

The Museum's 60th Birthday



First Artifacts and Location:

-From **Oxford The First Three Centuries**, by
Dickson Preston

"The Oxford Museum, founded April 3, 1964, houses a charming and ever-growing collection of memorabilia from the town's historic past.

The Museum's first impetus came from the accidental discovery, during excavation work, of pottery and other materials used in Eastford Hall (the current site of The Oxford Social Cafe) during and after the time when it housed the Maryland Military and Naval Academy, and discarded when the hall was destroyed by fire in 1894. Lee Willey, who unearthed the relics, mounted them, obtained space to display them in the town building, and called a meeting at which the Oxford Museum Society was launched."

The Museum's collection grew to fill spaces on two floors in the Town Hall and eventually moved to its current home across the street in 2000. More on the Museum's founding year will be shared in the Spring Newsletter.



"Beautiful Winter Weather" Photo by Mike Gibson

From The President

Hello, I am Liz Koprowski, the new President of the Oxford Museum. I look forward to working with our very dedicated and busy Board of Directors and volunteers who do the hard work of keeping us up and running, relevant and interesting.

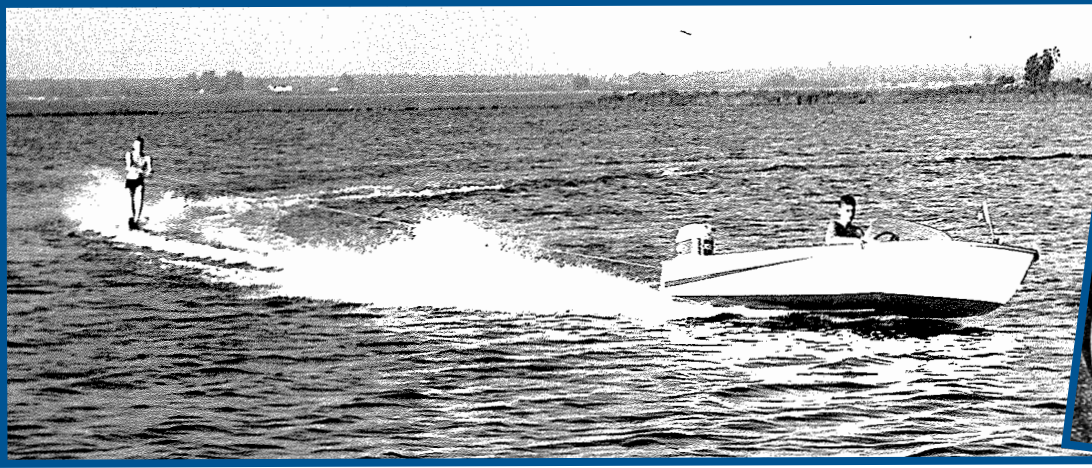
We had an amazing 2023 season and 2024 will be even more special. We are 60 years old this year, in the prime of our life. We will honor this special birthday with our opening exhibit in April, *Oxford 1964: The Times, They Were A Changing*. We are hoping to add artifacts and photos from you, too, that relate to the mid 1960s. Items that relate specifically to Oxford are especially welcome. Please join us in this exhibit.

Last year we opened with *Oxford in Business*, followed by *Duck, Duck Goose* and we ended the season with a special holiday exhibit of Barbara Cross's Crèche Collection, all of which were very well received. We hope you enjoyed those exhibits and will come see us when we open this season on Oxford Day, April 27. And please sign up to volunteer this year for docenting and serving on committees.

Thanks so much,

Liz Koprowski
President

PS: Save the date, June 21, for our Annual Summer Member's Party when we will celebrate the Museum's 60th Birthday and the presentation of the Doug Hank's Preservation Award. As plans for our summer series, Memories and Musings, develop, you can find the details on the **Events tab on the Museum Website.**



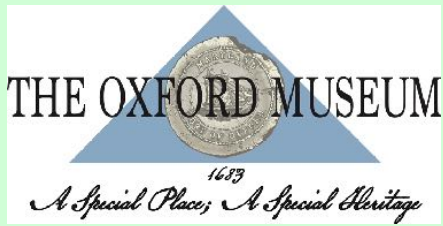
WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

Oxford Museum
Board Members in
the 60s

GUESS WHO?!

**Where were you,
in the 60s?**

As we prepare to celebrate the Museum's 60th birthday and life in Oxford in the 60s, we invite you to share your illustrated 60s story.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALL FOR SUMMER DOCENTS

The Oxford Museum runs on volunteers. We hope you will consider becoming a docent this next season. If you are new to the village, this is a great way to learn about historic Oxford, meet many people, and serve our community. If you have been here forever but now finally have some free time, join us!

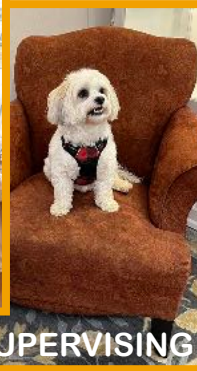
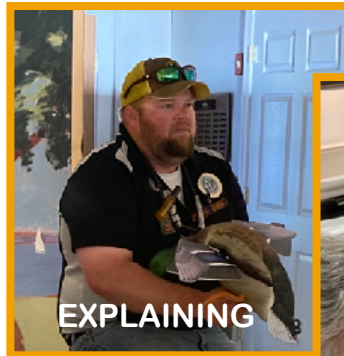
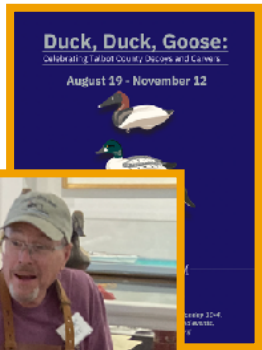
Our first docent training and new exhibit orientation meeting will be in mid-April. Email theoxfordmuseum@gmail.com for more details.

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 fees, contribution to our annual fund and matching fund gifts. We appreciate your annual membership renewal and your thoughtful annual fund gifts. Thank you!

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

Looking Back on the 2023 season . . .



. . . Didn't we have fun!

THE SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Spread the word, the Oxford Museum offers college-age students a chance to see the inner workings of a small museum through a part-time paid summer internship.

The intern will:

- Learn about small museum operations
- Meet Museum visitors from all over the country (and the world!)
- Assist our curator in research and the development of future exhibits
- Create material for the Museum's Social Media platforms

To apply, find the [application here](#).

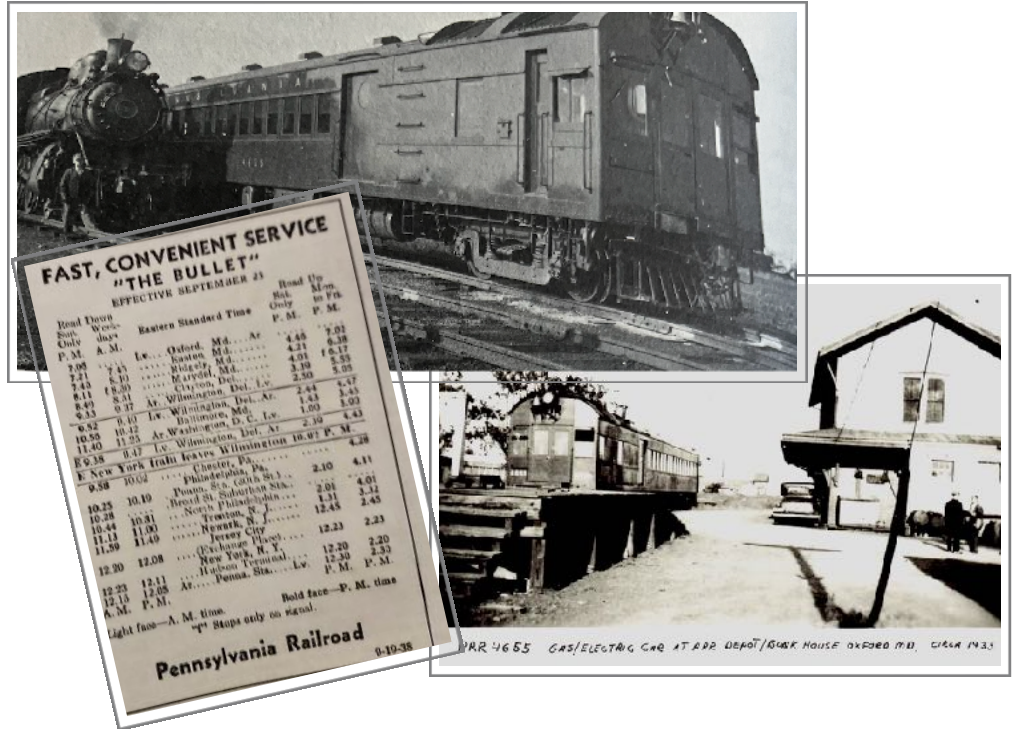
Print, Complete and Mail or Email to the Museum by March 15.

Interns will be notified by April 1.



Summer 2022 Intern, Zachary Foster, helping Curator Leo Nollmeyer unload a box of donated artifacts.

Bullet Found In Oxford: 1930 - 1950



Jay Bunting, a former pastor of Oxford United Methodist and author of *Oxford Class of 1850*, a narrative of what happened to the 33 cadets enrolled in The Maryland Military Academy of Oxford, Maryland, recently shared photos and remembrances of the railroad that brought the "The Bullet" to town.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Number 4655 Gas Electric known as "The Bullet" was found in Oxford and photographed at the Oxford station around 1933. These Gas Electrics were the last hope to keep the dwindling passenger and freight alive on small branch lines like the ones that serviced Oxford, Maryland. These units were affectionately referred to as "Doodle Bugs." The name doodle bug is said to have derived from the insect-like appearance of some of the units, as well as the slow speeds at which they would doddle or "doodle" down the tracks.

Curious to note, the unit was often referred to as "The Bullet" although the railcars rarely made speeds of 50 miles per hour. Considering the conditions of most highways at the time, these railcars were running at a speed of 40 miles per hour, which was considered fast. One can gather from the timetable dated September 19, 1938, that the only time "The Bullet" actually got up to great speeds was on the trip from Marydel, Maryland to Clayton, Delaware and thence on the mainline to Wilmington, Delaware and then to Baltimore, Maryland where the tracks were clearer.

Service started on the Oxford Branch shortly after the Civil War when General Tench Tilghman took his share of wealth gained in the war and invested in the Maryland and Delaware Railroad that ran from Clayton, Delaware to Oxford, Maryland. This railroad was later absorbed into the Pennsylvania Railroad where services to Oxford ended in May of 1957. Gone are the days when a lonesome whistle broke the air letting you know that a train or a steamboat was ready to whisk you away from Oxford to some distant place that was far more busy and not so laid back.