

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – September 15, 2010

Annual Fund Campaign Underway

Now is the time to make a gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center's 2010 Annual Fund which provides much-needed general operating support for all the programs you'll be reading about below and more! Our goal for this year's campaign is to raise \$35,000 by December 31, 2010. Your generosity helps the Oberlin Heritage Center collect, preserve and share history for future generations. Your help is especially important in a year when funding is extremely tight. Help us continue to serve our community by making a contribution today. You may make a secure on-line contribution at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or send your gift to Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Looking for a Few Good Docents

Love Oberlin and its history and want to help share it with others? Then the Oberlin Heritage Center is *looking for you!* Consider becoming an Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer docent and attend the fall **Docent Training Introductory Workshop on Sunday, September 19 from 1-5 p.m.** at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street; parking off of 20 West Vine Street). This is a great way to learn more about Oberlin and its unique history whether you are new in town or have lived here forever. Our docents are a fun and diverse group of all ages and backgrounds, who meet periodically throughout the year for informational gatherings, field trips, and more. Some docents specialize in tours for adult groups while others especially enjoy children's groups or tours for walk-in visitors. Talk to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** (e-mail: tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or phone: 440-774-1700) for more information and to pre-register for the workshop.

Smithsonian Museum Day 2010

The Oberlin Heritage Center is taking part in *Smithsonian Magazine's 6th Annual Museum Day* on **Saturday, September 25** by providing free admission for the 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. tours to visitors plus one guest who present a Museum Day Ticket. This annual Museum Day celebration involves more than 1,000 museums around the country and allows for one day only the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian's Washington, D.C.-based properties to be emulated throughout America. Don't miss this great opportunity to take a tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center or to visit another participating museum that day! To download a free ticket, or to find a museum near you, visit www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday .

Westwood Cemetery Offers Fascinating History Lessons

This fall, the Oberlin Heritage Center is leading local history enthusiasts away from books and buildings and presenting history lessons from a classroom of a different sort, based on the verdant setting and abundance of stories from Oberlin's local Westwood Cemetery. **Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator** at the Oberlin Heritage Center, will present an illustrated program about Oberlin's picturesque **Westwood Cemetery on Thursday, September 30 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive). The presentation will look back at the history of the cemetery and highlight some of its unique features and monuments. Liz also will acquaint the audience with the Oberlin Heritage Center's Westwood gravestone inventory, a remarkable project of cataloging and photo documentation undertaken by a dedicated team of volunteers, which offers an excellent source of information for family genealogists, researchers and historians. The event is free and open to the public.

You may also enjoy taking part in the new **Radicals and Reformers History Walk** through Westwood Cemetery which will be offered just four times this fall, on **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. on September 18 and 25, and October 2 and 9**. 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. Tickets for each History Walk must be purchased through the website (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.

The Republican Party, the Civil War and the West

Get ready for the November election by taking a step back in time to learn more about 19th century politics in this illustrated program at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium on **Tuesday, October 5 at 7:15 p.m.** What led to the creation of this new political group in 1854 which quickly became a major player on the national scene? How did it rise from a small Midwestern coalition to a powerful party controlling Congress and the presidency just six years later? This presentation by **Todd Arrington** (Chief of Interpretation and Education for the National Park Service's James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor) will examine the early years of the Republican Party and will look especially at the West, the region in which the party was formed and where it had its strongest legislative impact. The event is free and open to the public.

Oberlin History Then and Now

A "tour" of a different sort is the Oberlin Heritage Center's new virtual exhibit recently introduced on our [website](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) (www.oberlinheritage.org -- Research and Learn / History Features). **Oberlin Then and Now** recalls a number of wonderful old buildings that have disappeared from the present-day Oberlin streetscape. The idea for this new exhibit came about when Oberlin Heritage Center Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** received a large donation of old Oberlin photographs. The focus of this particular project is to show Oberlin's changing architectural landscape, while also drawing a comparison of buildings from the past and the present. The database is a work-in-progress, and was created by Oberlin Heritage Center intern, **Rachel Luczkowski**, with the support of the Ohio Humanities Council, and the cooperation of the Oberlin College Archives. We invite you to view the exhibit and send your comments, additions and suggestions to history@oberlinheritage.org.

Save the Dates

Mark your calendar for an encore presentation of the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular workshop, **Be a Good Ancestor: Collecting and Preserving Your Family History, Stories, Photographs and Artifacts**, which will be offered on Saturday, November 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Details and registration forms are available [online](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request that a registration flyer be sent to you.

Looking for something fun to do with your youngsters during the local area's day off from school **Friday, October 15**, because of the NEOEA professional development teacher workshops? Several community arts and education organizations have been planning a fun **Community Arts and Culture Day** with free fun youth programs all around town from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The theme is "Me and My Community" and all are invited to stop by the AMAM's Weltzheimer Johnson House, FAVA, the Oberlin Heritage Center, and the Oberlin Public Library, with a variety of hands-on

activities and fun raffles. Children must be accompanied by an adult (who may have even more fun!). For more information, visit any of these organization's websites, or call (440) 774-1700.

More Congratulations in Order!

The Oberlin Heritage Center Board's 2nd Vice-President, **Eugene Foggo Simon**, was honored this past summer in a Naming Ceremony by the Perry Clan of the Troy/Fall River Wampanoag Indians Watuppa Reservation in recognition of the vast research she has done on the St. David's Island Indians of Bermuda whose people represent several generations of descendants from the Wampanoag and other New England area Native American families. The Perry Clan is the only Native American family never to leave their ancestral lands and present day heirs continue to protect and keep their lands pristine and life-sustaining. The joyous event took place in July in Fall River, Massachusetts at sunset beneath the Naming Tree where Jean was gifted with the American Indian Name of "Morning Dove." Congratulations, Jean!

Also of Interest

Last month we let you know that **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.**" You may also be interested to know that Bowers will appear the following evening, **Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Oberlin Public Library** in a panel discussion of **Oberlinians, Civil Rights and The Spies of Mississippi**, where he will be joined by Oberlinians Delbert Spurlock and Charles Butts who will talk about their own experiences with the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. Each of these presentations is free and open to the public.

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) encourages history organizations and local historians to get involved with its new six-hour series that offers insights of history on today's religious and political controversies. A joint production of *American Experience* and *Frontline*, **God in America** airs over three consecutive evenings, **October 11-13 at 9:00 p.m.** and explores the historical role of religion in the public life of the United States. The series considers the role religious ideas and institutions have played in social reform movements from abolition to civil rights, examining the impact of religious faith on conflicts from the American Revolution to the Cold War, and how guarantees of religious freedom created a competitive American religious marketplace. For more information, visit <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica>.

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Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director
Oberlin Heritage Center
73 1/2 South Professor Street
MPO Box 0455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
(440) 774-1700
www.oberlinheritage.org