

## Oberlin Heritage Center E-News – February 28, 2009

### History of Electric Railways in Lorain County

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

### Oberlin Heritage Center & Oberlin College Receive Award from the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry

**Pat Murphy**, Executive Director, accepted the American Chemical Society's "**Citation for Chemical Breakthrough**" award on behalf of the Oberlin Heritage Center Board, staff, volunteers and members during a ceremony held at the Oberlin College Science Center on Monday, February 23, 2009. The presentation was part of a symposium honoring historic Oberlin scientist, Charles M. Hall, for his principal patent obtained for the process of reducing aluminum by electrolysis (Letters Patent No. 400,766, dated April 2, 1889). An identical award was bestowed upon Oberlin College at the same time, and accepted by Oberlin College Dean of Arts and Sciences Sean Decatur. Each institution received a handsome plaque depicting the patent. The Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award was initiated in 2006. The term "breakthrough" refers to advances that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. Awards are given to the institution or organization closely connected to where these breakthroughs occurred. Jeffrey I. Seeman, former Chair of the ACS's Division of the History of Chemistry and creator of the award, said that the honor is intended to "celebrate great scientific accomplishments and motivate, through shared pride of achievement, all who walk by and see the plaques. We hope they'll say, 'Wow! That was done here!'" The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to be recognized for its work in sharing the history of Charles Martin Hall, Frank Jewett, and aluminum, and is grateful for all the assistance it has received in interpreting this story from Professor of Chemistry Emeritus **Norman Craig**, an Oberlin Heritage Center Life Member. The plaque will be displayed at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting next month (April 1), and then will be hung in a place of honor at the Jewett House, home of Frank Fanning Jewett, Hall's Oberlin College chemistry professor and mentor prior to and during the time of Hall's experimentation and discovery.

### Good Ancestor Workshop Space Still Available

Registrations are still being taken for the Oberlin Heritage Center's workshop "**How to be a Good Ancestor: Collecting and Preserving Family History, Stories, Photographs and Artifacts**" which will be offered on **Tuesday, March 10** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Two sessions will be presented: Part 1 (10 a.m. – Noon) addresses proper care of artifacts, documents, textiles, and photographs. Part 2 (1 – 3 p.m.) provides guidance on preserving family histories, genealogy and oral history. Participants may choose to attend either one or both sessions. Lunch is included in the all-day workshop, and can be added on to either single session. Additional details and a registration form may be found at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/upcoming.html#ancestor>, or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

### Celebrate Ohio's History

Ohio became a state on March 1, 1803; each year the anniversary is marked by the celebration of Statehood Day. **The Cleveland Plain Dealer's Thursday, February 26, 2009 edition** suggests that Ohio residents recognize the occasion by checking out some places of historical significance in Ohio. The PD lists eight places to visit in northeast Ohio, including the **Oberlin Heritage Center** – along with the James A. Garfield National

Historic Site, Lake View Cemetery, Western Reserve Historical Society, Pro Football Hall of Fame, historic Akron, the Dunham Tavern Museum, and Playhouse Square theaters.

### **Kudos Corner** (“Shout-Outs” to OHC Members Making News)

Congratulations to the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Coalition for being recognized by the **Oberlin Area Chamber of Commerce** with the 2008 Community Pride Award. Oberlin College Professor of History, **Gary Kornblith**, and **Sharon Pearson**, of the City of Oberlin, attended a special Chamber luncheon this past week to accept the award on behalf of the Coalition which planned and presented a community-wide event last fall to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue. A two-hour audiovisual presentation, produced by Acoustik Musik LTD and Room With a View Productions, features highlights from this day-long celebration and is available in the Oberlin Heritage Center’s museum store. Go to <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/OberlinWellingtonRescueDVDOrder2008.pdf> to download an order form for the DVD.

Congratulations to the Brownhelm Perfection & BB 4-H Club, celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The club, which is thought to be the oldest continuous 4-H club in the state, was founded in 1919. Oberlin Heritage Center member **Bonnie Cutcher** is the club’s advisor and is celebrating her 40<sup>th</sup> year in that position. Applause, applause all around in recognition of these two very historic milestones!

### **Working our Wish List**

Do you have a high resolution slide scanner? If so, would you be willing to either scan some slides for the Oberlin Heritage Center or allow us to borrow your slide scanning device? We wish to incorporate 35 mm color slides into various power point presentations and also to scan some slides so that they can be used for research and printed for exhibits and other educational purposes. We are also seeking a volunteer who has the knowledge and equipment to convert a series of VHS videotaped interviews to DVDs.

### **We’re “Shovel Ready”!**

The Oberlin Heritage Center is one of over 11,000 projects in Ohio that have applied for federal economic stimulus funds. Our project is to replace the badly deteriorated standing seam metal roof at the historic Jewett House with a historically appropriate new standing seam metal roof to help protect and preserve the building and its collections. The old roof material would be recycled.

### **You May Be Interested**

**Great Music In a Historic Setting:** Rarely is there a concert of organ and brass ensemble music that will match the one coming to First Church in Oberlin on **Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 p.m.** Professor and well-known organ concert artist **James David Christie** (an Oberlin Heritage Center member) and an ensemble of highly acclaimed brass faculty and students from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (including **Philip Parsons**, an Oberlin Heritage Center student intern for the past three years) will present a concert to benefit Family Promise / Interfaith Hospitality Network, an organization that helps homeless families stay together and become independent. Admission is free; and a free-will offering will be taken. Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee, Life Member, and talented videographer, **Dr. Jeanne McKibben**, interviewed Professor Christie prior to the benefit concert. Excerpts from this interview are being shown hourly on the **Oberlin Cable Co-op**’s community channel (Ch. 9) and also can be viewed at YouTube.com by clicking on either of these links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65Mf4mQSbVo> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEt9Fdb3Aao> .

*Everyone has something to share. You can share knowledge, you can share love and kindness no matter how poor you may be. Almost anyone can share in three areas which offer themselves over and over; you can share your special skills or knowledge; you can share by*

*filling a gap when you see one; you can share recognition and appreciation of others and the work they do.* ~ Napoleon Hill

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