

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – July 2014

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Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join the Heritage Center in a salute to America's favorite pastime when life-long Oberlinians **Sid Comings** and **Marianne Cochrane** team up to present "**Batter Up**" – an evening of fun recollections as seen from both sides of home plate. 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 **Tuesday, July 1 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive), and it is free and open to the public.

Summer Camps Filling Up – Register Soon!

Limited space remains for the **Oberlin Expedition** (July 28-August 1) and **World Cultures** (August 4-8) summer day camps for children ages 8-13. The **Architecture Camp** (August 11-15) has reached capacity and is now closed. Register online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Family Fun Fair Features Book-Signing at OHC

Oberlin's long-time summer tradition of Family Fun Fair takes place **Saturday, August 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with free activities designed for families with young children offered throughout downtown and on the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Try your hand with old-fashioned games at the Little Red Schoolhouse, or step back in time and explore the first floor of the 1866 Monroe House on a self-guided tour. Remember to bring your copy of the Heritage Center's new oral history publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town* and have it signed by **Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek** who compiled and edited the book. (OHC members receive a discount when purchasing the book at the Heritage Center's Museum Store.) Geni will be signing copies at the Oberlin Heritage Center from 12 noon to 2 p.m. – stop by and say hello! *Bonnets to Boardrooms* has been called "a treasure trove of strong voices and intriguing details" by Tracy Chevalier, best-selling author of seven novels including *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *The Last Runaway*.

Farewell Potluck for Prue (Boo-Hoo for OHC; Yahoo for Prue!)

All OHC members are invited to a special **Farewell Potluck** to honor **Prue Richards** who retires at the end of summer after a wonderful span of nearly 15 years as the Heritage Center's multi-talented Collections Assistant. Save the date of **Saturday, August 23 from 5-7 p.m.** (rain date, Sunday, August 24), and join us in celebrating Prue with a casual picnic under the tents on the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Plan to bring a dish to share (entrée, side dish, salad, dessert), and the Heritage Center will provide plates, utensils and beverages. Parking will be

available Saturday evening in the Conservatory lot adjacent to the OHC grounds. Contact Bethany Hobbs at ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700 with questions or if you'd like to volunteer to help with the event.

Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race Living Up to Its Name!

The newest history learning adventure from the Heritage Center is getting great reviews from participants. From college-age to middle-age (and younger or older!), those taking part are finding it a fun, fast-moving, and user-friendly approach to exploring Oberlin history.

“So much fun...It was educational and great exercise...”

Texting was timely – hints were not too easy, not too hard.”

All you need is enough people to make up two teams to set up a friendly competition, with a Smartphone for each team, and you are off and running! Groups 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. With 14 clues in all, the race covers about two miles and takes about 90 minutes to complete. Cost is \$20 per race when booked by an OHC member (the fee covers all participants) or \$25 for nonmembers. Contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) to check the availability of dates and start times. Reservations are taken from now through October.

Looking Ahead/Save the Date

J. Brent Morris, assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, Beaufort and author of the new book *Oberlin: Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America* will speak on **Be not conformed to this world: Oberlin and the Antebellum Fight for Freedom and Equality**. This free public program takes place **Monday, September 29 at 4:30 p.m.** in Moffett Auditorium in the Mudd Center Library at Oberlin College; the event is co-sponsored by the Oberlin College Library and Archives, the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Oberlin College History Department, and the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group.

What's Going On (the roof) at the Jewett House?

Oberlin Heritage Center passersby may look twice at the two-toned appearance of the signature burnt-orange color roof on the Jewett House – and wonder “What’s going on here?” Extensive patching and coating is underway to repair leaks in the Jewett House’s badly deteriorated standing seam metal roof. Happily, the house will remain open for tours throughout the process. The project is funded in part by a grant from **The Nord Family Foundation**.

B&B Volunteer Hosts Needed!

The Heritage Center’s annual bed-and-breakfast fundraiser is off to a great start and we have already received *more* requests than can be provided by our current list of volunteer hosts. A waiting list has been started with names of Oberlin College incoming first-year families who are looking for a simple, convenient place to stay during New Student Orientation at the end of summer. If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a light 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 B&B coordinator Gail Wood at (440) 775-0876.

History Spotlight on A. Clair Siddall, M.D.

Dr. A. Clair Siddall (1897-1980) was a busy Oberlin family practitioner who specialized in obstetrics and gynecology for more than 40 years. For half that time, his practice was located on the first floor of the Oberlin Heritage Center's Monroe House, and, in fact, Dr. Siddall and his young family lived in the Monroe House's *upper floor* for a short time before building a house on Reamer Place in Oberlin. Siddall was actively involved in medical research and developed the Siddall Pregnancy Test, which detected hormone levels as a sign of pregnancy. For his long and distinguished career, Dr. Siddall received numerous academic and community awards. Before arriving in Oberlin, as a newly married, freshly-graduated young doctor, Dr. Siddall spent several years as a medical missionary in China. For a fascinating glimpse into the challenges and hardships of those years abroad, followed by wonderful vignettes of life in Oberlin in the first half of the 20th century, read the special Siddall feature at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the link on the Home Page's "What's New" sidebar). We're thrilled that one of Dr. Siddall's sons, **Lawrence B. Siddall**, recently shared with us [two chapters](#) of his family history project, and we encourage you to take a look and enjoy the read!

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Pat Murphy recently returned from a meeting of the **American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Commission** in Washington, D.C where work continues on the re-invention of the accreditation process to make it less time consuming and to encourage more museums to participate. Murphy is the small museum representative to the seven-member Accreditation Commission. After the meeting, she took a few days off to enjoy exploring museums and historic sites in western Michigan and run the Charlevoix Marathon along a bike path with scenic views of Lake Michigan.

Liz Schultz led a Fox8 TV news crew through Tappan Square last month, sharing stories of Oberlin's earliest beginnings with **New Day Cleveland** host **Natalie Herbick**. The crew visited many other favorite familiar sites in the area on their "Oberlin Road Trip" which airs at **10 a.m. on Monday, July 7**. Tune in!

Liz's presentation on **Teen Volunteers: Recruiting, Supervising, and Inspiring the Next Generation** has been published in the 2014 monograph of the proceedings from last year's Conference and Annual Meeting of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums. Liz also received the exciting news that she has been accepted into the **Developing History Leaders program** (formerly known as the Seminar for Historical Administration) which will be held in Indianapolis this fall. The in-depth three-week course of study, sponsored by the American Association for State & Local History, the American Alliance of Museums, Colonial Williamsburg and others, is considered the premier training ground for emerging leaders in history organization management. OHC welcomes contributions to help defer the costs of Liz's tuition, living expenses, and travel. Congratulations, Liz, on all fronts!

A warm welcome goes to the Oberlin Heritage Center's new part-time receptionist who comes to OHC through Mature Services, Inc. **Linda Gilmore** is a long-time Oberlin resident and graduate of Oberlin High School, who will be handling front office duties primarily in the afternoons. Say hello to Linda next time you call or stop by the Heritage Center.

OHC Board member **Camille Hamlin Allen**, and staff members **Mary Anne Cunningham** and **Bethany Hobbs** attended a workshop recently on “fundraising for sustainability” at Lorain County Community College. The event was part of a six-part series hosted by The Nord Family Foundation in collaboration with other local philanthropic organizations, designed for local nonprofits to explore what it means to be a high performing organization in the 21st Century.

Take a few moments to read the summer edition of AmeriCorps member **Jen Graham**’s newsletter [The Present Past](#) with features on northeast Ohio’s rich and dynamic history. Find the newsletter online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the link in the “What’s New” column) or subscribe directly to the bimonthly issues by sending an e-mail request to jen.graham@oberlinheritage.org.

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.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on “About” in the main menu bar, then scroll down to “Audit” to see the organization’s consolidated financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012. 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 Position at OHC and Other Ohio Historical Sites

The Oberlin Heritage Center was tremendously pleased to be approved to be a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps member for 2014-2015. This will be the Heritage Center’s 5th year as a host site, and it has been an honor to have been a participant since the program began under the management of the Ohio History Connection (formerly Ohio Historical Society). This year the site application process was much more competitive than in the past, and the letter of notification applauded OHC’s commitment to the sustainability of the AmeriCorps member’s work and the clear and detailed work plan that was submitted with the application. The Ohio History Connection was impressed with the fine work that has been accomplished by all of OHC’s AmeriCorps interns – **Karyn Norwood**, **Richard Donegan** (who served 2 years), and **Jen Graham**. Applicants of all ages are now welcome for the coming year. The Ohio History Service Corps positions are posted on the AmeriCorps website at www.americorps.gov. Interested applicants can contact Amy Rohmiller, Program Director, at the Ohio History Connection, by calling (614) 297-2609 or sending an e-mail to arohmiller@ohiohistory.org. The application deadline is August 15, 2014, with the program year getting underway on September 9, 2014.

Members Update: 700 Strong!

Yes, 700 is an impressive number for a local history organization, yet membership actually has *declined* over the past couple of years (from a high of 752 in 2012). Today’s society is more mobile than in the past – one of several reasons people are less likely to become “joiners.” Yet membership at the Oberlin Heritage Center is like no other organization you may know! *Members are like family* at the Heritage Center – we know each by name and appreciate every level of participation – your support really does make a difference to OHC! If you like the good work being done at the Heritage Center – let us know by becoming a member [today](#). Thank you to **William & Suzanne Denneen** (Oberlin), **Gretchen Holden** (Portland, OR), **Judith Makens**

(Kent) and **Gayle Sherry** (Oberlin) who are new OHC members. Join online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Also of Interest

Bring Family Promise to Oberlin Information Night. Wednesday, June 25 from 7-8 p.m. at First Church in Oberlin (106 N. Main Street). Family Promise may soon have the opportunity to purchase the Sacred Heart Catholic Church rectory on West Lorain Street. Learn how Family Promise is helping homeless families throughout Lorain County and why they want to move their Day Center to Oberlin. For more information contact Family Promise at (440) 284-0494 or www.familypromiselorainco.org.

Connecting to the Future. The Lorain County Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners extends a public invitation to attend one of two presentations which focus on the park district's vision for the future. Updates are offered on **Wednesday July 9 at 8:00 a.m. or at 5:30 p.m.** at the Mercy Health & Recreation Center in Amherst, Ohio (47160 Hollstein Drive; off of Cooper Foster Park Road near Oak Point Road). For more information, contact the Lorain County Metro Parks at 1-800-LCM-PARK.

The 20th 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 23 at 12 noon** at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). This year's theme is *Good Sports: Women Who Made a Difference* with moderator **Betty Blair** and featured speaker **Natalie Winkelfoos**, the Delta Lodge Director of Athletics & Physical Education at Oberlin College. OHC's **Pat Murphy** also will make a brief presentation on "Marathon Woman" Kathrine Switzer. Reservations at \$12 per person (which includes lunch) and should be made by August 15. 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.

Patchwork Trails of Lorain County is a self-guided tour that can be driven or biked on a scenic route through the communities of Wellington, Oberlin, Amherst, Elyria, Vermilion, and Kipton. Presently, the tour winds its way past 19 different "Quilt Squares" made of large pieces of wood painted with a quilt pattern and mounted on the sides of local barns. The colorful squares were painted by local 4-H clubs and other community organizations. Learn more about the patchwork designs and about the wonderful scenery, people and history close-to-home by enjoying a leisurely tour this summer or fall. Patchwork Trails of Lorain County is a project of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, in partnership with Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA), OSU 4-H Extension of Lorain County, and Visit Lorain County. Pick up a brochure at the Oberlin Heritage Center or at Visit Lorain County (8025 Leavitt Road, Amherst). For more information, visit www.patchworktrails.org or call (440) 984-5282.

Boat Tours to the Lorain Light House "Jewel of the Port. Learn more about Lorain County history and enjoy an insider's look at the Lorain Lighthouse situated on the shoreline of Lake Erie. Tours are offered two-to-four days a month through the end of summer; participants must be age 12 or older. Advance reservations are recommended; tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased through the Lorain Port Authority at (440) 204-2269 or www.lorainportauthority.com. Visit www.lorainlighthouse.com for tour dates/times and additional details.

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