

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – August 2013

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

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on   

## Traditional Day of Family Fun Shines Spotlight on Jewetts

An exciting line-up of Jewett-related mini-exhibits, “Tent Talks,” and guided walking tours has been planned for this year’s special focus on the 1884 Jewett House during the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Lorain County Family Fun Fair, **Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Planning for the “Jewett Family Day” has been almost a year in the works between the Heritage Center and OHC member **Greg Jewett**, of Findlay, Ohio who also serves as a Director of the national association of the Jewett Family of America ([www.jewett.org](http://www.jewett.org)). Festivities take place in and around the 1884 Jewett House (73 South Professor Street), whose first residents were Oberlin College professor **Frank Fanning Jewett** and his wife, Progressive Era reformer and author **Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett**. Whether you are part of the Jewett family tree, or simply fascinated by the history and lineage of a family whose roots span nearly four centuries in America, you will find plenty to enjoy during this event-filled day. The schedule includes:



- **10:15 a.m. *Preserving Oberlin’s Jewett House***, a brief walking tour showing preservation accomplishments and challenges. Led by OHC Executive Director **Pat Murphy**.
- **11:00 a.m. *Marriage Made in Japan: Sarah Frances Gulick and Frank Fanning Jewett***. An illustrated presentation by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, **Norman Craig**.
- **11:20 a.m. *Charles Martin Hall and Frank Fanning Jewett***, a brief tour of the Jewett House’s woodshed exhibit with scientific interpretation of Hall’s groundbreaking aluminum experiments and Professor Jewett’s role in the process. Led by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, **Norman Craig**.
- **11:30 a.m. *The Jewetts and Civil War Connections*** presented by **Greg Jewett**. Two of Frank Fanning Jewett’s brothers served as officers in the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts regiment, the famed African-American unit that fought in the Civil War, whose powerful story was told in the movie “Glory.”
- **12:00 noon *Temperance in Oberlin and the Jewetts***, presented by Oberlin Heritage Center AmeriCorps member, **Richard Donegan**. Find out more about Frank and Fannie Jewett’s involvement in this early 20<sup>th</sup> century national reform movement that grew quickly from the Anti-Saloon League’s founding in Oberlin in 1893.
- **12:30 p.m. *Jewetts and Literature***, presented by **Greg Jewett**. Learn about Jewetts as writers and publishers, including John P. Jewett who brought the abolition movement into many homes across America when he published Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852.

- **1:00 p.m. *The Jewett Automobile***, presented by **George Strom** and **Greg Jewett**. Strom, an OHC member from Elyria, is the owner of a 1923 DeLuxe Touring Jewett automobile, which will be on display throughout the event. Manufactured in Detroit, Michigan by the Paige-Detroit Motor Car Company from March 1922 through December 1926, this limited-production automobile bore the name of Paige-Detroit's president, H.M. Jewett.
- **1:30 p.m. *The Jewetts and Civil War Connections***, repeat of 11:30 a.m. talk by **Greg Jewett**.
- **2:00 p.m. *Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett, the Progressive Era and Public Hygiene***, presented by Oberlin Heritage Center summer intern **Courtney Martin**, a rising junior at Grinnell College (Iowa). An early 20<sup>th</sup> century reformer, Mrs. Jewett wrote several books on public health and hygiene (c. 1906-1916) that collectively sold over 6 million copies.
- **2:30 p.m. *Jewetts and Literature***, repeat of 12:30 p.m. presentation by **Greg Jewett**.
- **3:00 p.m. *Marriage Made in Japan: Sarah Frances Gulick and Frank Fanning Jewett***, repeat of 11:00 a.m. presentation by **Norman Craig**.
- **3:20 p.m. *Charles Martin Hall and Frank Fanning Jewett***, repeat of 11:20 a.m. tour by **Norman Craig**.
- **3:30 p.m. *The Jewett Automobile***, repeat of 1:00 p.m. talk by **George Strom** and **Greg Jewett**.

Visitors also will have the option to explore Jewett-related sites elsewhere in Oberlin through a self-guided walking tour prepared by OHC Honorary Trustee **Dina Schoonmaker**. All activities are free and open to the public. Take time to stroll around the grounds during your visit and try your hand at some of the Heritage Center's more traditional Family Fun Fair activities including old-fashioned games on the Schoolhouse lawn and Sneak Peak tours of the Monroe House. All guests will have a chance to enter our Family Day raffle and win a beautiful (and delicious!) basket of goodies donated by OHC Business Member, **The Tuck Shop** (53 South Main Street). For more, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **From Students to Soldiers**

Hundreds of men from Oberlin, college and town, served in the Civil War. Learn more about these local heroes when the Oberlin Heritage Center's AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan** sheds light on their motivations for enlisting, how the clearly abolitionist young men were perceived by other Union soldiers, the integration of free African-American Oberlinians into northern forces and much more. This illustrated program will be presented **Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The lives of these young soldiers inspire with stories of determination, courage, leadership and greatness. Come to know **Thomas Jefferson Janey**, a free African-American who arrived in Oberlin in 1838 at the age of four, and grew up to serve in the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Colored Heavy Artillery. Janey was educated in Oberlin schools in violation of the State's "Black Laws." **William Penn Bogardus**, a resident of Oberlin, joined the Union Light Guard in 1863, a specially appointed unit recruited into service to protect the White House, Treasury Building, War Office, and other public buildings. Bogardus later went on to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 24<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Anniversary Celebration: A Tale of Happy Endings and New Beginnings**

Executive Director **Pat Murphy** remembers that during her second interview for the job at the Oberlin Heritage Center back in 1993, then- Board President, **Marianne Cochrane**, told her that the organization was a "sleeping giant which would soon awaken." During the past 20 years, Cochrane's clever fairy-tale analogy has turned into a first-rate, true life story. Members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center are invited to celebrate the highlights of the past two decades at a special event on the museum grounds on **Sunday, September 8, 2013 from 5-7 p.m.** Guests will enjoy hearty hors d'oeuvres and sweets under the tents, stroll down memory lane on a self-guided "Then and Now" exploration of OHC's historic buildings, and bid on a variety of fun theme baskets. The occasion marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oberlin Village

Improvement Society (the early predecessor of OHC) and honors Murphy and Assistant to the Director **Mary Anne Cunningham**, who both joined the organization in 1993 as part of the transition from an all-volunteer group to one led by professional staff. The event also serves as a fundraiser to continue the growth of the Endowment for History Education at its ten-year mark. Invitations will be mailed to OHC members in early August. For more information, or to add your name to the mailing list, contact [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## **Oberlin-Hawaii Thread Offers Fascinating Connections**

You may recall that Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett's childhood was spent in Hawaii, and she and Professor Frank Fanning Jewett retired to Hawaii in 1923. Recently, Museum Educator **Liz Schultz** was introduced to another Oberlin-Hawaii connection by **Ronald Williams, Jr.** a PhD candidate in history at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. **John Henry Wise** (1869-1937) was the son of a Hawaiian mother and German father. A promising student, Christian leaders in Hawaii selected him to be sent to Oberlin, the seat of missionary zeal, in the hopes that he would become a model native-Hawaiian evangelist. Wise, who attended Oberlin's seminary from 1890 to 1893, studied hard, adhered to Oberlin's strict rules and schedule, and did find the religious passion he hoped for. He also found fame on the gridiron as an impressive lineman playing for an innovative new coach, John Heisman, and helping to make the 1892 football season an undefeated one (7-0) with wins over Michigan and Ohio State. When Wise returned to Hawaii in 1893, he found his country a different place than when he left years before. Queen Lili'uokalani had been ousted by those in favor of creating a new government that was more favorable to foreign interests. Factions vied for political and religious control of the islands. Much to his sponsors' regrets, while Wise did return educated and devout, he did not follow their leadership. As Rev. Charles Hyde declared, "John Wise, whom we have been educating at Oberlin for 3 years at a cost of over \$2,000, has been doing nothing but advocating restoration and associating with royalists." Wise was later arrested and imprisoned for his political activities. Throughout the remainder of his life he continued to represent native Hawaiian interests politically and work to preserve their traditions and language. To read more about this fascinating Hawaiian native and Hawaii's political, racial, and religious history, read Ronald Williams, Jr.'s article "***To Raise a Voice in Praise: The Revivalist Mission of John Henry Wise, 1889-1896***," in the Hawaiian Journal of History (Vol. 46) or follow this [link](#) to read it online [http://www.academia.edu/2498818/To\\_Raise\\_a\\_Voice\\_in\\_Praise\\_The\\_Revivalist\\_Mission\\_of\\_John\\_Henry\\_Wise\\_1889-1896](http://www.academia.edu/2498818/To_Raise_a_Voice_in_Praise_The_Revivalist_Mission_of_John_Henry_Wise_1889-1896). We hope in the future to add more to John Henry Wise's story and to other Oberlin-Hawaii threads.

## **B&B Volunteer Hosts Still Needed**

The Heritage Center has a good line-up of volunteers – yet we still could use a few more – to host visiting parents when they bring their first-year students to town for Oberlin College's Freshman Orientation **between Monday, August 26 and Wednesday August 28**. 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. The greatest demand is on the first and second night; a few visitors may stay longer. It's fun to be an Oberlin community ambassador, and a great help to the Heritage Center which benefits from the B&B guest fees. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, please contact OHC Honorary Trustee **Ann Livingston** ([alivingston@oberlin.net](mailto:alivingston@oberlin.net)) or Bethany Hobbs ([ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org)) To make it easier to reference your e-mail, please make your subject line "**B&B – Your Last Name**".

## **Staff, Intern & Volunteer News**

**Richard Donegan** offers an up-close look at the strategically important "***Battle of Kessler's Cross Lanes: Oberlin's First Experience in the Civil War***" on **Wednesday, August 21 at 1:30 p.m.** as part of the Lakeside Chautauqua Lecture Series during its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Week. Rich also authored an article, "***Completing the Ohio Historic Inventory I-Form for Civil War Monuments***" in the July/August 2013



edition of the Ohio Historical Society/Local History Office's newsletter, *The Local Historian*. The writing bug definitely has bitten others among the Heritage Center's staff and volunteers this summer! Leadership Lorain County intern **Michelle Myers** (Swarthmore College, 2015) has spent part of her time at the Heritage Center researching and writing about **Dr. A. Claire Siddall**, a beloved Oberlin family practice doctor who specialized in obstetrics and gynecology for 40 years (delivering upwards of 5,000 babies during his career!). Read more about Dr. Siddall's work in Oberlin and contributions to the field of medicine in the Oberlin Heritage Center "[History Feature](#)" (under the "Research and Learn" tab on our website) and don't miss Michelle's bonus post on our website [blog](#) as she shares her own musings about Dr. Siddall as a historical researcher and writer. More great reading can be found in volunteer **Ron Gorman's** [blog post](#) "**Oberlin Commenst this War!**" that introduces us to journalist and political satirist, David R. Locke, and one of his most well-known cartoon characters of the Civil War, the Reverend Petroleum V. Nasby.

Summer intern **Courtney Martin** (Grinnell College, 2015) has been busy creating a comprehensive timeline about the residents of the Jewett House, including the families who lived there and their student (and other) boarders. An offshoot of this project is a "Tent Talk" about the Progressive Era reformer and prolific author, Fannie Jewett – come hear Courtney's presentation at **2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 3** as part of the Heritage Center's Jewett Family Day activities!

Former OHC Museum Fellow (2003-2004) **Maria Surovy** returned to Oberlin this past month to lead the Ancient Cultures camp for kids. Maria now works in teacher education for Lake Erie College and Kent State University, and continues to set aside at least one week per summer to teach one of OHC's summer camp programs. We're always delighted to welcome Maria back!

And a warm welcome also goes to **Hanna van Reed**, an Oberlin College history major (Class of 2015) who is volunteering at the Oberlin Heritage Center this summer. Hanna's hometown is near Philadelphia, PA. In addition to the great help we receive year-round from **Anna Sekulic**, we're pleased to welcome back another junior docent, **Sarah Souders**, who has returned for the summer to assist staff in many ways as a Resource Center volunteer. Sarah is a rising senior at Amherst Steele High School. **Campbell Flood**, who attended the Heritage Center's Architecture Camp as a young boy, presently studies at Kalamazoo College and is spending part of his summer at OHC as a college student volunteer. Campbell is working with **Richard Donegan** doing research at the Oberlin College library to fill out our knowledge of Oberlin's role in the Temperance movement and help put finishing touches on a Temperance-themed History Walk that is in the works.

Congratulations to college student summer intern **Lauren Schiavoni** (Grove City College, 2015) who recently became engaged to Luke Miranda. A history major, Lauren has been busy working with Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** on a variety of collections care projects as well as digitizing many of the Oberlin oral history interviews to preserve them beyond the life of the cassette tapes on which they were originally recorded.

We'll bid a very fond farewell to **Richard Donegan** as he leaves Oberlin at the end of August upon completing two years as an Ohio History Service AmeriCorps member based at the Heritage Center. All good wishes follow Rich as he heads off to pursue other opportunities in a history-related field.

### **Follow OHC on Pinterest!**

Now you can follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on Pinterest thanks to more good work by our college student interns **Michelle Myers** and **Courtney Martin**, who put together and launched our new Pinterest page this past month. Pinterest is a pin board style photo-sharing social media website allowing users to organize photos onto theme boards. Some of the boards that you will see on Oberlin Heritage Center's page include 2013 Programs, Tours, Historic Oberlin, Genealogy, Blog Posts, and Summer in Oberlin. Click on the red "P" at the top of this *E-Gazette* to follow our Pinterest page.

## **Kudos Corner**

OHC's summer interns and volunteers enjoyed a visit and tour of the Westlake historic home and business of building preservation consultant guru, **Steve McQuillin**, an OHC member and Oberlin College alum whose past projects include helping to preserve Johnson House, Peters Hall, Westervelt (now the New Union Center for the Arts), and the Apollo Theater. All enjoyed learning about historic preservation and urban design career possibilities. Visit Steve's website at [www.mcQuillinassociates.com](http://www.mcQuillinassociates.com) for more information about his work.

Honorary Trustees **Pat and Dick Holsworth** (Pat is OHC's former Financial Assistant, too) stopped by the Monroe House to donate a very handsome copy of the *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oberlin Rotary, 1938-2013*, a limited edition photo book assembled by another OHC Honorary Trustee **Jeanne McKibben**. Both Pat and Jeanne are past presidents of the Oberlin Rotary Club. The Heritage Center's Resource Center, an ever-growing collection of books, photographs, archival materials, and files on local and national history, is open to visitors by appointment. Call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [history@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:history@oberlinheritage.org).

## **Yesterday & Today's Oberlin Business Staples**

Do you know which Oberlin business offered flowers for women and hosted a dance to celebrate its "Grand Opening?" – discover the answer when you stop by the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street) to see a new OHC mini-exhibit featuring three Oberlin mainstays of the downtown business community. Learn more about **Klermund's Ford Dealership** (est. 1929) which formerly occupied the Vineway building. The **Ben Franklin Store** at 13 West College Street (est. 1935) was built upon the site of Oberlin Hall (constructed 1833 upon the founding of Oberlin College and town) which housed the young institute's entire array of facilities. **Gibson's Bakery** at 23 W. College Street (est. 1882) has distinguished itself as Oberlin's longest-running, family-owned business. The exhibit was researched and presented by OHC intern **Trey Levy** (Oberlin College, 2014), who has been a great addition to the staff this summer. We're glad he won't be too far away when school resumes in the fall, although he will be extra busy having been elected by his peers as Senior Class President for the coming year.

## **Members' Update**

New members at the Oberlin Heritage Center include **Peter Crowley & Conleth Crotser, Anne S. Davis, Mari Kuroda, Pat McCreedy, and Kay Rider**. (All are from Oberlin.) Welcome – and we look forward to seeing you often in the coming year. Members not only receive benefits at the Heritage Center (such as free admission to guided tours and history walks and a 10% discount in the Museum Store), they also receive reciprocal benefits and privileges at more than 200 other museums and history organizations in 40 states across the country. Check out this vast **Time Travelers Network** by visiting the website of the Missouri Historical Society (the network's coordinating agency) at [www.mohistory.org/membership/timetravelers](http://www.mohistory.org/membership/timetravelers). To take advantage of this great nationwide benefit, join the Oberlin Heritage Center today at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or e-mail [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

## **Local History AmeriCorps Positions Available This Fall**

Fourteen full-time Ohio History Service Corps members will be placed in communities across the state, beginning as early as September 2013. The Oberlin Heritage Center will serve as a host site for the fourth successive year in this collaborative venture between the Ohio Historical Society and AmeriCorps. Known as Local History Corps members, the newcomers will be working on a variety of projects and initiatives designed to educate Ohioans on why history is relevant and how it can be used as an effective economic development tool for local communities. For more information, visit the **AmeriCorps website**, or contact Jerolyn Barbee, Ohio History Corps Program Manager at the Ohio Historical Society at (614) 297-2326 or [jbarbee@ohiohistory.org](mailto:jbarbee@ohiohistory.org).

## **Also of Interest**

The Heritage Center welcomed back one of our favorite groups of summer last month when **The Bronx Lab School's Underground Railroad Riders** bicycled into town on Friday, July 5. While it's always a new group of enthused and energetic teens, their mission remains the same each year as they discover a significant period of our nation's history while experiencing the joy and beauty of bicycling. The 280-mile trek that takes place over eight days always brings them into Oberlin at the end of their journey. This year, seven students from the small public high school in New York City took up the challenge. We love that they always express their appreciation for their visit to the Heritage Center by leaving a framed and signed group photo with Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**. Read about the student's adventures and their stop at the Oberlin Heritage Center by visiting their [blog](http://www.blurr.us/) at <http://www.blurr.us/>.

Congratulations and all good wishes to our friends at **Kendal at Oberlin** as this premier retirement living community celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a number of exciting events, including a presentation of "**The History of Kendal at Oberlin**" by Kendal resident (and Oberlin Heritage Center Board member) **Dick Baznik**. Dick has been working on a history of the Kendal community for nearly two years, and his work will culminate in a wonderful illustrated book by the same name to be published this fall by the Kendal at Oberlin Residents Association. The program takes place on **Thursday, September 19 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal's Heiser Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

The U.S. House Appropriates Committee released its fiscal 2014 Interior Appropriates Bill on July 22, revealing a plan to cut funding for the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) by \$71 million, or 49 percent. As many E-Gazette readers know, NEH is an agency that funds a multitude of exhibit and research projects for history organizations throughout the country. The National Humanities Alliance makes it easy for you to contact members of Congress to let them know that the public humanities are important. Visit [www.nhalliance.org](http://www.nhalliance.org) and scroll to "Advocacy/Take Action" in the main menu, or click [here](#) to send a message today to urge your Representative to vote against these devastating cuts.

**Oberlin Celebrates National Night Out!** The first Tuesday in August is America's Night Out Against Crime, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, taking place in communities across the country. The event heightens awareness of crime, drug and violence prevention efforts, and encourages community participation. All are welcome to Oberlin's Depot Park on South Street (across from McDonalds) on **August 6 from 6-9 p.m.** for a cook out, community safety information, children's activities and more. Residents also can show support by turning on outside porch lights during early nightfall. The event is sponsored by the City of Oberlin and the Oberlin Police Department. For more information, contact the Oberlin PD at (440) 774-1061.

**From the Schoolhouse: An Antique and Handmade Show** sponsored by the **Pittsfield Township Historical Society**, with over 35 vendors from near and far, will be held at the Pittsfield Township Town Hall (corner of SR 303 and 58, between Wellington and Oberlin) on **Saturday, September 21, 2013** from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Admission is \$3.00. For more information call (440) 935-0832 or visit [www.pittsfieldtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.pittsfieldtownshiphistoricalsociety.com).

*To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).*

*To remove your name from the Oberlin Heritage Center's e-news mailing list, please respond to this e-mail by clicking on the "REPLY" button and typing "UNSUBSCRIBE" on the subject line.*