives on and we're making history every day.

Thank you again for your continued support as we see brighter, virus free days ahead.

See you on a walk,

Julie Wells  
President

PS: We have the very last of Jay Fleming's 2021 Calendar available in our [online store!](#) Only 5 copies left, your chance to enjoy his photos all year!





## OXFORD AUDIO TOUR

After a year of meetings, research, writing and receiving a grant to cover the technology and application fees, we are almost ready to unveil (or turn on!) the Museum's Oxford Audio Tour!

The tour will cover 35 sites in Oxford with interesting and humorous audio, along with a few images of each site. You can walk, bike or cruise in your car to enjoy our tour.



All this will come to you through a link to a website that you can view for free on your smart

phone. Stay tuned for a release date.

## DOUGLAS HANKS JR. PRESERVATION AWARD

Nominations are being accepted to recognize extraordinary efforts by individuals and organizations in preserving the unique history and heritage of Oxford. The annual award celebrates restoration and renovation, service in preservation, stewardship and lifetime contributions.

Details can be found on the [Museum website](#).

[Nomination Forms](#) should be received by April 30, 2021.

## Preserving The Past AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

Our Black Lives in Oxford exhibit contributed to many conversations this past fall and our Facebook posting connected Oxford to new and old friends far and wide.

This past month a call was made to the Museum by a woman in northern Maryland. She was eager to share some old "family papers" she had found,



that she suspected were of important historical significance. The Museum embraced the opportunity to review and advise on the "papers" and the findings are extraordinary.

The "papers" belonged to a free born slave named David Canady

who had lived in Centerville, Maryland. These papers, dated 1825, included a letter from the Court of Queen Anne's County, a Manumission Certificate and a marriage certificate. The letter claims Mr. Canady was a man of "about 24 years of age, of yellow complexion, five feet six inches high and has a scar on his left arm about his elbow and on his left side." The county seal is prominent on the beautifully scribed letter.

Museum President Julie Wells knew immediately what she needed to do. She contacted the historian of Queen Anne County, who recently founded The Maryland Museum of Women's History, located in Centerville at Locust Hill, to be sure these papers were kept in Centerville and researched and restored properly.

The story of this young man is unfolding and will be part of a virtual exhibit at The Maryland Museum of Women's History: **From Enslavement to Emancipation: Voices Not Heard**. To learn more details about this coming exhibit please go to their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Maryland-Museum-of-Womens-History>

## REMEMBER WHEN?



Actually, this last big ice on the Tred Avon was just three years ago, in January, 2018!

## THE MUSEUM ONLINE

Click the links below to connect you to our many online museum resources and follow us on social media:



**EMAIL ...** write to us!  
Share your story, your news, or your findings about Oxford.



**WEBSITE ...** navigate Oxford Museum details, the history of Oxford, our Museum Store, and more.



**FACEBOOK ...** follow our news and current events as they happen.



**INSTAGRAM ...** engage with our followers and see what's happening in Oxford.

## Coming Soon to the Windows VALENTINES

*Also called **Saint Valentine's Day**, February 14 is when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. The holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At*



*the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I replaced Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day. It came to be celebrated as a day of romance from about the 14th century. Valentine's Day is celebrated on Sunday, February 14, 2021.*  
- [britannica.com](http://britannica.com)

At the Museum, we are honoring and exhibiting in our February window, Oxford relationships—and some are historic! We are especially happy to be celebrating Oxford's favorite tour guides Leo and Jean Nollmeyer, as they share their 60 year history that commenced on February 4, 1961.

Share your story too! Send us your now and then photos and the history of your love story for our window exhibit that will run from Valentine's Day through March. Can you beat Leo and Jean's 60 year commitment?

## From the Collection GOOD GOLLY WHAT'S THIS?!



This interesting artifact was recently found and donated to the Museum, without any identification.

A little research quickly made its purpose known and we are delighted to add it to our collection. But, before we do, CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT? It is about six inches long, it is heavy, and the bottom piece comes out if turned correctly!