

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – July 2013

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Pictures Worth 1000 Words



Would you believe the Heritage Center had the good fortune to welcome **Abe Lincoln**, Commander in Chief, to OHC's Juneteenth booth on Tappan Square (June 15)? The guest appearance was made possible by **Will** (age 9) and his mom, **Jill Blake**, who are summer volunteers at the Heritage Center. Joining them at the Juneteenth booth was **Marianne Dickerman Caldwell**, another of the Heritage Center's great volunteers.



The Saloon Must Go!

Sit-ins, rallies, legal maneuvering, and public censure describe Oberlin's role in the fight to keep alcohol out of town limits, the founding of the Anti-Saloon League and its long-lasting abhorrence of alcohol. The Oberlin Heritage Center's AmeriCorps and Ohio History Service Corps member **Richard Donegan** shares stories from both sides of the table, including those of Reverends and Professors who led the Temperance Movement in Oberlin, as well as disgruntled saloon keepers and pharmacists carrying potent patent medicines and healthy elixirs. "The Saloon Must Go" is a fun, illustrated program presented **Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is free and open to all.

Family Fun Fair/Jewett Family Day

The 21st annual Family Fun Fair, taking place in Oberlin on **Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, is a community tradition featuring kid-friendly activities all over downtown including hands-on-history fun and old-fashioned lawn games at the Oberlin Heritage Center. This year, OHC also spotlights the **Jewett Family**, collaborating with **Greg Jewett**, an OHC member from Findlay, Ohio and a director of the national non-profit organization, *The Jewett Family of America*. Historically, Jewetts have strong ties to abolition, missionary work, higher education and more. An exciting line-up of Jewett-related mini-exhibits, "Tent Talks," and guided walking tours is being planned in and around the Heritage Center's **1884 Jewett House**. Don't miss **George & Margie Strom's** 1923 DeLuxe Touring Jewett automobile which will be displayed adjacent to the Jewett House – a great photo opportunity for the whole family! All activities are free and open to the public, and a special invitation is extended to all members of The Jewett Family of America to come and visit that day!

Anniversary Celebration Something Special

The Oberlin Heritage Center's celebration of the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society and the 20th anniversary of leadership by Executive Director, **Pat Murphy** and Assistant to the Director, **Mary Anne Cunningham**, is going to be an occasion like no other. Plan to join members and friends on **Sunday, September 8, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** for this event that salutes OHC's

past and looks ahead to its future. The evening features hearty hors d-oeuvres catered by Pink Peppercorn Catering and fancy sweets served al fresco (under tents) while the beautifully preserved historic buildings will be open for self-guided “Then & Now” tours that highlight accomplishments over the past 20 years. The event will be a fundraiser to benefit the Endowment for History Education, with a goal to fully fund the salary of the Heritage Center’s full-time Museum Education and Tour Coordinator. Invitations will be mailed to members later this summer, or you may contact members@oberlinheritage.org to add your name to the mailing list.

OHC Partners with Oberlin Early Childhood Center to Kid-Test Lesson Kits

The Heritage Center has partnered with the Oberlin Early Childhood Center this summer to test some pre-visit kits for classroom use in preparing children for their visits to the museum. Museum Educator **Liz Schultz** has developed four thematic history kits that contain hands-on materials, books and activities to engage youngsters and get them excited about an upcoming trip to the Heritage Center and familiarize them with what they will see and hear. The kits also contain sample lesson plans for teachers, including suggested pre- and post-visit activities. Liz is in the midst of leading elementary-aged youngsters in hands-on-history fun as they learn more about *Changes in Oberlin, Inventions, Transportation, and Old Jobs/New Jobs*. Leadership Lorain County summer intern, **Michelle Myers**, is assisting Liz with the weekly lessons at the Early Childhood Center. OHC is grateful to the Nordson Corporation for providing funding for the pilot program.

Monroe Bible: Back Home for a Visit

If only these pages could talk! The Holy Bible of **James Monroe** (1821-1898), used for years while the professor taught a men’s Bible class in First Church in Oberlin, has come home for a visit. The well-worn teacher’s edition of the Old and New Testaments is presently on loan from the **Oberlin College Archives** and displayed in the Monroe House front parlor. Monroe may be best remembered as an educator, international diplomat, and U.S. Congressman, yet throughout his life there also ran a deep devotion to the ministry. Did you know that in addition to his Oberlin College degree in 1846, Monroe earned a theological degree from Oberlin in 1849? He briefly served as a full-time pastor of a Congregational church in Sandusky, Ohio, following his college graduation, before he was offered the position of professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres at Oberlin. In 1865, Monroe married into the family of one of the most recognizable evangelists of the era when he wed **Julia Finney**, daughter of **Charles Grandison Finney**, professor of theology at Oberlin College for forty years and pastor of Oberlin’s First Congregational Church from 1837-1872. The Bible, most likely one of James Monroe’s most precious possessions, is a treasure among the Oberlin Heritage Center collection this summer as well.

Staff, Intern & Volunteer News

Liz Schultz will present “*Freedom’s Friends: The Underground Railroad and Abolitionists in Oberlin, Ohio*” at the Berlin Heights Public Library (4 East Main Street, Berlin Heights, Ohio) on **Thursday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m.** Liz’s talk is part of an Underground Railroad series in Milan/Berlin Heights which included a presentation in May by best-selling author (“*The Last Runaway*”) **Tracy Chevalier** and will offer an upcoming living history program by teaching artist, **Anthony Gibbs** (see more on Gibbs’ portrayal of Underground Railroad conductor John Parker in our “Also of Interest” section). Liz also is doing two youth versions of the *Freedom’s Friends* program next month: one at the Elyria Public Library (1194 West River Road) on **Tuesday, July 2 at 6:00 p.m.** and the other at the Grafton-Midview Public Library (983 Main Street in Grafton) on **Wednesday, July 10 at 2:00 p.m.**

Michelle Myers has written about the connections among people and across time that she observes in her work as a college student intern and docent at the Heritage Center. Read her blog “[Living Through History](#)” on the OHC website (www.oberlinheritage.org). While you are there, check out the latest blog by volunteer

Ron Gorman who gives readers some wonderful insights into the mid-19th century [William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass debate in Oberlin](#).

Bethany Hobbs and **Mary Anne Cunningham** attended a one-day public relations workshop “*Telling Your Story for Higher Impact*,” hosted in Cleveland by the **Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations** (OANO). Later this summer, the Heritage Center will begin the process of renewing its certification for OANO’s Standards for Excellence program. In 2011, the Oberlin Heritage Center became the first museum and historical organization in Ohio, and the first nonprofit organization in Lorain County to achieve this “Seal of Excellence.”

Kudos Corner

Congratulations to **Don Illig**, an OHC Endowed Life member, who received the 2013 Jim Doughman Community Service Award at the Community Foundation of Lorain County’s Annual Meeting Luncheon on June 19. Established in 1998, this is a biennial award presented to an outstanding individual for exceptional leadership in making a difference in the lives of those who live in Lorain County. Along with the honor of being chosen, Don was given the opportunity to donate the \$1,000 gift accompanying the award to the charity of his choice; he designated the donation to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Thank you to the talented and generous **Lorna Kretchmar** (artist, educator, and OHC member) who stenciled a new stove board made by the equally clever **Walt Edling** (OHC Board President) to accompany a historic Oriental parlor stove that adds much to the character of the Jewett House upstairs student boarder’s room. We are tremendously grateful to volunteers like Lorna and Walt who share their expertise in so many out-of-the-ordinary ways! The small cast iron stove was originally owned by Oberlin College student **William G. Mallory** (OC 1905), a physics major from upstate New York. Mallory brought the stove to Oberlin, as often was done during this era, to heat his college boarding house room (elsewhere in town, most likely on Woodland Avenue). The stove was donated to the Heritage Center collection last year by William’s grandchildren, **Marianne Dickerman Caldwell** and **William Dickerman**.

Members’ Update

New members at the Oberlin Heritage Center include **Robert Dudash**, **Ann Emerich Ingram**, **Laura Laubenthal** (Cooperstown, NY), **Michelle Myers** (Elyria) and **Janet Winslow** (Elyria) as well as new Business members **Lorain National Bank**, **McGowan Private Client Group** (Fairview Park), and **The Tuck Shop**. (Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) We’re delighted to welcome **Drs. Wu-Shung and Mann-Mann Amy Chuang** as the Heritage Center’s newest Endowed Life Members at the Aluminum level. New members at any level are always needed and appreciated; if you are not yet a member, we encourage you to become one today! Visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

OHC’s Most Recent Audit Available on Website

The independent auditors’ final report, conducted by **Cohen & Company** of Cleveland, is now available for review on the Oberlin Heritage Center website. Click here, or go to www.oberlinheritage.org then click on “About” in the main menu bar, and scroll down to “Audit” to see the organization’s consolidated financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2012 and 2011. This report comes after a three day on-site visit by members of the Cohen staff this past May and a presentation from Tina Dzik (Senior Manager) and Kerry Gubics (Partner) to the Board of Trustees in June.

AmeriCorps Positions Opening at Oberlin Heritage Center and Other Ohio Historical Sites

The Oberlin Heritage Center once again will host a full-time AmeriCorps member in 2013-2014 as part of the Ohio History Services Corps, a program overseen by the Ohio Historical Society that consists of two

components: The Local History Service Corps (for those with a college degree or equivalent experience in history, collections management, or museum studies) and the Historic Preservation Corps (for those with backgrounds in historic preservation or architectural studies). The Oberlin Heritage Center will be the home base for a Local History Service Corps member whose focus will be on assisting Northeastern Ohio historical organizations in promoting and preserving Ohio's strong history through educational experiences for their communities. All AmeriCorps members working with the Ohio History Service Corps will gain leadership skills as well as professional development and training, a monthly stipend, health insurance, and upon completion of the program, an additional educational award that can be used for college, graduate school or to pay off existing school loans. The Ohio positions will be posted on the AmeriCorps website (<https://my.americorps.gov>) beginning July 1. For more information, contact Jerolyn Barbee at the Ohio Historical Society at (614) 297-2326 or send her an e-mail at jbarbee@ohiohistory.org.

Also of Interest

Ohio Chautauqua Lakewood: When Ohio was the Western Frontier. Enjoy an exciting mixture of education and entertainment under the tent in Lakewood Park (14532 Lake Avenue) when the Ohio Humanities Council and the Lakewood Historical Society sponsor the 15th annual tour of Ohio Chautauqua. Featured characters are naturalist and folk hero **Johnny Appleseed**, frontier aristocrat **Margaret Blennerhassett**, Iroquois leader **Chief John Logan**, Lewis & Clark expedition member **York**, and the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie **Oliver Hazard Perry**. For a full schedule of events taking place **June 25-29**, visit <http://www.ohiohumanities.org/ohio-chautauqua/2013-host-sites>.

Underground Railroad: His Promised Land - John Parker and the Underground Railroad. John Parker's life is a story of determination, sacrifice, and extraordinary courage. An ex-slave, inventor, entrepreneur, husband and father, Parker risked everything, including his freedom, to help hundreds of slaves through the Ohio Underground Railroad. Living history performer and teaching artist **Anthony Gibbs** brings Parker to life at the Milan-Berlin Library (19 East Church Street in Milan, Ohio) on **Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.** Following the dramatic portrayal, Gibbs discusses the legacy of John Parker and the Underground Railroad in Ohio. This program is provided by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (419) 499-4117.

The **Oberlin Summer Theater Festival** presents its fifth season this summer, offering three family classics: "**The Diary of Anne Frank**" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett will open on June 28th; "**Twelfth Night**" by William Shakespeare will open July 5th; and "**Light up the Sky**" by Moss Hart will open on July 12th. These FREE performances will run in rotating repertory from June 28th until August 3 in Hall Auditorium, 67 N. Main St, Oberlin, Ohio. To reserve tickets call (440) 775-8169 or visit www.oberlin.edu/ostf for more information.

Journey through Generations – A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists. This national conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) offers opportunities for genealogists of all levels of experience. This year's gathering will be **August 21-24, 2013** in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Grand Wayne Convention Center. Discounted early-bird registration is available until July 1. Early registrants receive a \$50 discount for the full four days or a \$20 discount for any single day. Details at <http://www.fgsconference.org>.

The 19th annual Oberlin area celebration of American women gaining the right to vote will be observed with a **Women's Equality Day** luncheon on **Saturday, August 24 at 12 noon** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). This year's theme is "**Challengers, Changemakers: Mary McLeod Bethune, Dolores Huerta, Rachel Carson.**" Reservations are needed by August 16. Guests may choose Oriental chicken salad or Oriental tofu salad at \$12 per person. Checks (made out to Women's Equality Day) may be sent to Ovidia Guaderrama, 191 Hollywood Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. For more information, call (440) 775-3711.

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