

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – November 2015

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## Meet OHC's New Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan



A warm welcome goes out to **Amanda K. Manahan**, recently hired as the Heritage Center's new Museum Education and Tour Coordinator following a national search. Amanda comes to Oberlin most recently from the Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, NY, where she served as the Collections and Interpretation Coordinator. She has a BA in Anthropology from Heidelberg University (Tiffin, OH) and a MA in History Museum Studies from The Cooperstown Graduate Program at SUNY/Oneonta. Amanda's experience in developing tours and programming for all ages will help the Oberlin Heritage Center reach new audiences and expand its interpretive focus to include more 20<sup>th</sup> century stories. She is excited

to be part of the OHC team, become more involved in the Oberlin community, and meet many of the Heritage Center's members and friends in coming months!

## A "Last Hurrah" for OHC's History Walks in 2015

If you have not yet experienced a neighborhood history walk, the weekend of November 6-8 offers one last opportunity to enjoy a themed walk for this calendar year. In conjunction with Oberlin College's Parents' Weekend, the Heritage Center will offer two of its most popular guided (75-minute) history walks to the public during the weekend of November 6-8, 2015. Register online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) for the **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad History Walk** on Friday, November 6 at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 7 at 11 a.m. or Sunday, November 8 at 11 a.m. The **"One Step More" Oberlin Women's History Walk** will be offered Saturday, November 7 at 3 p.m.; pre-registration also required. If you're pressed for time, consider the **Oberlin Origins/Sneak Peek Mini-Tour** which will be offered on Saturday, November 7 every half hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome. Fees for history walks (\$6) and Sneak Peek mini-tours (\$3) are waived for OHC members, any college student, and children accompanied by an adult. In case of rain, the history walks will be cancelled and refunded, while the mini-tours take place rain or shine. For more information, contact the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700.

## New Local Underground Railroad Stories Featured in Community Program

Even those who know Oberlin history well may be surprised to find out about Oberlin's *first* rescue – 17 years *before* the well-known Oberlin-Wellington Rescue! And who wouldn't be curious to hear the long-forgotten story of one of early Oberlin's most notorious villains? The Heritage Center's Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Board member/docent **Ron Gorman** share some of their latest research on Oberlin's abolitionist history in **Old Secrets/New Stories of Oberlin's Underground Railroad on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). In this one-hour illustrated presentation, Schultz and Gorman offer stories of freedom seekers who made their way to town and the community members who assisted along the way. The program brings together period accounts from newspapers, autobiographies and letters, and sheds

more light on Oberlin's unique and powerful role in this national movement. The event is free and open to the public. *Please note that due to construction at Kendal's main entrance this week, visitors should park and enter from the back employee lot and entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the Auditorium.* For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

### **Annual Fund Needs Your Support!**

*The Center has done so much for the community ... My mother was an early volunteer ... Our son loves the camps and trips to the Little Red Schoolhouse, so we want to do our part to support these programs ... OHC provides so many important and interesting programs for the area ... I grew up in Oberlin and am so pleased with the work of the Heritage Center...*

We love hearing from friends near and far who have contributed to OHC's Annual Fund. No matter the size of the gift or the reason behind it, each and every expression of support really means a lot to the nonprofit Oberlin Heritage Center. To date, the 2015 Annual Fund has raised \$20,600 from 159 donors – halfway to our goal of \$40,000 by December 31, 2015. If you have not yet contributed to this once-a-year, end-of-the-year appeal for operating support, the Heritage Center needs your participation to end the year with a balanced budget. All gifts to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible. Donate today at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

### **Members Update**

Welcome to new OHC members **Tom Ferchau** (Avon Lake), **Karl Offen** (Oberlin), **Nina Reid-Maroney** (Thamesville, Ontario, Canada), and **Sally Staruch** (Lorain). OHC also is grateful to new Endowed Life Member **Thelma J. Morris** (Copper level). We note with sorrow the recent passing of Endowed Life Member **Nancy Gage**. Every member helps keep the Heritage Center a strong and vibrant resource for residents, visitors, researchers, teachers, students, genealogists, history buffs and more – to show your support of OHC's good work in the community [become a member today!](#)

### **Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Oberlin Heritage Center!**

Remember the **Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store** as a source for great holiday gift-giving ideas. Books, tee shirts, Oberlin afghans, history playing cards and other Oberlin-themed mementos are available at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the "Shop" button). Consider an inscribed century-old brick placed along the Heritage Center walkway to honor a special person or occasion in your life, or provide a gift of an OHC membership to family and friends who like to support a well-managed nonprofit doing good work in the community!

Support the Oberlin Heritage Center through **Amazon Smile** and when you shop, Amazon gives to the charitable organization of *your* choice at no extra expense to you. The Heritage Center is listed under its legal name, the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. Sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/>

Or, make online purchases via <http://shopformuseums.com/> to support the Oberlin Heritage Center at no extra cost to you! A percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the Oberlin Heritage Center when you make purchases at hundreds of your favorite outlets like Macy's, Kohl's, Target, Staples, Best Buy, Hilton Hotels, Hertz, Expedia, Priceline and more.

Shop locally throughout the holiday season in Oberlin and don't miss the special treats for customers and festive atmosphere of **Small Business Saturday** on November 28 when downtown shops are open 'til 8 p.m.

## OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

**Liz Schultz** and volunteers from the OHC docent team enjoyed an annual field trip this fall to “see how others do it.” Their destination was Sandusky, Ohio, where the group toured the Second Baptist Church to learn about its abolitionist and Underground Railroad history and the Follett House where they were introduced to the histories of Sandusky and Erie County. All agreed it was a great excursion and fun opportunity to become better acquainted with one another as well as with the history of the region.

Liz also has been busy leading the first of a monthly afterschool program at Prospect Elementary School, talking with students at Hocking College about careers in interpretation, and giving a mini presentation to the local NOW group about Eleanor Roosevelt’s 1942 visit to Oberlin.

Collections Manager, **Maren McKee**, along with Liz Schultz, enjoyed a wonderful visit with **Carver Clark Gayton** when he stopped by the Heritage Center last month. Gayton was in town to visit the gravesite of his great-grandfather Lewis G. Clarke, who lived in Oberlin for a time and is buried in Westwood Cemetery. Clarke was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1815 and eventually escaped and went on to become a spokesman for the abolitionist movement and a source of inspiration for the character of George Harris in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. At the end of Mr. Gayton’s visit, he presented the Heritage Center with an autographed copy of his 2014 book, *When Owing a Shilling Costs a Dollar: The Saga of Lewis G. Clarke Born a “White” Slave*. For more information on Clarke and his connection to Oberlin check out **Ron Gorman**’s blog post, [Lewis Clarke: Hero in His Own Right](#) (June 2013).

AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** is looking for teachers and homeschool families interested in involving their students in National History Day. The history-themed competition for grades 6-12 involves exploring a topic of the student’s choice and presenting it in one of five different ways: a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a website. If you would like to know more, contact [mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700. And don’t miss Mary’s recent display in the Heritage Center’s South Main Street kiosk – check out the photos from **90 Years of Oberlin High School Marching Bands!**

## Thanksgiving Weekend Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Warmest thanks are sent to the Oberlin Heritage Center’s members and friends for all that you do to keep Oberlin’s rich history alive for future generations. The Heritage Center will be closed Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day) and open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. Guided tours will be offered on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Also of Interest

Author (and OHC member) **Gene Schmiel** presents **The Life of Jacob Dolson Cox, Ohio Citizen General on Monday, December 7 at 7 p.m.** at Lorain County Community College, iLOFT Building, Room 207 (1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria). Cox, a graduate of Oberlin College, was recognized as one of the Union’s best “citizen generals.” After the war, Cox proved to be a true Renaissance man, with careers as Governor of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior, Congressman, President of the University of Cincinnati, President of the Toledo & Wabash Railway, and the best participant historian of the Civil War. The event is hosted by the Quincy Gillmore Civil War Roundtable and is open to the public. For more information, contact Jim Jablonski at [jjjablon@aol.com](mailto:jjjablon@aol.com).