

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – August 21, 2010

## History of Northern Ohio's Amusement Parks

Come one, come all and enjoy the fun and thrills that accompany an end-of-summer trip to an old-fashioned theme park! Take a step back in time with the Oberlin Heritage Center as Maria Surovy presents “**A History of Northern Ohio's Amusement Parks**” on **Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive, Oberlin). You won't even need an admission ticket for this “virtual visit” to many family-favorite destinations such as Luna Park (Cleveland), Crystal Beach Park (Vermilion) and Idora Park (Youngstown). The illustrated presentation, which is free and open to the public, is based on Surovy's research in fulfillment of her master's thesis for an MS degree in Historic Preservation from Ball State University (Indiana). Surovy is presently a middle school social studies teacher at The Ratner School in Pepper Pike, and is a summer assistant at the Oberlin Heritage Center. She has been associated with the Heritage Center in many capacities since 2003. Most recently she designed and taught the week-long “Green Camp” for kids as part of the Heritage Center's 2010 summer camp series.

## History Walks: Coming and Going

The summer season is winding down for the Tappan Square and Freedom's Friends History Walks, and if you haven't had a chance to take part, you still have time to make a reservation to enjoy one or both of these fascinating guided walking tours. The **Tappan Square History Walk** (60 minutes) is offered on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. through September 10, while the **Freedom's Friends History Walk** (75 minutes) is offered Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. through September 11.

Plan to walk with us this fall on the *new* **Radicals and Reformers History Walk** through Westwood Cemetery. This guided tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. This tour will be offered Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. between September 18 and October 9. (And save the date of September 30 at 7:15 p.m. in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium, for a corresponding illustrated program about Oberlin's picturesque Westwood Cemetery presented by Liz Schultz, the Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator.)

Tickets for each History Walk must be purchased through the website ([www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org)) or at the Monroe House's Museum Store. \$6 per adult, with \$1 discount for OHC members; free for children less than 18 years (most likely to be enjoyed by children 9 years of age and up). Walks may be cancelled and fees refunded if it is raining at the tour start time.

## Oberlin Heritage Center Selected as AmeriCorps Program Site

The Oberlin Heritage Center has been selected to take part in a new program launched by the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio Community Service Council that will place AmeriCorps members in communities across the State for the next year. The twenty new positions that have been created are broken down into three service “corps”: the Civil War 150 Leadership Corps, the Historic Preservation Corps, and the Technology Corps. The Oberlin Heritage Center will host one full-time AmeriCorps member of the **Civil War 150 Leadership Corps**. He/she will work on assisting communities prepare for the upcoming commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, work on Civil war-related educational and public programming, special events, regional initiatives, collections care and other duties. The Oberlin Heritage Center received a \$2,000 grant from The Nord Family Foundation to support its costs to take part in the program. All AmeriCorps members working with the Ohio History Service Corps will gain leadership skills as well as professional development and training, a one-year 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 20, 2010. The term of service is from October 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011. 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](mailto:mcannon@ohiohistory.org).

## **Congratulations are in Order!**

Applause, applause for Oberlin Heritage Center Past President, **James W. White**, who will receive an **Outstanding Individual Achievement Award** from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) at its Annual Meeting Awards luncheon in Dublin, Ohio this fall. Members and friends interested in attending the luncheon (Saturday, October 2), may contact Pat Holsworth (440-774-1700; [ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org)) to receive more information on reservations and car-pooling from Oberlin. Those interested in attending the two-day statewide local history conference may find more information at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/portal/localhistory-p.html>.

The **Rescue, Restore, Reuse: Morgan Street Bridge Railing Project** is a finalist for a **2010 Lorain County Beautiful Award** in the Community Service award category. In addition, the beautifully restored **LorMet Community Federal Credit Union** building on South Main Street is a finalist for recognition in the Renovation Category. The award program has been recognizing properties for their beauty and aesthetic contribution to the overall quality of life in Lorain County for the past 18 years. Finalists will be honored at a banquet in late October and winners will receive a special award and recognition on the Visit Lorain County website and in other Lorain County media outlets...stay tuned for the outcome!

## **Great Reading/Fond Memories Along the Oberlin Heritage Trail**

This summer, 34 inscribed century-old bricks were added along the Oberlin Heritage Trail, bringing the total number to 326 "messed" bricks lining the walkways that criss-cross the Heritage Center grounds and connect the site to the surrounding community. What fun it is to stroll along the inviting paths and read names, mottos, history-making dates, and more that have been engraved-in-brick to recognize special people and events, memorialize loved ones, and stir fond memories of days gone by. Consider purchasing an inscribed brick the next time you have an occasion that calls for a unique and lasting tribute! For more information, visit the Oberlin Heritage Center [website](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) (follow links at "Make a Gift"). All brick proceeds benefit the Oberlin Heritage Center's grounds' maintenance and landscaping.

## **Also of Interest**

Rick Bowers, author of *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried To Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* will speak **Wednesday, September 15 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium on "**Civil Rights: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories.**" Rick is Director of Creative Initiatives at AARP. In that position he worked with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Library of Congress as Director of "Voices of Civil Rights," a multi-media project that gathered thousands of first-hand accounts of the Civil Rights movement to form the world's largest archive of testimonials from that era. The resulting History Channel documentary won both Emmy and Peabody awards and the website ([www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org)) won the prestigious Webby Award. Rick will describe the research required to unravel the story of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission and include video interviews with key players in the civil rights movement. The presentation is free and open to the public as part of his service to the Oberlin community as "Writer in Residence" in the Oberlin Public Schools September 13-17.

**Cemetery Preservation Workshop** – Hosted by the **Bedford Historical Society** on Friday evening September 24, 2010 and all day Saturday, September 25, 2010. Friday's sessions include Ohio Cemetery Law, funerary art, genealogical interpretation of gravestones and Bedford's grassroots efforts to preserve the older stones at Bedford Cemetery. Saturday is a hands-on workshop conducted by nationally respected gravestone restorer, John Walters, from Indiana. Register by September 15; for more information visit the events section of [www.bedfordohiohistory.org](http://www.bedfordohiohistory.org) or call (440) 232-0796.

**Three Cheers for the Olmsted Historical Society** for being recognized by First Lady Michele Obama and the U.S. Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation as a "Preserve America Steward" for its preservation of the Frostville Museum complex. There are now 30 Preserve America Stewards throughout the country. The Oberlin Heritage Center was designated as the first Preserve America Steward in the Midwest in 2009 for excellence in

effective use of volunteers in preserving American heritage. The City of Oberlin was designated a Preserve America Community in 2004. For more information about Preserve America, visit [www.PreserveAmerica.gov](http://www.PreserveAmerica.gov).

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