

THE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN



The Oxford Garden Club, and friends and family members of Ray and Bonnie Stevens, gathered in April to celebrate the life of Bonnie Stevens and to name the beautiful new fountain in her honor. Bonnie was a key member of the Oxford Garden Club and responsible for the design of the Cottage Garden at the Oxford Museum.



We appreciate The Oxford Garden Club for their continual care of the cottage garden and providing this beautiful fountain in Bonnie's honor.



President's Message

Dear Members,

I don't think I can complain about the weather yet this summer. We've had lots of rain, which means we're not dragging hoses around to water the gardens. Sometimes it has rained at the most inconvenient time and if you attended the Members' Meeting on June 17, you know what I mean. But all in all, the rains have been quick and soaking.

We're heading into July and we're doing pretty well. The Museum Board and its volunteers have been anything but 'hazy or lazy' in these days of summer. The gardens and the grounds continue to be growing and manicured. The backyard garden is only a year old and Mother Nature and a few hardy gardeners have been keeping the weeds at bay. The Dependency Garden has tobacco sprouting and corn stretching high. Please come by and have a look. "Tobacco," you say, why? Because at one time in history tobacco was used as currency in Oxford. Watch for more detailed signage about that. But just imagine going for a ride on the ferry in the 1770s with a handful of tobacco to pay your way!



We've had two very successful events in June. The first in our series of programs, "Memories and Musings," was the history of the painting of the mural on the side of the town market. Howard Lapp (artist) and Dorothy Fenwick (benefactor) were led in discussion by Tot O'Mara (moderator). What a lively and fun event. In case you missed it, the video will be released on the Museum website in a few weeks. The Summer Membership Meeting was very well attended in the back yard of the museum, rain or shine, and we had a little of both, but nothing shied our members away from staying and enjoying themselves. We have two more programs planned for July and August. Watch your email, but hint, hint, they involve Ray Stevens and Tim Kearns.

We have very generous donors and benefactors in Oxford that continue to amaze me and want to help us preserve Oxford's history. Think about us in your estate planning, as Kenny Anderson did. Come and sit in the garden and stop by to see the Oxford A-Z exhibit before it goes back into storage in August. Enjoy your summer.

kindest Regards,
Julie Wells
President



SUMMER 2022

RECENT AQUISITIONS



Museum member and local model-builder Tom Schiller built this miniature DN-class iceboat for us to go along with this winter's exhibit of Sailing on Ice.

At this year's Oxford Fine Arts show, the Museum Purchase Award was won by Marianne Kost for her painting "Pass with Care." Trained at the University of Michigan, Montgomery College, and the Corcoran School of Art, she is motivated by "the personal...the beautiful... and the spirit..." This



new addition to the collection beautifully illustrates the themes of the upcoming Smithsonian exhibition: *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- July 23 Memories and Musings: Ray Stevens and The Capers Crew
- Aug 13 Memories and Musings: Tim Kerns and The OFC Story
- Aug 13 Rooted in the Land: A Tribute to Eastern Shore Farmers OPENS
- Aug TBD Volunteers/Docents Party
- Sept TBD Edwin Remsberg Reception
- Oct 29 Crossroads: Change in Rural America St. Paul's Church, Oxford OPENS
- Dec TBD Members Winter Meeting

Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award

On June 17, at the Summer Meeting of The Oxford Museum, two groups were recognized and honored with the Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award for their service to Oxford, Mr. Hanks' beloved home town. The awards were presented by Julie Wells to Tom Bixler, Sid Campen, and John Pepe, and to Pam and David Baker.



Tom, Sid and John, "three amigos," were honored for their commitment to recover and restore the "Slippery Eel", the beloved Chesapeake Bay crab skiff designed and built in Oxford.

Pam and David were honored for their many, many years of service to numerous Oxford nonprofits, town commissions, and special events, most notably the Oxford Fire Company and the Oxford Day Parade.



TO TOT O'MARA WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE

Recently Tot O'Mara announced her 'retirement' as Chairman of the Douglas Hanks Jr., Oxford Preservation Award Committee, a position she held for the last eleven years. Tot was a childhood friend of Doug's and has served on the committee since its inception. It was important to her that the awards be granted in the spirit intended. The award was founded in 2006 by Doug's widow, Alexandra "Xan" Hanks.



REMEMBER WHEN: MEMORIES AND MUSINGS

On June 11, Howard Lapp and Dorothy Fenwick told the story of the *Oxford Mural*, moderated by Tot O'Mara. The humorous discussion included many tales of Oxford from the perspective of the Oxford Market proprietor and the artist!

A lively reception with a beautiful "Oxford Mural Cake" followed in the Museum back yard.

We are thrilled that Dorothy gifted her painting of the mural project to The Oxford Museum that evening. Thank you Dorothy!





SUMMER 2022

MUSEUM INTERNS

We are thrilled to have two interns at the Museum this summer working on our collections and special projects.

Mathijs Goyens-Harvey is working with our past president and curator Stuart Parnes. Zachary Foster is



working with our Director Emeritus, past president and current collections archivist, Leo Nollmeyer.

Their internship aligns with their studies and career interests and we are delighted to have them on our team this summer.

DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are thrilled to have 16 new docents this summer! This makes the Museum so vibrant and adds to the many stories we tell of Oxford then and now. If you are interested in becoming a docent for the Museum or for the upcoming fall special exhibit from the Smithsonian, *Crossroads: Change in Rural American*, send us an email!

Thank you John Tochko and the lawn mowing team, Brian Wells and Reese Meisinger for all you do to keep the Museum building and grounds in great shape.



(President Julie Wells, here, thanking Chair of Buildings and Grounds John Tochko for power washing the Museum's front walls and windows!)

If you have special talents to share, let us know!

Exhibit News

Our current exhibit, *Oxford from A-Z*, has offered a great way to showcase so many varied objects from our collection that help tell the Oxford story. We will be sad to see it go at the beginning of August. If you have not been in to see the many objects we have on exhibit, including military and baseball uniforms, a wedding dress, portraits of Oxfordians through the ages, and memorabilia from early 1900s Oxford businesses, you have until its last day, August 7th!

We are equally excited about the new exhibit that will open on August 13th: *Rooted in the Land: A Tribute to Eastern Shore Farmers*, photos by Edwin Remsberg.



Edwin's career as a photographer started at a young age through his connection to the agricultural community in Maryland. His first projects were with 4-H, the national agricultural youth organization, who allowed him to expand his family's generational roots in agriculture and apply them to a new discipline. Edwin's utilization of the camera as a means to communicate with the world lead him through a rich and varied photography career, as diverse as his skillsets. From sports, to fine art, and even combat photography, Edwin has worked in 40 countries and all 50 states. He has become a storyteller with his imagery, and keeps the themes and relationships he's picked up along the way to be the photographer, the photojournalist, and the artist he has developed into.

Edwin's photos will be a great companion exhibit to *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, an upcoming exhibit from the Smithsonian's Museum on Mainstreet program. The Crossroads exhibit will include a number of programs offered by both the Oxford Museum and local and regional partners. For example, OCC will host a Farm to Table Dinner in the fall and the Museum will be hosting several educational programs with local farmers. The Crossroads exhibit will open at St. Paul's Church, Oxford, on October 29th and will run until December 16th.

Stay tuned for the date of a Member's reception to meet Edwin Remsberg in early September and for more details about our upcoming Crossroads exhibit and programs.

New Board Members

Over the past few months we've added three new board members, Gordon Fronk, David Poe and Phyllis Rambo, who are provisional officers until Membership votes on the new slate at our December meeting. When you see them around town, please thank these Oxfordians for their service to our Museum.



SUMMER 2022

THE MUSEUM IS ALWAYS OPEN

In one way or another!

While our Museum is open Friday through Monday, 10 - 4 pm, Spring, Summer, and Fall, our Website, Instagram, Facebook, Audio Tour and Online Museum Store are always open and available to you!



AUDIO WALKING TOUR

On your own time, using your smartphone, you can access 35+ places and buildings in Oxford to know more about.

Just use the QR code here to purchase a \$5 link or email the Museum, theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com, to get your member's free code!



The tour is great for a long walk around town with family or friends, stopping for coffee, ice cream, or lunch along the way.

MUSEUM STORE ONLINE

New books and items from Salisbury Pewter have been added this month, and our vintage postcards seem to be selling a lot lately. Are you writing letters of summer adventures? Using an Oxford vintage postcard is cool! For much more go to our website or directly through this link:

<https://oxfordmuseummd.square.site>

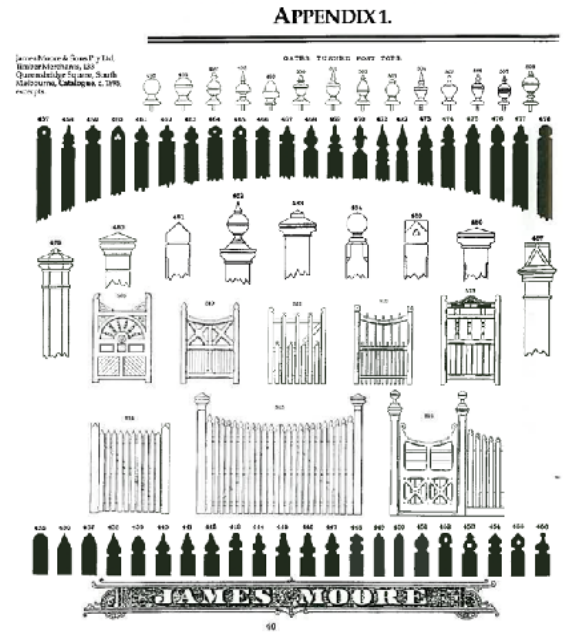
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What About THE OXFORD PICKET FENCE?

Visitors to Oxford notice our quaint and unique picket fence and many ask, when they visit the Museum, about the origins of the design. To our dismay, we don't have a very good answer! What we do know is that it was first seen in the 1850's and the design was brought to Oxford by a ship's captain. Early photos of houses on the Strand and on Morris Street (seen below) taken between 1850 and 1920 show the Oxford Picket as we know it today. Photos of the same period also include plain picket fences and those made entirely entirely of cast iron.

Our research on the "Oxford Picket" design has led us to a 96 page document titled *Fences & Gates C.1840-1925*, published in 1988 by the National Trust of Australia. In the Appendix we found designs offered by James Moore & Sons, in Melbourne, Australia, that come very close to our design! So, is this where our design originated? And who first brought the design, or a sample picket, to Oxford? Or did it go to Liverpool first, and then come to Oxford on one of Robert Morris' merchant ships through Foster, Cunliffe & Sons, with all the other grand goods that came to Oxford in the mid-1700's in exchange for tobacco?



Our curator has launched a challenge. We are looking for the best, maybe even the wildest, "Oxford Picket Fence Origin Story." Do you have one?

Submit your story, and any photos or references, real or imagined, to director@oxfordmuseummd.org by December 1, 2022. All entries will be featured in a winter window display, and prizes for the top entries, judged by the museum board, will be extraordinary!



"1876 House" Morris Street, c.1901



Old Oxford Post Office, c.1920