

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – May 26, 2010

Step Into Julia’s Parlor During Commencement/Memorial Day Weekend!

The front parlor at the Monroe House is undergoing a beautiful and magical transformation this year, and visitors are invited to stop by during Memorial Day (and Oberlin College’s Commencement/Reunion) Weekend to view its progress. The Oberlin Heritage Center’s Collections Committee volunteers and staff have been refurbishing the parlor in stages, in keeping with extensive research on Julia Monroe’s tastes (the lady of the house from 1870-1930). The first phase of the project was recently completed and included removing inappropriate 1960s shag carpeting and wallpaper, repainting, installing reproduction 1880s aesthetic movement wallpaper frieze and borders, a “bamboo” picture rail, and a locally designed and crafted wood chair rail. The results are stunning and dramatic – come see for yourself! Staff and volunteers will be present Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May 28-30) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to talk with drop-in visitors about several intriguing “behind the scenes” stories connected to the work of the restoration. Find out more about the fascinating research in Julia Monroe’s personal papers that provided the “template” for the decorating details, the amazingly well-timed good luck of the parlor’s original fireplace tiles returning to the Heritage Center, and the marvelous donation of a previously unknown portrait of the town’s first settler, Peter Pindar Pease, painted in 1842 by his nephew, Hiram Alonzo Pease.

To help fund the next phase of the project, the Oberlin Heritage Center is having Julia’s blue fireplace tiles reproduced in a limited edition by Starbuck Goldner in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which specializes in museum quality handcrafted reproduction tiles. You can help the Heritage Center complete the Parlor Project with a donation of any size by going to the Heritage Center’s [website](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) and downloading a gift form (<http://www.oberlinheritage.org/getinvolved/parlorproject>). Donors of \$100 or more have the option of receiving as a gift one of the elegant reproduction fireplace tiles that make a unique, attractive coaster or wall hanging, or will spark your own creative use for the tile. (Of you may choose to have your entire donation support the parlor project and thus be fully tax-deductible.) The reproduction tiles will be available in the fall and will be accompanied by an information card explaining the parlor project. Tiles also will be available to the public for purchase at that time in the Heritage Center’s Museum Store or by ordering online at www.oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Commencement/Reunion/Memorial Day Activities

The Heritage Center kicks off a busy summer season Memorial Day Weekend with a variety of tours, history walks, and even a scavenger hunt for kids! Reservations may be made online at www.oberlinheritage.org or by visiting the OHC office in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street. Free parking is accessible off of 20 West Vine Street. The Heritage Center’s Museum Store will be open extended hours throughout the weekend. Stop by for a variety of Oberlin-themed and history-related gifts, publications, unique hand-crafted jewelry by Jean Foggo Simon, and old-fashioned reproduction toys. Our weekend schedule is listed below:

Friday, May 28

Tappan Square History Walk at 11 a.m. Reservation and fee.

Freedom’s Friends History Walk at 3 p.m. Reservation and fee.

OHC Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 29

Freedom's Friends History Walk at 11 a.m. Reservation and fee.

Oberlin Heritage Center tour at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Walk-ins welcome; fee.

I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt at 3 p.m. Reservation and fee.

Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 30

Tappan Square History Walk at 11 a.m. Reservation and fee.

Freedom's Friends History Walk at 3 p.m. Reservation and fee.

Museum Store open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, May 31

Freedom's Friends History Walk at 1:00 p.m. Reservation and fee.

All tours, history walks, and scavenger hunts will be repeated at other times throughout the summer. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Reunion Weekend Gathering in Memory of Hans Petersen

Friends of Hans Petersen (Oberlin College '02), former Oberlin Heritage Center Intern and Museum Fellow, are invited to gather together in remembrance on Saturday, May 29, at 4:00 p.m. on the lawn of the Little Red Schoolhouse (located behind 73 South Professor Street, Oberlin). Come for quiet reflection, bring a memory to share, and if you wish, plan to join the group afterward for a walk to the Oberlin Arboretum ("the Arb"). Our much beloved Hans died unexpectedly in a work-related accident on April 7 in San Francisco. This gathering is being organized by Aaron Mucciolo and other friends of Hans.

Cool Summer Fun at the Little Red Schoolhouse

School may be "out" for summer within the next few weeks in many area communities, yet Oberlin's Little Red Schoolhouse will remain the "in" place to be this vacation season for kids and families looking for free or low-cost activities for learning and enjoying together. The Oberlin Heritage Center will host a number of events for school-aged children (and some activities particularly for preschoolers) at its one-room pioneer-era schoolhouse and grounds this summer. Find out more by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org. First up on the summer schedule is "**Dairy Day**" at the **Schoolhouse on Saturday, June 12 from 3-4:30 p.m.** Families with children ages 7 and older will enjoy this combination of history, stories and the chance to churn up some sweet butter or tasty ice cream treats. The fee is \$8 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations (online or by mail or in person) are required by June 5.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is a Blue Star Museum

The Oberlin Heritage Center is among more than 600 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, which are committed to extending a warm welcome to active military families this summer season. The Blue Star Museum program is a pilot project created by the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families' Operation Appreciation. Participating museums have agreed to provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day of this year. The Blue Star Museum program says to our nation's military families that the arts and cultural communities recognize and honor their courage, contributions, and sacrifices and are pleased to share the beauty and inspiration of our collections with those who have been serving so long and so faithfully. 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/national/bluestarmuseums/faq.html.

Oberlin Heritage Center's 1930s Dollhouse on Display at Herrick's Jewelry

For Christmas (and her birthday) in 1936 Barbara Gilbert (nee McCullough) was given a wonderful, large, gently-used [dollhouse](#) with all the accessories a little girl could dream of. Many, many years later, in 2001, she donated it to the Oberlin Heritage Center. During Winter Term 2010 Oberlin College students Eli Goldberg, Claire Baytas, and Daniella Polyak took on the dollhouse's restoration as their project, and the results are wonderful! During the week before and through Memorial Day/Commencement Weekend our dollhouse will be on display in the window of Herrick's Jewelry at 7 West College Street. Come downtown and visit this jewel of the 20th century! Learn about the extensive research and delicate restoration process of the dollhouse, and enjoy the ambiance of historic Herrick's Jewelry, which has been at this address since 1914. Many thanks to Herrick's Jewelry for allowing the Heritage Center to use their storefront window!

Openings for Oberlin Heritage Center Summer Camps

Summer camp registrations are coming in steadily, yet there are still openings available for those who wish to join us for one or more of the Heritage Center's high-quality, reasonably-priced summer camps for kids and teens. Remember that children and grandchildren of OHC members receive a discount on camp fees, and partial scholarships are available for those who qualify. June 11 is the deadline to receive an "early bird" reduction of \$5.00 per child per week-long camp and \$2.00 per child per single-day camp. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to receive a summer camp flyer.

Welcoming Visitors from Near and Far!

During a busy spring season, the Heritage Center presented programs, history walks, or tours to a variety of groups from all around northeastern Ohio. The following is a sampling of those who have learned more about the rich and diverse history of Oberlin: Leadership Ohio, the New Westsiders from Avon Lake, Oberlin Head Start, Insight students from Madison Ohio, representatives of the Berea Historical Society, Professor Catherine Rokicky (author of *James Monroe: Oberlin's Christian Statesman & Reformer, 1821-1898*) and her students from Cuyahoga Community College, the Gallery Group of Lakewood, home school networks from Elyria and Cuyahoga Falls, Posse Scholars from Oberlin College, the Christian Women's Fellowship from Chagrin Falls, 4th graders from Gesu School

in Cleveland, the Sutliff Museum in Warren County, 4th and 5th graders from the Horizon Science Academy in Lorain, the Amherst Public Library, the Lorain County Metroparks, and Leadership Lorain County.

Also of Interest

Cleveland Goes Modern III is an opportunity to tour two stunning modern homes in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, the Greisinger House in Gates Mills designed by Robert A. Little in 1952, and a home in Mayfield Heights designed by Carl Droppers in 1956. The event is on Sunday June 6. Reservations and other information available at www.clevelandartists.org.

Another Accredited Museum in Northeast Ohio! Congratulations to the Kent State University Museum which recently was accredited by the American Association of Museums. There are now 26 AAM accredited museums in Ohio. Accredited museums in Northeast Ohio include the Oberlin Heritage Center and the Allen Memorial Art Museum, as well as the Arms Family Museum of Local History in Youngstown, the Akron Art Museum, the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, the Canton Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Hayes Presidential Center in Freemont, the Massillon Museum, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, and the Holden Arboretum.

Ohio and the Spanish Civil War is the topic of an institute for high school teachers being offered at Oberlin College from June 13th to 18th by the Ohio Humanities Council. For more information, contact Sebastiaan Faber, Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies at Oberlin College at 440-775-8189 or by e-mail at Sebastiaan.Faber@oberlin.edu.

Please share this information by forwarding this e-mail to a friend.

To subscribe to the E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or send an email to members@oberlinheritage.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.

Mary Anne Cunningham
Assistant to the Director
Oberlin Heritage Center
73 1/2 South Professor Street
MPO Box 0455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
(440) 774-1700
www.oberlinheritage.org

*Become a **member** of the Oberlin Heritage Center and help preserve and share Oberlin's nationally significant history. Members are the heart of the organization! Join or renew today [online](#) or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership brochure be sent to you.*