

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – November 2010

Oberlin Memories of World War II

Learn and reminisce through first-hand experiences of the war effort and its impact on lives at home as the Oberlin Heritage Center's Oral History Committee presents its latest original program "**Oberlin Memories of World War II**" on **Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:15 p.m.** at **Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium**. In a casual format similar to that of a play-reading group, local residents **Tad Cowling, Linda Donovan, Don Illig, Jessie Reeder** and **Russell Walker** will present brief excerpts from more than two dozen transcribed oral history interviews from Oberlin men and women who recall their time spent serving on the front lines or stepping up on the home front. The one-hour program is free and open to the public.

Be a Good Ancestor Workshop – Sign up Now!

Register by November 5 if you plan to attend the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular introductory workshop "**How to be a Good Ancestor: Collecting and Preserving Your Family History, Stories, Photographs, and Artifacts**," which will be offered on **Saturday, November 13** from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Sessions will be led by Oberlin Heritage Center Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** and Librarian/Genealogist **Pat Holsworth**. For registration and fee information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, or call (440) 774-1700 to request a flyer.

Annual Fund Campaign Underway

Now is the time to make a gift to the **Oberlin Heritage Center's 2010 Annual Fund**. Your gift of any amount will be very much appreciated and will help support the organization's ongoing operating expenses. Our goal for this year's campaign is to raise \$35,000 by December 31, 2010. Presently we are about two-thirds of the way toward our goal. We enjoy hearing from members and friends as to why they chose to support the Annual Fund, such as the heartwarming sentiments expressed in this donor's recent note: "*As soon as we moved to Oberlin in 2003, we both fell in love with the town of Oberlin and all that it represents. The Heritage Center is the best way we know of to keep that proud and admirable history alive.*" Help the Heritage Center continue to serve our community by making a contribution today. You may make a secure on-line contribution at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or send your gift to Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074.

New Faces at the Oberlin Heritage Center

We are pleased to welcome two newcomers to the staff and volunteer corps at the Oberlin Heritage Center! **Karyn Norwood** is an AmeriCorps member who will be here until next August in a position supported through the Ohio History Service Corps program (a joint venture between the Ohio Historical Society and AmeriCorps). Karyn will be busy helping the Heritage Center and other regional historical organizations plan and launch programs related to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, coming up in 2011. Karyn is from Bucksport, Maine and has a degree in history from St. Michael's College in Vermont. The Oberlin Heritage Center's participation in this program is made possible in part by a grant from The Nord Family Foundation. Another new face at the Heritage Center belongs to intern, **Alan Cuthbertson**, a senior history major at the University of Akron, who began volunteering at the Oberlin Heritage Center earlier this fall. One

of Alan's first assignments at the Heritage Center was to research the life of Oberlinian Norman G. Long and preserve some of Long's personal documents including letters, photographs and a fascinating collection of World War II military honors. Read about Alan's work in the [blog](#) section of the Oberlin Heritage Center's website, www.oberlinheritage.org.

Letters of Support Needed!

The Oberlin Heritage Center has been working with the National Park Service in conducting a feasibility study for the Western Reserve to become a National Heritage Area and the project leaders currently are seeking letters of support. National Heritage Areas celebrate and interpret unique natural, historical, recreational, and cultural resources and traditions of a region. They are designated by Congress following a favorable review of a feasibility study, such as the one presently underway. They are supported by local people and organizations, with technical assistance from the National Park Service. Two such areas in Ohio are the Ohio & Erie Canalway and the National Aviation Heritage Area. National Heritage Areas allow for collective promotion of the heritage and natural resources of a region, increased communication among local organizations and stronger emphasis on the diversity and quality of life in the area that can draw in visitors and businesses. **Please consider writing a letter of support by November 15 for the designation of the Western Reserve as a National Heritage Area.** Address your letter to: Mr. Ernest Quintana, Midwest Regional Office Director, National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102, and physically mail your letter to the local project coordinator, Rory Robinson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 2179 Everett Road, Peninsula, OH 44264. Your letter of support will be submitted with the final report of the feasibility study. To obtain more information or to view a template of a sample letter of support, please contact the Oberlin Heritage Center's Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Docent Field Trip

On Sunday, October 17, six volunteer docents and board members travelled with Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** to visit the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** in **Mentor, Ohio**. The trip was timely since earlier in the month the Chief of Interpretation and Education of the Garfield site, Todd Arrington, visited Oberlin to present "The Republican Party, the Civil War, and the West." While at the Garfield site the visiting Oberlin volunteers were led on a guided tour of Garfield's grounds and home, "Lawnfield," where he launched his front-porch presidential campaign and awaited the 1880 election results. Everyone was delighted to have the chance to go behind-the-scenes and into spaces most visitors don't usually get to experience. The Heritage Center appreciates all of the great work our docents do in learning and sharing Oberlin's history and this kind of field trip allows us to enjoy time together, learn something new about other local history sites close to home, and experience new perspectives in tour techniques.

Oberlin Heritage Center Participates in Exciting Cultural Exchange

On October 11, a **delegation of six Libyan archaeologists** toured the Oberlin Heritage Center as part of a trip to the United States through the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. They were accompanied by Arabic translators, visitors from Italy and the Sudan, and Oberlin College professors Susan Kane and Sam Carrier. During their whirlwind tour of this country, they visited the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, Metropolitan Museum of Art and other world-famous institutions. Oberlin Heritage Center staff were delighted that the delegation

also wanted to visit the Heritage Center to tour a small organization and hear how most American history museums are largely supported through memberships, local donations, small grants, and volunteers. They were guided on a tour of the Monroe House and learned about Oberlin's radical roots and saw local furnishings from the late 1800s. The tour continued through the Resource Center in the Monroe House basement, where workspace and crowded storage shelves were familiar sites to the visitors. They also spent time in the Little Red Schoolhouse (and taught us some new ways to play old games!) Throughout the visit, despite the differences in language, dress and culture, it was easy to see that the passion for preserving and sharing history was enthusiastically shared by all.

Blue Star Museum Initiative a Grand Success!

This past summer, the Oberlin Heritage Center took part, along with more than 900 other museums across the country, in the **National Endowment for the Arts Blue Star Museums Initiative**, and offered free admission to active duty military personnel and their families. The Blue Star Museum program exceeded all expectations in its first year, serving as an expression of appreciation from the nation's cultural community to our United States military community. Last month, each participating museum received a special letter from The White House with deepest thanks from First Lady Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama wrote, *"This effort helped military families across our Nation make special memories – and learn a little something, too... Service members and their families give so much to our country each day, and it is an inspiration to see so many organizations and individuals giving something back for their courageous service."* While the formal initiative ended on Labor Day, watch for many museums to keep on serving military families all year round, including the Oberlin Heritage Center, which will continue to offer free admission to active service personnel and their families.

Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Report Available

The **Heritage Center's 2009 Annual Report** is now available online on our [website](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) (www.oberlinheritage.org) by going to the "Events and News" tab on the main menu bar and scrolling down to "Annual Reports." If you would like a paper copy mailed to you just send an e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700. The Annual Report is a labor of love and gratitude to all of the wonderful people and organizations who support the Oberlin Heritage Center throughout the year. We sincerely apologize to anyone whose name may be inadvertently omitted. Take a few minutes to review the 2009 Annual Report to see fun photos and a great re-cap of all that happened at the Oberlin Heritage Center last year.

Thanksgiving 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 25** 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 26 and Saturday, November 27. 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.

Congratulations Oberlin Neighbors!

Kudos to Oberlin Heritage Center business member **LorMet Community Federal Credit Union** for receiving a **Lorain County Beautiful Award** in the Renovation category at the 2010 Awards Banquet held October 26. Other winners included Vermilion Valley Vineyards (co-owned by OHC members **Jack and Fran Baumann**), Oberlin Conservatory's Bertam and Judith Kohl Jazz Building, Trail Magic (home of OHC members **Carl and Mary McDaniel**) and the East College Street Project in Oberlin. The Oberlin Heritage Center was a finalist in the Community Service category for its Morgan Street Bridge Railing re-use and restoration project. Congratulations to all for making Lorain County a beautiful and better place to live, work and visit.

Also of Interest

Upcoming programs sponsored by the **Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities** at Case Western Reserve University include former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Fiske Kimball Professor in the History and Culture of Museums at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, **Philippe de Montebello**, and a panel of others looking at the "**Prospects for a World Art History**," on **Wednesday, November 3** at 6:00 p.m. in Harkness Chapel, 11200 Bellflower Road, Cleveland. Registration is required. Award-winning architect and historical preservationist, **Peter Van Dijk**, will present "**OK, So You've Always Wanted to be an Architect?**" on **Thursday, November 4** at 6:00 p.m. in Thwing Ballroom, 11111 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Registration recommended. For more information on both events, and to register, visit www.case.edu/humanities or call (216) 368-2242.

"**Old is the New Green**" is the theme of the **Cleveland Restoration Society's 37th Annual Community Luncheon** taking place on **Tuesday, November 23, 2010** (11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) at Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square (1260 Euclid Avenue). Featured speaker will be thought-leader and architect Mike Jackson, FAIA, of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Known as an engaging speaker with a dry wit, Jackson will discuss the natural alliance between advocates of sustainability and preservation. Register by November 15. For more information, visit www.clevelandrestoration.org.

Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) is the new name for an old friend, the former Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM). The organization, which works cooperatively with the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office, is a network of local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, genealogical societies and historic preservation groups throughout Ohio involved in collecting, preserving and interpreting Ohio's history. The Oberlin Heritage Center's own **Pat Murphy** is the current President of OLHA. Find out more by visiting www.ohiolha.org.

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