

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ July 2016

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Summertime is Kids' Camp Time!

Three Great Weeks of Hands-on-History Fun



The Oberlin Heritage Center's Summer Camp registration is underway for boys and girls ages 8-13 with two brand new and one popular returning camp to choose from:

July 25-29 Out of this World! Aerospace and Aviation *When it comes to flight and space travel, Ohioans have really soared! Camp participants will conduct experiments that demonstrate scientific theories, explore construction challenges and visit related sites around Oberlin.*

August 1-5 All Work, All Play *Ideas of work and recreation have changed over time and continue to evolve with new technologies. Meet people who still work in traditional ways and create with your own hands, including basket- and candle-making, cooking with a Dutch oven and learning simple carpentry skills.*

August 8-12 Architecture Camp *Kids love learning the basics when they tour Oberlin architecture, explore building materials, try construction challenges, sketch designs, construct mini buildings and envision buildings of the future. (Scouts attending this camp complete some requirements for Architecture badges.)*

The Heritage Center's award-winning summer camp programs are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Cost is \$110 for the week (\$100 for OHC members' children or grandchildren). Scholarship assistance is available to those who qualify for schools' free lunch programs. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Behind-the-Scenes at McKay Lodge Fine Art Conservation Laboratory OHC Members-Only Field Trip!



Join OHC members for a guided tour of this Oberlin area art conservation facility on **Sunday, August 14 from 2-4 p.m.** The family-owned firm, established in 1989, is a unique conservation center providing expert services to clients all over the country. While many of the company's preservation projects focus on paper and paintings, the staff also works on architectural features, sculptures, monuments and more. Tour participants will view and learn more about the conservation labs, work spaces and unique in-progress projects. Advance registration is required for this space-limited trip; cost is just \$8/person. If you are not yet an OHC member, become one now and come along on this exclusive opportunity! For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

A Walk Through Time

Tablet Tours are the Perfect Way to Explore the Past on Your Own



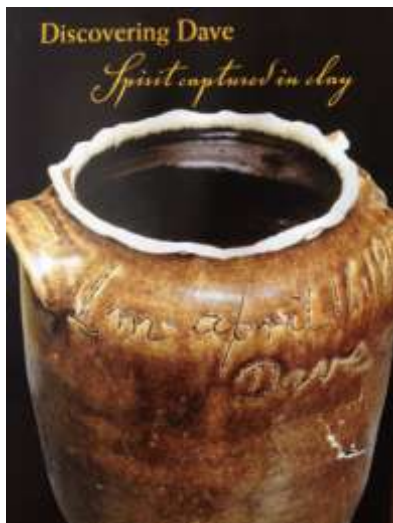
Photo of East College Street, just south of "old" Oberlin Inn, c. 1960.

Did you know that the downtown commercial center of Oberlin extended north to where Hall Auditorium is presently located? That Henry Lee, who had escaped from slavery, had his livery stables behind where The Hotel at Oberlin stands today? Or that Morgan Coal & Ice and Jones Monumental Works were small shops located where the post office is now? Find out more about these businesses and others in the **Picture the Past** tablet tour. Walk through downtown or sit on a shady bench while viewing scores of historic images and learning their stories.

Tablets (iPads) with the **Picture the Past** tour as well as the **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad and Abolition** tour are available to rent any time during Oberlin Heritage Center business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Rental costs are \$5/hour or \$20 a day and members receive a 20% discount. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Summer/Fall Events Calendar Available

History in the Midst of Film, Theater and More!



The Heritage Center's latest events calendar offers an exciting line-up of history-themed programs and activities for all ages (many of them free!). In September, OHC welcomes archaeologist George Wingard who co-produced a 2013 documentary, *Discovering Dave - Spirit Captured in Clay*, that tells the story of a 19th century enslaved potter who acquired the rare skills of reading and writing. Dave's pots, sometimes signed and marked with original poetry, are renowned. In October, the Heritage Center and Oberlin's Mt. Zion Baptist Church will co-host a dramatic production of *Not on My Watch: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858*. Costumed performers from the Kelton House Museum & Garden (Columbus, OH) will present this award-winning original program. Visit the Heritage Center's website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org to learn

more about the wide array of events offered in coming months! Or call (440) 774-1700 to request a calendar be sent to you.

Plea for the Popcorn Bowl

Do you have a photograph of the Popcorn Bowl, an Oberlin restaurant of the 1950s? Oberlin Heritage Center staff have received several requests for images of this beloved hang-out and we only have distant exterior photographs. Please contact us if you're willing to share a physical or digital copy (and share your memories too)! Call Collections Manager Maren McKee at (440) 774-1700 or send her an e-mail at history@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Wants to Go to the Fair!

Volunteers Needed to Staff Local History Booth August 8-14



Dr. Jeanne McKibben enjoyed representing OHC in the Local History Booth during the 2015 Cuyahoga County Fair.

Thanks to the Bedford Historical Society, local history organizations throughout northeast Ohio will have the opportunity to shine the spotlight on their museums and the good work being done in local history preservation during the **Cuyahoga County Fair** at the Berea Fairgrounds (164 Eastland Road) in mid-August. Last year the Oberlin Heritage Center had an excellent presence at the fair thanks to a wonderful team of volunteers who helped staff the local history booth. This year, volunteers are needed for 3- or 4-hour shifts between noon and 11 p.m. on any day of fair week. Each helper will be provided a free pass to enter the fair on the day(s) scheduled as a local history booth volunteer. This is a fun opportunity to learn what other history organizations in the area are doing, and to help promote the Oberlin Heritage

Center to visitors from all over the Cleveland area. For more information, or to sign up to help, contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

B&B Host: A Unique “Stay-at-Home” Volunteer Opportunity

List Grows for Accommodations Needed during New Student Orientation

All of the Heritage Center's current host homes are booked full with reservations from parents bringing their first-year students to Oberlin College at the end of August, and we are looking for additional volunteers to help accommodate the growing waiting list. Bed-and-breakfast volunteer hosts are needed for **one or more nights between Monday, August 22 and Wednesday, August 24** (with the greatest need being on Monday and Tuesday nights). If you can provide a single or double room in your home (with a private or shared bathroom) and a simple breakfast the following morning, please contact OHC Board Member and B&B Volunteer Coordinator **Gail Wood** at ohcbnb@gmail.com. The annual B&B fundraiser provides much-needed income to help stretch the Heritage Center's general operating budget.

19th Century Apothecary Cabinet Added to Collection

Compact Drugstore in a Box Helps Tell Story of Oberlin Pharmacist



The newest addition to the OHC collection is a pharmacy chest which belonged to Henry Smith, a druggist in Oberlin between 1893 and 1906 who would have used this chest in his shop. The interior drawers are full of labels for the various medicines he sold. Smith later became the mayor of Oberlin between 1922 and 1926. Thank you **Jack and Fran Baumann** for donating this historic piece to the OHC collection.

House Calls – In Reverse

OHC Welcomes Siddall Family Members

From approximately 1939 to 1959 the “Monroe House” of the Oberlin Heritage Center served as the medical office of **Dr. Alcines Clair Siddall** (1897-1980), an Oberlin obstetrician and gynecologist. Prior to that, the Siddall family resided in the house for four years. Dr. Siddall’s son, **Larry**, along with **Muriel Siddall** and **Diane Siddall Whitehead**, wife and daughter of John Siddall (another of Dr. Siddall’s sons) enjoyed a special visit last month with Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, and volunteer docent **Charlotte Bosch**. The Siddall family members shared many memories as they walked through familiar rooms, including how Dr. Siddall used a Dictaphone to take notes while conducting exams, that the practice’s medicine cabinet was in the pantry, and how Larry and his siblings waited patiently on the front stairs to come down to the Christmas tree (where a new pen knife was waiting for him one year). There were also stories of roller-skating down the Morgan Street hill, loading the “iron fireman” automatic coal feeder, breaking a window playing ball by the Methodist Church, and Friday night canteens at First Church, one of the few social events of the time that Larry recalled black and white youth attended together. We were fascinated to learn more about this historic building and Oberlin in the 1940s and 1950s.

OHC Members Update

Be Part of a Good Thing!

Welcome to new OHC member **Judith Nedwek** (Avon Lake) and new organizational member the **Oberlin Underground Railroad Center Implementation Team (OURCIT)**, thanks to team member **Joseph Peek**. Oberlin Heritage Center members receive many tangible benefits for their tax-deductible contribution, including being able to participate in special "members-only" events such as the upcoming field trip to the McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory (see feature story elsewhere in this newsletter). The history of Oberlin is filled with people who played important roles in moving our nation forward. You, too, can play an important role by helping to preserve and share that extraordinary history. Be part of a good thing and become an OHC member today! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the “Join Now” button at the top of the home page.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News



Welcome to two new OHC interns who have jumped right in and are a great help to the organization this summer! **Rachel Maver** (on right), from Elyria, just completed her second year at Kent State University where she is majoring in International Relations with a minor in Business Spanish. **Hannah Cipinko** is a recent Oberlin High School graduate who plans to major in History and Political Science when she begins her first year at Oberlin College in the fall. Having a funded high school internship is something new at the Heritage Center, and we are grateful to the **Nordson Corporation** for a grant that made both of these internships possible. Rachel and Hannah are training to be tour docents, and are helping to prepare for (and will later help teach) OHC's summer

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News continued...

camp season. Each also has independent research projects underway for the museum. Be sure to say hello to Rachel and Hannah when you see them out and about.

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** met with Tiffany Tarpley of WKYC Channel 3 of Cleveland to talk about Oberlin's abolitionist history and the town's unique role as a place where fugitives escaping from slavery could more easily blend into the community. Tarpley also met with Oberlin Juneteenth founder **Adenike Sharpley** to discuss the importance of Oberlin's celebration. If you missed it, you can still see the clip at <http://www.wkyc.com/news/juneteenth-celebrations-in-ne-ohio/248196639>.

Ohio History Connection Wants to Hear from YOU!

"Dear Ohio" Tour will Visit Ohio's 88 Counties in Next Two Years



The Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society) has launched an initiative to hear about the history that you and other Ohioans value. The Dear Ohio Tour will help the Ohio History Connection plan for the future by visiting all corners of the state to talk directly to residents and visitors. With the abundance of diversity found from north to south, east to west -- the Ohio History Connection wants to preserve

and share a history that represents *all* aspects of the state. In Lorain County, the Dear Ohio Tour is coming to the **Wellington Cheese Heritage Festival on Saturday July 16 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Stop by and talk to tour representatives in person, or respond online at www.ohiohistory.org/deariohio.

Also of Interest

AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall Coming to Middleburg Heights



The Middleburg Heights (OH) Chamber of Commerce and the City of Middleburg Heights are proud to present the **American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) and Traveling Vietnam Wall** from **July 18-24** in the Middleburg Heights Commons (Craigmere and Bagley Road, just off I-71). The AVTT Traveling Wall is the largest replica of its kind – an 80% scale version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, 360-feet in length, 8-feet high at its apex and etched with every single name included on the original. Attendance is free. Volunteers are needed to assist at the exhibit 24 hours a day for the entire week. Call Cindy Peck at (440) 243-5599 or visit www.middleburgheightschamber.com if you would like to help.