

SUMMER 2021

SUMMER TOURS OF OXFORD



Thank you **LEO!** Have you met our best tour guide? Leo Nollmeyer has been guiding Cambridge cruise ship tours in Oxford for many years and gives small private tours when called on. He is one of our best Museum volunteers. Thank you Leo, for all you do!

AUDIO TOURS On your own time, using your smartphone, you can access the 35+ places in Oxford to know about. Just use the QR code here to purchase a \$5 link or email the Museum to get your member's free pass!



theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

This past month we received a real treasure, not from an attic, but from behind the walls of a great Oxford home, a home that is not even as old as this great treasure.

While removing a wood panel in their dining room, they found this timetable for Oxford passengers on the **Delaware Division of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad**. This schedule went into "effect on June 16, 1890." With a magnifying glass, you might see that Oxford's train arrives at 7am! Not sure when it leaves Oxford, it is very hard to decipher the bottom right of the schedule. The panel is in the Museum, come see for yourself!



Check out the corners of your attic or basement, or if given the chance, behind your walls! What relics of Oxford's past lie within, just waiting to be discovered to teach and entertain us? Let us know what you find.



John Moll painting acquired June 2021 from the Van Winkle family.

President's Message OPENINGS AND ACQUISITIONS

Ahhh, a summer without the fear of COVID, at least for most of us, and did we celebrate! Our first, official, maskless backyard party, our Annual Meeting, was on June 16 and over half of our membership attended. It was a beautiful afternoon with an open bar, plenty of nibbles provided by our awesome board members, Douglas Hanks Award speeches and announcements. It was a great street party and I'd say, a good time was had by all.

So what's next? A Members Preview Party! Come on July 30th at 5 pm for a preview of our opening-of-our-doors exhibit, *Oxford From A to Z*. Stuart Parnes and his exhibit committee have been working very hard on this exhibit and I'm sure you'll love it and want to bring your friends and family back as soon as you can to see it. We promise to have teasers in the front windows soon.

Speaking of teasers, our backyard is almost finished and looking more lovely by the day, as the new sod takes hold and the flowers bloom. This is a pollinator garden so hopefully the bees will show up and take sips of nectar. Our Donor Garden with Donor Daisies is also taking hold! If you haven't donated to the backyard project yet then we have not planted a Donor Daisy with your name on it! Please help fund the backyard renovation. Just go on the website or drop a check in the outdoor box. We have yet to install the outdoor exhibit panels as well as a table, chairs and a bench, so we're not finished yet! COME GROW WITH US.

I hope you enjoy reading about our recent acquisitions and Jane Tucker, the second Oxford woman featured in a series recognizing remarkable women and great contributions to the history and culture of our town.

And finally, don't forget the new audio walking tour of Oxford is free for members. If you haven't taken the tour yet, you should. I guarantee you'll learn something new.

Enjoy the beautiful weather and watch out for our invitation to the Members Preview Party on July 30th.

Julie Wells, President

RECENT AQUISITIONS

Elizabeth Tilghman's signed slippers along with her father, Col. Tench Tilghman's portrait were donated by Jim and Cindy Reed.



This botany journal entry on "The Dandelion" was written by 10 year old Erma B Stewart in 1895. Erma was a beloved Oxford School teacher in the early 1900s. Donated by Susan Stewart.



A scale model of the passenger steamer *Cambridge*, built in 1890 in Baltimore, donated by Gail Van Winkle.

Douglas Hanks Preservation Award

On June 16, 2021, at the annual meeting of the Oxford Museum two recipients of the 2020 Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award were recognized and honored for a renovation project and service to Mr. Hanks' beloved home town. The awards were presented by Tot O'Mara:

In 1878 James Norris built a hotel on property adjoining what is today the Oxford Park on Morris Street. The hotel did not prosper, and the building was later incorporated into the campus of the short-lived Maryland Military and Naval Academy. Hard times and a fire reduced the structure to the current building that has over the years housed numerous shops and businesses. Today it houses one of Oxford's newest and most popular businesses, the Oxford Social.



Extensive renovation has taken a sad lifeless building and made it a centerpiece of a rejuvenated downtown business section of Oxford. Friends gather and enjoy delicious baked goods, exotic coffees and Oxford's own wonderful Highland Creamery ice cream. For this extensive and beautiful renovation of 102 South Morris Street the Oxford Museum awards a 2020 Hanks Preservation award to Richard and Christine Leggett.

In order to preserve, one must know what exists. While Oxford has its natural beauty, its culture, way of life and people are just as important as its setting. Knowing what is going on around town is vitally important to keeping Oxford a vibrant community.

Ray Stevens has taken on the role of town crier with his informative weekly emails. Every Thursday he sends to countless Oxford citizens and friends a weather report, a heads up on any upcoming astronomical sightings of interest, a reminder of upcoming community events, local business news and an overall view of the town formed by his early morning walks. Often interesting pictures are added, and the result is a digital history of everyday life in our town. In recognition of his service to the town of Oxford, the Museum awards Ray Stevens a 2020 Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award.

Exhibit News

The Eddie Cutts Exhibit in the new windows was well received this spring, as we knew it would be. This beloved Oxfordian and the history of Cutts and Case connects to the founding grounds of the Oxford Museum. Did you know that the oldest house standing in Oxford, the Byberry House, sits on Town Creek on Cutts and Case's waterfront? And, the Museum now sits on the ground that was the original foundation of the early 1700 residence, the Byberry house, before it was moved to its current site in 1929. There are many stories about the ongoings in this house when it was on the

THE BACKYARD PROJECT UPDATE

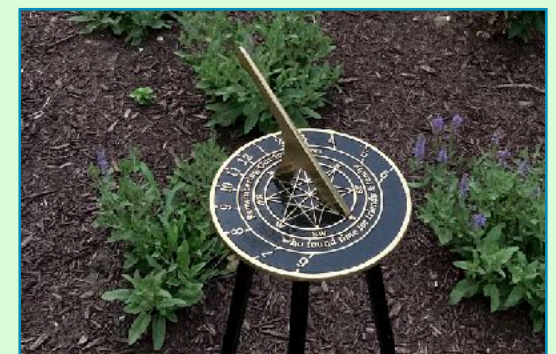
THANKS TO YOU, and to so many generous Oxford residents, friends, businesses and sponsors, we have met the challenge grant and the newly developed backyard is *nearly* paid for and ready for you to enjoy!

In fact, on June 16, we did enjoy our first backyard gathering. The annual members meeting was held in this quaint new space and was enjoyed by many members.



Just in time for the party we were able to get the backyard sodded, the garden planted and the new fence along Market Street installed.

A sundial in memory of Gordon Graves was also installed and graces the new pollinator garden. Antique land and water tools, and an engine, are currently on display, with didactic panels and outdoor furniture coming this fall.



corner of Morris and Market, where the Museum now stands. You will have to stop by or dip into Dickson Preston's book, *The First Three Hundred Years of Oxford*, or take the Oxford Audio Tour, to learn more!

The Museum is finally opening its front door, post Covid, and we are excited about the opening exhibit, *Oxford A to Z*. So many details are included and yet we are sure you will come up with many more Oxford icons, people and events that could have been added. The richness of Oxford's history and people is infinite! We hope you will stop by and learn something new. We hope to open the first weekend of August, and renew our regular hours of Friday through Monday, 10 am to 4 pm, through the fall.

Our Backyard Panels are in the works. Stay tuned for the development of this outdoor exhibit of the history of Oxford that will be on permanent display in the fall.

Remarkable Women of Oxford

SECOND IN SERIES

Jane Tucker (Oct 8, 1918 - August 19, 2006)

A "come here" with her second marriage to Earnest Tucker in 1962, Jane quickly established herself on the Strand and over the next 44 years contributed to the Oxford and Talbot County communities in multiple and remarkable ways. Her obituary is an incredible account of her life's work and community contributions.

Before her move to Oxford, Jane chose business positions in Washington, D.C. to satisfy a lust for learning and educational opportunities. Her first office appointment was the State Department's Lend-Lease Program where she prepared letters for President Roosevelt's signature. Long hours and accurate stenographic work were required in the office of U.S. Senator Alexander Wiley (R-Wisc). The owner-publisher of American Aviation Publications encouraged her personal development of creative writing. As Traffic Manager for Washington's Good Music Radio Station WQQW she also wrote commercials for aired programs. She joined the Wells Organization, a church fund-raising national firm based in Chicago, supervising the growth of their field offices from 5 to 28 cities. When she returned to Baltimore, she joined the staff of Dr. W. Barry Wood, Johns Hopkins University and the Hospital's only joint Vice President. After the death of her mother she located in Annapolis, concentrating on St. John's College alumni and fund-raising activities.

A re-acquaintance with Ernest Tucker, marine architect, resulted in marriage at St. Anne's Church in Annapolis; they lived in nearby Cumberstone, West River, where she learned sailing aboard their sloop Half Pint. They moved to Oxford's Strand in 1962 and she was soon appointed Clerk-Treasurer for the Town, a position she held for ten years, adjusting and relaxing in this small waterman's town with its constant lure of sailing, until Ernest's fatal heart attack during the 1981 Oxford Boat Regatta.

Jane became a community activist, with her services recognized by the DAR General Perry Benson Chapter Community Service Award, and the Maryland-Talbot County Most Beautiful Volunteer Award.

Following years as Curatorial Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, she was elected an Emerita Board of Governors. As President of the Easton Hospital

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS?!

Jeff Fellows worked both ends of the Museum this spring and summer installing new front windows and new door to the backyard. Jay Heim and John Schofield lent their talents, respectively to the front and back projects.



Along with Museum Curator Stuart Parnes and Chair of Building and Grounds John Totchko, Reese and Leane Meisinger also jumped in and joined the



painting crew after the windows and doors were installed.

We also recognized the work of Elaine Cox and Lisa Harrington at our annual meeting, as they finished multiple terms on the Museum board this past June. Many thanks to them both for their vision, service and leadership..



STAYING IN TOUCH . . .

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Auxiliary for two different terms, she established an endowment known as the Million Dollar Auxiliary Endowment Fund, Memorial Hospital Foundation. She was proud to supervise an elite corps of Candy-Stripers from a nucleus of 5 to 52 young girls, some of whom later trained as nurses. She served 15 years on the Advisory committee of MacQueen Gibbs Willis School of Nursing.

Elected a member of the Maryland Historical Society, she actively served on the Talbot County Historical Society Board of Trustees, wrote their monthly newsletter, and became a life member. For 8 years she served as a trustee of the Talbot County Free Library.

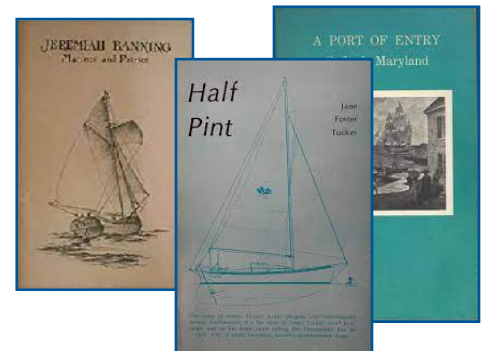
Jane worked for many years for the Oxford Library, held successive offices, organized their annual book sale, and was appointed Board Emerita in 2005. A founding member of the Oxford Museum, she served as its first secretary. Working closely with Sue Jackson of Otwell, Jane was the first Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed Oxford's Tercentenary Committee with Norman Harrington. She had served 16 years as elections judge, District 3, Talbot County; and has served as secretary of the local Republican Women of Talbot County. She was appointed by Town Commissioners to their Port Warden Committee, the Historical Committee, the Zoning Appeals Board, and Recreation Board. A life member of the Oxford Fire Auxiliary, she was cited for continued contributions as a member of the Oxford Social Correspondent for 3 years with the "Star Democrat" newspaper.

Jane devoted hours of research to write and publish monographs for the benefit of Oxford's newly organized historical activities; these included Port of Entry - Oxford; Perdita; The Oxford Library; Jermiah Banning - Mariner and Patriot; and a recent second essay - Oxford Library from Concept to Fulfillment. Her memoir of Dr. W. Barry Wood was accepted by the Hopkins Medical Institution's Chesney Medical Archives, an achievement lauded by her friends. A memoir about Ernest Tucker and his boat Half Pint became a small booklet as gifts to friends. Recently she has substantially completed an extensive paper titled Em's Story - about her mother's turbulent long life, which will be printed posthumously and distributed to interested family and friends.

The Museum has a collection of Jane's published works and photographs that we are happy to share for those wanting to learn more about her life's work.



Class of 1935,
Towson High School, Alumni Hall of Fame



Jane Foster Tucker,