



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Website: www.oberlinheritagecenter.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

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

Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Warm-Weather History Walks

As warm weather returns to northeast Ohio, so do the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular outdoor history walks. All ages can enjoy time outside and learn more about Oberlin's unique history and architecture through these fun learning opportunities:

Freedom's Friends History Walk. *Saturdays at 11 a.m., June, July, August.* Prior to the Civil War, as many as 3,000 African Americans passed through or lived in Oberlin after escaping from slavery. Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Scholars & Settlers History Walk. *First Sunday at 1 p.m., June, July, August.* Stroll around Tappan Square while hearing stories of Oberlin's earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals 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.

One Step More – Oberlin Women's History Walk. *Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., July.* In 1834, "founding father" John J. Shipherd pledged Oberlin's commitment to the elevation of the female character through education. Little did he know there was dynamite in that promise and women carried the matches! Hear stories of powerful Oberlin women who used Shipherd's promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and the United States.

Radicals and Reformers History Walk. *Saturdays at 11 a.m., September.* Be inspired by stories of spirited men and women who simply refused to maintain the status quo as you are guided through the beautiful park-like setting of Westwood Cemetery.

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 23-24, 2015**, which coincides with Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for specific themes, dates and times of these holiday offerings.

Tickets for individual history walks must be purchased in advance and are \$6 for adults, and free for Heritage Center members, college students and children accompanied by adults. (Even when tickets are free, reservations still must be made in advance.) The 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.

The Heritage Center offers these and other themed history walks to groups by appointment as well. Young historians will enjoy the **I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt** (designed for children ages 5-11), while those who enjoy history with a healthy dose of friendly competition can explore Oberlin through the **Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race!** Later this summer, the Oberlin Heritage Center will introduce self-guided tablet tours of Oberlin's downtown historic district which visitors can download and follow on their own mobile device or iPad or borrow one from the Heritage Center.

Throughout the year, the Heritage Center also offers the "Upstairs/Downstairs Tour" which includes stories from Oberlin's 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century set within the beautifully preserved Monroe House (1866), the Jewett House (1884) and the hands-on Little Red Schoolhouse (1836). These tours are offered every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and walk-ins are welcome. The "Sneak Peek" Oberlin Origins Tour – a mini-version of the full tour for those who have less time yet still want to hit the highlights – is available Tuesday through Saturday on a walk-in basis between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For reservations or to obtain more information about any of the Heritage Center's tour experiences, please visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, e-mail tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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