

Making History Every Day

July and August, 2021, Volume 3, Issue 4

Oxford Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization

Twitchell Rowland Homestead Museum

P.O. Box 582, 60 Towner Lane, Oxford, CT 06478



Peach Festival

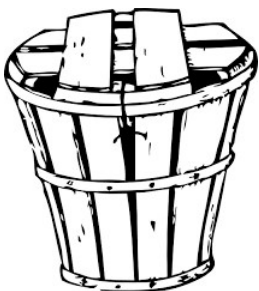
**EVERYTHING IS
PEACHY, THANKS!**

The OHS Peach Festival returns. Mark your calendar for Saturday August 21, 2021 from 4-7 p.m.. Save your calories to splurge on a home-made summer treat. To celebrate Oxford's peach growing past - come have a taste of summer. Each serving offers a home baked biscuit, sliced peaches and Oxford's Rich Farm Peach ice cream, topped with whipped cream. Admission is \$5 and provides one serving. Additional servings are also \$5 each. Take out servings are available too. Coffee, tea and water are \$1 each.

S.B. Church: His Life, Times and Legacy

The 2021 Peach Festival features a photographic display of Oxford's Stephen B. Church. While not born in Oxford, he left a strong and lasting impact on the town. Church built a well drilling company at 53 Great Hill Road that is still located in Oxford and with the proceeds he invested in the culture and social fabric of the area. The very visible landmark estate, Oxfordshire, is back on the real estate market. The Town Hall complex bears his name, but many other examples of his generosity in his adopted home town will be on view.

Presented by the Oxford Historical Society, the Peach Festival is usually an annual event with proceeds supporting the non-profit group's activities and preservation of local history. Visitors will find items for sale including locally published books, homemade jam, peach pies and other surprises.



Proceeds from this year's Peach Festival will support the Munn Schoolhouse Restoration Project restoring Oxford's last remaining one room schoolhouse. The COVID pandemic has had an impact on progress but work marches forward.

** Louise Nyberg Burr **

DECEMBER 31, 1930 - JUNE 23, 2021

The Oxford Historical Society membership is saddened to announce that society President Louise Burr passed away recently. Louise was a staunch supporter of society events and activities, usually found manning the sales tables full of books and jars of jam. In fact she was the maker of those popular and endless jars of delicious jam. She also provided plants for sale at society events. Guinea pigs and donkeys were a part of her life for years starting in her youth. She was a great collector of local history documents which she donated to the museum, enhancing and enriching the files on modern history of Oxford.



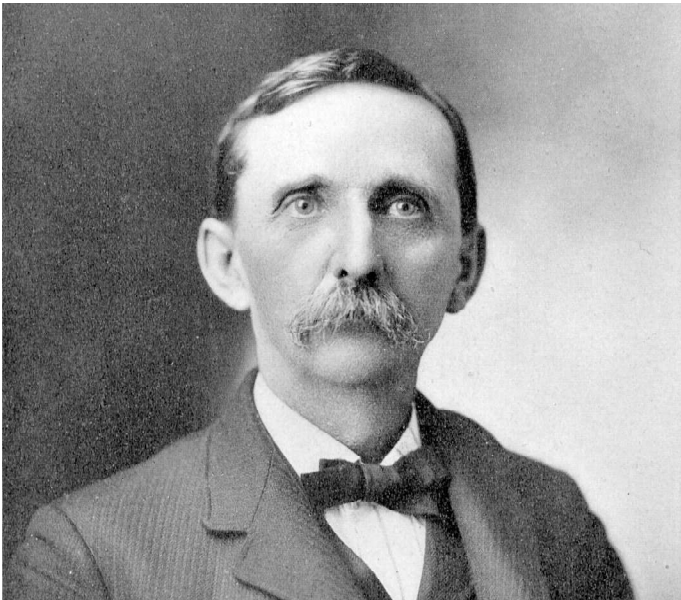
With wide ranging interests, Louise's big passion was music and she was the organist for the Oxford Congregational Church for decades. She trained as a pianist and organist from an early age and served multiple churches as accompanist.

Louise served as society President for the past 12 years during the time historic buildings were moved to the Rowland property on Towner Lane with the help of support from the community. Her quiet and cheerful personality will be sorely missed as projects move forward.

Twitchell Rowland Homestead is OPEN!

Homestead open houses are back! On first and third Sundays from 2-4 pm society volunteers are opening the doors, offering tours and answering questions. Since vaccines are widely available and face masks and social distance are effective, we feel safe that Governor Lamont has opened the state.

We were closed to celebrate Sunday July 4. So look for us on: July 18 and August 1 and 15. We'd be happy to see you.



John Pope, above, was Oxford's First Selectman during the early 1900's. He took an active interest in the operation of the Poor Farm, which was located at 51 Hogsback Road. Here the town provided housing, food and work appropriate to the individual's age, gender and health. We have a number of photos of Pope at the Town Farm. When the building was torn down, the Historical Society preserved some of the early windows, including one which includes Pope's scratched-on signature.

That glass pane is now installed in Mr. Munn's Schoolhouse. The Schoolhouse also includes a window which was preserved from Christ Episcopal Church, Quaker Farms when the church upgraded their windows for energy-saving.

When the schoolhouse is open to the public, visitors will be able to see this signature, as well as the signatures and initials of students at the school in 1850 carved into the cellar beams.

**Valley Community
Foundation's Great Give 2021**
Online donations were
\$105...Thanks for your donations
and support.

Heritage Recipe

Mint Iced Tea

Although the herb mint dates back to Biblical times, the patch in your back yard is descended from plants brought to the New World by English settlers. There are at least 30 varieties including spearmint and curly mint.

While I originally followed Marjorie Page Blanchard's recipe for Iced Tea in her Home Gardener's Cookbook (Charlotte, Vermont, Garden Way Publishing Company, c1974), the years have brought changes. The ingredients and timing below make strong iced tea. Alter to your taste by using fewer tea bags or less steeping time.

MINT ICED TEA

2 quarts boiling water
6 black teabags such as Lipton
1 generous handful of fresh mint, washed and drained
2/3 cup sugar (more or less to taste)
½ cup FRESH SQUEEZED lemon juice (The flavor from the fresh juice makes the work of squeezing the lemons worthwhile. It's not the same with bottled or frozen juice.)
¼ cup orange juice concentrate

In a 2 quart pitcher steep 6 black teabags in 2 quarts boiling water for one hour.

While tea is brewing, in a large bowl use the back of a serving spoon to crush the washed mint into 2/3 cup sugar. Let sit. Squeeze enough lemons to yield ½ cup of juice. Add ¼ cup of orange juice concentrate to the lemon juice.

After an hour, pour the tea over the mint and sugar. Stir, thoroughly mixing in the sugar, and let sit another hour.

Remove teabags and mint stalks from the bowl. Pour through a sieve into a serving pitcher. Add the lemon juice and orange juice concentrate, straining that through the sieve as well. Chill. Serve over ice with a mint leaf garnish if desired.

Yield: 2 quarts. Keeps one week in the refrigerator.

A Sign for YOUR House



Make your mark in your neighborhood. Hang a custom made sign with name and date while supporting the Oxford Historical Society. Now available are locally made signs: 11 inches by 18 inches of painted board with pre-drilled holes to allow easy mounting. You choose two lines of text. Each sign costs \$100 payable to the Oxford Historical Society, which includes a donation to the OHS.

Usually sought by old house owners to show the year of their house construction, the text can be customized to any name or year. Choose the year your family built your house - or moved into your 'home sweet home' and start making history. Information and ordering: Marilyn Stebar, 203 888-3469.

Munn Schoolhouse Work Goes On - and On

Enormous beams have been installed to support the 'new' floor that is being installed in the schoolhouse. Work is nearing completion on adding four windows salvaged from the Poor House and Christ Church in Quaker Farms, as well as the original two windows on the front of the building.

Handicap Entrance and Ramp Planned

There is also a new handicapped accessible doorway waiting for a ramp to lead to the ground. Soon there will be a space for Eagle Scout projects to proceed. We met recently with a young Eagle Scout candidate who is planning the handicap ramp as his Eagle Project.

Reproduction Furnishings to Include Desks and Benches

In addition another Eagle Scout project will install the desks and benches when the flooring is complete. We will feature these two outstanding youth in our coming issues, as they help to make history come alive for Oxford residents.



The above photo shows installation of oak floorboards to replace the original boards which had rotted at the previous site. Also visible is the newly installed handicap accessible doorway, flanked by historic windows.

The Pandemic Effect on the supply chain and inflated prices have meant restoration carpenter Eric Iott has had increased challenges working on our historic school, but progress is being made.

As soon as the floor is complete, work will start to put clapboards on the two sides which had not had clapboards for many years. The older existing clapboards on the front and the near gable side of the building will be checked for any necessary repairs before the building is prepared for painting in the fall.

Did You Know?

Before we were able to open the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead to the public after moving it from Christian Street, an Eagle Scout project designed and constructed the necessary handicap ramp. Oxford's Scouts are **AWESOME!**

Eagle Project Completed in 2018 Honors Our Late President, Louise Burr.



Louise Burr is photographed at the dedication of the wellhouse which honors her service in preserving Oxford's history and leading the Historical Society for many years. Dedicated in October, 2018 she is also shown below with the Eagle Scout Eric Wrogg, right, and Historical Society Board Member Jack Konicki, left, who served as his advisor for the project.



Join the Effort to Preserve Oxford's Historic Rural Heritage

- Follow us on Facebook: @oxfordhistoricalsociety
- Like our Facebook page to let foundations know the Society has your support
- Join the Historical Society. Download a membership form at <http://www.oxford-historical-society.org/membership.pdf>
- Visit the Homestead and learn more about our activities
- Sign up for special tours and programs