



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 10, 2012

Contact: Richard Donegan, AmeriCorps/Ohio Historical Society Civil War 150 Leadership Corps member at 440/774-1700 or at CW150@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Commemorates 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln announced his Emancipation Proclamation to free all enslaved people in rebellious states as of January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation is widely regarded as one of the great documents of our nation's history, as well as evidence of President Lincoln's decision to shift the Civil War to a war against slavery. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Oberlin Heritage Center offers a public reading of the historic document on Saturday, September 22 at 12 noon. The event is part of a statewide initiative organized by the Ohio Historical Society's Civil War 150 Advisory Committee to read aloud the Emancipation Proclamation at least once in all of Ohio's 88 counties during the 150th anniversary week of September 17-23.

The Oberlin reading will be led by the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps member Richard Donegan and will take place on the grounds of the Monroe House; in the event of rain, the reading will be moved to the Little Red Schoolhouse. Both historic buildings are located at the Heritage Center complex at 73½ South Professor Street, adjacent to Oberlin College's Conservatory of Music parking lot (south of the Kohl Jazz Building). Free parking is available in the Heritage Center's parking lot accessed off of 20 West Vine Street (behind Midas Muffler).

In 1863, the hopes of the enslaved and abolitionists were encouraged mightily by the Proclamation, which eventually led to the 13th Amendment, adopted in 1865, ending slavery, and the 14th Amendment, adopted in 1868, recognizing people of African descent's right of citizenship. Following the 150th anniversary commemorative reading, Donegan will lead a brief discussion of the effects of the Proclamation including how it was received by those residing in Oberlin at the time.

A native of New Jersey, Richard Donegan has a degree in Historical Studies from The Richard Stockton College in Pomona, NJ and has worked previously at The Cape May County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society (Cape May Court House, NJ) as well as The New Jersey State Archives (Trenton, NJ). He is one of 20 AmeriCorps volunteers assigned by the Ohio Historical Society in the statewide Ohio History Service Corps Program. Based at the Oberlin Heritage Center since October 2011, he has helped coordinate Civil War programming and events at museums, historical societies, and other local history organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties.

For more information about the upcoming program, please contact Richard Donegan at the Oberlin Heritage Center, (440) 774-1700 or cw150@oberlinheritage.org.

###End