

## Oxford Reminiscences

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The next place well worthy of notice on our journey is the old Jeremy Twitchel homestead, located opposite the terminus of the Towner Lane Road. This house was built by Josiah Twitchel, the father of Jeremy in or about the year of 1755. The timber for its construction or a portion of it was cut and hewed in the virgin forest surrounding the place.

The outside of the house was covered with shingles which were rinded and shaved by tedious hand labor. The flooring is of oak 1x10 or 12 inches and most of it is as sound as when it was first laid.

Many improvements have been made from time to time and the house is in a good state of preservation, notwithstanding the passage of 162 years.

The farm, consisting of about 80 acres, is one of the most productive in the town. Jeremy Twitchel was born March 14, 1784 and was married to Anna Candee, daughter of Osrah Candee, June 10th, 1809. Seven children were born to them: Harry, Esther, Jane, Martha, Henry, Anson and Julia.

Mr. Twitchel spent his whole life on the farm, devoting his whole time and energy to its improvement. He was closely identified with the Congregational Church of Oxford and was liberal in his donations for its support. He never aspired to political honors, being too much engaged with his home duties. He died Feb. 26, 1867, aged 83 years. Anna, his wife, was

a hard working woman, prudent in her management and zealous for all work connected with the home and the church. She died. Jan. 13, 1848, aged 62.

Harry, the son, was one of the characters that Oxford has been noted for ever since it was first settled. For many years he lived alone in a little shack on the bank of Little River near the old saw mill known as the Twitchel mill. Here he was engaged in sawing logs into lumber for the farmers in that section of the town. He was a very powerful man and could handle a railroad tie as an ordinary man would a fish pole.

He was once offered a barrel of cider on Chestnut Tree Hill if he would carry it home on his shoulder. He replied he could do it but he did not drink cider and refused the offer.

In stature he stood six feet two and was never known to smoke or chew.

His nose was long, his eyes were black and his long red hair hung down his back.

In winters snows or summers dew he sported neither boot or shoe.

He was an inoffensive person and always had a kind word for the school children.

Eunice, the daughter married David Riggs, son of Gall Riggs, soon after

the death of her father and came into possession of the place. He built a new barn and made many other improvements. Mr. Riggs occupied the place for several years, when it was sold to Owen Buckingham., then engaged in the butchering business, his route being mostly in Seymour. He continued his residence here for about fifteen years, then sold the place to Jordon Crofut, who owned and occupied the place until 1902, when it passed into the possession of Phillip Rowland who still occupies it.

Mr. Rowland is one of the most thrifty and up-to-date farmers in the town. He is largely engaged in the dairy business, keeping a number of cows of superior breed. When the creamery was first started in Southford he was one of the first to furnish milk for the creamery. The production of his dairy now goes to Ansonia. Mr. Rowland was for many years engaged with Chas. A. and David Meiggs of Quakers Farms where he gained the knowledge of up-to-date farming. His first adventure after leaving the Meiggs farm was to marry Elysabeth Bronson also of Quaker Farms. Mr. Rowland then purchased the Treat farm at the foot of Great Hill, and after making extensive repairs he sold that farm and purchaed the farm where he still resides. They are identified with the Congregational Church of Oxford.



# Twitchell Homestead

*Built about 1755 by Josiah Twitchel*



WPA Headstone Survey, from files in Connecticut State Library.

Twichell, Jeremy H., died Feb. 26, 1867, age 83 yrs.

Twichell, Annie Candee, wife of Jeremy H., died Jan. 13, 1848, age  
62 yrs.

## Jacks Hill Cemetery


*PHOTO, 2003, Karen Bauer.*



## 1802.

- Jan<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>, Joseph Blake and Louisa Osborn, married. 270  
 Jan<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>, Leverit Lines and Sally Blake, married.  
 Febr<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>, Josiah Swift of Derby and Esther Twitchell of Oxford, married.  
 Febr<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>, Clark Bunnel of Oxford and Elinor Rodes of Milford, married.  
 Febr<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>, Isaac Addison Bischo and Sarah Davis, married.  
 April 8<sup>th</sup>, Ebenezer Anson Riggs and Sebra Holbrook, married. 275  
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>, John Limberner and Fanny Marting, married.

## 1803.

- Jan<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>, Timothy Hitchcock of Woodbridge and Urania Twitchell of Oxford.  
 Jan<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>, John C. Hull and Hannah Chatfield, married.  
 June 23<sup>d</sup>, Samuel A. Buckingham of Oxford and Mary Camp of Lincoln, m.  
 Aug<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>, Caleb Cande, Jr<sup>r</sup>, and Lucina Twitchel, married. No. 280  
 Oct<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, Henry Broomfield of Cheshire and Rebekah Law of Oxford, married.  
 Oct<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>, Oliver Buckingham of Bethany and Hester Sanford of Oxford, m.  
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Hull Twitchel and Anne Cande, married.   
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup>, Joel Finch and Grace Twitchel, married.

## 1804.

- Jan<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>, Elias Scott and Lucinda Riggs, married. 285  
 March 28<sup>th</sup>, Salmon Griffin and Betsey Lewis, married.  
 Oct<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>, Ebenezer Humberfield and Anne Riggs, married.  
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>, Gideon Riggs and Susan Pitcher, married.  
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>, Edward Moss of Derby and Lois Twitchell of Oxford, married.

## 1806.


- Jan<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>, Hiram Osborn and Sally Finch, married. 290  
 March 12<sup>th</sup>, Rosewell Cande and Jury Riggs, married.  
 May 18<sup>th</sup>, Richard Baker of Bridgeport and Hannah Kelley of Oxford, mar.  
 No<sup>r</sup> 1, Isaac Chatfield, Jr<sup>r</sup>, and Sabria Beebee, married.

## 1809.

- Dec. 31, Agur Miner of Southbury to Polly Bassett of Oxford.

## 1810.

- Feb. 5, Isaac Treat to Eleanor Stiles.  
 March 11, Bennet Pangman to Susan Clark.  
     Samuel Mallery to Lucretia Davis.  
     25, Ransom Clark Lord of New Haven to Charity Sperry of Woodbridge.  
     —— Parsons of Derby to Merib Lyman of Oxford.  
 Ap. 9, Wheeler Lewis to Marian Spencer.  
 July 15, Mr. Nath<sup>l</sup> G. Huntington of Hartford, candidate for the ministry,  
     to Elizabeth Tucker of Woodbridge.  
 Nov. 29, Havey Smith                      Boothe of N. Stratford.  
 Dec. 31, Issac Towner to Eunice Johnson.

- Julius W. Monson of Wallingford and Lucy A. Carley of Oxford,  
June 1, 1865.
- Joseph W. Moody Upper Jay, N. Y., and Sarah E. Fairchild of  
Oxford, Nov. 28, 1866.
- Frederick E. Morris of Seymour and Evelina I. Roberts of South-  
ford, Sept. 12, 1883.
- William J. Oatman and Sarah E. Edwards, both of Southbury,  
April 2, 1880.
- Joel Osborn and Catherine S. Washband, both of Oxford, June  
11, 1846.
- Elmer H. Pardee and Louise E. Candee, both of Oxford, Nov. 20, '79.
- Edwin S. Parmelee of Southbury and Mary Ann Treat of Oxford,  
Sept. 14, 1859.
- James Pemberton of Waterbury and Mary Jane Riggs of Oxford,  
Sept. 3, 1850.
- Cornelius C. Perkins of Bridgeport and Jannetta A. Candee of Ox-  
ford, Nov. 21, 1867.
- Charles Perry and Mary Ann Alling, both of Oxford, Aug. 10, 1851.
- Horace B. Perry and Sarah J. Beecher, both of Oxford, July 15, '68.
- Everett S. Platt and Edna Hine, Sept. 14, 1886.
- John J. Reynolds of Seymour and Sarah J. Richardson of Middle-  
bury, June 28, 1866.
- Herbert B. Richards of Southbury and Lillian H. Towner, Dec.  
28, 1874.
- Charles Riggs of New Haven and Augusta Smith of Oxford, June  
22, 1848.
-  David C. Riggs and Esther A. Twitchell, both of Oxford, Nov. 11, '55.
- James P. Riggs and Henrietta Perry, both of Oxford, Dec. 2, 1869.
- Charles W. Robinson of Southbury and Idella M. Treat, April 24, '72.
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- George P. Sanford and M. Augusta Judd, both of Oxford, Jan. 15, '68.
- Albert I. Smith and Maria E. Hudson, both of Oxford, Sept. 27, '63.
- Jervis Somers of Southbury and Antoinette Hawley, Apr. 19, 1877.
- George Sperry and Mary A. Cable, both of Oxford, Nov. 19, 1845.
- Lucius P. Sperry of Davenport, Ia., and Emily Chatfield of Ox-  
ford, Jan. 29, 1856.
- Robert Stevens and Ella L. Wheeler, both of Southbury, Feb. 18, '85.
- Charles W. Storrs of Seymour and Mary L. Davis of Oxford, Mar-  
30, 1863.
- William W. Thomas of Huntington and Julia Chatfield of Oxford,  
Aug. 18, 1867.