

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – August 2011

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Family Fun at the Heritage Center

"This is the most fun of the whole festival," was our favorite comment heard at the Oberlin Heritage Center during last year's Family Fun Fair. Find out for yourself this year at the **19th Annual Family Fun Fair**, taking place throughout downtown Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center grounds on **Saturday, August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** How tall can you stand on our old-fashioned wood stilts? Can you roll a hoop across the lawn – and back? You can ring the Schoolhouse bell and drop in to experience historic school lessons and games, or enjoy an "at-your-own-pace" mini-tour of the 1866 Monroe House and 1884 Jewett House. Our good neighbors from the **Pittsfield Historical Society** will join us in offering Civil War pastimes for kids. Plan to spend the day in Oberlin and enjoy all the free festivities offered for families with young children. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

August Tour Line-Up

I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt – Saturday, August 6 from 3-4 p.m. For kids ages 5-11 and an adult companion. Register online at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad History Walk is offered **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in August and September**. A 75-minute guided walk for all ages; reservations required. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org to make a reservation online or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

The Civil War: Oberlin Perspectives on the Home Front and War Front

The beginning of the Civil War consumed the thoughts of many across the nation in 1861, and especially so in Oberlin, where the townspeople's abolitionist spirit was known far and wide. **Karyn Norwood** weaves together both lively and poignant accounts from the war front and the home front in Oberlin during a free public program on **Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. An AmeriCorps volunteer hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center and serving as part of the Ohio Historical Society's Civil War 150 Leadership Corps, Karyn has spent the past year researching the Civil War in the local area. She blogs about some of her findings at <http://oberlinheritage.org/blog/>.

Job Opportunities at the Oberlin Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage will soon have a job opening for a **part-time Business Manager** as **Pat Holsworth** retires at the end of this month following 10 years of service in that position. See the [job description](#) at www.oberlinheritage.org and please help spread the word if you know people who may be interested. P.S. – Save the date of **Saturday, November 19 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.** to stop by and say thank you to Pat H. for all she has done as the Financial Assistant for the Oberlin Heritage Center. A reception serving up light refreshments and warm hugs will be held at **First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.**, and all are invited.

The Oberlin Heritage Center once again will host a full-time **AmeriCorps member** in 2011-2012 as part of the Ohio History Service Corps, a program overseen by the Ohio Historical Society consisting of three components: Civil War 150, which initiates educational programming and regional special events; Tech Corps, which provides digitization of historic resources; and Historic Preservation Corps, which inventories historic buildings, supports community revitalization, and assists local preservation initiatives. The Oberlin Heritage Center will be the home base for a **Civil War 150 Corps** member whose focus will be on assisting Northeastern Ohio communities in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. 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. Applicants interested in the Oberlin Heritage Center's position, or in any of the other History Service Corps posts created throughout the state of Ohio, can log in and create an account at <https://my.americorps.gov> to complete an application by September 9, 2011. The term of service is from October 2011 through August 2012. More information is available on the AmeriCorps website or by calling Mary Cannon, AmeriCorps Project Director, at the Ohio Historical Society at 614-297-2392 or sending an e-mail to her at mcannon@ohiohistory.org.

Summer Fun with the City

This summer the Oberlin Heritage Center is partnering with the **City of Oberlin Recreation Department** to offer history-themed activities at their Playground Program at Prospect Elementary School. One day each week kids ages 6 to 9 years old have listened to a story and then made crafts and played games related to the themes, which so far have included Me, Architecture, Schoolhouse Days, Historic Clothing, and Food (Without a Grocery Store). Big hits so far have been old fashioned outdoor games, the Victorian classic "Hunt the Thimble," being "fashion judges," and walking around and looking important with a top hat and cane. This six-week collaborative program is supported by a gift from the Nordson Corporation Foundation.

Oberlin in the Civil War Bibliography

AmeriCorps member **Karyn Norwood** also has prepared an annotated bibliography of Oberlin in the Civil War. The extensive list includes a variety of primary and secondary sources, from Henry Chester's personal recollections to official rosters of Ohio units. The [Oberlin in the Civil War bibliography](#) may be viewed online and is also available to download at www.oberlinheritage.org.

Who's Visiting The Heritage Center?

Staff and docents have been busy welcoming many people for tours this summer. In addition to walk-in tours offered on-site six times per week (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) and weekly history walks on Saturday mornings at 11:00, here's a sampling of who else stopped by the Oberlin Heritage Center during the past month: Eight students from the **Bronx Lab School** in New York came to the Little Red Schoolhouse as part of their Underground Railroad bicycle tour from Maysville, Kentucky to northern Ohio. This is the third year that the Heritage Center has been a stop on the 280-mile biking tour. You can read their trip blog at www.blurr.us. Youth from the **Urban League of Greater Cleveland** travelled through time on a Freedom's Friends history walk. Twenty kids from the **Oberlin Boys and Girls Club** forgot about the heat while having fun with stilts and games at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Jerry & Karen Hottell** (Westlake), **Carter McAdams & Nusha Martynuk** (Oberlin), and **Barbara Percival** (Bethesda, MD). Your membership is important and appreciated! If you like what the Oberlin Heritage Center does to preserve and share the community's nationally significant history, please support the organization by becoming a member. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org to join online or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) to request a membership brochure be sent to you.

Endowment Campaign Update

The Endowment Fund for History Education is now at **\$48,800** toward our goal of \$400,000. A successful campaign will fully endow the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator staff position, and make the Oberlin Heritage Center less dependent on grant money to do the community educational programming, outreach to schools, and summer camps for children, all of which are such an important part of the organization's mission. Special thanks to **Roger and Fran Cooper** who have stepped up from the

“Aluminum” to the “Silver” level of Endowed Life Membership. Endowed Life members are making a big difference at the Oberlin Heritage Center – please consider joining this wonderfully supportive group with a gift or pledge (payable over 5 years) of \$2,000 or more to the Endowment Fund for History Education. For more information, contact Executive Director Patricia Murphy (patm@oberlinheritage.org) at (440) 774-1700 or Board Member Nick Jones (nrjones360@gmail.com) at (440) 774-3671.

Out and About: Staff and Intern News

Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, was invited to the WKYC Channel 3 program “**Golden Opportunities**” this past month. This Cleveland program runs on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. with host Armond Budish, who interviews guests and shares news about senior health, travel, and legal issues. Liz talked about Oberlin’s historic role in the abolitionist movement and Underground Railroad, as well as the Freedom’s Friends History walk that is offered every Saturday in August and September. Tune in **Sunday, August 21** to watch the episode!

Karyn Norwood has been assisting Oberlin College Archivist (and Oberlin Heritage Center Board member) **Ken Grossi**, with the selection, scanning and description of period materials (photographs, documents, handbills, etc) for digitization so that public researchers will have access to primary source materials relating to Oberlin’s participation in the Civil War. The partnership between the Archives and the Heritage Center is just one of many ways that our community is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. For more information, visit www.oberlin.edu/archive or contact the Archives staff at archive@oberlin.edu. Karyn’s term of service with AmeriCorps will finish later this month, after which she plans to attend Simmons College (Boston) as a graduate student in Library and Information Science.

Also of Interest

Noche de Cultura Latina (Latin Cultural Night). Thursday, August 4 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church’s Trinity Hall (4301 Pearl Avenue, Lorain). Come sample the food, music, art and dance of Latin Lorain County at this fundraiser presented by Leadership Lorain County’s 2011 Internship Program (including the Oberlin Heritage Center’s intern, **Kaylie Smith!**). Proceeds benefit Los Unidos (a student organization providing opportunities for culture and education exploration) and El Centro’s Pearl Avenue Renovation (“Brick by Brick” project). For more information, or to purchase tickets at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children less than 12 years, contact Leadership Lorain County at 440-366-4700.

Visit Lorain County is hosting a **Back Roads and Beaches 5K** on **Saturday, August 20, 2011** in Oberlin. Start time is 5 p.m. and registration opens at 3:30 p.m., or you can register in advance by going to www.visitloraincounty.com/BRaB5K. Cost is \$20 if registered on or before August 11 and \$25 on the day of the race.

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