

2011 Membership Meeting

The May 12 museum membership meeting was very well attended. The focus of the meeting was the Douglas Hanks Preservation Awards. President Gordon Graves was recognized for his strong leadership over the past two years, and he highlighted this past year's activities. Executive Director Ellen Anderson expressed appreciation to all volunteers and board members for their efforts in enabling the Museum to achieve its mission.

New members elected for two-year terms were Oxford native Nick Nazare and local architect Ward Bucher. Officers elected for the coming year were:

Jan Mroczek, President
Henry Hale, Vice President
Pat Jessup, Secretary
Bob Valliant, Treasurer

If you would like to be a member of the Museum, please contact the office at (410) 226-0191 or oxford_museum@verizon.net.

WBOC 16 Channel 16 (WBOC) Visits Oxford and the Oxford Museum

DELMARVA'S NEWS LEADER

As part of its television series focused on towns of the Eastern Shore, staff from WBOC visited Oxford for a day. They highlighted many areas of the town and just happened to stop by the Museum. They could not have come at a more opportune time as three of our native residents just happened to be working in the Museum. They included: Wanda Whedbee, who has lived in Oxford her entire life, and whose grandfather was the lighthouse keeper for many years; Tot O'Mara, also a native Oxfordian, and one so well versed in Oxford history for she lived with her family at Plimhimmon; and, Leo Nollmeyer, museum curator, who shared a number of stories and interesting facts with the WBOC folks. Leo spent summers in Oxford for many years and has been a longtime resident. These three fascinating Oxford residents provided much information about our charming and unique village.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Oxford Museum collects, records, interprets and shares materials relating to the history of Oxford, Maryland and the surrounding area. Founded in 1964, this nonprofit volunteer organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs, activities, and exhibits to foster knowledge and appreciation of this community's people and history.

THE OXFORD MUSEUM, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Mroczek, <i>President</i>		Pat Jessup, <i>Secretary</i>	
Henry Hale, <i>Vice President</i>		Bob Valliant, <i>Treasurer</i>	
Ward Bucher	Gordon Graves	Larry Myers	Doreatha Rasin
Ned Crabb	Susie Hopkins	Nick Nazare	Nancy Wilson
Sally Fronk	Bill MacFarland	Tot O'Mara	
Ellen Anderson, <i>Executive Director</i>			
Leo Nollmeyer, <i>Curator, Board Emeritus</i> ; Jeanne Foster, <i>Board Emeritus</i>			

The Oxford Historian

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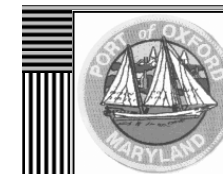


The Oxford Museum, Inc.

*A special place.
 A special heritage.*

100 South Morris Street
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 Oxford, MD 21654

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1683

Summer 2011

The Oxford Historian

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The Grand Compromise The Creation of the King James English Bible



King James I

Museum Members and Guests are Invited to a Preview Reception for a New Exhibit: The Grand Compromise, The Creation of the King James English Bible. The reception will be held on Thursday, August 11 from 5 to 7 pm in the museum.

To mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version (KJV) of the authorized English Bible in 1611, the Oxford Museum is mounting an exhibit opening August 12 that traces the history of this remarkable work, often called the greatest English prose ever written. The exhibit will display early bibles belonging to Talbot County families, as well as original pages of the King James Bible and its English language predecessors, allowing a close comparison of the subtle but powerful differences between them. Brief historical notes will highlight the paradoxes of the creation of this Jacobean masterpiece and its subsequent

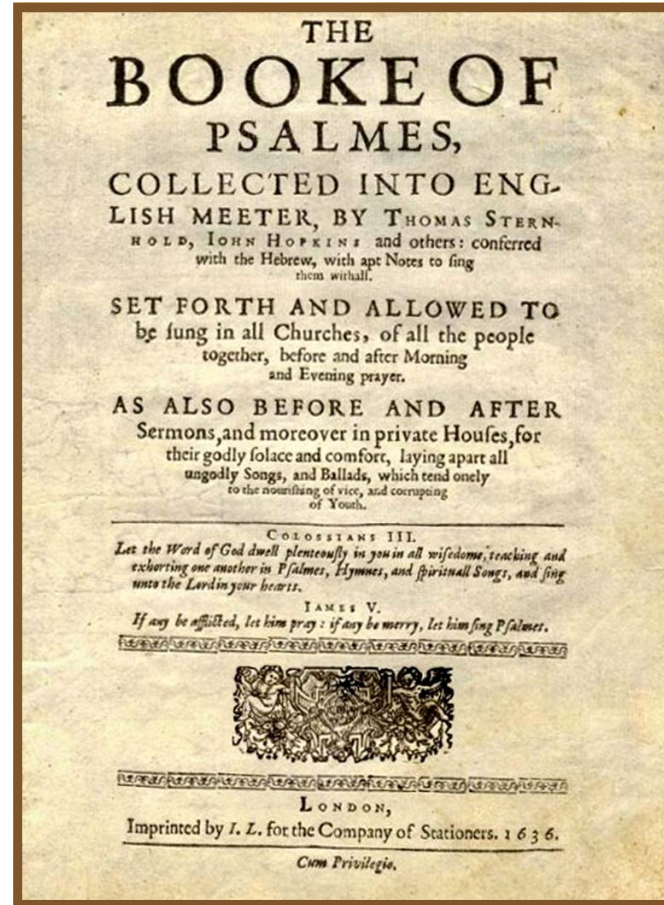
influence on world culture and politics. Many facts will surprise even the KJV's many adherents and admirers, leaving the ultimate mystery of the power of its words a matter for personal conjecture.

Upon the death of Elizabeth Tudor in 1603, King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England. Although he anticipated a peaceful, prosperous reign, he soon discovered discord, political and theological, resulting from growing Puritanism within the established (and powerful) Church of England, of which he was the head. The Puritan clergy pushed for optional use of the 1560 "Geneva Bible" of Calvinist English exiles over the church approved Elizabethan "Bishops' Bible," which they saw as a "corrupted" text not based on authentic Hebrew and Greek sources of the gospels. The King objected to the Geneva Bible because of its extensive use of explanatory notes criticizing traditional church leadership and hierarchy, which he called "highly contentious."

Rather than engage in disputes with the Puritans over matters of liturgy, governance, and church politics in general, King James proposed the creation of **(con't on left inside panel)**

(con't from front panel)

a new “authentic” translation of the Bible and in 1604 he and the Archbishop of Canterbury drew up the Rules of Translation. A committee of 54 scholars, all but one ordained, and all distinguished by their understanding of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, was appointed. Significantly, the committee included a group of moderate Puritans from Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Six subcommittees of nine men each were assigned a portion of the scriptures and as each man translated that portion from the original, it was circulated within the group until consensus was reached on each verse.



An original title page of the Psalter section of a 1636 printing of the King James Bible.

Those results were circulated to the other sub-committees, again until consensus was reached. Every one of the 54 translators read and approved the entire work. Thus by 1611 was created the most remarkable literary work in English – the work of a scholarly committee. Its imagery and majesty are timeless, not trendy, and continue to enrich our language. Phrases such as “salt of the earth”, “filthy lucre” and “drop in the bucket” remain part of our common language. Remarkably, none of the great writers of the age – Bacon, Jonson, Donne, Marlowe, Shakespeare - were involved. The King James Bible was not the scripture used by the earliest English settlers in America. The Jamestown Company in 1607 would have used the church approved Bishops’ Bible, while the Puritans arriving on the Mayflower in 1620 would have used the Geneva Bible. But by the time the King James Bible became the Authorized Version, it would be the accepted and expected Scripture, especially in the colonies of Virginia and Maryland and would have been the Bible used at Oxford’s local parish, Old Whitmarsh Church.

Douglas Hanks Jr. Award Recipients

At the Annual Meeting of the Oxford Museum on May 19, the Douglas Hanks Jr. Oxford Preservation Awards were granted for the sixth time. Recipients are recognized for superior effort in the preservation of Oxford history and its way of life. The award recognizes those who have a deep love of Oxford and work to preserve its unique history.



Hanks Award recipients, Larry Myers (left) and Jeanne Foster (2nd from right) with members of the award committee, Xan Hanks and Kathleen Kurtz.

Jeanne Kelly Foster was recognized for her many years of service to the town and its history. Moving to Oxford in 1982, Jeanne quickly became involved in Oxford heritage and history. She is a past president and current member of the Oxford Museum, and past president and board member of the Oxford Community Center. The growth of each organization during her years of involvement helped Oxford preserve its unique identity. Jeanne adopted Oxford as her hometown and the town has never had a more caring “foster” parent.

Lawrence R. (Larry) Myers was recognized for his entertaining and educational exhibits that have captured important aspects of Oxford’s long history. His exhibit, the Golden Age of Oystering, showcased the role of local oystermen. Another exhibit highlighted Oxfordians role in the hunting industry of the Eastern Shore, from decoy makers to professional hunting guides to pickers. His greatest gift to Oxford and art lovers everywhere was his extraordinary effort in putting together the 2009 John Moll Exhibit, the famous artist known for his Chesapeake Bay scenes.

The Board of Directors takes great pride in all Hanks winners over the years and looks forward to future nominations.

A Special Thanks to Hunter Harris

The Museum Board extends a very special Thank You to Hunter Harris. Hunter is the owner of Aloft Aerial Photography and is often seen flying over Oxford. Recently he provided the Museum with an aerial photograph of Oxford that was used to create a new postcard now sold in the Museum. He also gave the Museum an aerial photograph of Gordon Graves’ home in Oxford. This was presented to Gordon at the conclusion of his two-year term as President, a time of great accomplishment for the museum. Hunter is a Special Friend of the Museum, and we express our gratitude to him once again.

The Pigs (and Figs) are Back!

Join family and friends on Monday, September 5th, for the Oxford Museum’s newest event, a fun fundraiser featuring roast pork (and chicken) and fixin’s with ‘fig-alicious’ goodies made from Oxford’s favorite fruit, the fig.

Piga-Figa-licious will be on the grounds of Holy Trinity from noon to 4 pm. In addition to fabulous food and entertainment by DJ Eric “Groundhog” Higgins, the event features a \$1,000+ 50/50 raffle. The winning ticket is guaranteed a minimum of \$1,000, plus 50% of raffle ticket sales, AND there will be drawings for other prizes as well. If that isn’t enough, there’s an opportunity to purchase “services” we all use at a silent auction. Don’t need anything yourself? Start your Christmas shopping and get ahead of the game! Tickets are \$25.00 per person if purchased before September 1 (\$35.00 after), with children 10 and under at half-price. Ticket includes choice of non-alcoholic beverage; a cash bar featuring beer and wine will be available. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 6 for \$25.00.

So... you are still probably wondering, why “The Pigs Are Back?” Betcha didn’t know that Oxford’s first town ordinance, passed in 1863, was an ordinance to prevent swine from running in the streets of the town. The fine was 50 cents for each swine “running at large.” The pigs must have continued being a nuisance, because in 1890 Oxford passed ordinance #12 that prohibited the raising of hogs within the town limits.

BUT on September 5, 2011, we proclaim “The Pigs are Back!”

Event and raffle tickets now available at the Museum and other locations in Oxford and Easton. Send in your RSVP (below) now!!!



YES! We want to attend the “Piga-Figa-licious Museum Fundraising Event! September 5, Noon to 4 \$25 per person (children under 10 1/2 price). \$35 after September 1

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Number of tickets: _____ AMOUNT enclosed: _____

Mail with your check made payable to the Oxford Museum: Oxford Museum, PO Box 1 31, Oxford, MD 21654