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The History of Electric Railways in Lorain County

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to bring back popular presenters, Dennis Lamont and Albert Doane, for a fun and fast-moving program spotlighting the history of the electric railway industry in Lorain County. The richly-illustrated presentation includes an array of photographs from historical societies and personal collections throughout the region. The event, which is free and open to the public, takes place on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:15 p.m. in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive).

Hold on to your hats as Lamont and Doane take their audience back in time more than a century ago for an exciting (virtual) tour of Tom Johnson's rail mill in Lorain. Hailing from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Johnson, an early pioneer in the industry, began moving his mill in 1894 to a green field site in what became South Lorain. In just ten months' time, Johnson's streetcars were running between Lorain and Elyria, and his plant produced its first heat of steel. Shortly thereafter, the mill began a 43-year history of rail production in Lorain, Ohio that helped connect residents, visitors, students and other travelers in Lorain County to destinations throughout Northeast Ohio.

Dennis Lamont is a resident of Birmingham, and a well-recognized local expert on the history of transportation in Northeastern Ohio. Albert Doane, a fellow transportation historian, is a resident of Amherst. Both men are members of the Oberlin Heritage Center and have offered several other well-received local history programs about Lorain County's transportation network to enthusiastic audiences.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is an award-winning history museum, historical society, and historic preservation group, located 35 miles west of Cleveland in Lorain County, Ohio. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums, and recently was honored as one of the first eleven organizations in the nation to be designated a *Preserve America Steward* by the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

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