

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ August 2016

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

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or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## National Parks: America's Best Idea

Wednesday, August 17 at 7:15 p.m.



Brandywine Falls in Cuyahoga Valley (Ohio) National Park

Did you know that 2016 marks the 100th birthday of the National Park Service? Come take a trip through "America's Best Idea" as **Andrew Mizsak** discusses some of our nation's most notable preserved spaces and places. The illustrated presentation features a sampling of the country's most scenic natural and most significant historical locations. Andrew Mizsak is the Principal Consultant and CEO of Cultural Sites Advocacy Group.

The event, which takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive), is free and open to the public. **Just for fun:** Email a photo you took at a National Park to the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** at [mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:mary.manning@oberlinheritage.org), and she will share it on OHC's Facebook page before the program.

## Walking through History

Enjoy a Guided History Walk Before Summer Ends!



If you've been meaning to enjoy one of the Heritage Center's summer History Walks -- now is the time! OHC's popular history walks take visitors off-site and into the community to see landmarks up-close, hear stories of local figures who once walked the same pathways, and view historical images that connect both past and present. Each weekend in August offers an opportunity to take part in a 90-minute stroll through history and see the world around you in a new, enlightening way. \$6/adult; free to OHC

members, children and college students. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on "Events & News" then scroll down to the Events Calendar and click on the date of the tour for more information or to make your reservation (or call (440-774-1700)).

- ❖ **"One Step More": Oberlin Women's History Walk** – Saturday, August 6 at 2 p.m.
- ❖ **Freedom's Friends (Abolition/Underground Railroad) History Walk** – Saturdays in August at 11 a.m.
- ❖ **Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk** – Saturday, August 27 at 2 p.m.
- ❖ **Radicals & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk** – Saturdays, September 10 & 24 at 11 a.m.

## Family Fun at the Oberlin Heritage Center

**Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**



Oberlin's long-time summer tradition of **Family Fun Fair** brings out the kid in everyone! The event takes place throughout downtown Oberlin and on the grounds of the Heritage Center where you can try your hand at old-fashioned games on the lawn at the Little Red Schoolhouse, or step back in time to explore the first floor of the 1866 Monroe House on a self-guided tour. Don't miss the chance to sign up at the Heritage Center's info table to win a Family Fun Bag filled with treats from OHC's Museum Store and our partnering Business Member **The Tuck Shop** in Oberlin. In addition to the free Fun Fair activities, the Heritage Center will offer the *Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad) History Walk* in the morning and the *Oberlin Women's History Walk* in the afternoon. (See previous story for History Walk details.)

## Summer Camp Season Underway at OHC

**Registration Still Open for Architecture Camp August 8-12**



The last week of July saw the launch of OHC's summer camp season with a week of **Aerospace & Aviation** exploration. Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan**, along with interns **Rachel Maver** and **Hannah Cipinko**, reported that the camp was a "blast!" Camp activities included a visit to the College Planetarium, a conversation with local

pilot **Walt Edling** (OHC's Past Board President, at left with campers surrounding his model plane), and a discussion about air traffic control with Oberlin-based FAA Controller, **Yvan Thornhill**. The campers, who ranged in age from 8-13, were bright and imaginative, and thoroughly immersed themselves in flights of fancy. We loved the story of youngsters putting on their thinking caps to design spacesuits for animals, while taking into consideration particular sizes, behaviors, and needs of various species. One fellow, assigned to design for a reindeer, created tinfoil coverings for the antlers (the better to pick up communication signals) and promptly christened his reindeer, **RADAR!** 😊

The **All Work, All Play** camp featuring Historic Trades and Games, is set to take place the first week of August, and registration has now closed. Reservations still may be made by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or calling (440) 774-7100 through August 3 for the popular **Architecture Camp**. A special shout-out of thanks to **Tom and Mary Van Nortwick** and two anonymous donors who have provided scholarship support for some campers this year.

## Voices from the Past: An Overview of the Oberlin Oral History Project

Saturday, September 3 at 11 a.m.



The Oberlin Heritage Center's Executive Director **Liz Schultz** was invited by the Oberlin African American Genealogy and History Group to talk about the Oberlin Oral History project, including its origins in the late 1970s, how interviews are conducted, who has been interviewed, and how all of the transcripts and digitized sound files can be accessed by the public. The program, which takes place at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street), is free and open to all. Liz's presentation is part of a three-part series of programs featuring the work of other

nonprofits in the community that contribute to the study and enjoyment of local African American genealogy and history.

### Lend a Hand if You Can!

#### **OHC Needs Help with These Summer Projects and Special Events**



- ❖ Weeding
- ❖ Mowing the lawn
- ❖ Greeting visitors at the Monroe House's 150th Anniversary Open House on September 10
- ❖ Lending coolers and ice for a special event for college students on September 9
- ❖ Being a Bed-and-Breakfast host for parents of first-year college students on August 22 &/or August 23

Contact Executive Director **Liz Schultz** at (440) 774-1700 or [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org) if you can lend a hand!

### Saluting the 2016 Olympics

#### **OHC's Facebook Page Goes for the Gold!**



Throughout the month of August, the Oberlin Heritage Center's Facebook page features some creative connections with Brazil and the upcoming Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** has researched OHC's collections to find all kinds of ties to Rio and to events associated with the Olympics.

Those who know their local history will recall that Oberlin's James Monroe (1821-1898) served as United States Consul in Rio de Janeiro between 1862 and 1869. Tuesday Facebook posts this month will take a look at Monroe's time in Brazil, including the political challenges that he faced being abroad during the Civil War and

### Saluting the 2016 Olympics continued...

Reconstruction. What-is-it-Wednesday posts will be sports-and-exercise related, and Photo-Fridays will focus on Olympians with local connections. Follow the Heritage Center on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter/>) and find yourself cheering for Oberlin history!

## The Small World of History

### **OHC Volunteer's History Research Leads to Family Home**



Board member and collections volunteer **Steve Johnson** spends hours each week in the OHC Resource Center sorting and preserving the vast holdings of files that the Oberlin Heritage Center received from the estate of **Richard Lothrop**, a local community historian par excellence, who passed away in 2015. Lothrop, a librarian by profession, methodically clipped stories for decades on local people-in-the-news and community events related to Oberlin. In going through the boxes of clippings, Johnson came across a little feature about the Olmstead Travel Camp that appeared in the *Oberlin Times* in June 1937. Johnson, a lifelong Oberlinian, was curious about the Travel Camp as it was something he had not been familiar with before. Further research on his part really hit home! Steve discovered that Mr. and Mrs. John G. Olmstead, owners of the Travel Camp, lived at 263 Oak Street as documented in the Oberlin City Directory of 1938. Coincidentally, Steve's parents, Stephen and Helen Johnson, bought that same house in the early 1940s, where they subsequently raised their family which included Cheryl (b. 1944) and Steve (b. 1950). Helen Johnson kept the house until 2005 when, at the age of 90, she moved to a nearby apartment complex. Helen wrote extensively about 263 Oak Street in her 2007 memoir *Times Remembered or What Happened to a Farmer's Daughter*. Researching local history can have many interesting twists and turns, and sometimes can lead you home again, as Steve Johnson recently experienced firsthand!

Find out more about Johnson's work in “**Unyielding dedication**”: **Stephen Johnson on Richard Lothrop's Legacy**, a recent blog interview posted by OHC Junior Intern **Hannah Cipinko**. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the “Blog” icon [the orange **B**] in the upper right corner.

### OHC's Most Recent Audit Available on Website

The independent auditor's final report, conducted by **Cohen & Company** of Cleveland, is now available for review on the Oberlin Heritage Center website. The audit includes the organization's consolidated financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014. This report comes after a 3-day on-site visit by members of the Cohen staff this past May and a presentation from Tina Dzik (Senior Manager) and Kerry Gubics (Partner) to the Board of Trustees in July. To review the audit, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and click on the “About” tab in the main menu. Scroll down and click on *IRS Form 990/ Audit*, then click on *O.H.I.O. and Subsidiaries Audit 2015*.

## Great News for Ohio History Enthusiasts

### Update on Ohio History Fund Tax Check-Off



Our friends at the Ohio History Connection are pleased to announce that the Ohio History Fund tax check-off, which was facing possible elimination next year, has been given a new lease on life! Rather than facing elimination, the Ohio History Fund check-off and other tax check-offs can now breathe easier thanks to your advocacy and legislative

approval from the Ohio General Assembly. State Representative Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) took the lead in sponsoring an amendment that lowered the threshold from \$150,000 to \$50,000 with elimination for check-offs that fall short five consecutive years, instead of two. Organizations like the Oberlin Heritage Center can apply to the History Fund for project support for public programs, collections care, historic building nominations, digitization, and more.

### OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** has been working with several local organizations, such as The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C., the Museum of Hispanic and Latino Cultures (Lorain), and the City of Oberlin's cultural Wayfinding Committee, to plan new ways to connect people with history.

**Ron Gorman**, OHC Board member, researcher, blogger and docent, spoke to a group of California educators at the Oberlin College Archives recently about freedom seeker and Oberlin community leader Sabram Cox. (For more on Cox, read Ron's blog August *First – the Original “Juneteenth”* at <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/2015/07/august-first-the-original-juneteenth/>.)

Ohio History Corps/AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** wrote the lead story, “*Reasons to Engage or Re-Engage with Social Media*” in the July/August issue of *The Local Historian*, the newsletter of the statewide Ohio Local History Alliance. (Read it in full at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/OHC/media/OHC-Media/Documents/the%20local%20historian/Local-Historian-JulyAugust-2016.pdf>.) OHC is very happy to announce that Mary has signed on to serve another year with AmeriCorps/Ohio History Corps. Mary will continue to be based at the Oberlin Heritage Center, splitting her time between OHC tours and projects and reaching out to assist with needs of other history organizations in the region.

**Jen Graham**, former AmeriCorps member at the Heritage Center, will be presenting her first program for the Cleveland Metroparks on Friday, August 12 from 2-3 p.m. Jen will be leading a history hike *Under the Hilliard Road Bridge* in the Rocky River Reservation. For more, visit

[https://www.facebook.com/events/1633847340275860/?notif\\_t=plan\\_user\\_associated&notif\\_id=1466798080477679](https://www.facebook.com/events/1633847340275860/?notif_t=plan_user_associated&notif_id=1466798080477679).

## OHC Members Update

Welcome to new members: **Cliff and Becky Buckosh** (Hendersonville, TN), **Bob Follet** (Oberlin), **Barbara M. Harper** (LaGrange) and **Sherry Spenzer** (Avon Lake). We're glad you joined OHC! We note with sorrow the recent passing of Endowed Life Member and great friend to the Heritage Center, **Dave Schaal**. Summer is a perfect time to become a new OHC member -- you'll have the opportunity to enjoy plenty of FREE history walks or take advantage of Time Travelers reciprocal benefits at more than 300 history museums across the country when on vacation (visit <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/>). Join as a member of the Oberlin Heritage Center today by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and clicking on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page.

## Also of Interest



*Lorain Train Station, 1972 - one of 17 photos from the collection of Donna Born Drake that can be viewed on the OHC website.*

**Lorain County Artist's Collection of Photographs Complements Retrospective Exhibit in Oberlin:** Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center website to view a collection of black and white photographs taken by Lorain County native **Donna Born Drake** in 1972 on Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Donna grew up in Henrietta although she now calls Gainesville, Florida her home. She currently has an art retrospective, entitled *Color Path Paintings Arrive in Lorain County* on display through September 9 at the Richard D. Baron Gallery (in the Oberlin Alumni Association office at 65 East College Street, Suite 5).

View the photos on the Oberlin Heritage Center website <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/research-and-learn/Drake>.

**Amherst Historical Society German Fest:** Enjoy activities for all ages at the **Amherst Historical Society's** fifth annual German Fest taking place at Amherst Sandstone Village (763 Milan Avenue) on **Saturday, August 13** from 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. German style cuisine and beverages, musical entertainment, and special displays and tours. Admission fee is \$5.00; children 6 years and younger are free. For more information, visit <http://www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org/>.

