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Gearing Up, then Winding Down: A History of Oberlin Industry

Tuesday, October 23 at 7:15 p.m.



At right: A depiction of an early sawmill on West Vine Street, formerly known as Mill Street in Oberlin. Artist: Miss Kenney. Photo courtesy of the Oberlin Heritage Center collection. (The original painting is not part of the OHC collection.)

Amanda Manahan (*left*), the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, presents an illustrated program on Oberlin's varied blend of industries dating back to its founding in the early 19th century. From sawmills to silk manufacturing to education, this program explores the ins and outs of early American Industries and our own community's production of goods and services over the past two centuries. This community program takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Upcoming OHC Events of Note



**OBERLIN
Heritage
CENTER**

Community
Trivia Night

OC Parents Weekend
Tours & History Walks

COMMUNITY TRIVIA NIGHT: Let's get together for a family-friendly night of trivia on **Friday, November 2 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.!** Round up a team of players – or come on your own – and test your knowledge of pop culture particulars, sports specifics, music mysteries, and more. Of course there will be some Oberlin oddities thrown in, but there should be a question for everyone, including kids. See if you can de-throne the reigning champions, the *Lighting Rods* of Oberlin's **Ben Franklin/Mindfair** store. Join us in the Fellowship Hall of The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 North Main Street) for the contest that includes food, side games, raffles, prizes and plenty of fun! There are even supervised children's activities for small fry, so moms and dads can keep their focus on the pursuit of trivia! Register in advance at \$12/adults and \$6/children (\$15/\$7 at the door). **BIG THANKS** to **Herrick Jewelry** and **Harmon's Automotive Service**, both of Oberlin, for co-sponsoring this event. Register now at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a registration form.

ONE LAST BIG HISTORY WALK WEEKEND: Oberlin College's Parents & Family Weekend (**November 9-11**) is

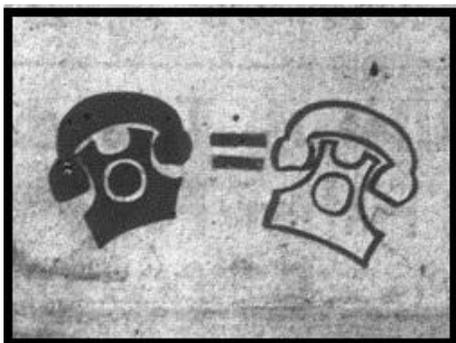
Upcoming OHC Events of Note...continued

OHC's last big tour weekend of the year. Tours and history walks are open to the public as well as to campus visitors and include opportunities to participate in the **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad and Abolition History Walk** as well as the **One Step More Women's History Walk**. Find out more about the big tour weekend at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

EVERY GOOD STORY HAS A PLOT: Originally scheduled for October 12-14, this living history event has been cancelled for 2018. We hope to bring it back in the fall of 2019.

The Northern Ohio Telephone Company Picket of 1963

New History Feature Added to Heritage Center Website



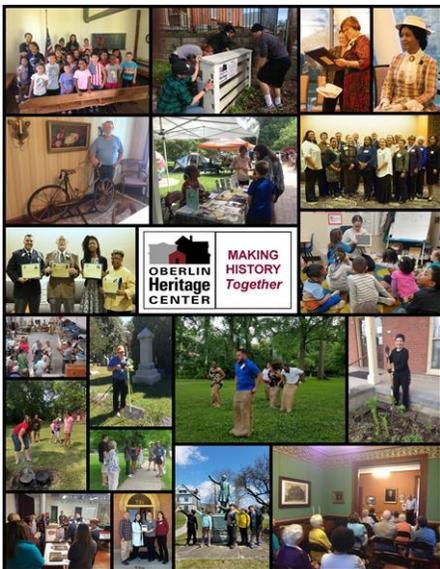
Picket sign detail from a photograph published in the Oberlin News Tribune, October 10, 1963

This month marks the 55th year since community residents and college students picketed the Northern Ohio Telephone Company's Oberlin office. The event, which happened on October 5, 1963, was the end result of months of ignored requests from the local Citizens Improvement Committee and NAACP to meet with company officials about their hiring practices. At the time, there only were two African Americans among the company's nine hundred employees. This past summer, Cleveland State University student volunteer **Alex Shaver** wrote about this effort. Read OHC's new history feature at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (go to the Research and Learn tab in the main menu, scroll down to "History Features," then scroll to "20th Century Oberlin History.") If you have memories or items

related to this or similar events, we're interested! Call us at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail history@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC End-of-Year Campaign Underway

Goal is \$44,300 by December 31



It's time for the Heritage Center's year-end campaign for annual operating support. While memberships, tour fees, and fee-for-service projects help pay the bills, they do not *fully* cover the basic costs of operations. The Annual Fund is a planned once-a-year appeal to aid in filling the gaps and keeping the organization healthy and strong. Last year, the Heritage Center shared history with nearly 4,000 program and event guests, 2,800 tour visitors, and 24,000 website questers. Your gift today is needed and appreciated and will go far in continuing the work of connecting people with Oberlin history in many different ways. Make your gift today at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the "Make a Gift" button at the top of the home page.

Your Help Needed!



CALLING ALL BAKERS: The Oberlin Heritage Center has been helping with planning for an **October 14** community event honoring the anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. We would greatly appreciate volunteers who are willing to make cookies or similar finger-food desserts for the reception afterward. Fellowship is an important part of community events, too! If you're interested in making 2-3

dozen goodies, please contact OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz** at (440) 774-1700 or director@oberlinheritage.org.

Members Update



Welcome new members: **Michael & Deborah Jackson** (Oberlin) and **Rebecca Lahetta** (Amherst). So glad you joined as members of the Heritage Center! A special thank you goes to **Brian Hedges** who stepped up to become a new Endowed Life Member (ELM) at the Copper Level last month.

OHC members hail from **150** different communities around the globe, representing **30** states and the District of Columbia, as well as **five** foreign countries. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining this worldwide circle of supporters who help to preserve Oberlin history. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the "Join" button at the top of the home page or call (440) 774-1700 to request a membership brochure.

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

The Heritage Center staff always looks forward to autumn and the arrival of a bright, energetic, and hard-working student intern team to assist with leading tours, doing research, and helping with a myriad of special projects. This year's group includes **Malachi Clemons** (OC '21), a Bonner Scholar and double major in Psychology and Law who hails from Princeton, NJ; **Julia Cooke** (OC '19) from Berkeley, CA, a double major in English and Environmental Studies; **Colby Fortin** (OC '22) of Peru, NY, who plans to major in Comparative American Studies and Politics; **Logan McDermott-Mostowy** (OC '22) of Washington, DC, who is exploring options for her future major; and **Joshua Rhodes** (OC '20), a double bass Conservatory student, who transferred this year to Oberlin from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. All of the interns are new to OHC except Malachi, who returns for his second year at the Heritage Center. We also welcome back high school intern **Ruby Denneen** for her second year at OHC. Ruby, a member of the Oberlin High School class of 2019, finds time to volunteer weekly while taking *all* her classes this year at Oberlin College and Lorain County Community College.

A warm welcome also goes to **Riley Thomas**, the newest AmeriCorps/Ohio History Corps member based at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Riley is a 2018 graduate of the University of Delaware where she majored in Art Conservation and Anthropology. She will work half-time for the Heritage Center assisting with tours and special projects, and half-time for other local history

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News...continued



Fall Docent Training participants, from left: Anne Montoya (volunteer); Riley Thomas (AmeriCorps/Ohio Local History Corps member); Logan McDermott-Mostowy (OC '22, OHC college student intern)



OHC College Student Interns, from left: Julia Cooke (OC '19); Malachi Clemons (OC '21); Joshua Rhodes (OC '20)



Oberlin High School student intern Ruby Denneen (OHS '19) helps keep the Heritage Center's Little Free Library filled with good reading for all ages.

organizations in a five-county region across northeast Ohio. Riley is the first AmeriCorps member who comes to the Heritage Center with a Lorain County background. She grew up and continues to live right up the road in Avon Lake, Ohio.

Heritage Center staff members are busy expanding their history know-how in a number of professional development experiences: **Mary Anne Cunningham**, **Maren McKee** and **Liz Schultz** will attend the Ohio Local History Alliance's annual conference in Columbus this month. They will participate in sessions on building community partnerships, engaging youth membership in historic sites, collections care, fundraising, holiday programming and much more.

Maren McKee recently attended a planning workshop on the Suffrage Centennial, which was hosted by the Ohio History Connection and the League of Women Voters of Ohio at the National First Ladies Library in Canton. Stay tuned for more on this statewide collaboration that will highlight the centennial of the 19th amendment.

Amanda Manahan presented lessons on the Underground Railroad to area schoolchildren at the Pioneer Craftsmen Experience held last month at the Mill Hollow / Vermilion River Reservation and hosted by the Lorain County Metro Parks. The two-day event is offered annually to introduce area students to many aspects of 19th century Lorain County history.

Thank you to volunteers who are making the Heritage Center a better place in many ways: **Scott Broadwell** for cleaning and adding a protective coating to the beautiful front doors of the Monroe House and Jewett House; **Sid Comings** for keeping the walkways free of black walnuts that rain down upon the OHC grounds this time of year; **Angela Cecil**, **Melissa Clifford**,

Linda Gates, and **Nancy Harper** who are helping to cover the front desk reception spot throughout the week; and members of the **Oberlin College Track Team** who spruced up the Heritage Center grounds on the first day of autumn as a community service project.

Congratulations to the Heritage Center's former AmeriCorps member **Mary Manning** who is taking on more responsibilities at the Western Reserve Historical Society as the organization's new College and Career Readiness Specialist. In that position, Mary serves as Region 3 Ohio

OHC Staff, Interns and Volunteer News...continued

History Day Coordinator and the WRHS Internship Program Coordinator while also assisting with other special projects, one of which is the upcoming Smithsonian Teacher Professional Development workshop that is posted in the "Also of Interest" section of this newsletter.

Also of Interest



Join the community of Oberlin on October 14 in a celebration of the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Photo of Dr. King from the National Archives.

Thousands of books will be offered at **The Friends of the Oberlin Public Library Fall 2018 Book Sale** running from **October 4 through 7** at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Proceeds from the sale benefit the Library's programs and services. For more information, including specific hours for each day, visit <https://www.facebook.com/foopl/> and click on the "Events" tab.

Cleveland's **Baseball Heritage Museum** celebrates the second annual **Moses Fleetwood Walker Day** on **Sunday, October 7 at noon**. Special guest will be author (and OHC member) **Kelly Boyer Sagert**. Her newest book, *Hidden History of Lorain County*, includes a chapter on Walker who attended Oberlin College and played Major League Baseball for Toledo of the American Association in 1884 and professionally from 1883 to 1891. The event is free and open to the public. Find out more at www.baseballheritagemuseum.org or call (216) 789-1083.

Enjoy a spectacular, free concert at **The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ** (106 North Main Street) on **Sunday, October 7 at 3:30 p.m.**, featuring Jonathan Moyer, new Chair of the Oberlin Conservatory Department of Organ, accompanied by fellow faculty members with brass, voice and viola. Donations are encouraged and all proceeds benefit homeless families served by Family Promise of Lorain County.

Observe Indigenous Peoples' Day with a Vigil of Celebration on **Monday, October 8** from **Noon to 1:00 p.m.** on the southwest corner of Tappan Square. Later that same day, take part in a gathering at Tappan Square from **4:00 - 8:00 p.m.** that includes a Four Directions Processional around the Square (signs are available or we encourage you to bring your own). Indigenous

Peoples are encouraged to wear regalia, and Indigenous Peoples Day tee shirts will be available for purchase. The late afternoon activities include drumming, educational resources and much more. The Vigil Celebration will be held rain or shine; in the event of rain, all other activities will be moved to the Fellowship Hall of The First Church of Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 North Main Street). For more information, contact Jean Foggo Simon at foggo@oberlin.net.

All are invited to a community celebration on **Sunday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m.** honoring the work and accomplishments of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the anniversary of receiving the Nobel Peace Prize** in the fall of 1964. The event takes place at **The First Church**

Also of Interest...continued

in Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 North Main Street) and features readings, reflections, music, dance, and a reenactment of Dr. King's Nobel Prize acceptance speech. Continue the community discussion at the reception following in the church Fellowship Hall. Those who wish may take part in a short march to the church from Tappan Square preceding the program; gather at the Bandstand at 3:30 p.m.

Author (and OHC member) **Eugene Schmiel** will present *The Controversy over the Union Command in the Maryland Campaign: McClellan, Burnside, Porter, and the Role(s) of Jacob D. Cox* at the **October 10, 2018** meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable. The group meets at Judson Manor (1890 East 107th Street) in Cleveland and the lecture includes dinner preceding the program. Payment is accepted at the door (\$30 per ticket); reserve your spot in advance by e-mailing ccwrt1956@yahoo.com. Local history fans may remember that Gene Schmiel presented a mini-series on Oberlin's own Civil War General Jacob Dolson Cox at Kendal at Oberlin and the Oberlin Public Library in late 2014. Learn more about his Civil War endeavors on Gene's new website at <https://civilwarhistory-geneschmiel.com/>.

The Oberlin Business Partnership is hosting **Leadercast Women** on **Thursday, November 1** at New Russia Township Lodge (46300 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin). This day-long leadership experience will equip individuals, teams, organizations and corporations across all industries to be filled with leaders who are changing the world. The day includes a 'Presidents Panel' sponsored by the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County which features two outstanding leaders: Carmen Twillie Ambar, Esq., President of Oberlin College and Marcia J. Ballinger, Ph.D., President of Lorain County Community College. Panel moderator is Tiffany Tarpley from Cleveland's NBC Channel 3. Register at www.oberlin.org.

Middle and High School Teachers: Join Smithsonian experts for a *free* **Smithsonian Learning Lab workshop** at the Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society on **Friday, November 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Smithsonian staff will share techniques for connecting students to primary sources in ways that will capture their imagination and develop their historical thinking skills. The focus is on Asian Pacific American experiences in the Cleveland area, and the day includes local experts, artifacts, fashion, photographs, oral histories, and family memoirs of immigrants that will inspire educators with a wealth of fresh ideas to take back to their classrooms. A \$50 stipend is available to the first 30 who register and complete the workshop. Find out more at www.wrhs.org/events/smithsonians-teacher-creativity-lab-workshop/.

Robert Venturi, one of the major architectural figures of the twentieth century, died last month in his native Philadelphia at the age of 93. The 1991 recipient of the Pritzker Prize, at times referred to as the "architect's Nobel Prize," created a vast body of work that included numerous private residences, college buildings, and public spaces. Notable among his designs are the Seattle Art Museum, an addition to The National Gallery, London and a 1977 addition to Oberlin College's Allen Memorial Art Museum which he designed in partnership with his wife and business colleague, Denise Scott Brown. Learn more about Venturi's Oberlin connection at http://www2.oberlin.edu/amam/documents/AMAMVenturiBuilding_TeacherResourcePacket.pdf.