



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

For Immediate Release: September 13, 2010

Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

Westwood Cemetery Offers Fascinating Lessons in Oberlin History

This fall, the Oberlin Heritage Center is leading local history enthusiasts away from books and buildings and presenting history lessons from a classroom of a different sort, based on the verdant setting and abundance of stories from Oberlin's local Westwood Cemetery. Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at the Oberlin Heritage Center, will present an illustrated program about Oberlin's picturesque Westwood Cemetery on Thursday, September 30 at 7:15 p.m. in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive). Dedicated in 1864, Westwood's design reflects the park-like Rural Cemetery Movement of the 19th century and today contains a rich variety of symbolism, individuality, and scenery that is enjoyed by Oberlin residents and visitors alike. The presentation will look back at the history of the cemetery and highlight some of its unique features and monuments. Schultz also will acquaint the audience with the Oberlin Heritage Center's Westwood gravestone inventory, a remarkable project of cataloging and photo documentation undertaken by a dedicated team of volunteers, which offers an excellent source of information for family genealogists, researchers and historians. The event is free and open to the public.

The community program is offered in conjunction with the launch this fall of the Oberlin Heritage Center's new "Radicals and Reformers History Walk," which explores some of the pathways and personalities found within Westwood Cemetery. Participants will enjoy stories of several of Oberlin's most intriguing residents of days gone by, amidst a colorful backdrop of fall foliage on this one hour guided walking tour. The history walk promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and tales of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo.

The guided history walk will only be offered to the public four times this fall, at 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays September 18 and 25 and October 2 and 9. The fee is \$6 per adult with a \$1 discount for OHC members, and children under 18 attend free (history walks are recommended for children ages 9 and up). Space is limited and reservations are strongly recommended and can be made at www.oberlinheritage.org or at the Monroe House front office (73 ½ South Professor Street). Tour-goers will meet near the Westwood Cemetery entrance (455 Morgan Street) to begin this historic journey (parking is available all along the paved pathways within the cemetery).

For more information about the September 30 Westwood Cemetery program at Kendal, or to make a reservation for one of the Saturday morning "Radicals & Reformers" history walks, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz at the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or by e-mail at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

###

END