

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – June 2014

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Salute Pat Holsworth – Community Volunteer Extraordinaire!

Join us as we honor **Pat Holsworth**, OHC Honorary Trustee, former Board President and retired Financial Assistant/Librarian at a reception at the **Oberlin Public Library** (65 South Main Street) on **Saturday, May 31 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** We are thrilled that Pat was the recipient of the **Award for Distinguished Service to the Community** at Oberlin College's 181st commencement exercises on May 26th. The event is free and open to the public; co-sponsored by the Heritage Center, Friends of the Oberlin Public Library and Oberlin Community Services.

Repealing the Fugitive Slave Law

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the repeal of the notorious Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Oberlin Heritage Center docent and blogger **Ron Gorman** looks at the fervent crusade within the state of Ohio to overturn the law. When an ill-fated slave escape ended in unthinkable tragedy in Cincinnati in 1856, Ohio Republicans took aim at the Fugitive Slave Law by passing a controversial "personal liberty law," written by Oberlin's own **James Monroe**. But Ohio Democrats blamed that law for causing an armed confrontation between Ohio and the federal government. Gorman describes how the ensuing battle between Ohio Republicans and Democrats played out in the streets of Oberlin, the 1860 Republican Presidential nominating Convention in Chicago, and the halls of the United States Congress, where it culminated in a fiery showdown. The event takes place **Tuesday, June 3 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive), and it is free and open to the public.

History Walks on Tap

Order up the four-part **History Hikes and Happy Hour** series offered in June and experience many interesting and engaging facets of Oberlin history through a different themed walking tour each Wednesday afternoon. The series includes the **Scholars & Settlers** (Tappan Square) on June 4, **Freedom's Friends** (Underground Railroad) on June 11, **Oberlin Women's History Walk** (June 18) and **Radicals & Reformers** (Westwood Cemetery) on June 25. The 90-minute guided tours begin at 3:30 p.m. and participants have the option of continuing the discussion afterward at varied local watering holes each week. Fee is \$25 for the full series (\$20 for OHC members); cost of refreshments not included. If you prefer, you can also choose to take part in just one or two of the history hikes in the series; fee is \$6 per hike for these participants. Reservations for the full series – or for individual Wednesday afternoon history hikes – may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

History Walks a la Carte

This summer, the **Freedom's Friends History Walk** will be offered **Saturdays at 11 a.m.** Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad when you experience this 75-minute tour. Or, choose the 60-minute **Scholars & Settlers History Walk (Sundays at 1 p.m.)** to hear stories of Oberlin's

earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square. Each guided walk is \$6 for adults; OHC members, college students and children are free. Reservations must be made in advance at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

The Heritage Center offers a fun history walk for the younger set with the **I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt!** This engaging family-friendly, one-hour walk is designed for children ages 5-11 with an accompanying adult. The “hunt” takes place rain or shine on the **first Saturday of June through September at 3 p.m.** Fee is \$3 per child; adults accompanying children are free.

The Heritage Center introduced an **Oberlin Women’s History Walk** during Oberlin College’s Commencement/Reunion/Memorial Day Weekend, and what a lot of great buzz it generated from those who participated in the tour! The newest History Walk in OHC’s repertoire is led by AmeriCorps member, **Jen Graham**, and features Oberlin pioneering women whose powerful stories influenced changing female roles throughout the nation. The walk is available to groups by appointment throughout the summer.

Find Us at these Oberlin Celebrations!

Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s booths at two community-wide celebrations in Oberlin this June. **Juneteenth** (Saturday, **June 14**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. **Chalk Walk** (Saturday, **June 21**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) is a festive colorful event that pays homage to the tradition of sidewalk painting that began in 16th century Italy. Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun of these two free events that are open to the public.

Early Bird Gets the OHC Summer Camp Savings!

Registration is underway for the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Summer Camps (and some are filling up fast!). This year’s camps for boys and girls ages 8-13 include: ***Oberlin Expedition*** (July 28-August 1), ***World Cultures*** (August 4-8), and ***Architecture*** (August 11-15). Fee is \$110 for the week; \$100 for children and grandchildren of OHC members. ***Take \$5 off per camp if registering prior to June 21.*** Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Register at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

It’s a Great Night for Baseball!

Save the date of **Tuesday, July 1 at 7:15 p.m.** for “**Batter Up!**” as life-long Oberlinians **Sid Comings** and **Marianne Cochrane** present baseball stories aplenty from both sides of home plate – from the action on the field to the view from the sidelines. For baseball enthusiast **Sid Comings**, summer meant hitting fungos, repairing broken bats, fetching foul balls for umpires at the big kids’ games, memorizing baseball statistics gleaned from *Sporting News*, and meeting Bill Veeck. Sid quotes George F. Will: “My ardor for baseball was inversely proportional to my ability.” **Marianne Cochrane**, on the other hand, was a local legend and began playing women’s fast-pitch softball with an adult team when she was in the 7th grade. Traveling all over Ohio and beyond, she helped her team make it to the state championship in 1952 where the 15-year-old Cochrane collected four hits and scored two runs! The program takes place at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

Clark Family Donates American Highboy

The family of much-beloved OHC Honorary Trustee **Dave Clark** and Collections volunteer **Ricky Clark** (both of whom passed away in Oberlin earlier this year) has donated a beautiful American Highboy that Dave made in his woodshop over 50 years ago. Jon Clark, the couple's son, told this story about the highboy when he eulogized his father at a memorial service in Oberlin last month. "I remember going with my father to the Cleveland Museum of Art where he took precise measurements from an antique piece of furniture called the American Highboy. He used a thing called a 'copy cat' which was a series of thin metal ribs that slid independently within a case and enabled him to measure and replicate the angles and curvatures in the original furniture piece and to trace those measurements onto paper. Those tracings became the blueprint for his entirely handmade reproduction of the American Highboy at home." This beautiful example of local craftsmanship is exhibited in the Monroe House dining room. Stop by and see – it's truly a magnificent piece!

Join the OHC Team!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking applicants for the part-time position of **Collections Manager**. The Collections Manager oversees, processes, acknowledges, catalogues, stores and cares for the museum's three dimensional objects, as well as its archival and library collections in accordance with professional standards to preserve them for education, outreach, exhibition and research. See the [job description](#) and application details at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Looking for B&B Host Volunteers

In late August, Heritage Center members and friends can provide a single or double room in their home to an incoming college freshman's family as they arrive on campus for new student orientation. This effort is part of a community-wide consortium of nonprofits, carrying out a 32-year-and-still-going-strong fundraiser tradition. Following the retirement of OHC volunteer B&B coordinator **Ann Livingston**, the Heritage Center's B&B effort is now being led by Board members, **Gail Wood** and **Barb Enos**. Both women have been volunteer hosts for years, and will continue to do so, as they recruit other hosts, and coordinate the incoming reservations with available local accommodations. If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning, please let us know. Hosts are needed for one or more **nights between Monday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 27** (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and support the Heritage Center as well! All proceeds from the Bed & Breakfasts help stretch OHC's general operating budget. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, e-mail OHCbnb@gmail.com or call (440) 775-0876. (And read more about the fun things that can happen when you are a B&B host in our "Small World" section below!)

It's a Small World After All!

You can travel the world yet never get *too* far away from Oberlin! OHC Board member and one of our Bed & Breakfast fundraiser's volunteer coordinators, **Gail Wood**, tells a fun story about making a one-in-a-million Oberlin connection while sightseeing with her husband, **Reid**, in Lisbon, Portugal. As they toured the city, at one particular stop Gail noticed an American woman taking a picture of her two teen-aged daughters. Gail offered to take a photo of the girls with the mother, and they started chatting. "Where are you from?" "*I'm from Ohio.*" "Oh, my daughter goes to college in Oberlin, Ohio." "*Oh, I'm from Oberlin!*" The woman called to her husband who was

nearby to come and meet Gail, and as he walked toward her he exclaimed “Well, hello! – I stayed at your house as a B&B guest last fall when I dropped off my daughter for college!” Imagine the surprise and delight at this amazing Oberlin re-connection!

And another small world story that tickled our fancy is one with a more historical twist. OHC Collections Manager **Prue Richards** recently came across the name of **Roselle Theodore Cross** when doing research to document what structures had been at the address of the Heritage Center’s **Jewett House** (73 South Professor Street) prior to its construction in 1884. Prue learned that Cross and his wife Emma Asenath (Bridgman) Cross lived on that property from c. 1870 – 1875. Roselle T. Cross was a very active minister in a series of Congregational churches throughout New York and Ohio, including Oberlin. Several days after becoming acquainted with Cross, Prue attended with her geologist husband, **Pete**, the annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Sitting in one of the conference sessions where the speaker was making an illustrated presentation about a mine in Colorado Springs that he had been instrumental in generating interest for its mineral specimens, who should appear on the screen but **Roselle T. Cross!** Prue was surprised, yet then again, not *really*. “In the mid-19th century, when a man had the education R.T. had, he either became a minister or a doctor, but everyone took earth science,” she explained. Apparently, Mr. Cross published a large number of articles and books on many subjects including crystals and gold, and Prue was delighted to learn that among them is a book titled, "*Clear as Crystal*," which is actually a book of children's sermons!

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Pat Murphy attended the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Alliance of Museums in Seattle in May. In addition to taking part in Accreditation Commission sessions, she also attended AAM's Inaugural CEO Symposium hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which focused on future trends in the museum world. She especially enjoyed visiting two "small" (but still much bigger than OHC!) museums: the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the Nordic Heritage Museum as well as Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry.

Volunteer **Ron Gorman**’s latest blog post is about local reaction to southern secession in the spring of 1861. As you will read, not everyone was in agreement about what to do with the "erring sisters." Check out [Secession Concessions](#) at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

Welcome **Austin Spenzer**, our new Leadership Lorain County intern who will work at the Heritage Center for ten weeks this summer. Austin is from Avon Lake, Ohio, and will be a senior this fall at Miami University (Oxford, OH), majoring in Political Science and French. **Madison Bishop**, an Oberlin College rising senior who hails from Connecticut, is a new volunteer at the Heritage Center this summer. She is majoring in Comparative American Studies and will volunteer at OHC for about 10 hours each week. Both college students will learn to lead tours, help with summer camps, and provide all sorts of assistance with public relations, office duties, and more this summer. OHC also benefited from Oberlin High School senior **Julia Robinson**’s volunteer spirit for two weeks in May as an optional senior project she completed before graduation day on June 6. Julia assisted with tours, historical research, public relations and more at the Heritage Center; we wish her all the best as she heads off to Allegheny College this fall.

Great news arrived from former AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan** the other day! Rich reports that he and his wife, **Lauren**, will be moving soon to Peekskill, NY, where he will begin work for the New York State Consortium of Historic Sites as a Museum Programs Associate. Rich

will be based at the John Jay House in Katonah and Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers. All of us at OHC send best wishes to Rich in this new endeavor!

Members' Update

New members are so important in keeping the Heritage Center strong and vibrant! Thank you to **Roger Buffett** (Madison, WI), **Frieda Fuchs** (Oberlin), **Janet Kretchmar** (State College, PA) and new business **Vermilion Valley Vineyards** (Wakeman) who joined OHC in the past month. It's also a pleasure to welcome **Marianne Dickerman Caldwell** (Oberlin) as a new Endowed Life Member (Copper). If you are not yet a member, and appreciate the good work of the Oberlin Heritage Center, please [join](#) today! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Also of Interest

Middle Earth Camp (June 23-27, 10 am – 5 pm). **The Bridge**, Oberlin's community technology center, will offer its first ever all day camp in collaboration with the **Oberlin Heritage Center**, **FAVA**, and the **Oberlin Public Library**. Students in grades 7-9 learn about the culture and history of Middle Earth and create a short film from a scene in a Tolkien book. Camp is free, and registration can be made at The Bridge (82 South Main Street) or call (440) 774-3820 or e-mail thebridge@oberlin.net. Volunteers who are age 18 and older are needed to assist throughout the week; if interested, sign up at The Bridge, OPL, OHC or FAVA.

The Ohio Historical Society made some history of its own by announcing a brand new name in late May. Now known as the **Ohio History Connection**, the name reflects vitality, technological progress, and inclusiveness in all its services which are designed to provide a key tool for exploring Ohio's past. The name change does not affect operations with the statewide organization's network of 58 historic sites and museums. Learn more about the Ohio History Connection by visiting www.ohiohistory.org.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, the primary source of federal funding to the nation's museums and libraries, announced just last month that there are **35,144** museums in the U.S., more than *double* the agency's working estimate of **17,500** from the 1990s. What was overwhelmingly powerful about the data was that **55.5%** of those museums fell into the history category, including history museums, historical societies, historic preservation organizations, and historical houses and sites. Why are these statistics important? Traditionally, history has been one of the most underfunded disciplines in the humanities; the recent IMLS report confirms that history organizations are at the center of America's cultural life. History advocates will be using this new research to encourage future funders to recognize history's relevance to our communities and to our nation.

The 10th annual **Underground Railroad Experience**, an award-winning, educational interactive presentation takes place at **Spring Hill Historic Home** in Massillon, Ohio on **Saturday, June 14** at **10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.** The event includes period activities, displays, house tours and a chicken BBQ. Tickets are available by calling (330) 833-6749 or visit www.springhillhistorichome.org for more information.

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