

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – August 2012

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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Family Fun Fair Brings the Kid Out in All of Us!

How tall can you stand on old-fashioned wood stilts? Can you roll a hoop across the lawn – and back? Try these and other favorite old-time amusements at the Oberlin Heritage Center during the **20th Annual Family Fun Fair**, taking place throughout downtown Oberlin on **Saturday, August 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** You can ring the Schoolhouse bell, print your name on the classroom slate boards, or have mom or dad take your picture in the dunce's corner! Plan to spend the day in Oberlin and enjoy all the free festivities offered for families with young children. For more information about what's happening at the Oberlin Heritage Center that day, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Architecture Camp: If You Build it, They Will Come!

If your 11-13 year-old loved playing with blocks as a child, making "forts" with his friends, or sketching rooms for her "dream house," then this camp is for them! The Oberlin Heritage Center's ever-popular **Architecture Camp** has been re-styled for 2012 with new challenges for older kids. Space remains for this one-week camp offered **August 13-17, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Register at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Oberlin and the Quest for Emancipation

Oberlin's ardent abolitionists insisted from the very beginning of the Civil War that emancipation must be the ultimate aim. Learn more about Oberlin's abolitionist history and the reaction of the local community to Civil War events leading to the Emancipation Proclamation at this free, public program presented on Wednesday, **August 22 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. In his illustrated presentation, **Richard Donegan**, the Civil War 150 Leadership Corps volunteer in northeast Ohio, shares some of his past year's research into the letters and diaries of Oberlin men such as Civil War General Giles Waldo Shurtleff and Ohio Volunteer Infantryman Elliot Grabill. Since October 2011, Rich has been based at the Oberlin Heritage Center as one of 20 AmeriCorps volunteers assigned by the Ohio Historical Society in the statewide Ohio History Service Corps Program. Throughout the year, he has helped coordinate Civil War programming and events at museums, historical societies, and other local history organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties.

More OHC Happenings in August

Don't let summer end without experiencing the **Freedom's Friends History Walk**, offered **Saturdays at 11 a.m.** this month. "*I learned so much about Oberlin's Underground Railroad history!*" wrote one reviewer who gave the 75-minute guided walk top ratings in content, presentation, and length of tour.

I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt – Saturday, August 4 from 3-4 p.m. For kids ages 5-11 and an adult companion.

Register online for History Walks and the Scavenger Hunt at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

A Little Red Schoolhouse of a Different Color (at least for a few days)

Passersby may have done a double-take at the Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse this past month. For a week or so, the 1836 one-room school might have been dubbed the "Little Lavender Schoolhouse," as it went through a major spruce-up headed by Board member **Rob Calhoun** along with expert assistance

from **Scott Broadwell (Broadwell Painting)** and a hard-working crew of volunteers ranging in age from 6-60. Over the course of two July weekends, in the midst of 90-plus-degree heat, the building was scraped, purple primer added, and a new top coat of red paint applied to the outside walls. Volunteer **Terry Hobbs** reproduced a set of new muntins for one of the Schoolhouse windows that had gone without them for eons -- we challenge you to figure out which panes of glass have the original wood separations and which are newly made! Meanwhile, volunteer **Dick Holsworth** applied finish to the Jewett House porch floor and Mature Services Buildings and Grounds Assistant, **Tommy Trice**, is working away at repainting our fences. Note, too, the handsome new hand-carved sign in front of the Jewett House created by Oberlin stone carver, Bruce **Colbert**. Thank you, thank you, and thanks some more to all of you who awe us with such generosity of talents and service!

Save the Dates for More Great OHC Programs and Tours Coming this Fall

The **Radicals & Reformers History Walk** takes place **Saturdays in September at 11:00 a.m.** This guided tour through Westwood Cemetery includes stories of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused to maintain the status quo. \$6/adults; Free/OHC members, children and college students. Reservations at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

You may recall that Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, journeyed to Italy this past spring as one of a six-member delegation of young professionals taking part in a four-week cultural exchange trip sponsored by Rotary International. Join Liz on Wednesday, **September 26 at 7:15 p.m.** for **“Italy: Museums and Musings.”** This beautifully illustrated presentation includes a discussion of museum education in Italy and differing methods of interpretation and exhibition. Location: Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. Free and open to the public.

Baseball enthusiast (and Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee) **Steve Johnson** gets us all warmed up for this year’s World Series Championship with stories of the early beginnings of America’s favorite pastime on Tuesday, **October 16 at 7:15 p.m.** Fun for major-league fans and fair-weather followers alike! Location: Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. Free and open to the public.

Tours Keeping Docents on the Go!

Summer tours are keeping Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, and her energetic team of volunteer docents busier than ever this season. Following immediately on the heels of a packed end-of-school-year-field trip-season, we’ve enjoyed a number of visits from other student groups during the summer months as well! The **Horizon Education Centers** located throughout the west side of Cleveland reserved 10 days of tours for elementary-aged children (grades K-5) in June and July. Oberlin’s **Ninde Scholars Program** took part in the Scholars & Settlers Tappan Square history walk followed by old-fashioned schoolyard games at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The **Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy** brought a group of students from its German camp, and arranged for the OHC docent to work in tandem with one of the tour group leaders who provided on-the-spot German translations of the Oberlin history tour! The **Bronx Lab School**, a public high school in New York City, visited Ohio for the 5th year to bicycle approximately 250 miles of the Adventure Cycling Association’s Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. They have a fun tradition of providing a signed and framed group photograph to Liz and their docents at the end of each visit. We always enjoy reading the Bronx Lab School’s student blog of the trip afterward; check out this year’s recollections from each of the cyclists in his or her own words at www.blurr.us. (The Oberlin visit is featured on Days 7 and 8 entries.)

Tour Visitors – Give us Your Feedback!

The Oberlin Heritage Center received its first traveler review on the **Trip Advisor** website, giving us five stars and a "Thumbs up for a well-planned and effective sharing of art and history." We'd love to have you add your own comments about the Oberlin Heritage Center at www.tripadvisor.com. You'll find OHC listed as an attraction under Oberlin, Ohio.

Members' Update

Welcome new members: **Cheryl Souders** (Amherst) and **Nick & Lucy Malakar** (Oberlin). New members are essential to the strength and vitality of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Remember, one of the best sources of new members is YOU! Help “grow” our membership by spreading the word about the good history happening here! How, you ask? It’s simple – Plan to attend an upcoming program...and invite a friend to accompany you. Or, give a copy of the new Oberlin history comic book to a colleague who loves history as much as you do (or is a big comic book fan). Oberlin history is too good *not* to share! Tell someone about the Oberlin Heritage Center today!

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

Last month, **Pat Murphy** traveled to Indianapolis to attend *Civic Engagement and Public Discourse: the Role of Museums in the 21st Century*, the annual conference of the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM). She presented in a roundtable discussion on the “Reinvention of Accreditation” and also was part of a panel of four Midwest museum directors who spoke about their experiences with the American Association of Museum’s MAP peer review (Museum Assessment Program). Pat also authored “*Check Out the New Small Museum Toolkit, a Resource Tailor-Made for You!*” which appears in the Summer 2012 edition of *The Local Historian*, newsletter of the statewide Ohio Local History Alliance. **Richard Donegan** represented the Ohio Historical Society and the AmeriCorps Civil War 150 program at a two-day Civil War encampment hosted by the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor in mid-July. **Michelle Myers** finishes up her summer internship at the Heritage Center on August 10, and will participate in Leadership Lorain County’s intern graduation program a few days later. We appreciate all that Michelle has contributed to the Heritage Center in 10 very fast-paced weeks, and we wish her well as she returns this fall to Swarthmore College as a second year student. **Karyn Norwood**, former AmeriCorps Civil War 150 member based at the Oberlin Heritage Center (last year), is celebrating her acceptance to the Elementary Ed & Masters program at Saint Michael’s College (Vermont), where she’ll begin her studies this autumn.

In Memoriam

We were deeply saddened by the recent passing of three long-time members and volunteers. **Paul B. Arnold** (d. 7/2/2012), served as a Trustee at the Heritage Center from 1992 to 1999, and remained active as an Honorary Trustee, Endowed Life member, and Collections Committee volunteer. **Dorothy B. Holbrook** (d. 7/21/2012), also an Endowed Life member, was a “regular” on the Kendal Mail Crew, a great group of Kendal at Oberlin residents who assisted with the assembly of the Heritage Center’s bulk mailings several times a year. In 2009, this hard-working group was recognized as the Heritage Center’s “Volunteers of the Year.” Our sympathy also is extended to the family and friends of **Sara Carter Balogh** (d. 7/19/2012), a member of the OHC Board from 1994 to 1997, who served as Board secretary in 1995. Arnold, Holbrook and Balogh each was an integral part of the Oberlin Heritage Center “family” and will be greatly missed.

Also of Interest

The **City of Oberlin** is hosting a **Farewell Celebration** on **Wednesday, August 22** in honor of community volunteer, **Sigrid Boe**, who will be moving to the Chicago area at the end of the month. Friends and colleagues are invited to the Oberlin Inn from 5-7 p.m. to thank Sigrid for her many years of dedication and service to the community. Sigrid Boe served on the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Board of Trustees from 1993-2004 and is presently an Honorary Trustee of our organization. For more information, contact Darlene Colaso, Assistant City Manager, at (440) 775-7205 or dcolaso@cityofoberlin.com.

It’s great to see **Oberlin’s Apollo Theatre** marquee back up in front of the theatre and sparkling brightly with its message “*Apollo Coming Fall of ’12.*” Celebrate the return of the beloved Apollo by picking up a cool **Apollo t-shirt**, available at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store and Oberlin’s **Carlyle Shop** (17 West College Street). Or, click on the [t-shirt](#) listing beneath the “Shop” tab at www.oberlinheritage.org (where you can also make an online purchase).