

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – January 2015

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2015 Begins with Gratitude!

Thank you to the 278 donors who helped raise a record-high \$44,000 for the 2014 Annual Fund – a 19% increase over last year! The Heritage Center is *tremendously grateful* for this vote of confidence in the work being done to preserve and share Oberlin's diverse history in the community, online, in print, in the classroom, and in the fields of small museum administration and nonprofit management. Your support helped accomplish many highlights throughout the year: publication of the oral-history based book *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, a busy calendar of guided tours, themed history walks, and educational community programs, filled-to-capacity kids' summer camps, OHC's re-certification by the Ohio Association of NonProfit Organizations for its Standards for Excellence program, preservation progress at the Jewett House, Little Red Schoolhouse and the Vineway building, and two statewide awards from the Ohio Local History Alliance. We're looking forward to working together again with YOU to bring about another great year in 2015!

Oral History Volunteers – OHC Needs YOU!

We've all been delighted with the success and reviews of *Bonnets to Boardrooms*, OHC's new oral history publication based on women's stories from the 20th century. But in order to pull together such an outstanding book, we needed the stories to do it! Many volunteers have worked together over the years to compile the amazing repository of information now contained in the 150+ interviews of the Oberlin Oral History Project. As we begin a new year, we also plan to reorganize the **Oral History Committee**. Current oral history committee members and new interested potential oral history volunteers are invited to a meeting on **Wednesday, January 21 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Monroe House. At this meeting we will discuss the current state of the project, review redefined volunteer roles and responsibilities, and consider projects for the future. Interested volunteers should RSVP to committee liaison **Liz Schultz** by January 19 (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

January 28: Who Hauled Hall on Top of Hall?

Oberlin College Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, **Norman C. Craig** (OC '53), offers an entertaining and informative discussion of Charles M. Hall (OC 1885), the Perkin-Medal-winning discoverer of the modern aluminum extraction process, and new developments in Hall's historic legacy. Through his technical achievements, Hall transformed the metals industry, enabled long-distance transmission of electricity, and made way for revolutionary modes of transportation. Through his wealth, he propelled Oberlin College into the 20th century. The program's curious name comes from an Oberlin College student-written song *Who Hauled Hall on Top of Hall?* submitted in a 1954 local contest soon after the dedication of the College's Hall Auditorium. **Ann Craig** OC '55 and classmate **Helen Thompson Taylor** will treat the audience to a performance of the song to begin the program. The presentation follows some of the "wanderings" of the College's lightweight aluminum statue of Hall, the saga of the final construction of Hall Auditorium, and the controversial story of Hall's sister, Julia, and whether or not she played a significant role in her brother's work. The event takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium, on **Wednesday, January 28 at 7:15 p.m.** and is free and open to the public.

OHC's 2015 Calendar to be Unveiled Soon: Save these Dates!

We're putting the final touches on an exciting line-up of programs for the New Year. Watch for a Calendar of Events to be mailed to members soon, and meantime, make a note of these upcoming dates:

Thursday, February 5, 7:15 p.m. – *On the Home Front* – An eye-witness view from the Civil War's rural Midwest home front with family letters, songs, and images, presented by folksinger/author **Judy Cook** accompanied by husband **Dennis Cook**. Free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Tuesday, February 17, 4:30 p.m. – *Rules of Engagement: Civil War Courtship Letters and the 'Homefront Imaginary'* – Drawn on the correspondence of Oberlinians Giles Waldo Shurtleff and Mary E. Burton as well as that of Elliott Grabill and Anna Jenney, Oberlin College Professor of History, **Carol Lasser**, looks at how Civil War soldiers turned to women on the home front for emotional support and relationships beyond the battlefield to sustain them during the conflict. Co-sponsored by OHC, the Oberlin College Archives, and the College's Department of History. Free and open to the public. Location: Moffett Auditorium in Mudd Library on the college campus.

Saturday, February 28, 2-5 p.m. – *Upstairs/Downstairs Tour Docent Training* – This introductory workshop for new docents (also a great refresher for current docents) instructs volunteers on how to present an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings while sharing stories of the community and college in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century. Training is free; register via e-mail to Liz Schultz (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) by February 25. Location: Meet at the Monroe House (73½ S. Professor St.; parking off of 20 W. Vine St.).

Saturday, March 14, 1-4 p.m. *Freedom's Friends History Walk Docent Training*. Learn about Oberlin's role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and how to present it in the format of a 75-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Training is free; register via e-mail to Liz Schultz (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) by March 9. Location: Meet at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street; parking off of 20 West Vine Street).

Thursday, March 26, 7:15 p.m. – *A Visit with Antoinette Brown Blackwell* – In celebration of Women's History Month, Oberlin native **Beth Marshall** brings to life Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921), who studied theology at Oberlin College, and became the first woman to be ordained a minister of a recognized denomination in the United States. Last fall, an Ohio Historical Marker was dedicated in Oberlin in recognition of Blackwell's achievements. The event is co-sponsored with the Kendal Third Thursday Lecture Series. Free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Wednesday, April 1, 5-8:30 p.m. – *Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting & Banquet* – Gather with OHC's members and friends at the Oberlin Inn for dinner and a brief program by OHC's **Liz Schultz** (Museum Education and Tour Coordinator) and **Ron Gorman** (volunteer docent and researcher) presenting "**Old Secrets/New Stories of the Underground Railroad.**" Before the evening concludes, we'll salute the recipients of the **Heritage Center's 14th Annual Community Awards**. Further details, including ticket information, will be mailed to all members later this winter, or call (440) 774-1700 to add your name to the mailing list.

Upcoming Hands-on-History Fun for Kids!

Wednesdays, February 25-March 18, 1-3 p.m. *Hands-on-History and Cultures of the World Home School Series*. Boys and girls ages 8-13 explore many aspects of historic cultures in this four-week series featuring close-up looks at the Maya civilization, the Byzantine Empire, the Swahili Coast and the land of China. Online registration at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org will be available by mid-January.

March 23-26, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Spring Break Mini-Camps.* Choose one or both sessions: **Introduction to Archaeology** (March 23-24) or **World Cultures** (March 25-26), including East Asia, South Pacific Islands, Colombia, and New Orleans Mardi Gras. Each camp is designed for children ages 8-13 years. E-mail members@oberlinheritage.org to add your name to the kids' camp mailing list.

Help the Heritage Center Plan its Future

Share your thoughts and fresh ideas in a fun and exciting way with OHC Board and staff as the Oberlin Heritage Center takes the initial step in developing a new five-year (2016-2020) Strategic Plan for the organization. Heritage Center members and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend one of several **S.W.O.T. Sessions** being offered in early March. A discussion of the organization's **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats will be facilitated by J.D. Britton, retired director of the Local History Office at the Ohio History Connection and a highly-regarded consultant in the field of long-range planning. Britton knows the Oberlin Heritage Center well, having facilitated the process for several of OHC's past five-year strategic plans. Register by February 25 via phone (440-774-1700) or e-mail (members@oberlinheritage.org) to attend either the morning or afternoon session on **Tuesday, March 3** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) or **Saturday, March 7** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Morning sessions run 9 a.m. – 12 noon, and afternoon sessions 1 – 4 p.m. (plan to arrive 15 minutes ahead of time). For more information, contact Executive Director, Pat Murphy, at patm@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC's Educational Outreach Receives Community Foundation Support

Hip-hip-hooray and then some! **The Community Foundation of Lorain County** recently approved a grant of \$21,495 to fund OHC history education outreach for 2015. Warmest thanks to grant funders: **The Jane & Eric Nord Fund (Mrs. Jane Nord)** and **The Vanek Family Charitable Fund (Dr. & Mrs. John A. Vanek, Matthew D. Vanek, and Mrs. Jessica P. Dublikar)**.

Voices from Westwood

Often when doing research we come across interesting stories about individuals now buried in Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery. Recently, OHC Board member **Camille Hamlin Allen** learned the story of **Marjorie Lyman Henderson Buell**. Perhaps you've heard of the comic character "Little Lulu" – Henderson created her in 1935 while working for *The Saturday Evening Post*. While Buell retained creative control, the comic was later taken up by cartoonist John Stanley, and Lulu and her friends were immensely popular throughout the mid-1900s, even leading to some theatrical shorts. Buell died in Elyria in 1993 and is buried in Westwood (Section X). Find out [more](#) about Henderson Buell and Little Lulu at www.thecartoonists.ca.

Salute Those Who Make Oberlin Special!

Consider nominating an outstanding individual, organization, or business whose accomplishments in serving the community are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission *to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit*. Award Categories include **Community Historian** (someone who adds to the community's knowledge of Oberlin history); **Heritage Guardian** (an individual or group dedicated to historic preservation in our community); **History Teacher of the Year** (an educator who inspires students to learn more about history); **Community Teacher of the Year** (an educator who encourages community service); **Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award** (an individual, business or organization that enhances the aesthetics of Oberlin), and **Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year** (someone who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the OHC). Download an [entry form](#) by visiting the "What's New" sidebar at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and submit your nomination by **February 2, 2015**. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting, which takes place at the Oberlin Inn on April 1, 2015.

OHC Intern News

Graduate student intern, **Kelsey Voit**, debuted as a new Heritage Center blogger last month. Visit OHC's [website](#) to become better acquainted with Kelsey and her work at the Heritage Center – and find out why she may already know YOU!

The Heritage Center's Annual Meeting (April 1, 2015) will include brief remarks from former OHC college student intern (2004-2006) and museum fellow (2006-2007) **Laurie E. Stein** (OC '06), who now serves as the curator at the Lake Forest Lake Bluff (Illinois) Historical Society (www.lflbhistory.org). We're so proud that Laurie has been selected by Oberlin College's Community Service-Work Study Program (CSWSP) as its featured alumni speaker for the occasion of the program's 20th anniversary at the College. We're delighted that Laurie will be able to attend the Annual Meeting and visit with Heritage Center members and friends while she's back in town for the CSWSP anniversary celebration.

OHC Members Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomed 49 **new** members to the organization in 2014 – one-half of whom lived outside of Oberlin (throughout Ohio, across the country, and even so far away as Bermuda and England!) In December, we welcomed new members **Dale Embry** (Clinton, MI), **Carol Graham**, **James Jablonski** (Elyria), **Robert & Marilyn Kasayka** (South Amherst), **John M. Klein**, **Laurel Price Jones**, **Kathy Reichard**, **Steve & Genny Soltow** (Wellington) and **Lauren Watkins** (Naperville, IL). Welcome also to **Locke's Go Green** as a new OHC Business Member! (Members listed here are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) If you are not yet an OHC member, make it your New Year's resolution to [join](#) in 2015! Every membership helps keep Oberlin history alive for future generations.

Also of Interest

A recent study by the **Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO)** reports that Ohio nonprofits are proving themselves a force to be reckoned with. Not only do nonprofit charitable organizations enhance lives through their social services, advancement of the arts, education, increased tourism, community development and other missions, the more than 14,000 reporting nonprofits also serve as a major force in Ohio's economy. OANO's economic impact study indicated that the charitable sector is the fourth largest employer in Ohio by industry and contributed \$70 billion to the state economy in 2011, which was more than 14% of the state's gross domestic product. Learn more by viewing [The Ohio Nonprofit Sector Report](#) at www.oano.org.

The Third Thursday Lecture at Kendal at Oberlin this month features **Brian Frederick**, President and CEO of **The Community Foundation of Lorain County**, speaking on "*Community Foundations at 100: More than Grantmaking.*" This free public event takes place **Thursday, January 15 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

A new stone marker, installed with the assistance of OHC member, **Tom Shurr**, now graces the sandstone patio on the south side of Center Pond opposite the entrance to Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Community Center. As you may recall from the August 2014 E-Gazette, this peaceful viewing area sits upon paver stones once used along an Oberlin neighborhood sidewalk, then re-used by **Jep and Demmie Carrell** for a patio outside their Kendal cottage. Following cottage renovations, the sandstone was given by Demmie in late summer to be used as the foundation for two inviting benches overlooking the pond. The commemorative marker proclaims "Original Paving Stones from Oberlin Sidewalks Union St. & Main St." If you happen to be in the Kendal neighborhood, stop by and enjoy patio, pond and handsome plaque!

Congratulations to Lorain County, Ohio's three Sheffield communities (Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Township and Sheffield Village) as they celebrate their common founding 200 years ago. At least 25 events have been scheduled to commemorate the **Sheffield Bicentennial** throughout the year. For details, visit www.sheffieldbicentennial.org.

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