

2018 Membership Form

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Please check one:

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| ☐ Individual Membership | \$ 15.00 |
| ☐ Family Membership | 25.00 |
| ☐ Senior Membership (over 65) | 10.00 |
| ☐ Junior Associate (under 18) | 10.00 |
| ☐ Business Sponsor | 200.00 |
| ☐ Lifetime Membership | 500.00 |

Please send checks payable to Oxford Historical Society, P.O. Box 582, Oxford, CT 06478.

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Executive Committee meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 1 p.m. at the Homestead. All members are welcome to attend and participate in discussions as we plan for the Society's programs, preservation and educational efforts.

Twitchell-Rowland Homestead

Built circa 1755

60 Towner Lane

Oxford, Connecticut



Preserving the Past to Enhance the Future

In September 2006, the Oxford Historical Society saved the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead from demolition by moving it to a new location on Towner Lane. The 1755 saltbox, with its original wood paneling and wide floor boards, was preserved.

After more than five years of restoration work, the Homestead had its Grand Opening on May 5 and 6, 2012. Since that time, the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead has become a local history museum and a place to hold historical programs for education and enjoyment.

The Twitchell-Rowland Homestead is open to the public the first and third Sunday of each month from 2 - 4 PM. Admission is free.

Oxford Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 582

Oxford, CT 06478

The Historic Twitchell-Rowland Homestead

The Twitchell-Rowland Homestead holds an important place in Oxford's past. Among the earliest homes built and still standing, it has been at the forefront of the town's agricultural history for many years.

The house was built by an early and prominent resident, Joseph Twitchell. His father had served in the French and Indian War during the expedition to Canada in 1690 before settling in Derby.

Joseph's bride, Elizabeth Tomlinson joined the Oxford Congregational Church in Oxford in 1746 where Joseph was an early member. They built the Homestead about 1755.

Joseph and Elizabeth Twitchell's son Wooster married Elizabeth Hull. Their only son was Ebenezer Twitchell who married Jerusha Finch.

Their son, Jeremy Hull Twitchell, inherited the Homestead. He married Anna Candee from another prominent local family. Anna Candee was the granddaughter of Caleb Candee, who served with all nine of his sons in the Patriot Army during the American Revolution.

Two of Anna's uncles, Daniel and Job, are known for building the Oxford House. A third uncle, Timothy, built the Oxford Congregational Church and several other old houses on Oxford Road.

The Homestead later became the home and farm of D.C. Riggs, a selectman and leader in the Oxford Agricultural Society in the 1870's.

The house next belonged to Owen Buckingham, who operated a meat and butchering business, supplying homes and stores in Oxford, Seymour and vicinity with

fresh beef, pork, lamb, and poultry.

The farm was purchased Dec. 18, 1900 by Philip and Elizabeth (Bronson) Rowland, pictured below. The farm became one of the first to be approved to supply milk to the Creamery when it was established in Southbury.



Philip and Elizabeth's son, Edward P. Rowland, born Nov. 15, 1900, was just one month old when his parents purchased the farm. As an adult, he continued the family farm. He was active in Oxford government, having served as selectman in 1929-30.

He was a charter member of Oxford Grange and Master of the Grange early in its history. He also served on the committee which established Boy Scout Troop #1 in Oxford.

Edward P. Rowland and his wife Alfaretta lived in the house all their married life, from their wedding on Sept. 1, 1923 until Edward died in 1954. Alfaretta then rented the farm to a young couple, and when she died, the family sold it. Edward and Alfaretta had four children: Frederick, Philip, Edward and Marion. Edward died Nov. 7, 2000, but the three other children have been very involved in the saving and restoration of the Homestead, and donated the land on which the Homestead now sits.

The Homestead as Oxford's First Museum

The Homestead now serves as a museum with a growing collection of artifacts, photographs and documents pertaining to the history of Oxford.

Besides displays of these items, a large 18th century barn frame loom has been re-assembled and restored in one of the rooms of the museum. Trained docents will demonstrate historic weaving methods and offer opportunities for young people and adults to participate in this traditional craft.

The Homestead Museum also provides a place to learn other historic crafts, and to attend interesting programs and activities related to local history.

Yes, I will help support the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead:

Please complete this form and enclose it with your check made out to Oxford Historical Society, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

**Please mail your donation to:
Oxford Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 582. Oxford, CT 06478**

All donations are tax-deductible.

Website:

<http://www.oxford-historical-society.org>

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