

TRAINS: Exhibit draws visitors to museum

But that still does not dampen the Onofrio brothers' fascination with the model, the cast iron black locomotive, the three-rail track, and original boxes, among others.

"As a set it's impressive," said Paul.

The brothers, whose family home is nearby, said they came to see the train and check out the historic home.

The Twitchell-Rowland Homestead at 60 Towner Lane, became a museum in 2011. The house was in bad shape, Farnum said, and much work has been done to it. Its collections include a loom from the 1700's, which was once used in Oxford and which is being painstakingly restored.

The train display stood

next to a display of toys owned by three sisters born ten years apart. The toys include a small red wagon, a tin serving tray, several wind-up metal toys among them. The collection of toys belongs to the Nyberg sisters, including current Oxford Historical Society president Louise Nyberg Burr.

Railroads from the past are

the focus of the museum's displays in February and March. The display includes photographs from the two stations of the New York, Hartford and New Haven Railroad stations that carried passengers from 1880 to 1930.

The museum is open on the first and third Sundays of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

THE FAST TRACK TO SUCCESS



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MASSA REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Phil and Loretta Rowland of Oxford look at a loom said to be 150-200 years old at the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead in Oxford on Sunday.

Model train show draws visitors to Oxford museum

BY LAURESHA XHIHANI
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

OXFORD — The town's humble museum had a good day on Sunday.

Drawn by a 1935 Lionel model toy train, some 20 people visited over a two-hour period.

"It's been a great day," said Nancy Farnum, who along with Marilyn Serus were the two docent volunteers at the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead museum on Sunday.

The train is on loan to the museum through March by a man who does not want to be

identified. The train is in near perfect condition even though it has been played with by two generations of boys in that man's family, Farnum and Serus explained.

The train brought out brothers Paul and Stephen Onofrio, who have been train aficionados since children and who also own Lionel sets, though not like the one on display.

Paul quickly points out that one of the two controls on display is not a Lionel and neither is the train station.

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Marilyn Serus, a volunteer at the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead in Oxford, talks about model railroads at the museum on Sunday. Railroads from the past are the focus of the museum's February and March displays. The display includes photographs from the two stations of the New York, Hartford and New Haven Railroad, which carried passengers from 1880 to 1930. The museum is open the first and third Sundays of the month, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.oxford-historical-society.org>.