

**Oxford Historical Society
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 21, 2012
The Homestead**

PLEASE BRING A COPY OF THESE MINUTES WITH YOU TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, JUNE 25.

The Oxford Historical Society welcomed longtime friend and supporter Beulah Renker, whose efforts saved the DeVaux display case that is now in use in the Rowland Room.

President Louise Burr called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read; second by Cindy Joy. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Joy. Dorothy DeBisschop moved that the treasurer's report be approved; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor.

Homestead Report – Dorothy DeBisschop

- a. Shed Progress – No report
- b. Front Door Replacement Progress – Our new front door has been installed by Ron Stebar. The latch will be in on Tuesday.
- c. Uneven Floorboard Issue – No report.

Membership Report -- Marilyn Serus – No report.

Any Other Reports -- Corresponding secretary Barbara Robinson reported that she had sent thank you notes to Al Quoka of Oxford Paint and Hardware for donating a large part of the cost for our front door, to Audrey Linke for donating a baby quilt for us to sell, and to Ron and John Giovacchino for selecting and putting in our new front door.

Evelyn McCarthy presented the Society with an **1868 Map of Oxford** that had hung in the Montriski Mill on Park Road when she was growing up there.

OLD BUSINESS

Thank You for a Successful Homestead Grand Opening – Dorothy DeBisschop -- Dorothy DeBisschop thanked all of the members of the Society for their extraordinary efforts that led to a successful Grand Opening. She especially singled out Jane Hulbert and Marcia Wrogg for their painting, cleaning and polishing that made such a difference. She commended Fred Rowland for restoring his antique fruit truck in time to park it in the front yard so that it could be enjoyed by our guests.

The installation of the **stone steps** from the former Poor House was noted.

Our next big project will be to raise funds for **energy efficient windows**. Ed Rowland has offered to install them for us. Dorothy DeBisschop feels that we can find grant money to cover part of the costs.

Dorothy DeBisschop asked if anyone has noted errors in the 4 page **Grand Opening Voices Insert** that they point them out to her so that she can make corrections on the master.

Calendars – Louise Burr – Louise Burr reported that our calendar order has been sent in. We sold enough to get our discount, and they will be delivered in the fall.

Videotape Interviews of Longtime Oxford Residents -- Marilyn Stebar and Marcia Wrogg – Marcia Wrogg stated that she hoped to resume the interviews in June. Jane Hulbert suggested that Alphonse Niestemski be interviewed.

Visit from Quaker Farms School Second Graders on May 23 and 24 – Dorothy DeBisschop – Dorothy DeBisschop reported that every second grader will visit the Homestead this week. Jane Hulbert is presenting a program on “If You Went to School 101 Years Ago”. Marilyn Serus is discussing “Everyday Life During the Time of Atwater Treat”. Fred Rowland and Louise Burr will talk about “Life on an Oxford Farm”.

Any Other Old Business – There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Museum Days – Nancy Farnum – Nancy Farnum explained that the Homestead will be open the first and third Sundays of each month from 2-4 p.m. Docent handbooks have been prepared for each room and will be updated as exhibits change. A signup sheet for docent volunteers was circulated.

Quilt Raffle – Nancy Farnum – We have 2 quilts made by the Homestead Quilters for sale. If they do not sell this summer, we will raffle them off. Presently we do not have a third prize to raffle.

Spring Tag Sale Cancelled for This Year – Dorothy DeBisschop stated that the Executive Board cancelled this year’s spring tag sale. We will use our efforts to market our museum instead.

Future Events

- a. **Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social – Saturday, July 21, at the Homestead** – Nancy Farnum – We hope to give the public a chance to experience making and tasting homemade ice cream. Guests must sign up ahead of time so we have a sense how many people to expect and how much ice cream to make. Nancy Farnum asked members who would be willing to loan their ice cream freezers for the event to contact her. We will need additional ice cream and toppings for back up.
- b. **Peach Festival – Saturday, August 18, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Peter’s Church** – Nancy Farnum. The format for this event will be like it has been in the past, with peach shortcake and all the trimmings.
- c. **Tom Thumb and His Valley Connections, Presentation by Marion O’Keefe on Sunday, September 16 at 2 p.m. at the Homestead** – Dorothy DeBisschop. Tom Thumb has a number of family connections in the Naugatuck Valley, including Oxford. Ed Rowland pointed out that his daughter’s wedding at the homestead is on September 15, and that it would be difficult to get the tents down and everything cleaned up in time for the program. We will reschedule.
- d. **Kevin Johnson as Private William Webb on Saturday, October 27, at 1 p.m. at the Grange.**
- e. **Carolyn Ivanoff as Dolley Madison on Saturday, November 10, at 1 p.m. at St. Peter’s Church.**

Volunteer Needed for Refreshments for our June 25 Meeting – Barbara Robinson and Phil and Loretta Rowland volunteered.

Any Other New Business

Marilyn Serus had located a BJ's "Buy 5 for \$20, get 1 free" ad for **padded chairs**. Louise Burr will ask Marilyn Serus to look at them. It was pointed out that they must be vinyl so we can wipe them off, not cloth.

Dorothy DeBisschop brought up the issue of a color for the new Homestead front door. Barbara Robinson suggested burgundy from a card of paint chips she supplied. Cindy Joy and Nancy Farnum expressed concerns that early residents of the home would not have painted the door a contrasting color and that we should paint it white like the rest of the building. Barbara Robinson expressed her view that since we had deviated from the museum's original furnishings by supplying such amenities as electricity, it would be no different to have a change in the paint on the door. Ed Rowland added that we should consider that the house will be repainted sometime in the future. Dorothy DeBisschop will check with architectural historian Susan Alexander to determine whether doors were painted in contrasting colors during the Colonial Period.

ADJOURNMENT – Dorothy DeBisschop moved that we adjourn; second by Jane Hulbert. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Following refreshments, Dorothy DeBisschop showed photographs and videos from the Grand Opening of the Twitchell Rowland Homestead Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Farnum
Recording Secretary