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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: Underground Railroad & Abolitionist 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.

One Step More – Oberlin Women's History Walk. *First Saturday* at 1 p.m., June, July, August. 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.

During Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend (May 19-21) the Freedom's Friends and Oberlin Women's History Walks will be offered to the public at special times, along with a third themed walk, the **Scholars & Settlers Tappan Square History Walk**. This walk focuses on the earliest residents of Oberlin and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around the inviting downtown green space that connects campus and community. (For more information regarding dates and times of this special weekend's offerings, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.)

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 90 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.

In celebration of Memorial Day, the Heritage Center offers a **FREE Westwood Cemetery History Walk** through Oberlin's scenic Westwood Cemetery on Monday, May 29 at 1 p.m. Participants will be guided through the cemetery's beautiful park-like setting and be inspired by stories of Oberlinians who served in the military. No reservation is needed. The tour will begin at the cemetery entrance (429 Morgan Street).

Summer also is an ideal time to experience the Heritage Centers self-guided tablet tours that are convenient and adaptable to individual interests. Simply borrow an iPad from the Oberlin Heritage Center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays, and learn about Oberlin in a “do-it-yourself” format. The **Freedom’s Friends: Abolition/Underground Railroad** tour allows participants to move at their own pace through town and campus to learn about local monuments and discover new stories connected to Oberlin’s abolitionist history. The **Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs, and more! The fee is \$5/hour or \$20/day per tablet, with a 20% discount for OHC members.

All year round, 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. These tours are free to OHC members, children and college students; otherwise \$6/adult for the full tour or \$3/adult for the mini-tour.

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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