

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – November 2012

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on Facebook!

OHC Expanded Tour Schedule for College's Parents' Weekend

As part of Oberlin College's Parents' Weekend activities, the Oberlin Heritage Center has expanded its guided tour schedule for **Friday, November 9** and **Saturday, November 10**. Out-of-town visitors and residents of the area are welcome to take part in the **Freedom's Friends History Walk** on **Friday at 3 p.m.** and **Saturday at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.** The guided 75-minute walk features stories of historic decisions that shaped Oberlin's growth as a hotbed for abolitionism and highlights individuals and events that marked Oberlin as one of the most active stations of the Underground Railroad. Or, tour the Oberlin Heritage Center's beautifully preserved historic sites (the 1866 Monroe House, 1884 Jewett House and 1836 Schoolhouse) to learn more about Oberlin's founding and its crucial role played in socially progressive causes and scientific discovery as well. The **guided on-site tour** takes place **Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Remember – tour and history walk participants receive a 15% discount on any purchases made that day in the Museum Store. For reservation and tour fee information, or Museum Store hours, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440)774-1700.

The Lost Letters of Alonzo Barnard

Join us on **Wednesday, November 28 at 7:15 p.m.** when local historian **Lynn Youngblood** shares her discoveries about Alonzo and Sarah Philena Babcock Barnard, Oberlin College graduates of 1843 who served as missionaries on the Red Lake Mission in Minnesota. Alonzo Barnard's letters written to his family back home in Pittsfield Township between 1843 and 1857 reveal the hardships encountered in traveling, surviving in the wilderness and working with the Native American population. The illustrated presentation is free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Westwood Cemetery Presentation

Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at the Oberlin Heritage Center, offers “**A History of Westwood Cemetery**” on **Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Elyria Public Library's North Branch (located on the campus of Lorain County Community College). Dedicated in 1864, Westwood's design reflects the park-like Rural Cemetery Movement of the 19th century and today contains a rich variety of symbolism, individuality, and scenery that is enjoyed by Oberlin residents and visitors alike. The presentation looks at the history of the cemetery and highlights its unique features and monuments. Limited seating; registration is required by calling the Library at (440)366-4919.

National/International Visitors to the Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage Center enjoyed welcoming some very interesting long-distance visitors for tours and conversations in recent weeks: **Deanda Johnson**, Midwest Regional Coordinator of the National Underground Railroad's Network to Freedom program, spent an afternoon visiting staff at the Heritage Center in mid-October. Johnson, based in Omaha, Nebraska, took time to visit several Ohio sites to become better acquainted with network members of this National Park Service program that is dedicated to preserving and sharing stories of the Underground Railroad. The Heritage Center was designated a

facility on the NUGRR Network to Freedom in 2004. **Maartje Swart**, a representative to the City Council in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, spoke to students at Oberlin College, met with Oberlin City Council members and toured the Oberlin Heritage Center to learn more about many facets of community government and local history in this country. **Yoshimitsu Miyagi**, an aluminum industry executive in Japan, spent several days in Oberlin doing in-depth research on Charles Martin Hall, Frank Jewett and the early history of aluminum processing and development. Mr. Miyagi toured the Jewett House as part of his two-day visit to Oberlin College and the community with **Professor Norm Craig**. Cleveland area representatives of the Council of International Programs USA (a nonprofit organization that promotes international understanding through professional development and cross-cultural exchange), toured the Heritage Center with **five delegates from Volgograd, Russia**. All university professors in Russia, they visited Oberlin College and the Heritage Center to learn more about the structure of the American higher education system and how it compares and contrasts with the Russian models.

The President Visited Oberlin (historically speaking, that is)!

Actually, there have been several U.S. Presidents who visited Oberlin, including three sitting Presidents who came to town while they were in office: **Rutherford B. Hayes**, **William McKinley** and **William Howard Taft**. **Theodore Roosevelt** spoke briefly at the Oberlin train depot while running in the 1912 election (after he had served as President from 1901-1909). **Woodrow Wilson** spoke in Oberlin well before he became President. **Warren G. Harding** campaigned here while running for Governor of Ohio in 1903 (he became President some two decades later). And **James A. Garfield** was in Oberlin visiting his friends James and Julia Monroe and slept at their home on the night that fellow Ohioan Hayes was elected President (Garfield was Governor of Ohio at the time).

It's a Small World!

Docent **Betty Mahjoub** led a tour for the Oberlin Heritage Center last month, and among the visitors was **Melanie Bernhardt**, a 1985 graduate of Oberlin College, who recently returned to the area as a new Oberlin resident. At the end of the tour, the two women realized they actually knew each other from nearly 30 years ago when Betty had been the House Director of East Hall, a dormitory where Melanie lived at Oberlin College. They had lived a few rooms down the hall from one another! What fun for Betty and Melanie to reconnect after all these years!

Honor Someone Special with a Gift to the Annual Fund!

We're in full-swing with the Oberlin Heritage Center's once-a-year, end-of-the-year campaign for annual operating support. This year's goal is \$35,000, and we've received \$23,000 from 185 donors to date. Consider honoring a family member or friend with a tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund. Gifts "in honor of" or "in memory of" are treasured by their recipients and greatly appreciated by the Heritage Center. Donate online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or mail your gift to the OHC Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. The Annual Fund campaign continues through December 31, 2012. Your donation is especially needed at this time to help end a very lean year in the black. OHC truly is grateful for every contribution!

Members' Update

Welcome new member: **Karen Boas** (Vermilion). As of last month, the Oberlin Heritage Center increased membership to 752, which included 646 individuals and households and 106 businesses and organizations. All told, that's a LOT of people who support and believe in the good work being done at

the Heritage Center! Thank you one and all! If you are not yet a member, we'd love to include you in our growing circle of supporters! Every member is important to the Heritage Center. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org and click on the "Join" tab to [become a member](#) today!

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

Bethany Hobbs and **Richard Donegan** attended the Northeast Ohio InterMuseum Council's Marketing & Social Media Workshop on Thursday, October 25th at the International Women's Air & Space Museum located in Burke Lakefront Airport. The one-day seminar offered two presentations: one on ways museums can market and advertise to current and prospective members and visitors, and another on how to use social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Google+ to share local history and museum happenings. Participants also toured the museum, where Rich and Bethany particularly enjoyed an exhibit on Katherine Wright Haskell, sister of Orville and Wilbur Wright, and an 1898 graduate of Oberlin College.

Rich Donegan prepared a display board about the Oberlin Heritage Center's historic buildings for the **Lorain County Preservation Network** exhibit at the **Lorain County Historical Society's** Starr House in Elyria on Saturday, October 20. The exhibit showcased efforts by local historical societies in preserving 19th and early 20th century buildings. The event showed the public the difficulties and successes in local historical preservation efforts. OHC's preservation display board will appear at some of the Heritage Center's upcoming programs – watch for it!

Thanksgiving Weekend Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Warmest thanks are sent to all of the Heritage Center's members and friends for the tremendous support you provide to keep Oberlin's rich history alive for future generations. The Oberlin Heritage Center will be **closed on Thursday, November 22** so that staff, interns, and volunteers may celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with families and friends. The Heritage Center will be **open from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 23 and Saturday, November 24**. Guided tours of the Oberlin Heritage Center will be offered on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Kudos Corner

The Heritage Center's **Liz Schultz** was inducted into the Rotary Club of Oberlin last month; her sponsoring Rotarian was former OHC Financial Assistant, **Pat Holsworth**. Liz has enjoyed speaking before several local Rotary groups this fall about her experience earlier in the year traveling through Italy as part of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange. Best wishes, Liz!

Congratulations to good friends and Lorain neighbors **Frank and Carolyn Sipkovsky** of the Black River Historical Society, honored with Individual Achievement Awards at the 2012 History Outreach Awards luncheon hosted by the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) in Worthington last month.

Also of Interest

"**Tastes of Thanksgiving**," presented by **Kendal Northern Ohio**, includes a complimentary lunch of delicious fall goodies, cooking demonstrations, nutrition updates, and much more on **Thursday, November 15 from 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the New Russia Township Hall (46268 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin). The event is free to seniors; RSVP by November 12 to Anne Murphy at (440)935-8117 or amurphy@kno-si.kendal.org.

To remove your name from the Oberlin Heritage Center's e-news mailing list, please respond to this e-mail by clicking on the "REPLY" button and typing "UNSUBSCRIBE" on the subject line.