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“Marriage Made in Japan” is 19th Century Oberlin Love Story

The original residents of the 1884 Jewett House, Frank Fanning Jewett and Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett, were one of the “power couples” of Oberlin’s first century. Trailblazers in their respective professions and actively involved in the community, their home was characterized as the “social and intellectual center” of Oberlin. In this “prequel” to the Jewetts’ Oberlin story, Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Norman Craig, takes us back to an earlier time when young “Fannie” Gulick and Frank Jewett, both on their own and working far from home, met and married in Yokohama, Japan in 1880. The illustrated presentation, Marriage Made in Japan and Nourished in Oberlin, will both engage and charm the audience. Craig’s extensive study of the Jewetts and Hall recently has been enhanced by new information acquired through colleague Yoshimitsu Miyagi whose research comes directly from Japanese sources. This free community program takes place on Wednesday, January 29 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). All are welcome.

Among his many professional accomplishments, Oberlin College professor, Frank Jewett, mentored young Charles Martin Hall who discovered an economically efficient process for making aluminum and founded the predecessor of ALCOA. Sarah Frances Jewett was a successful writer and editor of numerous books on public health and hygiene. Both Frank and Fannie were committed to doing good work in the community by being active in many aspects of civic affairs and Progressive Era social causes.

Norman Craig received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College in 1953 and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1957. He taught in the Oberlin College Department of Chemistry from 1957-2000; following retirement he has continued to remain active as a researcher and lecturer. Craig is a past recipient of the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution and the Morely Medal of the Cleveland ACS Section. Craig also was instrumental in Oberlin being named a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society for Hall’s groundbreaking work in developing the aluminum process.

For more information about this Oberlin Heritage Center event, or other upcoming OHC programs, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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