

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette ♦ September 2016

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Victoria Woodhull for President!

Tuesday, September 6 at 7:15 p.m.



Anne McEvoy

Did you know that the *first* woman to run for President of the United States, as a candidate in the newly formed Equal Rights Party in 1872, was from Ohio? **Anne McEvoy** of the Lakewood-based nonprofit *Women in History* (www.womeninhistoryohio.com) performs as Victoria Woodhull, a colorful and controversial woman whose many interests included spiritualism, women's rights, free love, and high finance. Needless to say, Woodhull's life was often surrounded by scandal. The 30-minute performance is followed by a question-and-answer session with McEvoy, a produced playwright, director and actor in Northeast Ohio. The program takes place in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Happy 150th Birthday, Monroe House!

Open House Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Come for a behind-the-scenes look at the Oberlin Heritage Center's 1866 Monroe House to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this remarkable building! There will be a brief cake-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., and visitors throughout the day can enjoy light refreshment, then take time to explore nooks and crannies from basement to cupola to learn more about the house and its former inhabitants. The Little Red Schoolhouse, a fan-favorite for the young and young-at-heart, also will be open. This free event is part of the

Ohio Open Doors initiative taking place all over the state from September 9-18, with historic sites hosting special tours and activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700. For information on other Ohio Open Doors events, visit www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/ohio-open-doors.

Westwood Cemetery History Walks

Saturdays, September 10 and 24 at 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories of some of Oberlin's most intriguing residents of days gone by amidst the autumn beauty of Westwood Cemetery, on the Heritage Center's **Radicals & Reformers History Walk**. This guided 90-minute walking tour strikes a pleasing balance between scenic landmarks and spirited stories of some of Oberlin's notable men and women who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool."

Westwood Cemetery History Walks continued...



Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council. \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students, and children under 18 accompanied by an adult. Register in advance even if you are taking a free tour. Participants gather near the Cemetery entrance (455 Morgan Street) to begin the historic journey; parking is available nearby. For more information, or to register for the history walk, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

*Fugitive Slave Memorial
Westwood Cemetery*

Discovering Dave – 19th Century Artist and Poet in Slavery

Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.



George Wingard

George Wingard, Program Coordinator at the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, visits Oberlin in a special community event co-sponsored by the Heritage Center and the Oberlin College Department of History. *Discovering Dave* is the story of an enslaved potter in early-19th century South Carolina who acquired the rare skills of reading and writing. Wingard co-produced the the award-winning 2013 documentary *Discovering Dave - Spirit Captured in Clay* which pieces together Dave's remarkable

life and artistry. Following the 49-minute film, there will be an opportunity for asking questions and for examining one of Dave's original pots. The program is free and open to the public and takes place at Hallock Auditorium in the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies (122 Elm Street). Parking is available in nearby lots on either side of West College Street. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Smithsonian Museum Day

FREE Upstairs/Downstairs Tours Offered Saturday, September 24



The Oberlin Heritage Center offers free admission for guided tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. as part of the annual Museum Day celebration presented by *Smithsonian* magazine. Museum Day involves hundreds of 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. Attendees must present an official Museum Day Admission Card downloadable at

www.Smithsonianmag.com/museumday, which provides free entry for two people. Take part in Museum Day by visiting the Heritage Center or another participating museum near you! For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or www.Smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

Oberlin's Lucy Cipinko is State Finalist!

Last Day to Vote for "I Found it in the Archives" Favorite is August 31



Lucy Cipinko

Read the 2016 "I Found it in the Archives" state finalist essays and vote for your favorite today! You may recall that earlier in the summer Oberlin High School student **Lucy Cipinko** was the winner of the local competition sponsored by the Oberlin College Archives and the Oberlin Heritage Center with her essay about exploring the College archives while researching a National History Day paper. Lucy's essay later was selected as a finalist in the statewide competition organized by the Society of Ohio Archivists. Voting ends August 31 - so vote soon! The local history community congratulates Lucy and looks

forward to more good work from this young historian! Vote now at

http://www.ohioarchivists.org/archives_month/i-found-it-in-the-archives-contest-entries/.

Heritage Center Welcomes Oberlin College Students

Serving up **FREE Root Beer Floats on the Jewett House Porch!**



As another new school year gets underway, it's a good time to be reminded of all the opportunities OHC offers for local college students.

Oberlin College students are invited to stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Friday September 9 from 4 - 6 p.m.** for a refreshing root beer float and to peek inside the Heritage Center's historic museum buildings – the 1866 Monroe House, the 1836 Little Red Schoolhouse and the 1884 Jewett House. (*And hear about Professor Frank Jewett's fondness for making his own root beer!*)

Special shout-outs go to OHC business members **Ben Franklin** and the **Oberlin IGA** as well as to **A&W Root Beer** and **Pierre's Ice Cream** for their help in sponsoring this event.

Remember that the Heritage Center welcomes **ANY** college student for **FREE** tours and history walks all year round. OHC's Resource Center and website provide excellent sources for local history research, and volunteer opportunities abound for college students who want to learn more about museums, nonprofit administration, historic preservation, and more. Local college students can visit the OHC booth and talk to Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) at the Oberlin College Connections Fair on **Tuesday, September 6** from 5 - 6 p.m. in Wilder Bowl.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center

Summer's coming to a close...it's a great time to try something new and change-up your daily routine! The Oberlin Heritage Center is looking for volunteers for the following activities:

Information Tents at Special Events - Volunteers are needed for one- or two-hour shifts on **Saturday, September 10** for the Monroe House Open House and **Saturday, September 24** for OHC's booth at the Oberlin Community and Culture Festival on Tappan Square.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center continued...



Volunteers Anne Davis and Melva Tolbert work OHC's Information Table during Oberlin's Juneteenth.

Tour Docents - Free training takes place at the Heritage Center on *Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m. - Noon*. Learn how to present an engaging 90-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings. A complimentary tour ticket is available for prospective docents to take a tour in the weeks leading up to the training just to see what being a docent is all about.

For more information, contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC's 2016 Summer Camp Wrap-up



OHC wrapped up the summer with three fun, history-filled camps that involved area children from Oberlin, Elyria, Amherst, Lagrange, Grafton, Lorain, Wellington, and Avon Lake! The camp educators had a great time with the campers, exploring a wide assortment of topics such as space travel, basket making, and local historic preservation. From learning how to read aviation charts with *Discover Aviation* to box making to designing structures using Google Sketch-Up at the Oberlin Public Library's community technology center *The Bridge*, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A special thank you goes out to all of the people and organizations that shared their knowledge and talents with our campers, inspiring curiosity and discovery in our own community! Keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters for information about the Oberlin Heritage Center's 2017 Spring Break Camps!

OHC Staff and Volunteer News



Thank you to Oberlin College volunteers who participated in the Bonner Center for Service & Learning's 20th annual Day of Service recently. We welcomed a great crew of enthusiastic, hard-working students (*at left*) who spent several hours weeding and sprucing up the Heritage Center's grounds.

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** was featured on WEOL's (AM 930) morning show recently sharing the latest news from the Heritage Center including the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Monroe House. To listen to the broadcast, tune in at

<http://weol.northcoastnow.com/category/morning-show/>.

Liz also will be the guest speaker for the September meeting of the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group (OAAGHG)** on **Saturday, September 3 at 11 a.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) where she will talk about the contributions of African Americans to the Oberlin Oral History Project. The talk is free and open to the public.

OHC Staff and Volunteer News continued...

Liz Schultz, Amanda Manahan (Museum Education and Tour Coordinator) and **Maren McKee** (Collections Manager) will attend the 2016 annual meeting and conference of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in Detroit in mid-September. As part of the conference calendar, Liz will chair a panel presentation on *High Tech Enrichment with Low Staff and Resources*.

You Gotta Love that Small-Town History

Resident Reports Record Catch!



Board member **Steve Johnson** continues to volunteer several days a week in OHC's Resource Center sorting through the wonderful donation of news clippings and files from the collection of community historian **Richard Lothrop** (1925-2015). We especially love that Steve shares with us from time to time delightful "village news" of days gone by -- this tidbit is from the *Oberlin Times* dated November 4, 1948:

Mrs. E. A. Papworth of Union Street heard a mouse in her kitchen Sunday evening, set a trap before retiring. Next morning, to her amazement and satisfaction, she found TWO mice in the trap. "That must be some kind of a record," she told the Times, "and all I used was a ten-cent spring trap." The guy who builds that "better mouse trap" will have to make it doubly good, now!

Find out more about the Lothrop legacy by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and clicking on the orange BLOG icon in the upper right corner of the homepage.

Members Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Hannah Cipinko, Barbara & Gordon Evans, Mike & Vivian Hyde** (Trenton, ME), **Mary Manning** (Lakewood), and **Audrey Sherrod**. OHC is grateful to new Endowed Life Member (Copper level) **David Ashenurst** who became OHC's 98th ELM! We also mourn the passing of long-time member and ELM **Muriel P. Morgan** and extend sincere condolences to husband **Max** and family.

OHC members are committed to keeping the organization strong. New members always are needed to assure the Heritage Center's continued good work in the community. Not yet a member? Join today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org by clicking on the homepage's "Join Now" tab.

Also of Interest

At the Schoolhouse – Handmade Primitive Antique Show. Hosted by the Pittsfield Township Historical Society on **Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** on the square in Pittsfield, Ohio (intersection of State Routes 303 and 58). Over 35 vendors from near and far bring the best of country goods, antiques and furnishings. Barbecue lunch and entertainment. Admission: \$3.00. For information, visit www.pittsfieldtownshiphistoricalociety.com or call (440) 935-0832.

