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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Warm-Weather History Walks *OHC Members Receive FREE Admission!*

Back by popular demand, the Oberlin Heritage Center will offer a series of guided history walks on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. from June through September. Each is led by a trained docent who shares stories of those who lived, worked and went to school in Oberlin in days gone by. Enjoy time outside and learn more about Oberlin's powerful history through these upcoming walks:

Freedom's Friends History Walk. *June 1, 15, and 29; July 13 and 27; August 10 and 24.* Prior to the Civil War, as many as 3,000 African Americans passed through or lived in Oberlin after escaping from slavery. The town was once said to be second only to Canada as an asylum for freedom seekers. This guided history walk is about the historic decisions that shaped Oberlin's growth as a station and highlights the individuals and events that marked Oberlin as one of the most active stations of the Underground Railroad. Stories include Oberlin College's acceptance of African American students, the famous ship *Amistad*, men who volunteered for John Brown's violent raid on Harper's Ferry and local efforts to thwart slave catchers.

Scholars & Settlers History Walk. *June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, August 3, 17 and 31.* Stroll around Tappan Square while learning more about the earliest residents of Oberlin interspersed with fascinating stories of the triumphs and misfortunes linked to the landmarks surrounding this inviting town center. The guided walk combines historical facts and fun anecdotes about the beautifully preserved buildings standing today, as well as former buildings that once occupied some sites around Tappan Square. Adding to the experience, the Heritage Center will share with tour-goers a number of historic photos from its collections that will enhance the guide's stories during brief stops at selected points along the tour.

I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt. A History Walk for the Younger Set! *June 1, July 6, August 3, and September 7.* Designed for children ages 5-11 with an adult companion. Families are guided through historic Oberlin while keeping their eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. (Takes place rain or shine: we'll "spy" inside the Heritage Center's historic building if inclement weather.) Fee is \$3 per child and accompanying adults are free. Fun and engaging for all!

Radicals and Reformers History Walk. *September 7, 14, 21, and 28.* This guided tour through Westwood Cemetery promises a pleasing balance of scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was

remembered as “gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody’s fool.” Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council.

History walks also are a great way to entertain guests over the Memorial Day holiday weekend and the Heritage Center will offer several guided walks at various times during May 24-27, 2013, which coincides with Oberlin College’s Commencement/Reunion Weekend. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org for the specific themes, dates and times of these holiday offerings.

All history walk tickets must be purchased in advance; tickets are not available at the starting points of the tours. The fee is \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children accompanied by adults (although tickets are free, reservations still must be made in advance). Guided walks are approximately 60-75 minutes and are most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up. History walks also are available to groups of eight or more at other times by appointment. Keep in mind that history walks may be cancelled and fees refunded if fewer than 5 people pre-register or if it is raining at the tour start time.

To make a reservation for any guided history walk and find out where the walks begin, visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s website at www.oberlinheritage.org or stop by the Monroe House Museum Store at 73½ South Professor Street (parking available at the entrance to 20 West Vine Street), or contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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