



## History Found at Every Turn during College's Big Weekend Saturday and Sunday, May 26 & 27: Tours for All Interests and Schedules



Visitors from near and far will have many opportunities to explore the community's rich history as the Heritage Center provides a full schedule of tours and history walks during Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend. You can "hit the highlights" with a 30-minute tour or delve deeper and longer depending on your own timeframe. The

Heritage Center's Museum Store, which carries a broad selection of Oberlin-themed gifts and books, also will be open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Debuting this weekend is a new **Oberlin Architecture History Walk**, created by OHC Winter Term student (and Oberlin High School alum) **Steven Mentzer**(OC '20). In this 90-minute walk through campus and downtown, you'll discover how the town and gown landscape has changed over the past 180+ years. Learn which architectural styles prevailed, which were criticized by the community, and how several renowned architects came to work in Oberlin.

The **Historically Inaccurate** guided tour is a 75-minute out-of-the-ordinary experience where visitors are challenged to call the docent's bluff. As the tour moves along through the Heritage Center's three, beautifully preserved historic buildings, tour-goers have the chance to try to identify fact from fiction and determine which stories are popular myths and which *actually* happened way back when. By the end of the tour, the myths will be busted, truth will prevail and you'll go away with a new appreciation for the difficult task that historians can face when "fake news" gets in the way of historical veracity!

All OHC activities this weekend are open to the public. Tours are free to OHC members, children and any college student; there is a modest admission fee for others. Advance reservations are needed for most tours (even if you qualify for free admission). The weekend line-up includes:

### Saturday, May 26

- Oberlin Origins Sneak Peek Tour (Monroe House) every half hour, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last tour begins at 4:30 p.m.)
- One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk at 11 a.m.\*
- Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad/Abolition) History Walk at 3 p.m.\*
- Oberlin Architecture History Walk (*New Tour!*) at 5 p.m.\*

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## History Happenings during Commencement/Reunion Weekend continued...

### Sunday, May 27

- Oberlin Origins Sneak Peek Tour (Monroe House) every half hour, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last tour begins at 4:30 p.m.)
- "Historically Inaccurate" tour of the Monroe House, Schoolhouse, and Jewett House at 10 a.m.\*
- Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad/Abolition) History Walk at 3 p.m.\*
- Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk at 5 p.m.\*

### All Weekend Long

- Self-guided tablet (iPad) tours are available for rent Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Two themes: *Picture the Past: Downtown Oberlin* or *Freedom's Friends (Underground Railroad/Abolition)*

***\*Advance Registration Required for tours marked by asterisk***

For more information, or to register for a tour or history walk, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Memorial Day Tour Salutes Oberlin Service Men and Women Download a Free Self-Guided Tour on Your Phone or Tablet



Learn about the courage and commitment of Oberlin service men and women buried in Westwood Cemetery (455 Morgan Street, Oberlin) with a new Heritage Center tour that is available during Memorial Day Weekend.

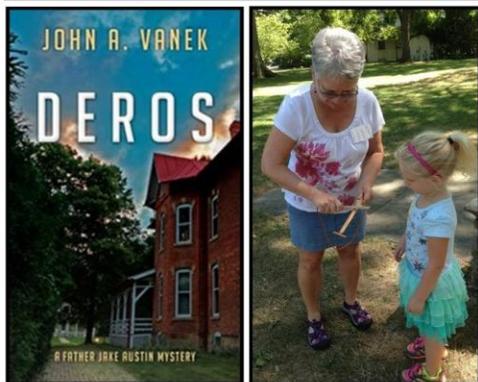
The self-guided tour allows followers to navigate a map on their phone or tablet around the cemetery with an accompanying narrative that includes an introduction to Oberlin's historic cemetery, local reactions to the nation's involvement in various wars and conflicts dating back to the Civil War, and stories of Oberlinians

who served in the military or with war relief efforts.

The download is free, and directions on how to access the tour are found at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org). The tour is available for download beginning Friday, May 25, 2018 and will remain available after Memorial Day.

## Coming in June – Save These Dates!

### Food, Fiction and Fun for All Ages



**Saturday, June 2** (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) **Saving Taste: Food Preservation in the Home.** OHC Museum Educator **Amanda Manahan** shares the basics of how to keep vegetables and fruits safe and delicious throughout the year. Participants will explore a bit of the history of various preservation methods from drying and pickling to canning, curing and freezing, and leave with hands-on experience and even some takeaways to try at home. This workshop is for adults and youth ages 12 and up; youth participants must be accompanied by a registered adult. Material costs are included in the registration fee of \$40 (\$30 for OHC members). Limited space; register by May 25. Location: The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 North Main Street). Learn more about the workshop, or register now at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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**Friday, June 22** (4 - 5 p.m.) **Book Reading by Jack Vanek: DEROS (A Father Jake Austin Mystery).** Book

lovers, suspense fans, and Oberlin history enthusiasts all are invited to a free, public presentation in the intimate setting of the Monroe House parlor. Author Vanek highlights excerpts from his new novel (with OHC's Jewett House on the cover!) that feature the Oberlin Heritage Center and even a brief appearance by retired Executive Director **Patricia Murphy**. Following the reading, he'll take questions and sign copies of *DEROS* (the first in a planned three-part book series), which was published earlier this year. Seating is limited. Location: Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street). Find out more about writer Jack Vanek at <https://johnvanekauthor.com/>.

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**Tuesdays through Saturdays from June 1 to August 31** (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) **Outdoor Games for All.** Unplug those earbuds. Put that phone away. Find a friend, sibling or grown-up looking for some fresh air and fun. Come and enjoy a variety of old-fashioned games like ring toss, jump rope, hoop & stick and more! Free. Sign out games at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street) for play on the OHC grounds.

## Hands-on Summer Camps for Kids

### Two Popular Returning Camps and One New “Taste of History”

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer two returning favorites and one new camp this summer for boys and girls ages 8-13. The calendar includes:



**From Farm to Fork to Fun** (July 16-20) Ever wonder where your food comes from? How it was made? This camp gives participants a taste of the history of growing, selling and serving food. Campers also will learn about ancient food preparation and preservation techniques from around the world.

## Summer Camps for Kids continued...



**Architecture Camp** (July 30 - August 3) Children love learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on camp where creativity abounds year after year. Together, participants will tour Oberlin architecture, explore building materials, try construction challenges, sketch designs, create mini structures, and envision buildings of the future. Scouts attending this camp also will complete some requirements for Architecture badges.



**Explore Oberlin** (August 6-10) *Staff Only! Keep Out!* Do you ever wonder what's behind that door? In this camp, we'll look behind-the-scenes in museums, businesses, and landmarks in Oberlin and learn more about what makes the community run. This week-long expedition focuses on the realms of education, art, history, entertainment, and city services.

Each camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and is held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) with occasional field trips to places nearby. Sessions are taught by an experienced educator assisted by college student interns and community volunteers. Those who register by June 23 receive an early bird discount. Scholarship assistance may also be available to those who qualify for schools' free and reduced lunch programs.

Find out more about the camps by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or contact Museum Educator Amanda Manahan ([tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org))/(440) 774-1700) to request a camp registration flyer.

## Collections Management Workshop Takes to the Ohio Road Introductory Training Provided by AmeriCorps-Ohio History Service Corps Members



Learn the basics of best practices of stewardship for museum collections at this all-day workshop traveling around Ohio in May and June. Using the American Association for State and Local History Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs) as inspiration, participants will be guided through a combination of lecture-style and hands-on sessions focusing on:

- Required documentation for collections
- Legal issues governing donations
- How collections relate to the organizational mission
- Cataloging and labeling
- Storage
- Researching items in the collections

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## Collections Management Workshop continued...

The \$20 registration fee per organization (with no limit on the number of participants attending from each organization) covers the cost of an archival starter kit of materials that will go home with every museum group.

The **Northeast Ohio** regional workshop will be hosted by the Peninsula Foundation on **June 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the G.A.R. Hall (1785 Main Street/Route 303) in Peninsula. Four other dates/location will be offered in other regions across the state in coming weeks.

Find out more about the workshops by contacting AmeriCorps member Sara Fisher at [sara.fisher@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:sara.fisher@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700. Register for a workshop at <https://www.ohiohistory.org/ameri-corps>.

## Community Grants Support Local Learning & Heritage Tourism



The Heritage Center received two local grants this spring that enhance the organization's tours and educational programming. The **Oberlin Business Partnership** awarded a \$670 Oberlin Promotions/Bed Tax grant to the Heritage Center that will cover the cost of a feature article in the June e-edition of *Ohio Traveler*, an online travel and tourism guide. The article will promote Oberlin as a visitor destination with unique cultural, dining and shopping opportunities. The bed tax grant also will help boost strategic OHC Facebook posts designed to bring people to Oberlin for special events.

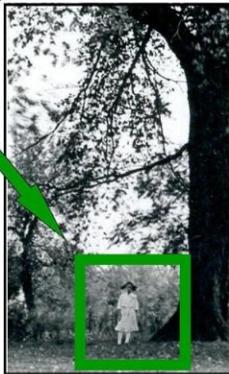
The **Oberlin Schools Endowment Fund** Board approved a grant request of \$1,160 to fund a Spring 2019 visit to the local schools and community by archaeologist and filmmaker George Wingard. Wingard, Program Coordinator for the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP), affiliated with the University of South Carolina, will present his research on "Dave the Potter" to 4th and 5th grade students at Prospect

Elementary School and also offer an evening public program that will be open to youth and adults for further learning. Dave Drake was a 19th century African American enslaved man who worked as a potter. He was literate and his writing and poetry often appeared on his pots, providing insights to his life, feelings and hopes.

The Heritage Center is grateful to the Oberlin Business Partnership, the City of Oberlin, and the Oberlin Schools Endowment Fund Board for their support of these activities that will bring people together for history-based learning.

## OHC History Minute

### The Story Behind the Photograph



Photograph donated by OHC member Carol Fishwick.

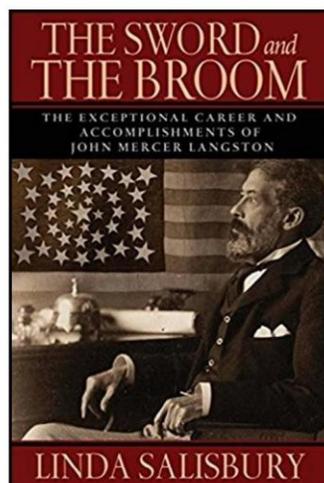
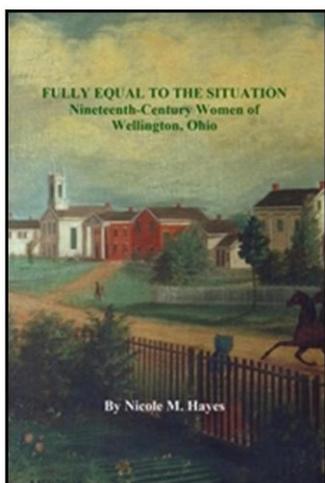
A simple photo - what can it tell us? A little detective work can reveal more of a story than that which first meets the eye! Here's an example of an image in the Heritage Center's collection that has been researched by Collections Manager **Maren McKee**. The story here is not just "behind" this photo of a majestic, old tree; there's a fascinating story actually standing "beneath" that tree!

This photograph identified as "the Caskey Elm" was taken in 1919 at the home of the William Caskey family who lived in the 400 block of East College Street. William was a professor at Oberlin College and a member of the Oberlin Village Council; his family also included Flora, his wife, and their daughter Cecilia. Cecilia would have been 11 years old in 1919 and so it is quite likely that she is the little girl standing under the tree. Cecilia graduated from Oberlin High School in 1925 and then attended Oberlin College for a brief time. According to Maria Lehti, a boarder with the Caskeys, Cecilia was a bright and independent girl who ran away to New York City several

times in her youth, once to study dance with Ruth St. Dennis, a well known modern dancer. Later in life Cecilia and her husband visited Oberlin frequently and Miss Lehti remembered their family was always welcomed home.

The Heritage Center has many photographs like this one in its Resource Center, all with stories of their own. Some have been documented, while many have not (yet) been discovered. What stories will your own photos pass along to future generations?

## Kudos Corner



Two books available for purchase from the Heritage Center's Museum Store (on site or online) have received exciting new awards:

Congratulations to OHC member **Nicole Hayes** whose recent book, *Fully Equal to the Situation* was named by the Ohio Genealogical Society as the recipient of the 2018 Governor Thomas Worthington Award for best Ohio biography. The book brings to life the stories of a dozen women who were early residents of Wellington, Ohio.

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## Kudos Corner continued...

Applause also goes to Heritage Center member **Linda Salisbury**, whose book *[The Sword and the Broom: The Exceptional Career and Accomplishments of John Mercer Langston](#)* recently earned its second major award! The book tied for a bronze medal in the Juvenile-Young Adult Nonfiction category in the Independent Publishers Book Award international contest. This awards program, known as the "IPPYs," was launched over 20 years ago, and this year included over 4,500 entries in 83 categories from 43 U.S. states and 13 foreign countries. In 2017, Salisbury's book also received a silver medal in Foreword magazine's Indies awards.

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All of us at the Heritage Center are proud of the Oberlin High School students who took History Day projects to the State level of competition at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio last month. The team of **Lucy Cipinko, London Dejarnette, Madeline Hennessey and Eva Phillips** created a documentary entitled ***International Conflict & Individual Compromise: Personal Narrative of Japanese Internment*** and received the Heritage Center's Hubbard Prize at the District 3 competition in Cleveland earlier in the spring. At the State level, their entry was recognized with two special awards, one honoring the best project focused on how immigrants and refugees have shaped history, and the other recognizing an outstanding entry that utilizes the newspaper resources available on the *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers* website. Check out the short film at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLtGgvaJ6fA>.

The other OHS team competing at the state level was **Asher Cipinko and Ewan Ingles** who created a website entitled ***Bound to Respect: Conflict and Compromise in the Oberlin Wellington Rescue***. Visit the website at <http://13984446.nhd.weebly.com/>.

Although neither local team advanced to the national level of competition, they finished strongly and with much encouraging feedback from contest judges. OHS teacher **Donna Shurr** (also a Heritage Center Honorary Trustee) serves as the students' advisor for their projects.

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The Heritage Center also offers a special salute to members **Roy and Aiko Ebihara** who will receive Oberlin College's Distinguished Service to the Community Award this month during Commencement exercises. The couple co-founded Oberlin College Taiko, a talented and dedicated student group that entertains and educates audiences through the traditional art form of Japanese drumming. The Ebiharas are longtime supporters of many Oberlin community organizations, including the Heritage Center.

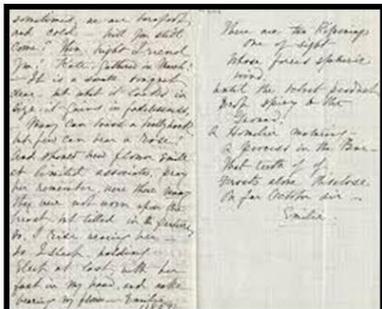
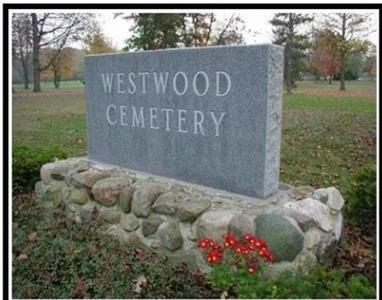
## Local History Volunteer Opportunities

### Short- or Long-Term, Your Help Makes a Difference!

#### Radicals & Reformers Westwood Cemetery History Walk Docent Training.

**Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** The free, public training session begins at the cemetery entrance (455 Morgan Street). Volunteers need no previous experience in leading tours; all that is required is a commitment to assist with at least four history walks within the coming year. Please register in advance by contacting OHC's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (440/774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)).

## Volunteer Opportunities continued...



**Grounds Clean-up. Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** Join a merry band of volunteers for an hour or two and help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for summer visitors. Help with trimming, weeding, yard clean-up, and possibly some fence painting. Tools and supplies are provided, although volunteers also are welcome to bring their own. Let us know you plan to join us by contacting Executive Director **Liz Schultz** (440/774-1700 or [liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org)).

**Greeters Needed for OHC's Information Table** during the following summer community events. (If you can help for a two-hour shift during the various times listed, please contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (440/774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)).

\* **Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend, Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27.** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on South Main Street adjacent to the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street)

\* **Juneteenth. Saturday, June 16** (10 am. to 4 p.m.) on Tappan Square.

\* **Chalk Walk. Saturday, June 24** (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on South Main Street adjacent to the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street)

**Bed & Breakfast Hosts** are sought to provide overnight accommodations in their homes to families of incoming college freshmen as they arrive on the Oberlin College campus for new student orientation. B&B donations from these out-of-town guests help support the general operations at the Heritage Center. Dates this year are **between Monday, August 27 and**

**Wednesday, August 29** (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). Contact OHC Board President **Gail Wood** ([ohcbnb@gmail.com](mailto:ohcbnb@gmail.com)) if you can offer a private bedroom (double/twin bed) and a private/shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast in the morning.

**Letter Transcription Project.** The Heritage Center's newest Community Historian Award recipient, Francis Stuart, is seeking volunteers to assist with a project at the Spencer Historical Society in Medina County. The group needs help scanning and transcribing approximately 80 handwritten letters which are part of the David J. Monosmith collection. (Monosmith was an early 20th century local inventor and photographer.) The ideal candidate for this project would be able to read cursive writing easily, have an interest in working with primary source documents, have their own computer for doing transcription work, be able to follow meta data recording standards (training provided), and have experience using MS Word and MS Excel. If interested, please contact **Francis M. Stuart** directly at [fstuart44@frontier.com](mailto:fstuart44@frontier.com).

## Membership Update

### Long-Time and Brand-New Member Numbers Growing

Last month we featured the names of several supporters who were celebrating 25 years of membership at the Heritage Center, and we added a disclaimer that our records were sketchy pre-1993, and asked members to let us know if they also had been long-time supporters inadvertently left off the list. Thank you to **Roger & Fran Cooper** and to **Carol Ganzel** who told us they also are members of this "quarter-century" club! We are very grateful for ALL of the Heritage Center's early members who have helped shape the organization over the past 25 years. Please let us know if there are others of you out there, as we'd like to recognize you, too!

It's wonderful to welcome these new OHC members: **Tom & Jere Boyer** (Lorain), **Christina Graf**, **Eboni Johnson**, **Anne Montoya** (Elyria), **Janet Van Doren** and **Officer Bashshar Wiley**. (All are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) Your support helps keep the organization a strong and vital community resource for all!

Join now or renew your OHC membership at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page) or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership form.

### OHC Offers One-Time or Recurring Insta-Charge Gift Options Simplify, Organize with Automatic Credit Card Payments

Recently the Heritage Center received a call from a member who was looking to coordinate her local community donations so that all gifts could be made at the same time every year. Could she set something up each year on her birthday so that her OHC membership would automatically be renewed and an additional contribution would be made to the Heritage Center's Annual Fund?

The response? *"Of course!"* An insta-charge option is available at the Heritage Center that can quickly simplify your life. Members can arrange for contributions to automatically be charged to a credit card once a year, or even s-t-r-e-t-c-h their annual giving with a recurring monthly or quarterly gift.

Several current OHC supporters have become Endowed Life Members (ELMs) by pledging \$2,000 to the Endowment fund and paying it off over five years with monthly automatic credit card contributions for as little as \$35.

You can make your own life easier, reduce paperwork, and increase your support of local history by signing up for the Heritage Center's automated gift program. For more information, contact Business Manager **Bethany Hobbs** at [ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.

### Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

Congratulations to Collections Manager **Maren McKee** who recently was appointed the chair of the Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission.

A rousing round of three cheers and hip-hip-hoorays went to Assistant to the Director **Mary Anne Cunningham** as she was recognized at last month's OHC Annual Meeting for 25 years of service on the Heritage Center staff.

## Staff, Intern and Volunteer News continued...

OHC AmeriCorps member **Sara Fisher** participated in the StEPs Enhancement Project workshops in Murfreesboro, TN last month with some 20 volunteers from around the United States who attended the retreat designed to enhance and edit the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs). This AASLH program originally was established to serve as a self-guided, self-assessment for small to medium size history organizations and help them strive to meet best practices through a series of standards and indicator questions. Former OHC Executive Director **Pat Murphy** was an integral part in establishing the program ten years ago. A decade of progress and new challenges initiated a call for volunteers to revise the StEPs workbook and incorporate new topics into the assessment program, including those such as Digital Collections, Diversity, Accessibility, Environmental Sustainability, Fraud and much more.



Oberlin High School intern **John Elrod** (left) recently spent a couple of his Saturday mornings at the Heritage Center updating the organization's trifold information board that is displayed at OHC's literature table when we're out and about in the community. Check out the many faces of OHC when you see the photo board at coming events!

Applause, applause for former OHC intern **Hannah Cipinko** who was selected for a very competitive summer internship with the National History Day organization in College Park, Maryland. Hannah is a rising junior at Oberlin

College and participated in History Day at the district, state and national levels as a middle school and high school student in the Oberlin City Schools.

We appreciate **Sid Comings'** help as a super volunteer who stops by regularly to spruce up the grounds. Thank you to versatile volunteer **Scott Broadwell**, who climbed to the rooftops to clean out all of the historic buildings' gutters recently. Next time you visit the Heritage Center campus, be sure to take notice of some new, updated signage appearing on the grounds. Old and worn signs along the Monroe House fence and parking lot have been replaced with more vibrant wayfinding signs. Special thanks to handy volunteers **Walt Edling** and **Mike Galbreath** for installing the new signage!

## Also of Interest

The **Southern Lorain County Historical Society** (201 North Main Street, Wellington) presents the **Dan Zivko Willard Art Collection**, a special exhibit open to the public on weekends (1:00 - 3:30 p.m.) now through October. Twenty-two Archibald M. Willard paintings are on display including two of Willard's "Spirit of '76" paintings, one believed to have been a gift to President U.S. Grant. The exhibit, sponsored by King Realty of Wellington, is part of the museum's Golden Jubilee celebration and also recognizes the Centennial of Willard's death. For more information, or to arrange a group tour at another time, call (440) 647-4367.

**Also of Interest continued...**

The Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center is hosting an eight-part series *They Battled the Flames*, which retraces Cleveland's firefighting history. Part II of the series takes place on **Saturday, May 5 at 2 p.m.** at the museum (the old Fire Station No. 28 at 310 Carnegie Avenue in Cleveland). This presentation discusses *The Great Flats Fire of 1884: The Largest Fire in Cleveland History* which needed help called in from outside. For more information, visit [www.wrfmc.com](http://www.wrfmc.com) or call (216) 664-6312.

The Oberlin Indigenous Peoples Committee will host the movie *Wounded Knee* from the *We Shall Remain* series on **Thursday, May 17 at 6 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). This episode tells the gripping story of the 1973 standoff between Native American activists and the U.S. government, which brought the nation's attention to the desperate conditions on Indian reservations. Questions, contact **Jean Foggo Simon** at [foggo@oberlin.net](mailto:foggo@oberlin.net).

A free community information session on the **Heritage Home Program** hosted by Oberlin's Historic Preservation Commission will be held on **Tuesday, May 22 at 6 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). If your home is 50 years old or older, the Heritage Home Program can help you with free impartial advice, technical assistance and low-interest financing to cover home rehab costs. For more information, visit [www.heritagehomeprogram.org](http://www.heritagehomeprogram.org) or call (216) 426-3116.

Plan ahead and make your reservation now to attend the three-day history conference on *The Art of Storytelling* hosted by the Lakeside Heritage Society in picturesque Lakeside, Ohio. The event takes place **October 26-28** and features keynote speaker Brian Ellis of Fox Tales International with innovative methods for sharing stories from our various unique histories. Register by June 1 to receive an early bird discount; space is limited to 80 people. Lakeside Chautauqua is the perfect setting for gathering together historians, museum professionals, librarians, students or anyone wishing to learn how to better engage an audience while bringing history to life. For more information, visit <http://www.lakesideheritagesociety.org/lakeside-history-conference1.html> or call (419)798-5519.



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