



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 2013

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A Visit with Antoinette Brown Blackwell

Oberlin native **Beth Marshall** portrays Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921), the first woman to be ordained a minister of a recognized denomination in the United States. The costumed historical presentation takes place **Wednesday, April 24 at 7:15 p.m.** in **Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium** (600 Kendal Drive). Blackwell studied theology at Oberlin College and with her friend and future sister-in-law Lucy Stone, she organized the first debating society for college women. Blackwell became a Congregationalist minister, and later, a Unitarian minister. Ms. Marshall, ordained a Unitarian minister in 2003, presently serves as Parish Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo. The event is free and open to the public.

“Great Unveiling” Preservation Project Underway at Vineway

The Oberlin Heritage Center staff and Board will begin some exciting preservation work in coming weeks at 82 South Main Street (the Vineway building, which houses The Mandarin and Lupita’s restaurants and The Bridge technology center, an outreach of the Oberlin Public Library). Work gets underway the first weekend of April (weather permitting), when OHC volunteers, with the professional guidance of local carpenter **Pat Ives**, will gently remove the vinyl siding from the main facade and south side of the building to reveal the original brick exterior and large display windows. Preservation architect **Lorri Sipes** follows up the next week to assess the condition of the building sans siding and help OHC continue to devise a rehabilitation plan that will create an attractive and more historically accurate presence on Main Street. The Vineway building was built in 1933 to house the H.G. Klermund Ford Dealership (photo from a 1933 *Hi-O-Hi* Oberlin College yearbook). In her initial assessment of the building last year, Sipes found the underlying structure to be “a gem of mid-century architecture, waiting to be uncovered.” Business continues as usual at The Mandarin, Lupita’s and The Bridge as the work progresses. Stop by for a close-up look at this preservation-in-action project.



History Walk Docent Training

Here’s a great way to share your love of history, meet really interesting people, and add a little exercise to your routine – become a History Walk docent for the Heritage Center! You’ll learn how to lead a themed 75-minute History Walk through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin and become a marvelous ambassador to summer guests visiting both campus and community. The **Freedom’s Friends History Walk** training takes place **Sunday April 14 (1-4 p.m.)** and offers volunteers an opportunity to learn about Oberlin’s role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad. The **Scholars & Settlers History Walk** training follows on **Sunday, April 28 (1-4 p.m.)** and

focuses on Oberlin's earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square. The **Sneak Peak: Oberlin Origins** tour training on **Saturday, May 4 (12-2 p.m.)** concludes our spring schedule. Oberlin Origins is a new 30-minute mini-tour of the first floor of the Monroe House. Training is free, and each session begins at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street). Register now for one or all at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

The Early Bird Gets to Save on OHC Summer Camps!

Better than a "worm," the Early Bird registrant gets to save \$5 per camp by registering before June 8 for the Heritage Center's fun assortment of day camps for kids and teens, including:

Teen Camp: Behind the Scenes at the Museums. Learn what it takes to make a museum come to life by exploring behind-the-scenes of the world-class Allen Memorial Art Museum, award-winning Oberlin Heritage Center, and the Special Collections and Archives of Oberlin College. This camp is perfect for youth wanting to learn more about museums and careers in art, history, libraries, and special collections. **June 24 – 28, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** *(Great deal! A portion of the camp fee is returned if a camper volunteers to earn 15 service hours at AMAM or OHC before the end of the calendar year!)*

Ancient Cultures Camp (Ages 8-13) Take a trip across time while learning about ancient and native cultures from around the world through music, crafts and foods. We'll study the people and places whose civilizations built the foundations for who we are today, including the Roman Empire, Greece, India, the Americas, Africa, and Pacific Islanders. **July 29 – August 2, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Architecture Camp (Ages 8-13) Children will love learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on camp. Together we'll tour Oberlin architecture, explore building materials, try construction challenges, sketch designs, construct mini buildings, and envision buildings of the future. Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges and Interest Projects. **August 5 – 9, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Pioneer Living Camp (Ages 8-13) You've just lost your TV, music player, phone, game system, heater, lights, and refrigerator. What are you going to do?! Together we'll try things the pioneers did, like making our own food, taking a closer look at the natural resources around us, and letting our creativity lead our fun and games. Find out how being a kid back then was different from being a kid today. **August 12 – 16, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

To register or learn more, visit our Event Calendar at www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Out and About

Thank you to **Lorain National Bank** (24 East College Street) for hosting an Oberlin Heritage Center display in the lobby for the month of April. We're delighted to be LNB's **Business of the Month**.

Visit the Heritage Center table at the second annual **Oberlin Summer Programs Open House** taking place at Langston Middle School (150 North Pleasant Street) on **Saturday, April 13 from 1-3 p.m.**

This is a great opportunity to find out more about kids' camps and other youth activities being offered in Oberlin this summer and throughout the school year. For more information, contact Jessa New at jessa@slowtraincafe.com.

Staff, Volunteer and Intern News

A warm welcome goes to the Oberlin Heritage Center's two new part-time front desk receptionists who come to OHC through Mature Services, Inc. **Beverly Miller** (greeting you in our front office each

morning) is a former preschool teacher who lives in Vermilion, and **Linda Gates** (our afternoon receptionist) has a background as an office manager in nonprofit and medical office settings, and she resides in Amherst. Please introduce yourself to Beverly and Linda next time you call or stop by the Heritage Center.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, and AmeriCorps member, **Richard Donegan**, served as judges for the Ohio District 3 National History Day contest last month hosted by the Western Reserve Historical Society. The regional competition included students in grades 6-12 from a five-county area in northeast Ohio. Liz looked at website entries as Rich reviewed student-designed exhibits. For more on how local students fared at the competition, read our “Kudos Corner” below.

Hats off to **Nancy Harper** (South Amherst), **Jacob Heist** (Columbia Station), **Sarah Khalil** (Oberlin), **Aaron Mucciolo** (Oberlin), and **Kevin Rogers** (Grafton) for completing the “Upstairs/Downstairs” Tour Docent Training last month. We look forward to sharing our love for Oberlin history with you!

Kudos Corner

The Oberlin Heritage Center appeared in this month’s *Smithsonian* magazine article on the “[20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2013](#).” Oberlin, Ohio was among this intriguing group of burgs with populations of less than 15,000 that have exceptional concentrations of museums, art galleries, orchestras, theaters, historic sites and other cultural blessings. Journalist Susan Spano gave a “shout-out” to the OHC’s History Walks in her article, which also highlighted Oberlin College, the Apollo Theatre and the Allen Memorial Art Museum, among other Oberlin treasures. For more, visit www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/travel/best-of-list/.

A big round of applause goes to nine Langston Middle School students and one Oberlin High School student who competed in the History Day Regional competition at Case Western Reserve University on Saturday, March 23. OHS freshman **Hannah Cipinko** won a special award from the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve for her paper on Lucy Stone (OC 1849). LMS eighth-grader, **Angela Mavrich** received a third place award for her historical paper *So You Think I’m Crazy: Nelly Bly and the Blackwells Insane Asylum*. Angela will advance and compete at the 2013 Ohio History Day contest on Saturday, April 27, 2013 in Columbus. LMS 8th grade Language Arts teacher **Alison Smith** was awarded the David Van Tassel Award for Outstanding Contributions to History Day. She accepted a plaque and cash prize that Langston Middle School will use for next year’s history day competition.

Congratulations to OHC former intern, **Adina Langer**, whose article “*Peer Review in a World of Professional Practice*” was included in the electronic journal “**History @ Work**,” an online publication of the **National Council on Public History**. For more, go to <http://bit.ly/ZBbPLY>. Adina is one of two Lead Editors on this multi-authored, multi-interest blog sponsored by NCPH as a digital meeting place for all those with an interest in the practice of presenting history in public.

Members Update

Thank you to **Lesla Inman** (Jonesboro, AR), **Kevin Rogers** (Grafton), **Grace Tompos** (Oberlin), and **Peter H. Wood** (Longmont, CO) who joined as new Heritage Center members last month – we’re grateful for their warm support. If you are not yet a member, why not [join](#) us today at www.oberlinheritage.org? *As a nonprofit, we really depend on the support of the greater community – including our friends both near and far! Memberships at any level are needed and appreciated.*

The Last Runaway Available at OHC’s Museum Store

Tracy Chevalier’s latest work of historical fiction is featured in the Heritage Center’s Museum Store – pick up a copy soon and plan to have it signed by the author when she appears in the Meeting House at

First Church in Oberlin on **Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.** for “*Conversation and Reading with Tracy Chevalier*.” The event, co-sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin College Library, the Oberlin Public Library and First Church, U.C.C., will be followed by a reception and book-signing in Fellowship Hall. Order online at www.oberlinheritage.org (click on “Shop” in the *Act Now* sidebar menu) or visit the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) – remember OHC members receive a 10% discount on all Museum Store purchases.

IRA Charitable Rollover is Back

Recently, Congress continued the popular tax-law provision, known as the "IRA charitable rollover," that had expired at the end of 2011. The rule allows many investors 70½ or older to transfer as much as \$100,000 a year from an individual retirement account directly to a qualified charity without having to pay income taxes on the money. Consider this charitable rollover provision when making a contribution to the Oberlin Heritage Center this year. It's a win-win for both you and OHC!

Also of Interest

The **Ohio Genealogical Association** annual conference, “*Expanding your Ancestry through Technology*,” will be held in Cincinnati **April 25-27**. This is one of the largest genealogical conferences in the nation. For more information, visit www.ogs.org.

The National Society of the **Daughters of the American Revolution** (NSDAR) will honor Oberlinian **Deborah McEwen Little**, daughter of American Revolutionary War Soldier and Patriot, **Duncan McEwen**, in a ceremony and placement of a historical marker in **Westwood Cemetery** (455 Morgan Street) on **Saturday, April 27 at 10:45 a.m.** All are invited. Oberlin Heritage Center intern, Erin Swenson-Klatt, helped research and create a mini-exhibit for the event. For more information, contact the Nathan Perry Chapter of the DAR at (440) 288-4557.

Oberlin's **Juneteenth Quarterly Book Discussion** group meets at the **Oberlin Public Library** on **Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.** Ché González leads a discussion of “*Where I'm Bound*” by Allen B. Ballard, an engaging Civil War novel focusing on the soldiers of an African-American regiment, inspired by the true story of a black cavalry unit in Mississippi. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.juneteenthoberlin.com.

The **Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums** (ALHFAM) will hold its national conference at Hale Farm & Village in Akron from June 15-18. This year's theme is “*Bringing it all to the Table: Feed Your Mind, Feed Your Body*,” and looks at the increasing need for museums and historic sites to partner with other like-minded organization in our communities to remain relevant and vital. OHC Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, leads a session on “*Teen Volunteers: Recruiting, Supervising & Inspiring the Next Generation*.” Registration deadline is June 1. For more information, visit www.ALHFAM.org.

The **Sheffield Village Historical Society** invites you to the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** on **Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.** when **Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf** presents “**How Geology Influenced the War of 1812: The Battle of Lake Erie**.” The talk is part of the museum's “Explorer Series” and is free (with museum admission). For more information, visit www.cmnh.org or call (216) 231-4600.

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