

**THE CEMETERY IS A PERPETUAL CARE CEMETERY**

## Oxford Cemetery, Inc.

### Purpose, Rules & Regulations

Oxford Cemetery, Inc. is a 501-C-13 Maryland Corporation which exists to operate and manage the Oxford Cemetery for the purpose of providing a peaceful and serene sepulcher for the remains or cremated remains of human beings and the cremated remains of a family pet(s) buried with their owner.

The Cemetery is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors which meets annually for the transaction of necessary business and for the election of officers. It also meets during the year as needed for the transaction of business. These meetings may be held in person or by any electronic form necessary and are closed to the public.

Grand Section / Columbarium : \_\_\_\_\_

Section : \_\_\_\_\_

Lot/Niche : \_\_\_\_\_

Grave(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

## I.

### General Rules and Regulations

- ~ The Cemetery will be open to the public from dawn to dusk.
- ~ The speed limit in the Cemetery is 10 miles per hour. Vehicles must remain on the Cemetery driveways and are not permitted to drive or park on grass areas.
- ~ Children under 12 years of age are not permitted without adult supervision.
- ~ Pets are not permitted on the grounds of Oxford Cemetery proper. Dogs may be walked on the property adjacent to the entrance lane up to the Cemetery gates but not within the gates. Pets must be under the control of the owner or handler at all times.
- ~ Advertising of any kind is not permitted in the Cemetery.
- ~ Hunting is not permitted on the Cemetery grounds or in adjacent waters.
- ~ The Cemetery dumpster is provided for refuse from the Cemetery only. Outside trash or garbage may not be brought into the Cemetery and placed in the dumpster. Nothing is to be thrown into the water or left on the river bank.
- ~ Fees for grave spaces, columbarium niches, grave openings, niche openings, niche lettering, niche sealing, and memorial location charges will be determined by the board. Fees must be paid in advance. This fee will only be charged once and will not be charged a second time if the monument, marker or cornerposts are removed and reinstalled for any reason.
- ~ A licensed Maryland mortician or funeral director must be present at any interment, inurnment or dis-interment in Oxford Cemetery.

## IX.

### Amendment

- ~ The Board of Directors for Oxford Cemetery, Inc. of Talbot County reserves the right to render a final decision on any matter involving the Cemetery not specifically covered in these rules and regulations.
- ~ The Board of Directors for Oxford Cemetery, Inc. of Talbot County reserves the right to amend, supplement or change these rules and regulations as may be necessary from time to time.

The Oxford Cemetery Company, Inc. of Talbot County  
Revised September 7, 2021

## VII.

### Disclaimer

- ~ The Oxford Cemetery, Inc. of Talbot County shall not be liable for loss or damage caused by an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikes, malicious mischief, unavoidable accidents, riots, or actions of any military or civil authority.
- ~ The Cemetery is not responsible for damage to monuments or markers or for the theft of flowers, flower holders, vases, shrubbery, etc.
- ~ The Cemetery is not liable or responsible for damage or loss of property or any injury of any nature to persons who may visit the Cemetery or attend funeral services.
- ~ The Cemetery assumes no responsibility or liability for any defect or deterioration of any monument, marker, memorial, tomb, etc. in the Oxford Cemetery.

## VIII.

### Enforcement

- ~ The enforcement of these rules and regulations shall be by the Board of Directors of Oxford Cemetery, Inc. and/or its designated representative(s). The Board of Directors and/or its designated representative(s) shall have the right to supervise and control all persons using the Oxford Cemetery, including the conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, lot owners, and visitors.
- ~ Any damage done to lots, walks, drives, trees, shrubs, or other property by dealers or contractors, or their agents, shall be promptly repaired by the dealer or contractor to the satisfaction of the Cemetery Board.
- ~ Besides being subject to these rules and regulations, all interments, inurnments,, disinterments and remains are subject to the law of the State of Maryland.

## II.

### Funerals and Burials

- ~ After notification of a funeral, a designated member of the Board of Directors or person so authorized will mark the appropriate grave location. At the time of notification of a requested burial or inurnment, the person making the request will provide the cemetery with the name, address, and phone number of the deceased's next of kin or personal representative. A current grave request form must be used. On that form the next of kin must choose the grave, initial the selection, and sign the form before the burial can proceed. Grave openings are to be done by a firm contracted with the Cemetery for this purpose and no others.
- ~ All traditional burials will be in a grave liner or burial vault.
- ~ Traditional graves will be single-depth only.
- ~ Two cremated remains may be interred in one traditional grave.
- ~ A traditional burial and a single cremated remains burial may be interred in one traditional grave.
- ~ Cremation burials must be in a cremains vault or a permanent-type urn ( bronze, steel, granite, marble or heavy man-made plastic).
- ~ Burial permits and cremation certifications must be presented to a cemetery official prior to services.
- ~ Wooden urns or temporary cremation containers are not permitted unless buried in a cremains vault.
- ~ All burial vaults, whether traditional or cremation, must be buried below the surface of the ground and covered by at least sixteen (16) inches of earth.
- ~ Cremains may not be spread on any grave in the Cemetery or on the grounds or waters adjacent to the Cemetery.
- ~ Cremated remains of the family pet(s) must be placed in the casket or urn of the owner, in the outer burial container or on top of the outer burial container in a permanent container. Cremated remains of pets may not be placed in an individual grave or niche without the remains or cremated remains of its owner.

### **III.**

## **Sales and Exchanges of Spaces**

- ~ Grave sales will be handled by a member of the Board of Directors or such other person so authorized by the Board.
- ~ The Cemetery reserves the right to exchange a burial space or lot for one of the same cost and in a close proximity to the original location if there has been a human error by a volunteer Board Member or designated Cemetery representative in the recording of a lot transaction.
- ~ If a family desires to sell a grave space, lot, or columbarium niche, the Cemetery has the right of first refusal to repurchase the same at the original price paid by the family, provided there has been no burial or inurnment therein. If a memorial marker, bench, or planting (such as a tree or bush) has been placed on a lot, it must be removed by the family, at their expense, prior to resale. In the case of a lettered columbarium niche cover, the niche cover must be replaced with a blank at the family's expense.
- ~ Sales of groups of lots for resale to any corporation, church, fraternal organization or other organization will not be permitted. The cemetery may designate a reserved area for any of the above entities.

### **VI.**

## **Columbarium Rules and Regulations**

- ~ Each niche in the Columbarium is intended to hold no more than two human cremated remains.
- ~ Cremated remains of a family pet(s) may be co-mingled with those of its owner or placed in the niche with its owner. If separate, they are to be in a sealed container of such a size that will allow a second human cremation urn to be placed in the niche.
- ~ The lettering on the face of each niche cover will be in a form and style approved by the Cemetery Board. No information about the pet may be inscribed on the niche cover.
- ~ Any attachment to the face of an individual niche cover must be approved by the Cemetery Board.
- ~ A service emblem provided by the Veteran's Administration may be placed on the face of the niche cover.

## V.

### Memorialization Regulations continued...

- ~ Family monuments erected in Grand Sections 9 and 10 must be placed in the location of the Cemetery lot in a position determined by the Cemetery Board.
- ~ If a concrete foundation needs to be removed for burial, the cost to re-pour a new foundation is the family's responsibility and must be contracted before any additional monument work is completed or additional burials are marked in that lot. Proof of a paid contract may be required.
- ~ Horizontal family monuments erected in the Family Estate Section must have a die at least four-foot six-inches in length. A vertical monument must be at least five-feet in height.
- ~ No monument in any section of Oxford Cemetery shall stand taller than the Tench Tilghman obelisk monument.
- ~ The Cemetery reserves the right to remove, at the lot owners' expense, any monument, marker or bench that is not in compliance with Cemetery regulations.
- ~ Lot owners maintain authority over monument materials and design in their lot as long as the designs comply with Cemetery Monument Rules and Regulations. The Tilghman Estate Lot Monuments are regulated and approved by the Cemetery Board only.
- ~ The Cemetery reserves the right to suspend work with a monument dealer that has not paid the memorial location fees, has not remedied previous work incorrectly installed, or whose work does not adhere to the Cemetery regulations.

## IV.

### Planting, Flower, Shrubbery Regulations

- ~ The planting of any trees, bushes or shrubs anywhere in the cemetery will not be allowed unless approved by the Cemetery Board. A diagram of any proposed planting must be submitted to the Cemetery Board for approval. This regulation includes Family Estate lots. Maintenance of any of the above shall be done yearly by the lot owner family.
- ~ Any flowers planted may not extend out further than twelve (12) inches from the concrete foundation under the family monument or individual grave marker. Flowers, shrubs, bushes and/or trees may not be planted in a cemetery path.
- ~ Care of the ground around markers (weeds, etc.) is the responsibility of the family and not part of the perpetual care Oxford Cemetery offers.
- ~ Glass containers may not be used at any place on the Cemetery property.
- ~ No ivy may be planted in the Cemetery.
- ~ Christmas decorations must be removed by February 1<sup>st</sup> and Easter decorations must be removed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any decorations left in the Cemetery after these dates.
- ~ Gravel, small stones, pebbles, or similar material may not be placed around monuments, markers, or plantings in the Cemetery unless properly contained (due to possible injury from mowing operations).
- ~ The Cemetery reserves the right to remove, at the lot owners' expense, any plantings that are not in compliance with Cemetery regulations.
- ~ Scalping (removal of) of the ground around memorials, graves or plantings will not be permitted.

## V.

### **Memorialization Regulations**

- ~ There will be no mausoleums permitted in Oxford Cemetery.
- ~ No railings, curbing, or fences surrounding a lot or grave will be permitted.
- ~ Statuary, religious symbols, bird baths, or other personalized grave markings will be allowed to be placed on the grave or in the lot by Board permission only. For the sake of maintenance, the Cemetery reserves the right to remove any such free-standing objects.
- ~ An individual marker placed on the grave must be perpendicular to the grave and the opposite end of the grave from the family monument.
- ~ No information about the pet(s) may be inscribed on a separate marker or on the owner's grave marker.
- ~ In Grand Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, monuments and grave markers shall be placed in a manner in keeping with the placement of monuments or markers in the surrounding burial lots.
- ~ In Grand Sections 7, 9 and 10, an upright family monument may be erected in a lot of four contiguous graves or more. The monument will only have the family surname or surnames engraved on the front, or front and back of the die, along with any floral, religious or other scene engraved or etched as chosen by the family. In a four grave lot in Grand Section 7, this monument must be centered on the four graves on the path end of the graves. If a family owns eight graves in Grand Section 7 side by side, the monument must be centered on the eight graves. If a family owns eight graves in Grand Section 7 which are four over four, the monument may be centered on either path end of the lot or on the center line of the lot. If a family owns a sixteen grave lot in Grand Section 7, the monument must be centered on either path end of the lot or on the center line of the lot. However, only markers flush with the ground are permitted in lower section 7 (sub-sections 81-95). Graves purchased here are sold individually or in pairs.
- ~ A granite or marble bench may be used as the family monument in lots of four contiguous graves or more. The family surname or surnames must be engraved on the front edge, or the front and back edges, of the seat. The family monument bench location in a lot will be the same as specified for a family headstone.
- ~ Any additional bench, not used as a family monument, must be of granite or marble construction and may not be placed in lots of less than eight graves. Such ornamental benches must be located on vacant graves set aside for that purpose and set on a concrete foundation. The location must be approved by the Cemetery Board.
- ~ Individual markers designating the occupant of a grave space must be flush with the ground. If the deceased is a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and the family desires to have the Government-issue marker placed on the grave in addition to the regular family-style marker, it should be placed in the lengthwise center of the grave. Additionally, the Veteran's marker may be mounted on a granite, marble or concrete pre-formed base, measuring 28x16 in size. No additional concrete border is required.
- ~ When a memorial dealer requests a foundation, the exact size of the monument base, bench size or a marker will be required by the Cemetery. A member of the Cemetery Board, or a person so authorized will mark the exact location(s) requested. After the foundation is marked, the monument dealer will be notified and has twenty days, weather permitting, to install the foundation. If the footing is not placed in that time frame, the marking flags will be removed and a second marking fee will be required.
- ~ Concrete foundations under monuments or benches in Grand Section 7, 8, 9 or 10 or the Family Estates Section must be six inches longer and six inches wider than the actual base size or bench seat top. A granite base may be used under a bench instead of concrete but with the same size requirements as for a concrete foundation. Each individual grave marker must have a concrete border three inches longer on each end and three inches wider on the top and bottom edges of the marker unless manufactured with a recessed granite trim of required size. These concrete borders must be pre-formed and not shovel-cut in the ground. If a bronze marker is used it must be mounted on a concrete or granite base that is four inches longer and four inches wider than the actual bronze marker.