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For Immediate Release: February 20, 2017

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Photo available upon request

Oberlin Heritage Center Presents World War II Mini-Series

The Oberlin Heritage Center presents community historian **Steve Johnson** in a discussion of World War II and its local impact. The first program, ***Oberlin Reacts to World War II***, takes place on **Tuesday, March 14 at 7:15 p.m.**, and will focus on the effects of the war on both town and campus, as told through newspaper accounts, oral histories, and social programs created during the war years. The second program, ***Oberlin Serves in World War II***, follows later in May and will center on the experiences of Oberlin men and women who served in the war. Each program is free and open to the public and will be held at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The Heritage Center appreciates the generosity of Northwest Savings Bank for sponsoring this program series.

Gathering information for the programs really was a community affair. Several local residents shared stories of family members with Johnson. Three Oberlin College Winter Term students helped with World War II research at the Heritage Center during the month of January under Johnson's guidance and that of Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**. The hard-working team of **Chris Mueller** (OC '18), **Karen Weiner** (OC '20), and **Xun Zheng** (OC '18) gathered more than 800 names of Oberlinians who served in the war or were active in relief efforts and also documented the community's reactions to the war.

Stephen Johnson III is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University receiving both Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees. He was a band director for 29 years, 25 of them in the Oberlin schools, prior to retiring from active teaching in 2002. He served in the armed forces as a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division Association and has been a long-time student of World War II history. Johnson also has been a Trustee of the Oberlin Heritage Center since 2011.

Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium is located at 600 Kendal Drive, one block east of State Route 58. For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center and its calendar of guided tours and community programs, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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