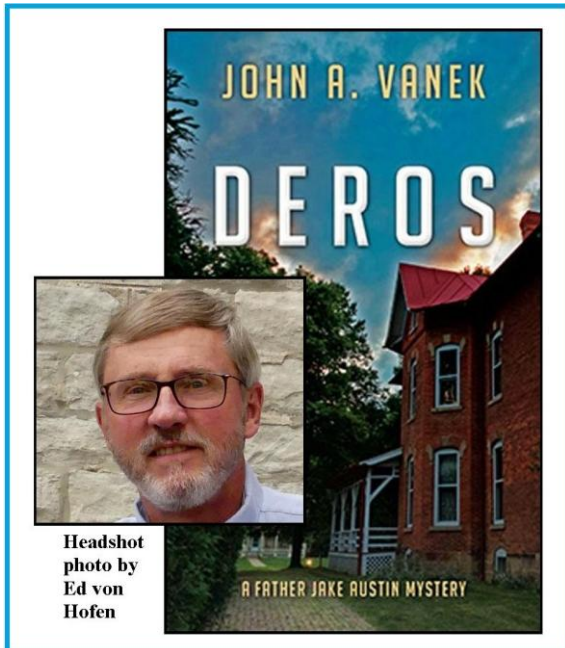




Oberlin History Plays a Role in Vanek's New Mystery Novel Afternoon Reading & Book Signing: Friday, June 22, at 4:00 p.m.



Book lovers, suspense fans, and Oberlin history enthusiasts all are invited to a free, public, one-hour presentation in the intimate setting of the Monroe House parlor (73½ South Professor Street, Oberlin). Author and long-time OHC member **John A. (Jack) Vanek** highlights excerpts from his new novel *DEROS*, the first in a series of three new books featuring the likeable spiritual sleuthhound Father Jake Austin. Oberlin's local history and landmarks are woven through the story, the Jewett House lands a front cover photo, and the Heritage Center and retired Executive Director Pat Murphy even make brief appearances within its pages. Following the reading, Vanek will take questions and sign copies of *DEROS*, which will be available for purchase that day and in the future at the Heritage Center's Museum Store.

Learn more about Jack Vanek's writing and other coming events at www.johnvanekauthor.com.

History in Motion

Try a History Walk or Tablet Tour this Summer



The Heritage Center offers several on-the-move learning opportunities through guided history walks and self-guided tablet (iPad) tours.

Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom by taking part in the **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad & Abolitionist History Walk** offered each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in June, July and August. The 90-minute tour begins at The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. and winds its way across town and

through the Heritage Center before the last story is shared at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Or enjoy a guided stroll through scenic Westwood Cemetery and learn about some of the spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. The **Radicals & Reformers History Walk** will be offered the *first* Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m., June through August.

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History in Motion continued...

For those who prefer a "do-it-yourself" format, stop by the Monroe House and borrow an iPad to move through Oberlin history at your own pace. You may choose the **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad** tablet tour, which is a self-guided version of the history walk that includes some added stories connected to Oberlin's early civil rights history. The **Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs and more. Each iPad tour may be borrowed at an hourly rate between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Find out more or make a reservation for the summer history walks or self-guided tablet tours at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Unplug and Recharge with Old-Fashioned Summer Games Fresh Air and Fun for All!



This summer the Heritage Center will make available its schoolyard games FREE to all ages. Grab a friend, a sibling, a grandparent (or a *grandchild!*) and come test your skills with outdoor fun on the OHC grounds. Choose from classic lawn games like ring toss, jump rope, or the hoop-and-stick. For a slower pace, settle beneath a shady tree and practice your dexterity with hand games like the ball-and-cup toy. Stop by the Monroe House first (at 73½ South Professor Street) to sign games out Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the months of June, July and August.

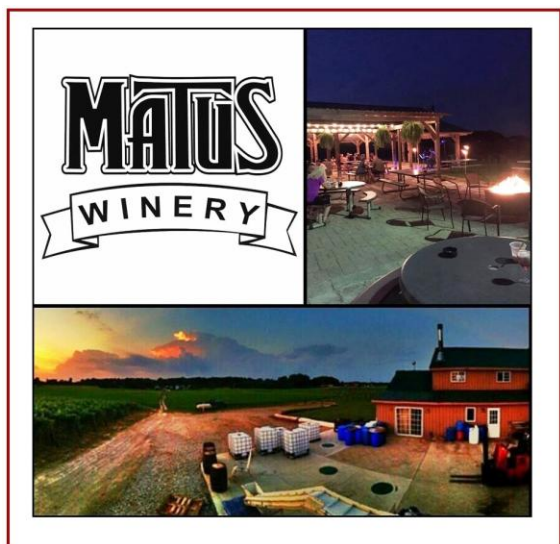
Early Bird Gets the Summer Camp Savings Register by June 23 and Save!



Hands-on-history learning and fun come together in the Heritage Center's week-long summer camps designed for boys and girls ages 8-13. This year's topics include: **From Farm to Fork to Fun** (a food-and-history experience running from July 16-20), **Architecture Camp** (the Heritage Center's signature camp taking place July 30 - August 3), and **Explore Oberlin** (a behind-the-scenes expedition to find out what makes the town run, offered August 6-10). Camps are held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Register now or find out more at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Vintage & Vintner: Wine & History at Matus Winery

Tuesday, July 24 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.; Doors open at 5:30 p.m.



Join us as we explore another Lorain County winery and enjoy the fruits of the earth, a splash of history, and good company. As you enter the winery, you'll be greeted by the smooth jazz guitar of musician Rich Holsworth. Each guest will receive tickets for two glasses of wine, and more will be available for purchase. Non-alcoholic refreshment and finger foods also will be provided, along with a fun array of items to be raffled (\$1/ticket).

Following introductory remarks from the winery, OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** will present a 15-minute mini program on *The First Automobiles in Oberlin*. Tickets for the event are \$30/person (21 and up), and all proceeds benefit the Heritage Center's Pat Murphy Endowment for

Heritage Preservation. Matus Winery is located at 15674 Gore Orphanage Road in Wakeman, about an eight-mile drive from Oberlin. Make a reservation at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a registration form. Learn more about Matus Winery at www.matuswinery.us.

Oberlin Chalk Walk 2018

Saturday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout Downtown Oberlin



Join in the excitement of this festive colorful event, which pays homage to the tradition of sidewalk painting that began in 16th century Italy. The 13th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk showcases professional and local sidewalk "chalkers" and gives artists of any age the chance to create their own masterpieces. All are welcome; high quality chalk provided free. Be sure to stop by the Heritage Center's table on South Main Street for a fun break! This community event is a collaborative partnership among the Allen Memorial Art Museum, the Oberlin Business Partnership, FAVA, the Oberlin

Heritage Center, and the Oberlin Public Library. In case of rain, the event will take place June 24. Find out more at www.oberlinchalkwalk.com.

OHC Offers Free Tours through Blue Star Museum Network Free Admission to Active Military and their Families

The Oberlin Heritage Center is among the more than 2,000 museums across America that are committed to welcoming active military families this summer season. Now in its ninth year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and

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Blue Star Museum Network continued...



Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families). Participating museums agree to provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, even extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's, fine arts, history and

science museums. Find out more, including a full list of participating museums at www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums

AmeriCorps Position Open at Oberlin Heritage Center Ohio History Service Corps to Assist in 8 Regions Across the State



The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to announce that the organization has been chosen as a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps/ AmeriCorps member for the 2018-2019 program year. The selected participant will work part-time on projects at the Oberlin Heritage Center and part-time assisting other history organizations in the region. The program is managed by the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, and the year of service runs from September through August. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and a college graduate. In order to be considered for

the position, all prospective members (including any current members interested in returning for an additional year of service) must apply through the My AmeriCorps website. Applicants are encouraged to submit materials early as application reviews and interviews begin immediately. Find out more or submit an application at www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps.

Wall Wrap-Up



We're delighted to report that the hard-working team from **Grunwell-Cashero Company** is putting the finishing touches on the rebuilt retaining wall that separates the Heritage Center property from that of the Oberlin Post Office. You may recall that the project got underway in April after years of pressure and slow deterioration left the wall bowed and cracked. With added supports, this second generation of the wall should last for many decades to come. We are thankful to the Grunwell-Cashero workers for their expertise, to the Post Office for making their parking lot

accessible to the crew for the duration of the job, and to **The Nord Family Foundation** for funding 75% of this critical safety and improvement project.

This “Ship” is Ready to Navigate New Five-Year Voyage

Oberlin Heritage Center Strategic Plan Update



On May 2, 2018 the Heritage Center's Board of Trustees approved a new 2018-2023 strategic plan. Thank you to all who participated in the process by attending a “Steer the Ship” meeting, completing a community survey, or sharing advice and feedback. The momentum generated from these wonderfully insightful and challenging conversations is already carrying OHC through the first action steps.

The plan is shaped around a framework of seven goals designed to strengthen public engagement, institutional resources, and history collecting and sharing. The new vision statement below will guide these next five years and we hope you will be part of it!

Vision Statement

The Oberlin Heritage Center is a small and dynamic organization whose strengths lie in engaged supporters, quality programs, professional services, and positive collaborations. While OHC will continue to build on and draw from those defining strengths, strategic planning discussions revealed additional directions that will be key to the organization's continued relevancy in the community: 1) to seek out, explore, preserve, and encourage the sharing of histories that accurately reflect a diversity of individuals, perspectives, and experiences, 2) to provide opportunities for individuals to connect with one another and with the community, and 3) to foster, especially in younger generations, appreciation for history and critical consideration of its impact on the present and future.

Working from these insights and the goals outlined in this plan, we envision that in five years the Oberlin Heritage Center will be an organization through which all community members can discover history resources relevant to their personal experiences. OHC will strive to have the financial, physical, and human resources necessary to achieve its mission and address future challenges. OHC will be regarded as a valued partner that supports community history projects and whose programs foster meaningful relationships and deeper connections within the community and region.

To receive a copy of the full strategic plan, e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

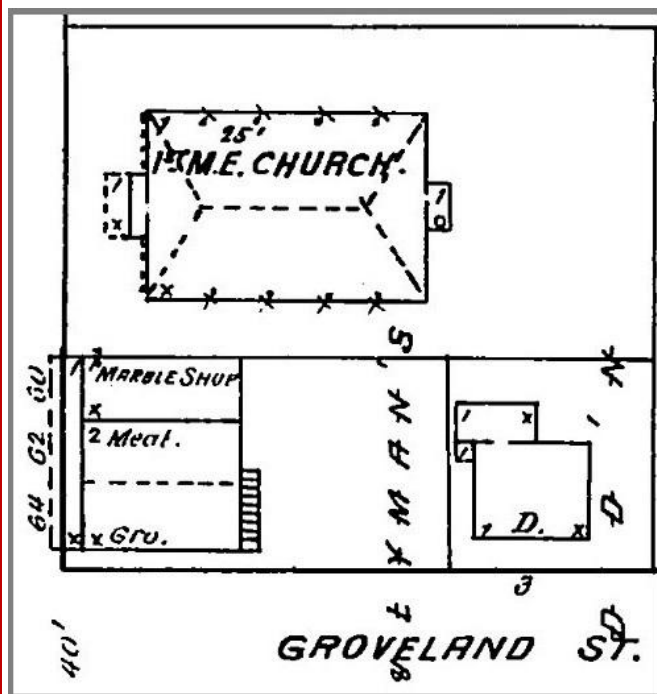
OHC History Minute

Executive Director Liz Schultz Shares her Madness for Maps

I love maps. Drive me somewhere in a car and I have a hard time finding my way there again. Give me a map and I can find my way anywhere. While I appreciate all historic maps of Oberlin, I especially love Sanborn maps. Many towns, including Oberlin, suffered devastating fires in the 1800s and Daniel Alfred Sanborn formed a company that quickly cornered the market for fire insurance liability maps across the nation.

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OHC History Minute continued...



The small snippet of a Sanborn map at left represents the northeast corner of Main and Groveland Streets in 1893. It shows the First Methodist Episcopal Church, a commercial building with a marble shop, meat market, and grocery, and a house (D=dwelling). None of these buildings is still standing today. Tying this map to the 1894 city directory supplies the names of the [Albert] Jones' marble works and R B Tuttle grocery. The FME church pictured was dedicated in 1873, which was shortly after the church split along racial lines and African-American parishioners formed what would become Rust United Methodist Church. The church in the map would be succeeded by a new stone church on North Main Street in 1906 (now the site of Hall Auditorium) and then the current First United Methodist Church of Oberlin on South Professor Street.

Although Sanborn maps are limited by time period and their focus on downtown or industrial areas (i.e., prone to fire), they are a wealth of information. Oberlin has Sanborn maps dated between 1884 and 1942. The easiest way to access these maps is to go to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) website, read their tips and guides, and then click the "Go there now" link. All you need to log in is your Oberlin Public Library (or OPLIN network) card, which has a number below the bar code. It might be a long string of numbers, but it's well worth the time plugging it in. When you're in, click that you're with the Oberlin library, enter Oberlin as the city you want to search, and you're in! Don't have an Oberlin library card? The Library of Congress also has a collection online.

Membership Update

Welcome to new OHC members **Christin Locke Brown** (Columbus), **Truman Crowell** (St. Charles, IL), **Mary Enos** (Fairview Park), **Brook Escobedo** (Oberlin), **Rebecca Posner** (Oberlin), **Mary Rowland** (Wellington), **Beulah Williams** (Oberlin) and new organizational member **Eden Valley Enterprises** (Elyria). Members give the Heritage Center its vitality and energy and help make the organization an important community resource for all. If you enjoy receiving this e-newsletter, and are not yet a Heritage Center member, your support at any level would be greatly appreciated! Join or renew today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org to request a membership brochure.

Staff, Volunteer and Intern News

The WEOL Morning Show took to the road in late May to shine the spotlight on Oberlin. OHC's Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** talked about what's happening this summer at the Heritage Center -- if you missed it, you can find it at <http://weol.northcoastnow.com/weol-morning-show/>.

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Staff, Volunteer and Intern News continued...



Volunteer **Melva Tolbert** has written several blog entries about her journeys to historical sites around the country. In her latest post, she writes about a trip to Norfolk, Virginia and learning about the history of the waterfront and how it tied to movement on the Underground Railroad. Read about Melva's impressions at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/blog/.

As you can see from all the smiles at left, staff and volunteers loved visiting with former intern **Rand Zalzal** (OC '16, pictured in center) when she was in Oberlin for the college's Commencement/Reunion weekend.

Also of Interest

The June 2 meeting (11:00 a.m.) of the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG)** features guest speaker J. Mark Busch, vice-president and co-owner of Busch Funeral and Crematory Services, speaking on *Searching Funeral Home Records*. The group meets monthly at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) and everyone is welcome.

Carrington Arts (231 West Water Street, Sandusky, OH) will feature contemporary textile artist **Karen Hampton** in a very special show titled *The Light of Freedom: Stories of African American Threads of My Family, Their Journeys Toward Freedom, and the Abolitionists*. The artist will be present at an Opening Reception on **Friday, June 8 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** and also will give a free presentation on **Saturday, June 9 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Sandusky Library (114 West Adams Street). The show continues through July 21, 2018. For more information, visit <http://carringtonartsgallery.com/> or e-mail marsha@marshagracycarrington.com.

Juneteenth Oberlin takes place Saturday, **June 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** on Tappan Square (located at the intersections of SR 58 & SR 511). This year's festival theme is "Celebration of Our Black History in Oberlin." Learn more at www.juneteenthoberlin.com. If you want to continue your Juneteenth Celebration further into the evening, the play *Bound Together: One Great Bundle of Humanity* (by local playwright Kelly Boyer Sagert) will be performed at the historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Elyria (300 3rd Street). The show begins at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5.00 at the door. Actress Debra Rose portrays the central figure, real life poet, abolitionist, and public speaker Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee of Oberlin presents *Black Indians: An American Story* at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Thursday, June 21 at 6:00 p.m.** This award-winning feature examines a minority group that is discounted and often ignored by mainstream media. Sharing a common past, many African Americans and Native Americans have combined to create a unique culture that has meshed the traditions and fine heritage of both. For more information, contact Jean Foggo Simon at foggo@oberlin.net.

Author **Jack Vanek** will offer another reading and book signing for his new mystery novel *DEROS* at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Thursday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Jack will discuss his writing journey and read selections from the book's first chapters. The event is free and open to the public. (Note that the content of this program differs from his presentation at the Heritage Center's Monroe House earlier in the month.)