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The Saloon Must Go!

Sit-ins, rallies, legal maneuvering, and public censure describe Oberlin's role in the fight to keep alcohol out of town limits, the founding of the Anti-Saloon League and its long-lasting abhorrence of alcohol. The Oberlin Heritage Center's AmeriCorps and Ohio History Service Corps member **Richard Donegan** shares stories from both sides of the table, including those of Reverends and Professors who led the Temperance Movement in Oberlin, as well as disgruntled saloon keepers and pharmacists carrying potent patent medicines and healthy elixirs. "**The Saloon Must Go**" is a fun, illustrated program presented **Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is free and open to all.

Donegan has been researching the topic in preparation for a regional collaborative tour about the temperance movement in Ohio. Oberlin has a strong tradition of temperance, beginning with its founders in 1833. The Anti-Saloon League was founded in Oberlin as a statewide initiative in 1893 and later moved to Westerville as the movement took on momentum across the country culminating in the national ban on alcohol through the 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920. Even after Prohibition was repealed in the 21st Amendment in 1933, Oberlin remained a "dry" community. In the mid-1900s city directories occasionally listed taverns, which perhaps sold beverages with lower alcohol content, such as 3.2% beer. Only in the past two or three decades have Oberlin restaurants been licensed to serve hard liquor.

Richard Donegan is completing his second year as an AmeriCorps member based at the Oberlin Heritage Center. A native of New Jersey, he 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 Ohio History Service Corps Program. Among his responsibilities, Donegan has assisted with a variety of historical research projects and fostered partnerships among many museums, historical societies, and other local history organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties. He will offer another community program later this summer (August 7, 7:15 p.m. at Kendal) on the research he has been doing for the Heritage Center on Oberlin's Civil War soldiers.

For more on this Oberlin Heritage Center program or other upcoming events, please call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.
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