

2022 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

• April 23

Museum Reopens on Oxford Day!
Come enjoy the Museum with backyard music and refreshments after the Oxford Day Parade.

• May 19

Paintings from the Museum's Permanent Collection Members Preview Party, 5-7pm.
Join us for this special members only preview exhibit.

• May 21 and 22

Paintings from the Museum's Permanent Collection: Special Exhibit at St. Paul's Church.
10am-5pm on Saturday, 10am-4pm on Sunday.

• June 11

Remember When...Memories and Musings: The story behind the Oxford Market Mural with Howard Lapp and Dorothy Fenwick, moderated by Tot O'Mara.
5-6:30pm, location to be determined.



• June 17

Members Annual Meeting at the Museum, 5-7pm.
The presentation of the annual Douglas Hanks Memorial Preservation Award and a report of the Museum's Strategic Plan.

• October 29 - December 16

Special Exhibit *Crossroads: Changes in Rural America*, an exhibit from the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street program.



President's Message HAPPY SPRING!

Dear Friends,

Ahh! As I write, it's the first day of Spring! I'd love to spend another day in the garden or just walk around town. The Star Magnolia is in full bloom at 201 N Morris, usually the first tree to bloom in Oxford. If you have a chance and it's not too late, stop and take in the sight and the smell of that beautiful tree, owned by my dear friend, Jim Snyder. It was planted in 1993 as a memorial to Joan Snyder's father, Roy Hoffman. It's quite the specimen but it doesn't last long.

Speaking of not lasting long, on May 21 and 22, the Museum is sponsoring a special exhibit: *Paintings from the Museum's Permanent Collection* showcasing over 20 paintings from Oxford Museum's archives. The exhibit will be displayed at St. Paul's Church, 225 S. Morris St., Oxford, from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. Admission is free. A "members only" Preview Party will be on May 19 at 5 pm. Stayed tuned for the party details. This special exhibit compliments the Oxford Community Center's Fine Arts Show running from May 20-22. We hope you can make it to both events.



And I've saved the best news for last, THE MUSEUM IS OPENING FOR THE SEASON ON APRIL 23, OXFORD DAY! Hooray! Our windows have kept the Museum alive, but It seems like forever since our doors have opened and now we also have a backdoor to open, as well! We hope you are enjoying this beautiful new backyard space with the Oxford Timeline exhibit and benches. Come by often and watch as we develop our pollinator and cottage gardens.

We hope to see you in the Museum soon. Our hours are 10 am - 4 pm on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact the Museum if you'd like to volunteer as a docent, a painter, a researcher ...or just about anything.

See you around our beautiful, springtime town!

Julie Wells
President

HISTORY RETURNED

The Yankee Pedler has returned! Thanks again to Campbells Boatyard, the Oxford Community Center and the many volunteers who brought him back to prime condition. As someone recently stated, "That little boat is truly the 'welcome sign' to Oxford."



OXFORD SCHOOL REVISITED

The Oxford Community Center is celebrating their 40th anniversary and its founding based on Oxford community's strength and determination, in 1981, to save the beloved school building. The Oxford School was built in 1928 and remained in operation, serving many of today's Oxford residents, until it closed its doors in 1971 and sent its students to Easton. This remarkable building was scheduled for demolition, until a groundswell from the village protested and committed to the founding of a community center. Persistence and Preservation gave us our beloved OCC of today. Follow the OCC "Save our School" story online, <https://oxfordcc.org/>



Oxford early school days are also featured in our current window display. These school buildings were on the north side of Town Park in the late 1800's.



An Oxford Treasure ANDERTON



Reprinted from The Oxford Historian, Fall 2008, by Beth Schucker

As you drive down the Oxford Road, you pass the sign "Anderton 1660," a frequent reminder that Oxford existed before it became a pin point on a map in 1669 or an official port in 1683. Anderton was one of the Tred Avon plantations apportioned by a land grant in 1659. Its owner, John Anderton, built the house you see at the end of the tree-lined driveway in 1660. It's been added to over the years, but remarkably the main part of the house with its distinctive roof line and dormers are intact. That it has survived 348 years as a frame house with random width weatherboarding is extraordinary. By 1670, Anderton's tobacco plantation prospered. Since those early days, the land has been divided at least once, but it has always been farmed. Little is known about Anderton residents until the early 1940s when William Anderson of Oxford borrowed money from boat builder, A.B. Harris, and bought the farm from James Stuart. Anderson had established himself in Oxford in the early 1930s. Through his sister, Grace, married to Raymond Delahay who owned Pope's Tavern, Anderson met his wife, Virginia. Their first son, William, Jr., was born while Anderson worked for Delahay at Popes. He later built his own store which eventually he sold to the Bringmans, which now houses the Oxford Museum. Anderson loved farming. He always had from his days growing up on a farm in Chestertown. Whenever he wasn't at his store, he was working the 110 acres of corn and soybeans, especially during planting and harvest seasons. Raymond Cooper and his wife, Sarah, who was the aunt of Bobby Banks, lived in the farm house during those early years; he helped work the farm. It wasn't until after a renovation in the 1960s that the Andersons took up residence at Anderton.

The second Anderson son, Kenny, lives at Anderton today. Since he took over the farm after his parents died in the early 1990s, he has hired it out, still growing corn and soybeans. Kenny weaves fascinating stories about helping on the farm as a kid, giving tender care to pigs, chickens and at one time, 15 head of beef cattle. Little pigs were bought, 100 at a time, grown and sold at the Wye Mills market. Kenny ran the chicken operation housed on Judith's Garden. He drove the tractor and tilled the fields. Kenny loves animals. He used to keep peacocks and guinea fowl. Unfortunately, a few too many times, the birds encountered traffic on the Oxford Road. But he still maintains the 1660 plantation house. We salute his dedication to preservation.

Kenny Anderton remained a bachelor and upon his recent death bequeathed his estate to several entities that were most important to him. Among them were the Oxford Museum. We are very grateful to Kenny for remembering us with his bequest.

SPRING 2022

THE MUSEUM STORE

Always Open! And Oxford residents enjoy free shipping, we deliver to your door!

<https://oxfordmuseummd.square.site/s/shop>

OXFORD AUDIO TOURS

Available to you on your own time, using your smartphone.

Access 35+ places of interest in Oxford to know about. Just use the QR code here to purchase a \$5 link or email the Museum to get your FREE Members's pass! The link is good for seven days.

theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com



THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The annual fund drive is ongoing and supports the operational costs of our all-volunteer, board-led small museum. We hope you are able to participate. <https://oxfordmuseummd.square.site/membership-donation>

BEQUESTS

Bequests can be made at anytime, please consider the Museum in your estate planning.

THE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The membership drive is ongoing, your membership renewal email will arrive when your membership expires. New to Oxford? Go to our Website and become a member!

<https://oxfordmuseummd.org>

VOLUNTEERS

We seek new volunteers and welcome your interest, anytime, especially for the Fall 2022 Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. Please send us an email if you are interested and we will be in touch. Or let us know if you can attend an upcoming docent training session on April 19 at 2pm, April 20 at 9am or on April 24 at 4pm.

theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com

Thank you!

Exhibit News A BUSY SEASON AHEAD

We open for our 2022 season on April 23 with the exhibit *Oxford A to Z* curated by Stuart Parnes. An "anthology" of history, the exhibit offers views covering different periods and facets of Oxford. For example, "R" is for Railroad. Dreams of a railroad connection to Oxford began with Tench Tilghman in 1840, but financial setbacks and the Civil War delayed the construction of the line to Oxford until 1871. The train made several stops between Easton and Oxford with the terminus of the line near the waterfront at Pier Street. Speedy delivery of oysters and crabmeat to prime east coast markets and passenger travel to Wilmington and Philadelphia on this Pennsylvania Railroad line ended in 1957.

"W" is for Weddings and displayed is an early 20th silk wedding dress. Not to give away too much, but the dress is reported to be from Paris and the couple had a most unusual wedding time. See the exhibit to finish this tale and browse for more and equally fascinating stories corresponding to the other letters of the alphabet. *Oxford A to Z* is funded, in part, by a SHARP grant (Sustaining Humanities through the American Rescue Recovery Fund), administered by Maryland Humanities.

In late May, the Oxford Museum is featuring a special 2-day exhibit, *Paintings From the Museum's Permanent Collection*, at St. Paul's Church on S. Morris Street. This exhibit will run alongside the Fine Arts Show at the Oxford Community Center, May 20 - 22.

As we selected works for this special exhibit in June, the team collectively let out a sigh of pride and joy when Mr. Jimmy's portrait was unveiled in our archives. "Who is that?" the newcomer asked, to which the others quickly replied, "Ah, that's Mr. Jimmy, everyone loved him."

This article posted in the February 2007 issue of *Sail Magazine*, shares a memory of meeting Mr. Jimmy that seems to sum up how so many felt about this special Oxfordian.



Mr. Jimmy 1911-2007

"I hesitated before throwing a heavy line into the thin outstretched arms of the older fellow standing at the head of our slip. But he caught the line, wrapped it deftly around a cleat, and beckoned for the next one. This was our first visit to the quiet Chesapeake Bay town of Oxford, Maryland, and we had just met James Robert 'Just call me Jimmy' Taylor, Oxford Boat Yard's 95-year-old dockmaster and living legend.

We soon learned that Jimmy began working at the boatyard in 1931 after moving from the family farm in Virginia. At a 95th-birthday party and crab feast, yard manager Braxton Strueber told a typical Jimmy story about watching him lift a 45-pound CQR from the deck of a hauled-out boat, toss it over his shoulder, and scramble down a ladder and across the gravel yard. He was 85 at the time.

Although he rarely shows such feats of strength nowadays, Jimmy's conversations often come around to the theme of people helping people, out of kindness: He says, "If I see that someone needs a hand, I go over and help them. At the end they say, 'Well, how can I pay you?' And I tell them, 'You just did. Your smile was my paycheck.'"

VIEWS FROM THE BACKYARD

Did you know that the Oxford Garden Club designed, planted and maintains the Museum's side yard? On this dreary, cold and rainy March day, garden club members were found doing the first spring clearing to make way for spring blooms. Thank you Oxford Garden Club!

The benches are waiting for you, come enjoy these special spaces in the side and back yards of the Museum.



RECENT OXFORD FINDING

Sometimes finding an historic treasure is just a walk on the beach!

A recent blow out tide on a N Morris Street beach revealed this piece of an Irish clay pipe at the water's edge.



STAYING IN TOUCH ...

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INSTAGRAM [oxfordmuseummd](https://www.instagram.com/oxfordmuseummd)

Come re-visit Mr. Jimmy and other favorite Oxford images at our special exhibit at St. Paul's Church on May 21 and 22. And be sure to save the date for the Members Only Preview Party on Thursday, May 19 at 5 pm.

And finally, closing our 2022 season, the Oxford Museum will be hosting the traveling Smithsonian exhibit: *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. This is the second Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit that we have participated in. With the support and guidance of Maryland Humanities, the Museum will mount complementary exhibits, host public programs, and facilitate educational initiatives to raise understanding about the joys and challenges of living rural, how change has impacted their community, and prompt discussion of goals for the future.

Oxford's Remarkable Woman H. LUCRETIA ANTHONY

Remarkable for her love of children and 40 year commitment to the Oxford School, was Harriet Lucretia Anthony (1855-1930), better known as Miss Lu. She taught in the Primary School on Town Park and went on to become the beloved principal of the Primary School. Her career lasted from 1875 to 1915.



Miss Lu, with fellow teachers, on the bottom left and in her family's front yard on the far right. The peering children must be loyal students!



"Miss Lu" lived in what became known as the "Anthony House" at 211 S Morris Street with her parents, John and Sarah Anthony, and her five siblings, Marcus, Ruth, Mary, John and Richard. The great granddaughter of Aaron Anthony, overseer of Wye Plantation and rumored father of Frederick Douglas, Lucretia's relatives were deeply rooted in the history of the Eastern Shore. In addition to these photos, the Museum holds a portrait of her grandfather, Andrew Skinner Anthony.

Lucretia kept diaries and her family tree, to make up for what she found as a lacking in any documentation of her ancestry. "Fearing that the next generation of the Anthony family will know nothing of their ancestors, I am making these notes and explanations in regard to great grandfather Aaron Anthony's Bible, old account books and papers, also to a few papers left by grandfather Andrew Skinner Anthony, and a diary kept for a short while by my father, John Planner Anthony."

What a great example to all of us, we should be taking notes, recording our family history, and saving important papers for those yet to come long after we are gone.

