



73½ South Professor Street  
P.O. Box 455  
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455  
Phone: 440-774-1700  
Fax: 440-774-8061  
Website: [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org)  
E-mail: [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org)

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CONTACT: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)

## Repealing the Fugitive Slave Law

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the repeal of the notorious Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Oberlin Heritage Center docent and blogger **Ron Gorman** looks at the fervent crusade by Ohio Republicans to overturn the law. The illustrated presentation takes place on **Tuesday, June 3 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

When an ill-fated slave escape ended in unthinkable tragedy in Cincinnati in 1856, Ohio Republicans took aim at the Fugitive Slave Law by passing a controversial "personal liberty law," written by Oberlin's own James Monroe. But Ohio Democrats blamed that law for causing an armed confrontation between Ohio and the federal government. Gorman describes how the ensuing battle between Ohio Republicans and Democrats played out in the streets of Oberlin, the 1860 Republican Presidential nominating Convention in Chicago, and the halls of the United States Congress, where it culminated in a fiery showdown.

Ron Gorman has been an avid scholar of the Civil War for the last quarter century. He is an active member and volunteer for the Oberlin Heritage Center as a docent, blogger and researcher, specializing in abolitionism and the Underground Railroad. Gorman is a graduate of Cleveland State University and the proprietor of a local database design and technical writing business.

For more information about this Oberlin Heritage Center program, or other upcoming tours, summer camps or community events, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org), or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

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