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Photo Available

Creating the Oberlin History Comic Book

The Oberlin Heritage Center presents noted author and historian Bentley Boyd, creator of the new Oberlin history comic book, *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!*, in a public program on Tuesday, May 22 at 7:15 p.m. Boyd talks about his unique approach to presenting history in this fun way that engages audiences of all ages. An experienced illustrator, he has created over 30 history comic books on an array of topics in his Chester Comic book series. The Oberlin publication incorporates into just 24 pages the history of the college and community from its founding in 1833 to the present day. Boyd's presentation offers the inside scoop on how he chose which pieces and parts of Oberlin history to include in the entertaining, fact-filled book and where he found inspiration for his clever illustrations. The event, which takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive), is free and open to all.

Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director, Pat Murphy, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz, and Board member, docent and retired Oberlin third-grade teacher, Gail Wood, worked closely with Boyd for more than a year in the development of the Oberlin history comic book. Funding was provided by generous donations to honor the memory of Oberlin Heritage Center trustee Nicholas Stevenson, a Kendal resident and volunteer for the Grandparent Readers program at Oberlin's Eastwood School. The donation also provides that a copy of *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* is given to each third-grader from Oberlin's Prospect School when making their annual visit to OHC's Little Red Schoolhouse each spring in culmination of a unit of study on local history.

Born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Bentley Boyd began drawing and selling his own comics as a grade school student. He studied History and Literature at Harvard University and presently lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. In addition to the public program, Boyd will speak with students at Oberlin's Prospect School during his visit to Oberlin. He also will be appearing at Mindfair Books (13 West College Street) on Tuesday, May 22 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. to sign copies of *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* as well as others of his books from the Chester Comix series.

Earlier this month, the Oberlin History comic book was the recipient of a Silver Award in the Ohio Museums Association's 2011 Visual Communications Competition, which recognizes creative excellence in both print and digital publications of Ohio museums. Copies of the Oberlin history comic book can be purchased for \$6.95 (\$6.25 for Oberlin Heritage Center members) at the OHC Museum Store (in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street) as well as at the Oberlin Ben Franklin (13 West College Street), the New Union Center for the Arts' Uncommon Objects (39 South Main Street), and Kendal at Oberlin's Cardinal Shop (600 Kendal Drive). All proceeds support the non-profit Oberlin Heritage Center museum's programs and its mission "to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit." For more

information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact the Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org.

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