

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – June 2015

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History of Quarrying in Lorain County

Jim Hieb, Executive Vice President and CEO of the Marble Institute of America, is intrigued and inspired by local quarries. “Just imagine how the stone was brought out of the ground to make its way to become the building blocks for ancient and modern buildings!” he remarks in the introduction of his book *Sandstone Center of the World: Images and Stories of Quarry Life in Amherst, South Amherst and Lorain County, Ohio*. Hieb also was moved by the stories of those who toiled in the quarries, particularly the reflections of his wife’s grandfather, Foyster Matlock, a 30-year quarryman who described his work as “down-right labor...all work...no foolishness.” Hieb’s illustrated presentation **Local Stories of Quarry Life** covers 160 years of quarrying, and the huge impact that the industry had throughout Lorain County during its hey-day of the 19th and early 20th centuries and on into the present day. This free, public program takes place **Wednesday, June 10 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Hieb’s book can be purchased at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store (in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street, Oberlin) or online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Moving through History: Try a History Walk or a Tablet Tour this Summer!

History is fluid so why not incorporate motion into your exploration of local history?!! Audience engagement takes on a different perspective when you are standing right in front of a historic landmark rather than viewing it in a book, or when you literally are walking the same path as an important figure in Oberlin history. The Heritage Center offers several on-the-move learning opportunities this summer through guided history walks and our new self-guided tablet (iPad) tour.

Learn about Oberlin’s famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad by taking part in the Heritage Center’s **Freedom’s Friends History Walk** offered each **Saturday at 11 a.m.** in June, July and August. The 75-minute tour begins at The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. and winds its way across town and through the Heritage Center before the last story is shared at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Or, choose to walk the perimeter of Tappan Square and see it in a new light through the **Scholars & Settlers History Walk** offered the **first Sunday of June, July and August at 1 p.m.** In this 60-minute stroll, you’ll become acquainted with stories of Oberlin’s earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square.

The very popular **One Step More: Oberlin Women’s History Walk**, offered each **Wednesday evening in July at 6:30 p.m.**, presents stories of powerful Oberlin women who used the Oberlin founders’ promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States. Amidst the beauty of the changing seasons, the **Radicals & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk** inspires visitors with stories of spirited men and women who simply refused to maintain the status quo. This history walk through Westwood Cemetery’s beautiful park-like setting will be offered **Saturdays in September at 11 a.m.**

Each guided walk is \$6 for adults; OHC members, college students and children are free.

Reservations must be made in advance at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Debuting this month! You can move at your own pace through Oberlin's business district with our brand new **"Picture the Past"** tablet tour of historic downtown Oberlin. The 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! To experience the tour, come to the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to borrow one of OHC's iPads at \$5/hour or \$20/day (OHC members receive a 20% discount). Not sure if it's something you'll like? Stop by and see what it's all about! This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Early Bird Gets the OHC Summer Camp Savings!

Registration is underway for the Oberlin Heritage Center's Summer Camps! This year's camps for boys and girls ages 8-13 include: **Oberlin Changed the World** (July 27 – 31), **Architecture Camp** (August 3-7) and **Artists in Their Time** (August 10-14). Fee is \$110 for the week; \$100 for children and grandchildren of OHC members. *Take \$5 off per camp if registering prior to June 20.* Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Register at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

OHC Welcomes Military Families through Blue Star Museum Network

The Oberlin Heritage Center is among the more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia which are committed to welcoming active military families this summer season. Now in its sixth year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families). Participating museums agree to provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, even extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's museums, fine arts museums, history and science museums. For more information, including a full list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Find Us at these Oberlin Celebrations!

Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's booths at two community-wide celebrations in Oberlin this June. **Juneteenth** (Saturday, **June 13**, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.) is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. **Chalk Walk** (Saturday, **June 20**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) is a festive colorful event that pays homage to the tradition of sidewalk painting that began in 16th century Italy. Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun of these two free events that are open to the public. And, if you are able to volunteer at OHC's tent for a two-hour shift either or both of those days, we'd love to have your help! Call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org for more information.

All are Invited: Farewell for Pat Murphy

Save the date of **Saturday, August 8** and plan to stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center to extend warm thanks and good wishes to **Pat Murphy** as she wraps up her 22-year career as the Oberlin Heritage Center's Executive Director. OHC members and friends are invited to a come-as-you-are casual lawn party in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse following the day's Family Fun Fair festivities. (In case of rain, the event will move into the Schoolhouse.) Stay tuned for more details in next month's *E-Gazette*.

Space Needs/Possibilities Assessed as Part of Strategic Planning

Preservation architect **Lorri D. Sipes** of Ann Arbor, MI will visit the Heritage Center in mid-June to work with OHC Board and staff in providing a professional assessment of the museum's current and future space needs. Familiar with OHC from two previous site visits to the Heritage Center (in 1994 and 2013) which were funded by CAP grants (Conservation Assessment Program) from the national nonprofit Heritage Preservation, Sipes also helped to assess and plan the ongoing staged renovation of OHC's Vineway Building on South Main Street. The upcoming project is supported by funds set aside specifically for planning purposes from the bequest of Honorary Trustee **Sara Carter Balogh**.

Westwood Cemetery Database Now More User-Friendly!

Thanks to our good friends at the **Oberlin College Library** and **Oberlin College Archives**, the Westwood Cemetery Gravestone Transcription Project and its large database of individuals buried in Oberlin's local cemetery is now much easier for researchers to use. Since 1999, Oberlin Heritage Center volunteers have been working on this fully descriptive, searchable, free, online database of names and gravesite photographs that includes approximately 9,000 individuals buried in Westwood. In recent years, the original database system had become unwieldy and difficult for online visitors to access and use. The Oberlin Heritage Center is greatly indebted to our friends at the College Library and Archives for designing and hosting the more user-friendly and dynamic Omeka platform now available. You can access the new system through the Heritage Center's website under the "Research and Learn" tab, or visit directly at <http://www.oberlinwestwood.org/omeka/>. We consider the database still in a "testing phase," so if you come across problems or errors, please do let us know by e-mailing tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Looking for B&B Host Volunteers

The Heritage Center is having a *great* response from Oberlin College incoming freshman families who need overnight accommodations when they arrive on campus for new student orientation in late August. This annual volunteer B&B program is a BIG fundraiser for the Heritage Center, and more hosts are needed to meet this year's demand. If you can provide a single or double room in your home (with a private or shared bathroom) and a simple breakfast the following morning, please let us know. Bed-and-breakfast volunteer hosts are needed for one or more nights **between Monday, August 24 and Wednesday, August 26** (with the greatest need being on Monday and Tuesday nights). It's a wonderful opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and support the Heritage Center as well! All proceeds from the B&Bs help stretch the Heritage Center's general operating budget. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, e-mail OHCbnb@gmail.com.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News

Welcome **Maggie Bender**, the Heritage Center's new Leadership Lorain County summer intern. Maggie is from Avon, Ohio and recently completed her first year at Miami University (Oxford, OH) where she majoring in English Literature, Women's Studies and Political Science.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, visited Prospect School last month to deliver copies of OHC's history comic book ***Oberlin: Origins & Onward*** in anticipation of the third-graders' annual spring visit to the Little Red Schoolhouse. Each year, the third-grade curriculum includes an in-depth study of Oberlin history which culminates in a fun and authentic-as-possible day of "living history" at the Schoolhouse. Funding to provide each and every third-grader with a free copy of the comic book was provided by the donors who initially supported the Comic Book project

in memory of OHC trustee Nicholas Stevenson, a Kendal resident and volunteer for the Grandparent Readers program at Oberlin's Eastwood School.

Liz also debuted on **WOBL/WDLW** on May 19 to talk with Big John and Gene Brisco and provide a preview of the Heritage Center's Memorial Day Weekend tours and summer history walks. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. for more updates! (1320 AM and 1380 AM).

Maren McKee (Collections Manager) had the pleasure of attending the Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting in Dublin, OH on May 15th. She attended sessions that addressed planning a large scale move of archival material, making archival material accessible and relevant to the public and forging mutually beneficial relationships with researchers, all topics that will help with her work in OHC's archives. Maren also ran into former OHC intern **Morag Boyd** (OC 1997) at the conference.

For the past four months, our AmeriCorps Member **Kaitlyn Goss** has led a very successful support program for three organizations in northeastern Ohio completing the Audience section of the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Standards and Excellence Program ("StEPs"). The three organizations involved, Bedford Historical Society, South Euclid-Lyndhurst Historical Society, and Summit County Historical Society, came together to share their successes with the StEPs workbook and provide suggestions for resolving similar kinds of challenges that all museums face. Outside speakers also were brought in from the Ohio History Connection, Cleveland Museum of Art, Visit Lorain County, and Lorain Historical Society to share their expertise with the group. Congrats to the three participating historical societies for their hard work and for all the progress they made through this program!

We were thrilled to hear from OHC's former AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan** that he and his wife, **Lauren**, welcomed their first child, **Caroline Faye Donegan**, on May 9, 2015. The Donegans now live in New York where Rich works for the New York State Park system as a museum programs associate with the John Jay Homestead (Katonah) and Philipse Manor Hall (Yonkers).

Applause, applause to **Madison Bishop**, **Monica Monsalve** and **Hanna Van Reed** -- three terrific OHC interns participating in Commencement exercises at Oberlin College last month. (And a shout-out to Hanna for receiving Highest Honors in History!) How good to see former interns, **Darrin Tate** (OC 2006) and **Acacia Reed** (OC 2000) in town for Commencement/Reunion weekend, too!

Members' Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Madison Bishop** (Stamford, CT), **Virginia S. Clarke** (Littleton, CO), **Richard & Judy Schmidt** (Richmond Heights), **Hanna Van Reed** (Penllyn, PA) and new business member **Grunwell-Cashero Company** (Cleveland). New members always are welcome and are vitally important to keeping the organization strong and healthy. If you enjoy receiving this e-newsletter, and are not yet a Heritage Center member, your support at any level would be greatly appreciated! Please [join](#) by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure.

Also of Interest

In celebration of Juneteenth 2015, the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group** and the **Oberlin Public Library** will sponsor *Oberlin and the Fight over Black Voting Rights, 1865* presented by **Gary J. Kornblith**, Oberlin College Professor of History Emeritus. This free, public program takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Friday, June 12 at 12:15 p.m.**

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