

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – February 2014

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## College Historians Explore “Do Roots Matter?”

Oberlin College Archivist **Ken Grossi** and fellow college historians **Tom Mach** and **John Oliver** examine relationships between founding values and present day ideals at three Midwestern institutions of higher learning in an event co-sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center and the Oberlin College Archives. **Do Roots Matter? Change at Three Religion-Born Schools – Cedarville, Malone, Oberlin – from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries** takes place on **Wednesday, February 26 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Dr. Thomas Mach serves as Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History and Government at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio. John W. Oliver, Jr. is an Emeritus Professor of History at Malone University in Canton, Ohio and the author of *J. Walter Malone: The Autobiography of an Evangelical Quaker*. The program is free and open to the public.

## Marriage Made in Japan and Nourished in Oberlin

You’ll be charmed by the sweeter side of Frank Fanning Jewett and Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett’s partnership when **Norm Craig** presents this illustrated program at Kendal at Oberlin on **Wednesday, January 29 at 7:15 p.m.** Mrs. Jewett, a 19<sup>th</sup> century advocate for good public health measures, would applaud Kendal administration for activating a Flu Alert this week to minimize opportunities for the flu bug to enter the community. To that effect, any visitors who have not had a flu shot this year will be required to wear a disposable face mask available at each community entrance.

## Exciting Line-up of OHC Events Coming This Spring & Summer

The Oberlin Heritage Center’s [2014 Spring & Summer Events calendar](#) features many exciting new programs, tours and volunteer opportunities. Oberlin Women’s History will be in the spotlight this year when we feature excerpts from oral histories of Oberlin women at our **Annual Meeting (April 9)** as a preview to a new book coming out of the Heritage Center that expands upon these stories. (Read on further in the E-News to learn more details of the upcoming Annual Meeting.) **Jen Graham** (Local History Corps/AmeriCorps Member) will explore the co-educational founding of Oberlin College and what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States in her **May 14** community program **“Speak as though you had a right to!” – Oberlin & the Question of Womanhood**. This summer, OHC debuts a new History Walk centered on stories and landmarks linked to Oberlin’s women’s history. Find out more about the coming line-up of new programs and tours by checking out the [Events Calendar](#) at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on “Events & News” in the main menu bar).

## Teens’ Scavenger Hunt Takes a Closer Look at Black History Month

The Oberlin Heritage Center and Oberlin Public Library’s Community Technology Center, “The Bridge” are working together to provide an engaging program in honor of Black History Month for teens in grades 6-12. Students will utilize The Bridge’s fleet of eight i-Pads to navigate various apps while journeying through a virtual scavenger hunt. The one-hour free event takes place at The Backspace at The Bridge (82 South Main Street, Oberlin) on **Tuesday, February 18 at 4 p.m.** For more information, or to make a reservation, contact The Bridge at (440) 774-3820 or [thebridge@oberlin.net](mailto:thebridge@oberlin.net).

## **Oberlin Women's Voices of the Past to be Heard at OHC Annual Meeting**

Plan now to attend the **Annual Meeting and Banquet** on **Wednesday, April 9 (5-8:30 p.m.)** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). The program presented by OHC Board members, staff and volunteers will feature selected stories and celebrates the Heritage Center's forthcoming oral history-based publication ***Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*** compiled and edited by **Eugenia Poporad Vanek** with the assistance of many volunteers. You will hear first person stories about the tremendous changes in women's lives over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and also enjoy fun glimpses of life in our community in earlier eras. Be inspired by the determination in their words, the keen observations made during tumultuous times, and the hope they carried for the future. The Annual Meeting also includes presentations of the Oberlin Heritage Center's **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Awards** and a brief OHC business meeting. Attendees are encouraged to wear an article of vintage clothing or a costume from the 20<sup>th</sup> century decade of your choice (optional). More information will be sent to members and friends in mid-February, or visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) for details.

## **Teaching History "Outside the Book"**

The Oberlin Heritage Center's History Education Programs are designed to supplement textbook learning and provide students with engaging hands-on experiences, thought-provoking dialogue, and links between past and present to encourage a better understanding of their lives today. **Field trips** to the Heritage Center for guided tours or themed history walks are great ways to "step back in time" and make history come alive. Or, let *us* visit *you* with a **classroom program** that includes discussion, object exploration and a learning activity. Topics include the Underground Railroad and Abolition, the Civil War, Historic Foods, Architecture, Fashion, Games and "History Mystery" objects. If you prefer an opportunity for more in-depth study of a topic, consider renting a new **history kit** designed in accordance with Ohio social studies and many common core standards. Teachers can rent a kit for two weeks and build on the learning experience by pairing it with a field trip or requesting a museum staff member to introduce the kit topic to students with a story, discussion and activity. Each kit contains books, hands-on objects, primary and secondary source documents, a vocabulary list, and a teacher's activity guide. Kits are available for grade levels 1-5, and grade 8. All Education Outreach opportunities are low-cost and can be tailored to enhance specific school lessons and meet academic content standards. E-mail [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) and ask for our new Education Programs flyer, or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** at (440) 774-1700.

## **Classes & Camps for Kids**

**Home School Families:** Register now for the Heritage Center's **Hands-on-History & Cultures of the World** series for boys and girls ages 8-13. Each **Wednesday afternoon (1-3 p.m.) from February 26 - March 19** we'll explore a new culture and time period including: Stone Age Britain; Ancient Indonesia; Age of Exploration: Voyages at Sea; and The Five Nations of Iroquois. Reservations needed; fee is \$45, or \$40 for children/grandchildren of OHC members. Location: Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street).

Don't Be Late for this **Early Bird Special!** Registration is underway for two great new **Spring Break mini-camps** designed for boys and girls ages 8-13 and led by Heritage Center staff at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Sign up during the month of February to receive a \$3 discount per camper. Kids can take part in either or both: **Undercover History: Spies, Detectives, and Police (March 24-25)** and **Ancient Egypt (March 26-27)**. Fee: \$45 per two-day camp; \$40 for children/grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members.

Add Your Name to the Mailing List – It's not too soon to be making summer plans for your children or grandchildren ages 8-13. Last year the Oberlin Heritage Center's **Summer Camps** filled up quickly.

Each week-long themed camp is held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) and takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now for these upcoming dates and register early when forms are available later in the spring. This year's camps include:

**Oberlin Expedition (July 28 – August 1)** Each day we'll visit different museums, businesses, landmarks, and institutions in Oberlin to see what goes on behind the scenes and see the people, and machines, that make the town run.

**World Cultures (August 4-8)** Join us for an exploration of people around the world, including their music, dance, food, and history.

**Architecture (August 11-15)** Learn the basics of buildings and explore local architecture. Use your creativity to draw, construct, and engineer.

## **History, Hiking and a Healthy Dose of Friendly Competition!**

Gather family and friends and go for the gold in this new learning adventure for adults or teens. The **Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race** combines local history with technology and teamwork. Reservations are available from April through October (you can schedule a date now), Tuesdays through Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The two-mile, 90-minute experience is easy, fast-paced, and fun. *How does it work?* Ideally, two teams (with 2-4 people each) begin at the Heritage Center and are texted the first clue leading them to a landmark in Oberlin. When a team figures out an answer, they send a text or a photo back and receive the next clue. Anyone can play, although each team needs at least one player with a Smartphone to send and receive texts and photos. An OHC member can book a race for their group for \$20; a nonmember can do the same for \$25. Contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** to schedule your date and start time; the sooner you schedule, the more likely your date will be available. (Racing on days when the Heritage Center is usually closed may be possible by appointment for an additional fee.)

## **OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News**

The Heritage Center staff enjoyed networking with the staff of the Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service and Learning at a late January lunch meeting at the Lewis Center.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, presents an illustrated program, *Freedom's Friends: Abolition and Underground Railroad*, on **Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m.** as part of the Winter Speaker's Series at the Huron Public Library (333 Williams Street). The event is free and open to the public. **Liz** and Local History Corps/AmeriCorps member, **Jen Graham**, will judge History Day projects at the Christian Community School in Grafton, Ohio on **Thursday, February 13**.

As part of her work through AmeriCorps, **Jen** traveled to Cincinnati last month with several other local history corps/AmeriCorps members from northeastern Ohio, to take part in the AmeriCorps Day of Service. The local team volunteered as greeters at the National Underground Railroad Museum on Monday, January 20, when the museum offered a free admission day as part of the city's festivities in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Jen also is busy putting the final touches on her regional local history newsletter [\*\*\*The Present Past\*\*\*](#) which connects local history organizations and enthusiasts from around northeast Ohio. The February/March newsletter features stories about African American history, women's history, and a little blurb on St. Patrick's Day and shares lots of news about history-related events around the region. If you'd like to be added to Jen's e-news mailing list, contact [jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org).

## **Busy Bloggers**

Two new blogs appear on the Heritage Center website this month: OHC volunteer docent **Ron Gorman** concludes his three-part series on 19<sup>th</sup> century Oberlin's relationship with the Fugitive Slave Law with observations of **"Odious Business" in Oberlin**. Guest blogger, **David Fiske**, a freelance writer in upstate New York, unveils an Oberlin link to one of the most acclaimed movies of 2013 in the post **Oberlin's Tie to "12 Years a Slave" Character**. Fiske is the co-author of *Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave* (Praeger, 2013). The Heritage Center's blogs offer creative history capsules that can pique your curiosity to learn more – check them out!

## **OHC Volunteer Opportunity: Parade Participants**

Oberlin's legendary **Big Parade** must be seen to be believed! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 3 (12 noon)**. Lend a hand in coming weeks as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center's parade contingent by helping build a float or plan to walk with us in the parade later this spring. For more information contact AmeriCorps member **Jen Graham** at [jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.

## **Members' Update**

Welcome new OHC members **John & Rebecca Bagley** (Oberlin), and **Yveline Alexis** (Elyria). We fondly remember Endowed Life member **Corning Chisholm**, 99, who passed away December 12, 2013. If you are not yet a Heritage Center member, it's a great time to join! During the month of February, **new members can join for one year, and receive two years of membership benefits** in return! Contact [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) and mention you read about our **2 Good 2 Be Missed!** deal in the E-news to take advantage of this special offer.

## **Also of Interest**

**The Forgotten Story of Mary Hester Brown**, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Oberlinian born the daughter of a slave, will be presented by **Roland Baumann**, Oberlin College emeritus archivist (and Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee) at the Oberlin Public Library on **Saturday, February 1 at 11 a.m.** The event is co-sponsored by the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group and the Oberlin Public Library, and it is free and open to the public. For more information, call (440) 775-4790.

Enjoy an afternoon of Irish music and treats and benefit homeless families served by Family Promise of Lorain County by attending **Celtic Caprice** on **Saturday, February 8 at 3 p.m.** at First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. (corner of Main and Lorain Streets). The music of *Turn the Corner* Celtic band features flutes, whistles, Uilleann pipes, accordion and keyboard. Admission is free; donations appreciated.

The Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA) hosts its annual **Guatemalan Dinner** on **Saturday, February 15 at 6 p.m.** at First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C., benefitting scholarships and teachers in the Guatemalan communities of Santa Elena and Copal AA. Tickets: \$10/individual or \$25/family (2 adults & children under 12) and can be purchased at Oberlin's Ben Franklin (13 West College Street). For more information, call (440) 759-7459.

**Lorain: The Real Photo Postcards of Willis Leiter** is a unique retrospective of this Lake Erie shore community during a simpler era, captured through the lens of Willis A. Leiter, who established his photography studio in Lorain in 1901. Oberlin Heritage Center member, **Albert Doane**, is among the authors of this new book in Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History series. Find out more at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

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