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Local Stories of Quarry Life

Jim Hieb, a Lorain County resident, and author of the book “*Sandstone Center of the World: Images and Stories of Quarry Life in Amherst, South Amherst and Lorain County*,” will present **Local Stories of Quarry Life** on Wednesday, June 10 at 7:15 in Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. The Oberlin Heritage Center is sponsoring this free program open to the public.

Hieb is the Executive Vice President and CEO of the Marble Institute of America, the leading trade association serving the natural stone industry. The idea for his book grew from stories told to Hieb by Foyster Matock, a 30-year quarryman and the grandfather of Hieb’s wife, Christa. Hieb has carefully documented the history of quarrying in our area over the past 160 years. At the height of its hey-day, several dozen quarries were active and over 2,000 individuals were employed locally. While sandstone operations are now only a fraction of what they once were, there is still much evidence – both physical and anecdotal – of the huge impact that this industry had throughout the county.

Jim Hieb is a native of South Dakota, and has resided in Lorain County for the past 25 years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Dakota and a Masters Degree from Bowling Green State University. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Lorain County Community College. “*Sandstone Center of the World*” is Hieb’s first book. Copies are available for purchase at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store (73 ½ South Professor Street at the back of the Conservatory of Music parking lot) or online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

For more information about this program, or about the Oberlin Heritage Center, please call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org . Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for much more about local history and historic preservation.

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