

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – September 2012

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Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln announced his Emancipation Proclamation to free all enslaved people in rebellious states as of January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation is widely regarded as one of the great documents of our nation's history as well as evidence of President Lincoln's decision to shift the Civil War to a war against slavery. Join us at the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Saturday, September 22 at 12 noon** to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with a free, public reading of the historic document by AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan**. A brief discussion of the proclamation's impact will follow. Location: Grounds of the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street, facing the Kohl Jazz Building at the back of the Conservatory of Music parking lot). This event is part of a statewide initiative organized by the Ohio Historical Society's Civil War 150 Advisory Committee to read aloud the Emancipation Proclamation at least once in all of Ohio's 88 counties this week. For more information, or to let the Civil War 150 Committee know you're joining in, contact Amy Rohmiller at arohmiller@ohiohistory.org.

Italy: Museums and Musings

Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, journeyed to Italy this past spring as one of a six-member delegation of young professionals taking part in a four-week cultural exchange trip sponsored by Rotary International. Liz offers highlights of her travels on **Wednesday, September 26 at 7:15 p.m.** in a free public program taking place in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. This beautifully illustrated presentation includes an enlightening discussion of museum education in Italy and differing methods of interpretation and exhibition.

Smithsonian Museum Day: Free Tours!

The Oberlin Heritage Center takes part in *Smithsonian Magazine's* 8th Annual Museum Day by providing free tour admission on **Saturday, September 29 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** to visitors plus one guest who present the Museum Day Admission Card available at www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday. Museum Day involves hundreds of museums around the country and allows for one day only the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian's Washington, D.C.-based properties to be emulated throughout America. Don't miss this great opportunity to take a tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center or to visit another participating museum that day.

Love Oberlin History and Want to Help Share it with Others?

Consider becoming an Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer docent! It's a great way to learn more about Oberlin and its history whether you are new in town or have lived here forever. Our next **Docent Training Introductory Workshop** takes place **Sunday, September 30 from 1-5 p.m.** Plan to take a complimentary tour in the weeks leading up to the training to see first-hand whether docenting is something you would enjoy. The Heritage Center's docent group meets periodically throughout the year for informational gatherings, field trips, and more. Talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** (e-mail: tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or phone: 440-774-1700) for a free tour ticket or more information. Pre-registration is required.

History for Kids: I Spy, Do You?

The Oberlin Heritage Center's one-hour kid-friendly history walk, "**I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt**," is fun and engaging for the whole family. Designed for children ages 5-11 with an adult companion, participants are guided through historic Oberlin while keeping eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. Join us for the last regularly-scheduled monthly walk of the warm-weather season on **Saturday, September 1 at 3 p.m.** Reservations are required; fee \$3 per child. The "hunt" begins at the Monroe House (at the back of the Conservatory of Music parking lot) and takes place rain or shine. (We'll walk outside in fair weather; we'll spy inside our historic buildings if it is raining.)

"Radicals & Reformers" Round Out OHC's History Walk Season

September marks the last month to enjoy a Saturday morning history walk. This month's **Radicals & Reformers History Walk** is a 75-minute guided stroll through Westwood Cemetery taking place on **September 1, 8, 15, 22 or 29 at 11:00 a.m.** The picturesque setting offers a pleasing balance of scenic landmarks and stories of spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident is remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool." Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council. Advance reservations are required and may be purchased online at www.oberlinheritage.org or at the Monroe House's Museum Store. Tour fee: \$6 per adult; free for OHC members, college/university students with current ID; and for children under 18 years accompanied by a parent or guardian (the tour is best suited for 9 years and older). Tours may be cancelled and fees refunded if raining at the tour start time.

OHC's Fall Line-Up: Save the Dates!

Tuesday, October 9, 7:15 p.m. *The Campaign in the Wilderness.* Art Historian **Marcia Goldberg** offers a fascinating account of the presidential campaign of 1840 when incumbent candidate Martin Van Buren was challenged by Ohio's favorite son William Henry Harrison. Goldberg focuses both on what was going on in Oberlin during that campaign as well as what was happening on the national scene, and you may be surprised by the parallels found in today's presidential campaign. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Friday, October 12, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Community Arts and Culture Day.* Area youngsters have no school today because of NEOEA professional development teacher workshops. The Oberlin Heritage Center will partner with local arts and culture organizations to offer free family activities for this day-off-from-school. Drop-in at several locations around town and enjoy the fun! More details next month...

Tuesday, October 16 at 7:15 p.m. *Baseball: Personal Stories of the Game.* Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee, **Steve Johnson**, shares some of his favorite stories as a major-league fan of America's most popular pastime. Accompanying the illustrated program will be a display of vintage photographs and memorabilia from Johnson's private collection. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Wednesday, November 28 at 7:15 p.m. *Alonzo Barnard and the Oberlin Band: 19th Century Oberlin Missionaries in Minnesota.* Local historian **Lynn Youngblood** presents her discoveries about Oberlin College graduates (1843), Alonzo Barnard and his wife Sarah Philena Babcock Barnard, who served as missionaries on the Red River Indian Mission in northwest Minnesota. Lynn uncovered letters written between 1843-1857 where Alonzo shared their stories with Ohio family members. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's fall calendar of programs can be found online at www.oberlinheritage.org or contact us at (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) if you would like a paper copy of the calendar sent to you.

OHC Staff and Volunteer News

We're delighted that **Richard Donegan**, the AmeriCorps/Civil War 150 Leadership Corps volunteer for northeast Ohio, has signed on to serve a second-year in the position which is based at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Rich's next term of service begins in mid-September and continues through August 2013.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** and a team of docent volunteers will take part in the two-day **Pioneer Craftsman Experience** on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 18 and 19 at Mill Hollow in the Vermilion River Reservation. Hosted by the Lorain County Metro Parks, the event provides engaging activities for 3rd through 5th graders that leave students with a memorable impression of how different the lives of early Ohio settlers were from their own lives today. Participants visit a number of hands-on-history stations throughout the day, including Liz & company's session on the Underground Railroad.

Thank you to volunteer **Terry Hobbs** for making a wonderful reproduction wood yoke for visitors to use in the Little Red Schoolhouse. Trying-on the wood yoke is a popular activity as all ages experience what it would have been like way back when to fetch heavy buckets of water. The hand-carved yoke of yellow pine is remarkably similar to the fragile original, which can now be retired from active use. A special salute to Terry's six-year old grandson, **Glenn Hobbs**, who served as a "tester kid" during yoke production (and had the scratchy job of trying on the fitted wood frame several times before its final sanding!)

Congratulations to teen volunteers **Sarah Souders** (Amherst Steele High School) and **Annalee Sekulic** (Western Reserve High School) for completing more than 15 hours of service for the Heritage Center following participation in the OHC/AMAM **Teen Museum Camp** this summer. They received reimbursement of part of their camp registration fee, and the Heritage Center received great help from two exceptionally talented young women. Thank you, thank you!

James Monroe and James Garfield: Friendships Past and Present

Allison Powell, a Park Ranger at the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** in Mentor, Ohio visited two days of the Oberlin Heritage Center's Architecture camps this summer. She is interested in starting similar camps at the Garfield site and was delighted to observe the OHC camp structure and activities, while also lending a hand and sometimes even partnering up with students to complete challenges. It's wonderful that the two historical organizations could collaborate and share ideas, just as friends and fellow politicians James Garfield and James Monroe did over 100 years ago!

Members' Update

Welcome new members: **Evelyn Dugan** (Elyria), **Melissa Reed** (Oberlin), **Christine Sayler** (Wakeman), **Joyce Scott** (Wellington) and **Karen Sunman** (Amherst). We LOVE new members and appreciate your support that keeps Oberlin history flourishing! More and more new members are joining from outside of Oberlin, and that is a wonderful tribute to Oberlin's nationally significant history. Thank you! **If you are not yet a member, we encourage you to join today by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org.** New members are needed and really make a difference to the ongoing success of the organization!

Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Heritage Center!

Use **ShopforMuseums.com** whenever you shop online to create a FREE donation for the Oberlin Heritage Center. Just follow the quick and easy instructions on the Shop for Museums home page and shop at hundreds of stores nationwide including Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Coldwater Creek, The Gap, HP, Tommy Hilfiger, Kohl's, Macy's, Office Depot, Old Navy, Sears, Wal-Mart, Zappos and many more – all the places you are likely to visit as the holiday gift buying season approaches. There is no extra

charge to you and no cost to the Oberlin Heritage Center, which receives a percentage of your purchase amount. Together, we can make a big difference for the Heritage Center!

Also of Interest

The **Sheffield Village Historical Society** invites you to hear **Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf**'s illustrated presentation on **Adventures in Paradise: Exploration of French Polynesia from Captain Cook to Today** presented on **Wednesday September 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Historical Society** (SE corner of Rts. 254 & 611 in Avon) and again on **Monday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the Avon Lake Public Library**, 32649 Electric Boulevard, Avon Lake (hosted by the Avon Lake Historical Society). Both presentations are free. For more information, contact Eddie Herdendorf at herdendorf@aol.com.

TrueNorth at French Creek Nature & Arts Center presents the 5th annual **Family Music & Artsfest** on **Saturday, September 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Enjoy live music, arts & crafts, kids' games, a car show and more. Trams will be available every half-hour to take you to the historic **Burrell Homestead** (1820), once a stop on the Underground Railroad. Tours of the Homestead will be offered by the Lorain County Metro Parks, and a silent and live auction will benefit future renovations. For more information, contact TrueNorth Cultural Arts at (440)949-5200.

Is the Civil War the Revolution We Like to Forget? is a free public presentation by **Dr. David Blight**, recipient of the 2012 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Nonfiction for *American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era*. The event takes place on **Wednesday, September 12 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities (Clark Hall Room 309) at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Blight, is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the Civil War and Professor of American History and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance & Abolition at Yale University. [Registration recommended](#). For more information, visit <http://humanities.case.edu/>.

The **Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference** is a great opportunity to network and learn from others in the history and museum world. This year's theme is "**Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century**" and sessions will be held **Friday and Saturday October 5 and 6** at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio. Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** will present a session on "Teen Volunteers – Recruiting, Supervising, and Inspiring the Next Generation," while Executive Director **Pat Murphy** teams up with **Kay Fisher** (Executive Director of the Clinton County Historical Society) for "How Historic Houses Tell Communities' Stories in Different Ways: Examples from Ohio and Elsewhere." OHC member and program presenter (and former graduate student intern) **Kelly Selby**, assistant professor of history at Walsh University, discusses "Ohio Women and the Civil War Home Front." For more information about the conference, visit www.ohiohistory.org/register or call 1-800-858-6878.

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