

THE MUSEUM FARM!

Did you know that we planted Indian corn, tobacco and cucumbers along the backside of the new Dependency this summer? Our crop yielded about 15 lovely cucumbers and 20 colorful ears of corn. We also had plans to try and grow tobacco to re-live



days of old in Oxford, but the plants failed us before we even got them in the ground! If you have an interest in our "colonial farming", let us know and you can join other volunteers to plan for Summer 2022.

CANCELED

Members' Holiday Party

At Holy Trinity Parrish Hall
December 11th, 5 - 7 pm

We are all trying to stay safe and healthy!

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

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 out about Oxford's past.



John Pepe races the Slippery Eel on the Tred Avon in August

President's Message SCENES FROM THE SUMMER

Hello Members and Friends:

Our summer season at the museum started with a party. In June we celebrated the completion of the backyard project and more than 100 members and friends delighted in a view of our new outdoor space from across the fence as we partied on Market Street. It was such a nice evening. We announced then that the new exhibit, "Oxford A-Z", would open on July 31.

On July 30, we had a preview party for our members and again, over 100 of you came to have a look at this fabulous exhibit inside the museum which opened the following day to the public. But COVID-19 had other plans. It was lurching at our back door and on August 16, we closed again due to an increase in COVID break-through and non-vaccinated infections. We thought we were back in business. We had two weeks and over 200 guests visit our museum. So history is writing itself when we think of this deadly virus and what an effect it has had on our society, our museum and our community.

Despite the calamity of opening and closing the building, the museum is holding its own. Thanks to your generosity and spirit, we can continue to improve our space and plans are ongoing to create wonderful backyard exhibit panels that will be fun and informative and open 24/7. The Audio Tour is also available and is free to members. A new printed walking guide, to replace the last one completed 11 years ago, is refreshed and printed. So behind the scenes we are making history as well and adapting to this situation again.

Stop by and watch the progress unfold again in the backyard as our outdoor exhibit takes shape. Enjoy the beautiful Fall weather, the butterflies in the garden and the progress of The Mews and all that Oxford has to offer.

Julie Wells,
President

THE MUSEUM STORE

IT'S ALWAYS OPEN!

Are you a late night shopper? You can visit the Museum Store online and make purchases through the Museum website anytime! And Oxford residents enjoy free shipping, as we deliver to your door!

There are new books and gift items added all the time but this summer we were thrilled to add Salisbury Pewter to our collection.



Wouldn't these make great holiday gifts?!
You can find them in the Museum Store Online

TOURING OXFORD

Enjoy the new **OXFORD AUDIO TOUR** on your own time, anytime, using your smartphone. You can access 35+ places in Oxford. It's about a 1 to 2 hour walk. [Email the Museum](#) to get your member's free pass, non-members \$5.00.

The **OXFORD WALKING GUIDE** is hot off the press, with a map, photos, dates and details for those who like to walk without their devices! Available at the [Museum Store online](#) for \$5.00.

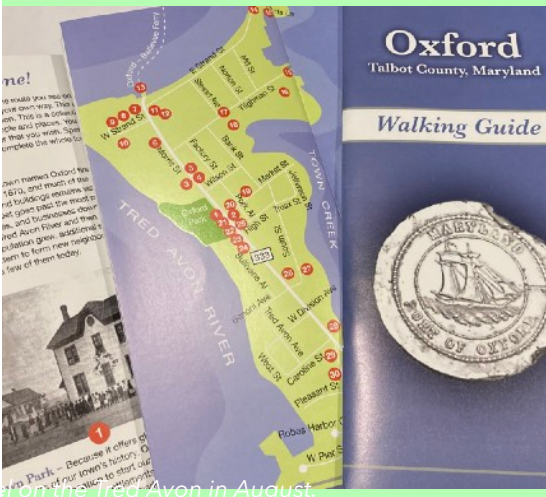
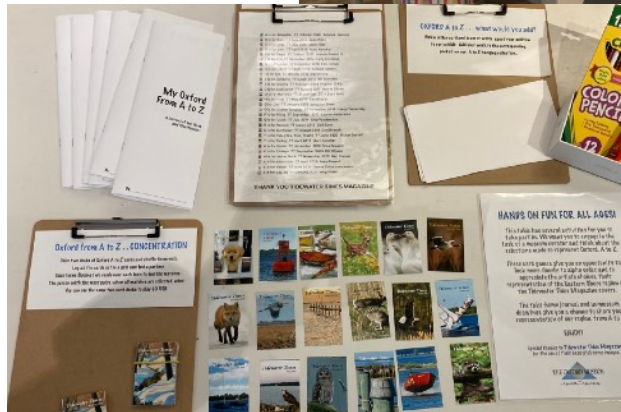


Exhibit News OXFORD A - Z

Our summer exhibit, "**Oxford A - Z**", remains intact while we are closed, waiting for the Museum to re-open. We hope you have enjoyed tidbits of this exhibit shared on social media and here in this newsletter while you wait! This exhibit gave us a chance to go through our incredible inventory in storage to share some favorite items and remembrances. We hope in time, when it is safe, you will be able to enjoy this exhibit indoors.

A new family corner was created with this exhibit with hands on activities designed to engage young and old. A card deck of A - Z Talbot County images and a journal to record and illustrate your "**Oxford A - Z**" experiences are two of the activities that attracted youngsters while we were open in August.



B is for Baseball

From the late 1800's on baseball was an obsession on Delmarva.

On the Eastern Shore, teams were originally made up of mostly farm and cannery workers, the two largest industries here at the time. Records show that games were being played in Talbot County in 1866, and that within a year Easton, St. Michael's, Oxford and Trappe had all organized teams.

This heavy woolen uniform dates to the 1930's. The team photo is 20 years later, with the winning Oxford team proudly showing off its trophy.

The dugouts and diamond remain on the field behind the Oxford Community Center, but the crack of the bat is seldom heard any more.

R is for Railroad

Dreams of a railroad connection to Oxford began with Trench Tilghman in 1840, but financial setbacks and the Civil War delayed the actual construction of the line through Easton to Oxford until 1871. It opened up the Eastern Shore to passenger travel and, more importantly, brought speedy delivery of oysters and crabmeat to the prime East Coast markets.

The train made several stops between Easton and Oxford. The terminus of the Oxford line was near the waterfront at Pier Street.

The Pennsylvania Railroad System took over the line in 1882, improving service and connections. But the steady advance of automobile and truck traffic gradually ate away at the railroad's profits. Passenger service to Oxford ended in 1949, and the last freight train departed in 1957.

VOLUNTEERISM BEHIND THE SCENES

Much appreciation continues to go to the many who have given time and expertise to our ongoing backyard project, indoor and outdoor exhibits, publications, event planning and Museum maintenance. We have an incredibly committed Board of Trustees who are involved in every aspect of Museum business and activities. As an all-volunteer organization, it is amazing what this little Museum and our community can accomplish. Thank you for doing your part as an active volunteer or a steward of the Museum.

If you have time and an interest in taking a greater role in the ongoing work of the Museum and special projects, please let us know! We would love to add you to our list of volunteers. Painting fences, transcribing documents, docenting when we open, are just a few of the "always could use more help" tasks! Sign up to be on our Volunteer List by [Emailing the Museum!](#)



Brian Wells and John Tochko (along with Julie Wells, Mark Lacey and John Pittman, not shown) installing the new fountain in the Museum side garden.



Stuart Parnes, Tom Bixler, Reese Meisinger and John Pepe install the Fresnel Lens in the Museum for the Oxford A to Z exhibit.

Backyard Project Update THE FOUNTAIN

Originally conceived as a Memorial Fountain, part of our planning for the backyard included transplanting the overgrown crab apple tree in the circle of the side garden and moving it to the backyard gardens to make way for a fountain.

After months of waiting, the fountain finally arrived in September and has been installed.

The garden, beautifully designed and maintained by the Oxford Garden Club, is in its fall glory right now. With the fountain in place, this is just another lovely spot to sit and relax and enjoy your coffee and conversation in Oxford!



Recent Acquisitions TO THE COLLECTION

This colorful, 1892 unfinished 5'x5' "crazy quilt" was donated to the Museum by Barbara Ranson of Oxford Vintage & Trade.

Crazy quilts became popular in the late 1800s, likely due to the English embroidery and Japanese art that was displayed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

American audiences were drawn to the satin stitches used in English embroidery, which created a painterly surface, which is reflected in many Crazy Quilts. (Wikipedia)



A Grandfather Clock, also known as a Longcase or Tallcase Clock, was donated this summer to the Museum by the Anderson Family from Anderton Farm on Oxford Road.

Both of these new acquisitions have stories of their own that we hope to tell in the future. Many thanks to the donors for adding to the Museum's collection.



Remarkable Women of Oxford THIRD IN OUR SERIES

Thelma Anna Cooper Alford 1910 - 2004

Thelma Alford, born and raised in Oxford, Maryland, was one of 13 children. In her late teen years she attended Bowie State Normal School where she pursued a teaching degree. The early death of her father required Thelma to leave school after two years and return to Oxford. She left college with a teaching certificate, but that did not prepare her for her first assignment at the one-room schoolhouse in Cordova as the only teacher for 40 students. Ms. Alford would go on to spend 15 years in Philadelphia where she met and married Boyd Arliss Alford. After returning to Oxford she became civically active. In addition to her work as an educator, Thelma Alford is best known for her work in establishing the Talbot Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The local chapter began in 1949. To generate interest she held informational meetings at Waters United Methodist Church in Oxford and within six weeks had solicited 51 members.



She went on to serve two terms as both Vice President and President of the NAACP. In the mid-50s Thelma served as President on the district level. She was also very involved in her church, Waters UMC, where she was elected to serve on the policy committee under four Bishops. Alford also served on the Board of Directors for the Red Cross, the Board of Directors for the Oxford Community Center, the Oxford Planning/Zoning Commission, and the Committee for Desegregation of Talbot County Schools.

A famous tale told in Oxford is that after the State of Maryland passed the law allowing blacks to be served in restaurants, Thelma decided to test it out. On the day the bill was passed she was in Annapolis to witness this event, and she stopped at a restaurant on Kent Island on her way home. The hostess at the desk informed her that they didn't serve black people. Supposedly, Thelma replied that that was all right because she didn't eat any.

Thelma passed away in 2004 at the age of 93. One of her survivors was daughter Doreatha Rasin, who served on the Board of the Oxford Museum among other community activities.

Source: Talbot Historical Society's 2018 exhibit "The Women of Talbot County."

The Oxford Puzzler #1

Last winter many people enjoyed the Community Center's "Oxford Walks" challenge and the weekly Oxford Museum Scavenger Hunt. Both designed to keep our minds and bodies engaged while we endured round one of the COVID pandemic. This fall we offer a new challenge—The Oxford Puzzler.

How well do you know Oxford?

Print this page, solve the puzzle and turn your completed puzzle in to the Donation Box to the left of the Museum's front door.

We will score and tally and let you know when the next puzzle is available.

Don't forget to put your name on your puzzle!

Oxford Puzzler #1

Across

4. Cars and Coffee are regulars here

10. Newest museum in town

11. Historically challenged

13. Former lodging house on Morris Street at site of RMI

14. Early risers seek these

15. You might come to Oxford to do this

16. First name of the Academy founder and a general

Down

1. Best sunset seating in town

2. Homemade Oxford treat

3. A vehicle for work, play or transport

5. A plethora of gifts

6. Rarely do we complain of this in Oxford

7. Oldest watering hole in town

8. Often confused with bow

9. Feels like Cheers

12. Type of one-design racing sailboat