

***Welcome to H. Reinhardt Lewis:
an Exhibition of Art from
Oxford's Petticoat Farm.***

This event is co-sponsored by The Oxford Historical Society and Bob and Peggy Hilton, Mr. Lewis's daughter and son-in-law.

H. Reinhardt Lewis moved to Petticoat Farm (now 55 Barry Road) in Oxford to fulfill his lifelong dream of being an independent, self-supporting artist. While living in the 18th Century farmhouse with his wife, Ella, and young son, William, he drew and painted the Depression era landscape of the dairy and chicken farms that made up this small New England town and the surrounding area. Given the economy, there was no market for his works, and he was forced to move on to employment as a draftsman for Vought-Sikorsky during World War II and as a package designer for Robert G. Neubauer Design.

His legacy to us is this collection of watercolors and drawings that uniquely depict Oxford and its environs during the 1930's. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Hilton have added a group of Christmas cards that Mr. Lewis drew to send to friends and family, one oil painting and a small trunk that he painted for his grandson.

We invite you to step back 80 years and to view Oxford through the eyes of H. Reinhardt Lewis.



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**Saturday, October 19
12-5 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 20
1-5 p.m.**

Admission Free

**Oxford Historical Society
Twitchell-Rowland
Homestead Museum
60 Towner Lane
Oxford, CT.**

Oxford Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 582
Oxford, CT 06478



About the Artist

H. Reinhardt Lewis was born in Somerville, New Jersey in 1904 and attended schools in Rockville, Connecticut and Muskegon, Minnesota, after which he attended The American Academy of Art in Chicago and the Grand Central School of Art in New York City. While still a student in Chicago, he held an exhibit at the Hackley Art Gallery in Muskegon, where one of his works was described by his instructor in the low paper as "...one of the finest pieces of work done in the school." Mr. Lewis married Ella D. Marvin, also of Muskegon, in 1927, and the couple lived in New York City where he worked as a commercial artist. After residing in Chappaqua, New York, they moved to Oxford, Connecticut, where they spent the 1930's at "Petticoat Farm" on Barry Road, and where he did drawings and watercolors of the area. Their son, William, attended a one-room school in Oxford at that time. Unable to make a living as an independent artist because of the Depression economy, Mr. Lewis returned to commercial design and illustration, moving first to Wilton, Connecticut and then to nearby West Redding. The family stayed there from 1940 – 1980. During World War II, he was a draftsman for Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Company in Stratford, Connecticut. After the war, he worked for many years as a package designer for Robert G. Neubauer Design, creating packaging for such well-known products as A & P brands, Scripto pencils, Prestone Anti-Freeze and Underwood foods. The Lewises retired to Old Saybrook, Connecticut where Mr. Lewis died in 1986.

H. Reinhardt Lewis Works on Display

Unless otherwise noted, all of the works listed below are from the collection of Robert and Margaret Hilton.

1. Sharon Church (Watercolor)
2. Curve in the Road (Watercolor)
3. Abandoned House (Watercolor)
4. Farmhouse Study 1 (Pencil)
5. Farmhouse Study 2 (Watercolor)
6. Farmhouse (May be based on Petticoat Farm with some changes) (Watercolor)
7. Schoolhouse (Watercolor)
8. Petticoat Farm 1936 (Watercolor)
9. Haystacks (Watercolor)
10. Village Scene (Watercolor)
11. Petticoat Farm, November, 1936. (Pencil study for picture now in the collection of the Oxford Historical Society)
12. The Red Barns (Watercolor)
13. A Red Connecticut Farmhouse (Watercolor)
14. Farm Landscape (Loaned by Michael L. Hilton) (Pencil)
15. Barry Farm, Oxford (Pencil)
16. Long Ridge Library Print (Pencil)
17. Umpawaug Hill (Print of the Lewis home in West Redding)
18. Petticoat Farm (Collection of the Oxford Historical Society) (Pencil)
19. Oxford Farm (Collection of the Oxford Historical Society) (Pencil)