

## 2023 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

**April 20**

### **Members' Preview Party** 5-7 p.m.

Come take a look at our opening exhibit, *From Colonial Port to Present: Oxford in Business*.

**April 21**

### **Docent Training Workshop** 4-5 p.m.

New and returning docents, join us for a review of docent procedures and the new exhibit.

**April 22**

### **Museum Opens on Oxford Day!**

Don't miss the parade, Robert Morris and friends will be behind the Museum banner. We'll have refreshments and music in the backyard after the parade.

**June 8**

### **Memories and Musings:**

"Growing Up in Oxford" 5-6:30 p.m.

**June 24**

### **Members' Party** 5-7 p.m.

Doug Hanks Award Presentation

**July 10**

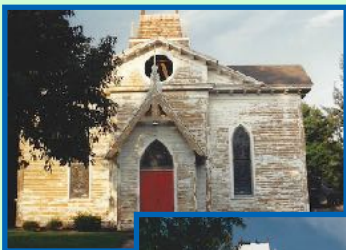
### **Memories and Musings:**

"Library Lore" 5-6:30 p.m.

**August 12**

### **Memories and Musings:**

"St. Paul's, An Oxford Treasure" 5-6:30 p.m.



The Late Downes Curtis at work in his Sail Loft

## From The President RENEWAL

Spring! A time of rebirth, renewal and welcome. A time to get out the sails, make boat repairs, and relaunch. At the Museum, we open for our 59th season this spring, bringing a fresh look at Oxford's past with new perspectives and renewed energy.

Our opening exhibit, ***From Colonial Port to Present: Oxford in Business***, brings old and new to our attention. This exhibit takes a look at commerce in Oxford of days past alongside Oxford commerce today. Perhaps the longest running business' are lodging houses, the Robert Morris Inn and The Oxford Inn at Pope's Tavern. At the Museum, we also share a bit of the history of the business on our site: Thompson's Confectionery, followed by Bringman's Market. The original green counter, Howard Lapp's painting of Bringman's front windows, and a few other fountain artifacts will tickle the memories of many Oxfordians today, who spent youthful days at the counter. Thanks to the Oxford Business Association (OBA) for gathering and sharing many artifacts representing some of our current businesses in Oxford. We hope you will join us for the Members' Preview Party on April 20th and bring family and friends on Oxford Day, April 22, or soon after.

Our **Memories and Musings** program will renew and continue this season. We have scheduled three panels for our summer months that we know you will enjoy. Mark your calendars with the dates listed under season highlights and stay posted for more details.

Other renewals: The Backyard Timeline panels have been cleaned and realigned along the South side of the Museum property and our old white bench out front has been replaced! With the rebirth of the Mews next door, we invite you to enjoy your ice cream in the park or on our bench, before you enter the Museum!

Lastly, we are most excited about the newest book on our shelf: **OXFORD**, by the Oxford Museum, published by Arcadia Books. Past President Julie Wells led the way with Curator Stuart Parnes, and Past Presidents Pat Jessup and Leo Nollmeyer, to present the best photos from our collection along with a few photos loaned from Talbot Historical Society, weaving in the story of Oxford. **OXFORD** is available on our website or stop by the Museum to purchase your copy.

Jump into spring, friends, enjoy the old and the new of Oxford, and stop by the Museum Oxford Day through November, Friday through Monday, 10-4 pm.

Louisa Zendt  
president@oxfordmuseummd.org

## The Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Oxford Museum is now accepting nominations for the annual **Douglas Hanks Jr. Oxford Preservation Award**. The award was established in 2006 in memory of and in honor of Doug Hanks, a lifetime Oxford resident who cherished the unique history of his hometown. He lent his considerable energies to the exploration of Oxford's history and the preservation of the town's heritage. The award recognizes extraordinary efforts made by individuals or groups to further preserve the unique history and heritage of the town and its surrounding area. Qualifying activities for the award are: Restoration and Renovation Projects, Outstanding Service in Preservation, Stewardship, and Lifetime Contributions.



Doug was one of Oxford's most enthusiastic supporters. Born in 1946, his roots in the town extended back to his ancestor William Stevens Jr., who in 1668 donated 30 acres for the founding of Oxford. Doug moved to Oxford as a small boy and dedicated himself to exploring and preserving Oxford's heritage and history. He was an avid sailor, writer, decoy carver, storyteller, and friend to all in this town. The publication in 1999 of *Oxford Treasures, Then and Now* began a partnership between the Oxford Museum and Doug that has continued with a coveted award in his honor and memory.

In 2006 the Oxford Museum and Doug's widow, Alexandra "Xan" Hanks, created the Douglas Hanks Jr. Oxford Preservation Award to recognize significant preservation efforts and honor the memory of one of Oxford's most energetic and constant supporters.

More Information about the award along with the nomination form are available at [www.oxfordmuseummd.org](http://www.oxfordmuseummd.org). **All nominations must be received by May 24, 2023.** Mail to Doug Hanks Award Committee, c/o Oxford Museum, PO Box 131, Oxford, MD 21654. The award will be presented at the June 24th annual meeting of the museum.

**Award Winners 2006 - 2021:** The details of their service or preservation award can be found on the [Museum Website](#).

2021

Pam and David Baker  
Tom Bixler, Sid Campen, John Pepe

2020

Ray Stevens  
Richard & Christine Leggett

2019

Tom and Susan Campbell  
Wendy Gibson

2018

Ellen Anderson

2017

Cheryl Lewis

2016

Suzanne Beyda  
Howard Lapp

2015

Dorothy Fenwick  
Larry and Dorette Murray, Tom Campbell

2014

NO AWARD Oxford Museum's 50th anniversary

2013

Oxford Community Center  
Judy and Tom Bixler

2012

Oxford Library  
Jennifer and the late Ted Stanley

2011

Jeanne Foster Larry Myers

2010

Kathy Radcliffe

2009

Edwin Lewis & Jill Cornett  
The Oxford Fence Guys

2008

Jennifer and the late Ted Stanley  
Leo Nollmeyer

2007

Cutts & Case Shipyard  
Susan and Richard Deer

2006

John "Chip" Akridge III

## THE SUMMER INTERNS

Please welcome our new Summer Interns to the Oxford Museum!

Mathijs Goyens-Harvey will be a sophomore at Salisbury University where he is majoring in History. Mathijs did some work in our collections last summer, while also working for the Talbot Historical Society.

Jessica Leaf will be a junior at Drew University where she is majoring in Archeology and French. She has a long family history in Oxford that goes back 200 years! She is excited about returning to the Museum where she spent many days as a child.

Our interns will be in the Museum on the weekends serving as docents and working on special projects in our archives with our curator, Stuart Parnes.

## IN THE DETAILS

Stair ends, stair ends, stair brackets, or trim brackets—different names for the decorative motif on the end of each step facing outward on some staircases—have recently caught our attention. Do you have a decorative motif at the end of your stairs? The tulip motif on the Otwell House stairs is thought to be an "Oxford Tulip." The other photos from Oxford homes show similar but different designs. Does your Oxford house have decorate stair ends? Let us know!



## The Oxford Seal REBORN AGAIN

In 1949, the Oxford Seal was found in Kennett Square, PA. A metal, circular stamp with a sailing vessel in the center with the word "Maryland" around the top and the words "Port Of Oxford" around the bottom. There is a fine raised circle around the ship and a rope like raised circle around the outer edge. This was the official seal of the Port of Oxford used by the customs official to allow ships to enter the colony of Maryland.

The stamp had been missing since 1866. It was rediscovered in 1949 in the collection of Mr. Archibald Crozier, of Kennett Square, PA. When he discovered what it was, he donated it to the State of Maryland. The stamp is on a permanent loan to the Oxford Museum by the Maryland Historical Society.



This spring we had a our logo updated, as it seemed a little blurry and needed sharpening. At the same time, the small image of the seal in the center was not reproducing clearly. The image above is the newly drawn image of the Oxford seal, reborn, as the real seal remains in the protection of the Museum safe!

## The Telephone "SHOPPING THE MODERN WAY"

### THE IMPACT OF THE TELEPHONE ON LIFE AND BUSINESS

From party-line to online, the telephone had as big of an impact on the 20th century as COVID is having on the 21st century. Telegrams were the first major form of communication before telephones were invented in 1876. When the mobile telephone came along in the 1980s, it changed the way we lived, worked, shopped, learned, and communicated with friends, family, neighbors, and businesses.

The benefits of the telephone were touted in telephone directories promoting its use. One such advertisement, found in a local 1935 directory, promised that: "Grocers, drug stores, and shop-keepers of all kinds are glad to take your orders by telephone. Try ordering today's needs by telephone and see what a saving it will be of your time and energy." A 1956 directory ad also promised shoppers that, "You are sure to find it a valuable aid in solving the ever-present problem of 'Where to buy it.' "

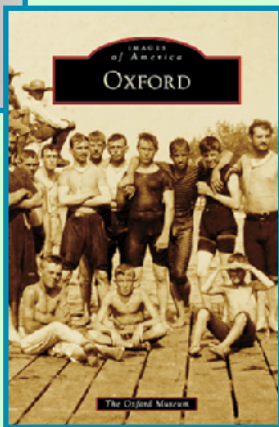
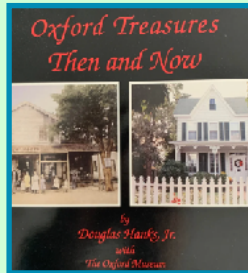
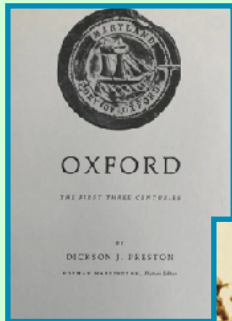
When COVID struck the world in 2019, the home telephone was being replaced more and more by the smart phone. Today's shoppers use Google to find local businesses that match their needs, place orders online for pick up, or delivery, and place orders from mail order catalogues for delivery to our front doors. The computer and internet also changed the way we worked and went to school as a result of a universal fear of being in face-to-face contact with others. Where would we be today without the telephone?!



## THE OXFORD BOOKSHELF

Are you new to Oxford? Studying Oxford? Wanting to know more about our special place? Here are three books we recommend and have at the Museum. Stop by or check out our Museum Store online to make a purchase.

- *Oxford, The First Three Centuries*,
- *Oxford Treasures Then and Now*,
- *Oxford*



## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Julie Wells  
Louisa Zendt, President

Leo Nollmeyer, Director Emeritus  
Pat Jessup, Director Emeritus  
Stuart Parnes, Curator

## CALL FOR DOCENTS

The Oxford Museum runs on volunteers. We hope you will consider becoming a docent this season. If you are new to the village, it's a great way to learn about historic Oxford, experience the past, meet many people, and serve our community. Join our Docent Training Workshop on April 19, 4 - 5 pm.

## Do You Remember When COMMERCE OF DAYS PAST

J.E. Stevens had a **shoe shop** in a house where Robert Valliant's house stands on 306 N. Morris Street.

William Newnam had a **feed store** at 303 S. Morris.

Herb Harris had a **grocery store** at the corner of South and Truax Streets.

Jennifer Stanley's office at 300 S. Morris St. was McKenzie's **candy store**.

The **telephone exchange** was located in the rear of what is now the Oxford Market servicing 17 total phones in Oxford.

The Town Shop at the corner of Tilghman and Morris Streets (north corner) was a **grocery store** owned by Jerry Valliant Sr.

Dawson's **Bakery** was on the South corner of Tilghman and Morris Streets, where Benson and Mangold is today.

At 214 N. Morris, George Schroeder had a **dry goods store**, then Doug Hanks had a real estate business there, then Tom Taylor had a **fur shop**, then the Treasure Chest moved in.

*Courtesy of "Oxford Treasures: Then and Now" by Douglas Hanks, Jr.*



## From the Exhibit OTWELL DAIRY MILK CARTONS

These curious vintage wax cardboard milk containers captured our attention as the exhibit on commerce unfolded. Our collection includes two cones and two rectangles, quarts and pints, plainly marked "Otwell, Oxford Md." Very little can be found about the well-known Otwell's dairy in Oxford, but we did take note of the interesting history of the paper, wax covered, milk carton.



"In 1883 the Oswego Falls Pulp and Paper Company in Fulton, NY, began the manufacture of a product known as "Fulton Board." The product was eventually called "Sealright," because of its natural sanitary qualities and value in manufacturing food containers that would save consumers from the loss of food from spoilage. Because of the rapid success of the Sealright product line in 1921, the company introduced the first milk container made entirely of paper. Trademarked as the "Sealright Kone" bottle, it was the precursor of the modern assembly-line-produced paper milk carton. The cone most likely dates from the 1930s when Sealright advertised the 'Kone' for delivering milk to schools and other places where bottle breakage was high and bottle collection difficult. Since these waxed containers were designed to be thrown away, few examples survive today."

*New Hampshire Historical Society - Bottle, Milk  
<https://www.nhhistory.org/object/bottle-milk>*

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Oxford Museum opens every spring because of the generosity of so many. Our exhibits, programs and events, interns, and operational costs are covered by your membership and contribution to our annual fund. We appreciate your membership renewal and your thoughtful annual fund gift. Thank you!

*The Oxford Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your generous contributions are 100% tax deductible for income tax purposes.*