

In Our Collection

A unique "Teacher's Chair" from the Oxford High School: This chair was used by Grace Anderson Delahay, when she taught there and was later presented to her as a retirement gift. Donated by Charlotte Delahay Meyer (granddaughter of Mrs. Delahay), the chair is currently on display in the Boomtown section.

Civil War Musket/Rifle: A group of "Friends of the Museum" admired this musket/rifle in our recent Civil War window display. Learning that it was for sale, they pooled resources and purchased it for the Museum. The musket/rifle with bayonet is from the J. Newnam Valliant (1900-1974) collection. The model "1855" was made by Springfield for the Union army, from 1857 through 1861. This percussion-fired single-shot muzzleloader is stamped 1860, and features the rare Maynard rolled-primer mechanism in working condition, with the even rarer primer patchbox in the walnut stock, only made briefly after 1859. It was the first gun to fire the 58 caliber "minie" bullet with a hollow base.

Muskrat Fur Cape and 1912 Oxford Fire Maps: Before leaving Oxford, Steve and Pat Wheaton donated these gifts. The cape was made by Oxford furrier, Tom Taylor, who, when not working with furs, taught Leo Nollmeyer biology. Thank you, Pat, for scouring eBay for Oxford finds.

Oxford Boatyard Employee Badge # 249: This badge belonged to Edward Baynard in the 1940s. We thank his grandson, James E. Baynard, for adding to our collection of artifacts from Oxford boatyards, including OBY.

Photographs from the Late Doug Hanks, Jr's Personal Collection: We are thrilled to receive this large collection donated by Xan Hanks. Many of these photographs appeared in Hank's book, *Oxford Then and Now*. Thank you, Xan. We will treasure them as Doug did.

Photographs and Memorabilia of the 2007 Ferry Race: Read Mandary and the local chapter of the "Oysterville Yacht Club" donated this album. Now future generations will enjoy the event as much we did. And Oxford can continue to have fun making history!

Mystery Photograph



This circa 1940 photo shows an "Oxford Inn" that is not the former Pope's Tavern. Can you identify where it was located, who ran it, and how long it lasted?

We received 2 sets of names for the folks in the last Mystery Photo: Spat Taylor (or Dan Murphy), Bozie Jones (or Boozey Blades) and John or Harry Larrimore from Tilghman Island. More sleuthing needed. (Date remains unknown).

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1683

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The Oxford Historian

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Did You Know?

Oxford Cadet Accepted Truce at Appomattox

Enthused by the Museum's recent exhibit & lecture on Oxford's role in the Civil War, Rev. Jay Bunting began researching the cadets who attended the Maryland Military Academy established here c.1847 by Gen. Tench Tilghman to "train gentlemen in the southern sense," Here is his story about one of those young men.....



The 1850s were turbulent times for our country as well as Maryland, with the issue of slavery threatening to destroy the foundations of the United States and divide family loyalties for generations to come. In 1850, the Maryland Military Academy in Oxford graduated an outstanding class of cadets. All but two were from Maryland and most went on to assume honorable military careers or benefited the State by founding educational institutions, gas and electric companies, railroads and libraries. One in particular was Osmun Latrobe, listed in the register of cadets as a gentleman of "military stock" from Baltimore City.

Latrobe was born November 12, 1835 in Natchez, Mississippi but grew up in an esteemed Maryland family, whose name was synonymous with Baltimore. He was the grandson of the U.S. Capitol architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, son of Maryland engineer and railroad lawyer, John H.B. Latrobe, and brother of The Honorable Ferdinand C. Latrobe, a five-time mayor of Baltimore during the late 19th century, who is also remembered as having a steam ice breaker named for him, the *F C Latrobe*, which kept shipping lanes open in the Chesapeake as well as the Tred Avon.

After graduating from the Oxford Academy, Osmun Latrobe studied and practiced law until the outbreak of the Civil War in March 1862, when he volunteered for the Confederate cause. Within months, he was appointed Captain and Assistant Adjutant General (AAG) on Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's staff. By September, during the Antietam Campaign, Gen. David Jones wrote: "*Capt. Osmun Latrobe, my inspector-general, on all occasions, and particularly at Sharpsburg, conducted himself with distinguished gallantry. Wherever the battle raged hottest,*

(con't on page 2)

Did You Know (con't)

there was he, directing and encouraging the troops. I earnestly recommend his promotion to the rank of major." Jones went on to say, "A tall robust man, nearly as large as Longstreet, the Marylander has become an ardent Confederate." In December 1862, Latrobe was appointed Major, joining the staff of Gen. James Longstreet, with whom he served until Appomattox.

At Fredericksburg, Latrobe directed artillery fire from the strategic site of Marye's Heights. Of that experience he wrote: "I enjoyed the sight of hundreds of dead Yankees. I saw much of the work I had done in the way of severed limbs, decapitated bodies, and mutilated remains of all kinds, doing my soul good. Would that the whole northern army was such and I had my hand in it."

During the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863, Maj. Latrobe helped General McLaws coordinate the attack on the Peach Orchard, then known as "Longstreet's Attack" but now referred to as "Pickett's Charge." Attempting to deliver Gen. Longstreet's message to Gen. Pickett, requesting Pickett's assistance with the charge, Maj. Latrobe's task was interrupted and he narrowly escaped death when his horse was shot out from under him.

The event that sealed Maj. Latrobe's friendship with Gen. Longstreet happened during the Wilderness campaign on May 6th 1864. Gen. Longstreet was shot accidentally by his own men. Maj. Latrobe, himself wounded in the hand, had just returned to the field after having his wound dressed, when he realized that Longstreet's neck and shoulder wounds were serious. Latrobe rode in the ambulance with Longstreet to hold and comfort him. He never left the General's side until Longstreet resumed command. In December of 1864, Gen. Longstreet recommended Latrobe's promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

When the war drew to a close at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, Lt. Col. Latrobe once again came to the aide of his friend, Gen. Longstreet. After Gen. Lee signed the surrender, members of his staff, including Longstreet and Latrobe, were invited to meet with Gen. Grant at the house of Wilmer McLean to receive the final terms of surrender. Seeing Longstreet, his old fellow comrade from earlier Mexican campaigns, Grant reportedly said to him, "Hey Pete, let's sit down and talk about old times." Longstreet, being a sensitive military leader and still harboring memories of recent battlefield carnage, was offended. He stalked out, leaving Latrobe in his stead to receive the final terms. Through this incident, Lt. Col. Osmun Latrobe became one the three Confederate officers to receive the final terms of surrender at Appomattox.

After the war, Osmun went to Europe, working with his father on a railroad legal case against the Russian Government in St. Petersburg. According to family records, he married Eliza Bradlee Winchester in England in 1871; they had one child, Osmun Jr., who became a Spanish American War hero. Latrobe maintained a prominence in the social life of both Baltimore and New York. He died August 10th 1915 and is buried in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore along with his beloved wife, Eliza.

Our Wish List

Our museum always has small needs which many local residents are able to meet and we are grateful to all of you. This summer we need:

- Upright Sweeper – lightweight, new or gently used
- Financial Support for Oral History Project - \$1,500 total is needed but smaller donations are welcome.
- Display Cases for Costumes (wedding dress, log canoe uniform, and fur coat) - \$500 each.
- Display Panels for Exhibits - \$1,500 total is needed but smaller donations are welcome.

2008 Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Awards Announced

On May 15 the Oxford Museum announced recipients of this year's Hanks Awards for Oxford Preservation. The award was initiated in 2006 to honor the memory of Doug Hanks by recognizing those who share his deep love of Oxford and his lifelong dedication to preserving Oxford's heritage and history. This year thirteen nominations were received for three distinct categories: Restoration Projects, Stewardship, and Service. Two awards were presented this year. Jennifer and Ted Stanley were recognized for their many and varied projects and stewardship activities. In addition to restoring their Town Creek shorelines to a more natural state, they have dedicated land in Jack's Point as a nature preserve. They have preserved St. Paul's Methodist Church and its grounds as a serviceable building for community events. With their founding of the Oxford Kids Camp and after school programs, the Stanleys teach about Oxford's history and its ecology and allow children to enjoy the wonderful outdoor activities that make life so sweet in Oxford.

In the category of Service, Leo Nollmeyer was this year's recipient. Leo stands out as an energetic resident historian. He moved to Oxford in his youth and developed a love for the town and an insatiable curiosity about its history. Following retirement he returned to Oxford and lent his many talents to the Oxford Museum, serving on its board in past years and now spending countless hours developing and maintaining an accurate archival database of Museum artifacts. Leo also educates as a speaker and entertains groups of tourists, residents and visitors on his walking history tours and is a vital link to Oxford's present and past.

With A Little Help From Our Friends

The Museum is fortunate to have friends who, in addition to supporting us fiscally through membership and the annual campaign, give tirelessly of their talents, helping us in a dozen different ways. Many of these contributions have been acknowledged in past newsletters. Here, we'd like to extend thanks to others of you whose contributions during the last twelve months may be lesser known, but equally valued. Here are a few from recent memory:.....

◆ **Artifact Acquisition & Restoration:** The generosity of Dr. Charles McIntosh and Cameron MacTavish have allowed the Museum to restore and copy one of our most precious artifacts, the 1707 Plat, and to acquire the collection of Civil War letters of William P. Hall.

◆ **Craftsman & Artisan & Artists Skills:** In previous newsletters we thanked those who generously created the new display cabinets and the local artists who created the new mural map display. We'd also like to thank Ed Thieler for restoring boat models, building and donating plexiglass cases, and researching the history of some of our models.



Jennifer and Ted Stanley (seated) and Leo Nollmeyer, recipients of the 2008 Douglas Hanks Jr. Preservation Award.

◆ **Research & Information:** When people like Brooke Myers and Rev. Jay Bunting become fascinated with a subject, the Museum benefits from their countless hours of research. In Rev. Jay's case this ranges from information on the steamships that came to Oxford to currently tracking down what became of the cadets who attended the Maryland Military Academy. Last October Brooke Myers invited the Museum to partner with Holy Trinity in a "Day of Remembrance" which included a cemetery tour conducted by Dick Newton and a comprehensive history of the Oxford Cemetery published in the Remembrance program. Others like Tot Myers O'Mara, Cindy Reed, Harriet Debutts Valliant and Mary Valliant Warner Thomas lent us their family artifacts and papers to help with research and exhibit creation.

◆ **Lectures:** If you missed lectures by Tot and Cindy on Plimhimmon and Otwell, you missed a treat. Just ask anyone who was there. We are also grateful to those who participated in this year's panel discussion on Oxford & the Civil War: David Foster, David Webster, Rev. Jay Bunting, Larry Denton, Bob Griesebach, and Tom Wheeler. Our thanks go also to David Webster and John Valliant for their recent talks about Rev. Thomas Bacon and the history of the Valliant family, and to Carol Hecklinger who informed a fascinated audience about the history of Quimper faience pottery.

◆ **Lending Artifacts:** This "thank-you" list is ever changing and endless. Most of our special exhibits, like last year's scrimshaw and Christmas exhibits, would not be possible without people lending us things. During each exhibit, we indicate names of donors, unless requested otherwise, just as we note thanks in our current exhibit to Rick and Sue Schmitt for their loan of the model "Muskrat" and to Helen Thieler for the bench displaying the log canoe model "Island Blossom."

◆ **Other Services:** Thanks go to Sammy Wilson for keeping the back lawn trimmed, to the Oxford Men's Breakfast Club for always providing "muscle" when needed – which is frequently, to Brooke Myers & Jean Nollmeyer for "not minding?" the hours and hours their husbands spend on museum projects, to the "Davids" Foster & Webster for portraying Robert Morris and Rev. Thomas Bacon in the Oxford Day parade.

If we've forgotten something or someone, we apologize and ask those of you we inadvertently overlooked to nudge our memories. With your help, this story to be continued.....!

New Officers and Board Members Elected

At its annual meeting on May 15, members of the Oxford Museum voted to re-elect current officers to a second one-year term as follows:

President, Pat Jessup; Vice President, Kathleen Kurtz; Secretary, Dorette Murray; Treasurer, Bob Valliant

Also elected were the following new board members: Suzanne Hanks Litty, Jan Mroczek, and Stuart Parnes.

Annual Giving Update

Since our last newsletter, we received contributions from supporters Kitty Cram and Seth Jewell. Thank you both.

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery...

are sent to Bill MacFarland, our past president and current board member. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during his tough days of rehabilitation. We need you back in Oxford, Bill!