

# Making History Every Day

March and April 2020, Volume 2, Issue 2

*Oxford Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization*

**Twitchell Rowland Homestead Museum**

**P.O. Box 582, 60 Towner Lane, Oxford, CT 06478**

## FIBER FEST 2020! Saturday April 18 & Sunday April 19

**Twitchell-Rowland Homestead, 60 Towner Lane  
Oxford; Sat. 10 am to 4 pm; Sun. noon to 4 pm**



Photo from 2019 Fiber Fest from  
Facebook page of Diamond Bawlick

the general public an interest in the study, history, collection and making of all varieties of lace.

Another group making its debut at the Oxford event is CT Woolcrafters, a community for fiber artists who love to work with natural fibers. Members meet monthly at CH Booth Library in Newtown, CT. The group works to promote fiber related crafts in Western CT and will have representation of spinners, weavers, felters and embroiderers.

Saturday there will be a visit from the UMass Dartmouth Textile Department.

Leila Orienter will be presenting crocheted lace featuring vintage patterns using quilting thread to make table runners, place mats and coasters.

All weekend natural dyeing will be on show. Onions, acorns, rosemary and spinach are only a few of the natural materials that can be used. For centuries leaves, roots, bark, berries, flowers and vegetables, lichen and insects

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Tight Knit Group will join us at the Fiber Fest

The OHS Living History weekend is in its fifth year! Visitors to the Twitchell Rowland Homestead will see live animals, shearing and fiber craft demonstrations during this free family friendly celebration.

Saturday meet spinners from around the area demonstrating this ancient skill. A Spin-in will be held from 1 to 3 pm inviting spinners from the area to spin together in public. Fiona Fine will be in the homestead who will guide adults and kids to try their hand at carding raw wool and spinning yarn, jobs commonly done by the very young and the very old for generations.

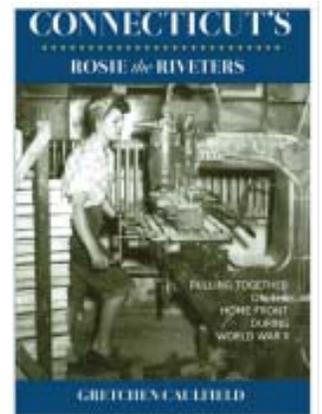
New this year members of the New England Lace Guild will offer an opportunity to see up close the work and skill of this long honored handcraft. Formed in 1982 by bobbin lacemakers who wished to interest others in this beautiful historic handcraft, the group promotes to

### Rosie the Riveter

Saturday, March 7 • 1:30-3 pm

**Oxford Public Library,  
49 Great Oak Road**

When the men were mobilized for the war effort women took on jobs they never expected and earned a new nickname: Rosie the Riveter. This program is presented by Gretchen Caulfield of the CT chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association.





Embrace  
Leslie Alexander

Embrace  
Felted by Leslie Alexander



Felted Ornament  
by Kathryn Dygon



Shearer Ron East gives sheep a pedicure prior to the actual shearing. Hoof trimming is an essential part of sheep care.

have given colors to yarn and fabrics. Dawn Sotir of Coon Hollow Farm in Oxford and Jody Bishel, both well known in the valley for their skill as crafters and talented fiber artists, will be sharing their tips and ideas.

Animals will be sheared at various points in the two day event. Ron East of AlpacaBoose Farm in Oxford will be demonstrating on his animals and the sheep of Patti Clark from Maple View Farm in Orange.

Weaving will be on display using looms of a range of size and styles. The historic Jensen Barn Loom dating back to the 1700s was re-assembled and now fills a room of the Oxford Homestead. Smaller peg looms and pin looms (think potholders 1950s) will be on display.. Holly Pryor of Easton's Blue Button Farm will demo a peg loom (dowels mounted in a board) that can be used to create bags, rugs and scarves. Holly will have roving from her pygora goats and Jacob sheep. Pygora goats are the product of an intentional cross of pygmy goats (known for hardiness and playfulness) with white angora goats (bred for docility and longer fleece). Holly's Jacob sheep are examples of sheep found in Britain since the 1600s which feature distinctive double horns (four) and piebald fleece (darker areas on the white fleece). The piebald fleece produces interesting shading of the wool as it is spun and used for crafting. Roving is thick, bulky, untwisted yarn used for rustic projects.

Look for crafters Leslie Alexander of Oxford doing wet felting; Kathryn Dygon maker of wool ornaments and 2-D fabric. On Sunday basket maker Mardi Smith will share her wares and a tablet loom will be demonstrated by Reggie Britton. Sunday is Knit & Crochet Day! Come to our Knit-In and Crochet-In from 1-3 pm – bring your current project and pull up a chair.

We particularly want to thank the East family for their participation and support of this unique local experience since its inception.

And crafters will be chatting and sharing- make new friends, learn new skills, solve a craft question. Awesome needlework will be on show, some items for sale.

**Twitchell-Rowland Homestead, 60 Towner Lane Oxford;  
Sat. April 18, 10 am to 4 pm; Sun. April 19, noon to 4 pm**



Handspun and booties  
by Holly Pryor



Mardi Smith, basketmaker, will display her craft on Saunday,

## Making a Mark in History

George H. Prescott left his mark when he attended Mr. Munn’s School – his carving into a beam in the schoolhouse basement is dated 9/12/1850 and he signed himself G.H.Prescott. George’s name is also listed in the 1850 census for Oxford, CT – as a student at the school originally on Oxford Rd and part of the Beardsley family’s farm.



This carving and others will be viewable once the Munn Schoolhouse restoration is completed. The new basement was constructed at the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead Museum campus before the centuries old school building was transported down Rte 67 to Christian Street and then down Towner Lane.

The move on November 13, 2019 was documented by local news media and can be seen on the Oxford Historical Society website. Funding for the foundation, building moving and stabilization came from area grant funds from the Town of Oxford, the Valley Community Foundation and the Matthies Foundation. Individual donations came in all sizes from \$1 to \$2500.

Electricity will be incorporated subtly as the interior is readied for the public. Efforts will be made to make the restoration period accurate and community safe. While targeting Oxford’s third grade classes to visit as part of their curriculum, the school will be available to all ages once completed.

Much of the restoration is being done by Seymour resident Eric Iott, a restoration carpenter with wide experience.

	Chauncy Verrill	6 M
	Geo. Beach	10 M
	Geo. Prescott	8 M
	Geo. Prescott	8 M
	Henry Austin	12 M

George and William Prescott, eight-year-old twins are listed in the 1850 census among the 23 boys listed as students, ages 6 to 16, at Mr. Munn’s School.



**Mr. Munn’s Schoolhouse, circa 1850**

## ION BANK COMMUNITY AWARDS

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual campaign to support community non-profits – voting is easy!**

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

You Can Help Us Win  
GRANT MONEY



Vote for the Oxford Historical Society! Each vote gets us \$25. You must have an ion Bank account and each voter gets only one vote. Accounts with multiple owners allow each owner to vote, but owners

of multiple accounts are allowed only one vote. The easiest way to vote is online at the ion Bank site. The direct link is located at <https://cap.ionbank.com/CAP/Vote.aspx?ID=184>. If you do not have computer access, other options are available. See the ion Bank near you or call 203-729-4442.



### Honor an Educator

Inspired by a gift of \$2500 honoring the teachers who educated the donor’s daughters to benefit the Munn Schoolhouse Project, the notecards have become popular with local families.

The gift cards also may be purchased in the Town Clerk’s Office or at The Twitchell-Rowland Homestead Museum Open House (2-4 pm) on the first and third Sundays of each month. For further information please call 203 888-0230.

Mail donations to Oxford Historical Society, PO Box 582, Oxford, CT 06478. Make checks out to Oxford Historical Society, with “Munn Schoolhouse” in note field.



## ***You can help***

Raise the roof! Clapboards! Windows! Doors! Roof Shingles! Purchase of materials that will finish the exterior of the Munn Schoolhouse will be funded by the proceeds of this spring's online giving campaigns.

Join others in the community from 7 a.m. April 21 through 7 p.m. April 22 to pledge and donate when prizes and bonuses will maximize the impact of gifts.

GiveLocal sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation arranges for minimal fees and coordinates extra incentives. Simply click

<https://www.givelocalccf.org/organizations/oxford-historical-society> and your donation comes to OHS.

If you miss the first opportunity, you can take advantage of Give Greater. This online campaign runs from 8 a.m. May 5 through 8 p.m. May 6. It also offers bonuses and prizes through its sponsor, Valley Community Foundation.

<https://www.thegreatgive.org/organizations/oxford-historical-society>.

Oxford is fortunate to be one of a few towns that are served by multiple foundations.

Additional work is on the calendar and grant applications have been submitted to area funders to supplement donations to the OHS online campaigns.

**Keep up with repairs and improvements on the OHS Facebook page and website. To get a look in person come visit the Twitchell-Rowland Homestead during regular Open Houses on the first and third Sundays from 2-4 pm. Watch the progress and see your donation at work. Thanks for your support!**

### ***Come Visit Us!***

#### **HOMESTEAD OPEN HOUSE:**

- Sunday, Mar. 1, 2 - 4 pm
- Sunday, Mar. 15, 2 - 4 pm
- Sunday, April 5, 2 - 4 pm
- Sunday, April 19, 2 - 4 pm

**ON DISPLAY:** Fiber crafts items from across the years. Hand made items have been a mainstay of homelife for centuries. Some items are owned by Oxford Historical Society members Louise Burr and Marilyn Stebar and others are part of the OHS collections.

**FREE Admission \* Tours available**  
**Twitchell-Rowland Homestead**  
 60 Towner Lane, Oxford

### **With Your Help and Support, We Can Preserve Oxford's Historic Rural Heritage**

- Follow us on facebook @oxfordhistoricalsociety
- Like our Facebook page to let foundations know the Society has your support
- Join the Historical Society. Download a membership at <http://www.oxford-historical-society.org/membership.pdf>
- visit the Homestead and learn more about our activities
- sign up for special tours & programs

***Join with Us!***