



## You Can Be Part of a One-of-a-Kind “Pop-Up” Museum in Oberlin Sunday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m.



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Museum

Believe it or not, a museum is going to just “POP” out of nowhere in the Fellowship Hall of **The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ** ([www.firstchurchoberlin.org](http://www.firstchurchoberlin.org) /106 North Main Street). This free community event is co-hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center and the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group** ([www.oaaghg.com](http://www.oaaghg.com)) and anyone is invited to participate by bringing an item that fits the theme *Older than I Am*. Everyone has a favorite object, photograph, document, quilt, or something they’d love to show others. It does not have to be Oberlin-related; the only requirement is that you are able to carry your item in and out on your own.

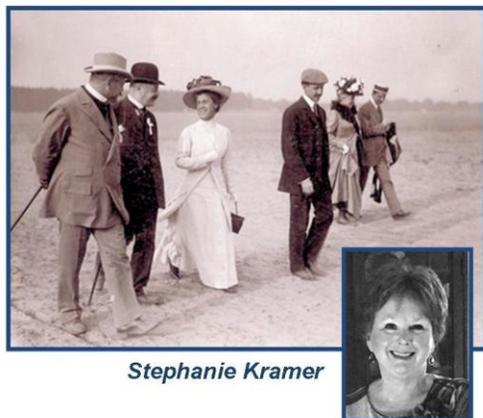
If bringing an item for the "museum," register in advance (so we know how much display space to set up) and plan to arrive at 1:30 p.m. to fill out a brief descriptive object label and get your item ready for display. You don't have to bring an item, but it's more fun that way!

Participants will have the opportunity to explain their items to museum guests and also will have time to view the treasures brought in by others. There even will be experts available from the Heritage Center and from **ICA-Art Conservation** ([www.ica-artconservation.org](http://www.ica-artconservation.org)) of Cleveland to answer questions on how best to care for your family heirlooms. Refreshments and socializing will round out this fun afternoon of learning and sharing. To register for the event or to find out more, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## The Wind Beneath Their Wings

Tuesday, March 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Courtesy of Wright State University Special Collections



Stephanie Kramer

Most people are familiar with the Wright Brothers and their dogged pursuit of flight, but they may not know about Orville and Wilbur's lively and encouraging sister, Katharine, who attended Oberlin College from 1893-1898. She was the only Wright sibling to pursue a college education and when she joined her brothers' travels in Europe her language skills and diplomacy helped charm their new acquaintances and opened cultural, political, and financial doors. Find out more about the “Wright Sister” when the Oberlin Heritage Center presents actress **Stephanie Kramer** in a first-person

### *The Wind Beneath Their Wings continued...*

portrayal of Katharine Wright presented in Heiser Auditorium at **Kendal at Oberlin** ([www.kao.kendal.org](http://www.kao.kendal.org) / 600 Kendal Drive). Kramer, as Katharine, reflects on her life, family and courtship, weaving together a rich tapestry of stories through narrative and song. The event, which celebrates Women's History Month, is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Kids' Spring Break Camps Explore Horrible Histories and Promising Progress**

### **Hurry! Early Bird Registration Discount Disappears after March 1**



History is full of people and events that made us shudder, yet also were catalysts for change and for making life better for those around us. This fascinating camp for boys and girls ages 8-13 covers some of the foul facts of world history but will also guide youth in discovering how progress can be made and issues resolved. *TWO* weeks of Spring Break camps are offered this year to accommodate area schools' calendars: choose either the week of **March 25-29** or that of **April 22-26**. Each session runs Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily and is held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Camps are reasonably priced, with discounts for OHC members and for all early registrants. Inquire about scholarship assistance if your child qualifies for free or reduced school lunches. Register now at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) to find out more.

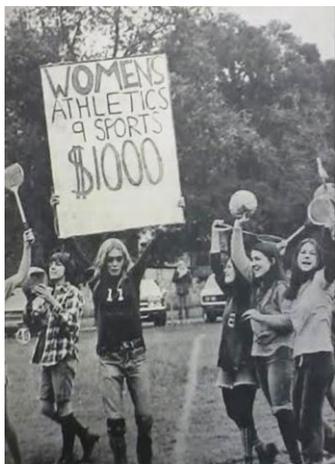
## **Women's History Walk Is FREE for Women's History Month Saturday, March 30 at 1 p.m.**

Enjoy a guided 75-minute walking tour of Oberlin landmarks and monuments with historic connections to women's continued efforts to gain rights and respect with this Women's History Month offering of the Heritage Center's *One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk*.

In 1834, John J. Shipherd pledged Oberlin's commitment to "the elevation of female character" through education. Little did he know, there was dynamite in that promise, and women carried the matches. This engaging tour takes participants through campus and community to explore how Oberlin confronted and defined issues of femininity in the 19th and 20th centuries.

How did this Women's History tour come to be named? In 1883, on the occasion of Oberlin College's 50th anniversary celebration, Lucy Stone (OC 1847), a well-known crusader for equal rights, urged her alma mater to take *one step more* in the fight for justice. Hear Lucy Stone's story

## *Oberlin Women's History Walk continued...*

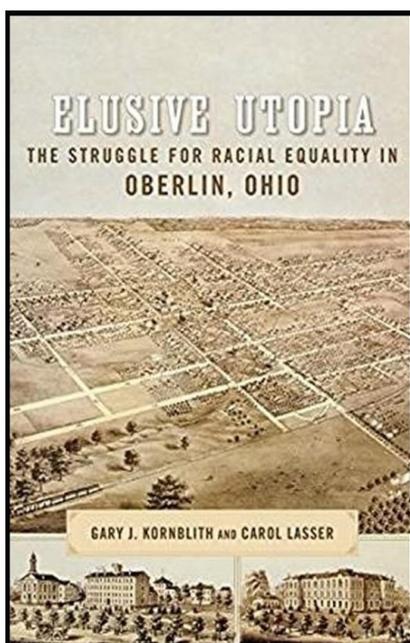


and others of powerful Oberlin women including Marianne Parker Dascomb, Adelia Field Johnston, Mary Church Terrell, and Lucy Stanton Day, and learn how they used John J. Shipherd's promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States.

Although the tour is free today and all are welcome, advance reservations are required. Register online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

*Photo courtesy of Oberlin College Archives*

## **Annual Meeting Salutes Local History Champions** **Tuesday, April 2 Event Also Features Insights on "Elusive Oberlin"**



An evening of good cheer and celebration takes place early next month at the Heritage Center's annual meeting and banquet held at **The Hotel at Oberlin** ([www.thehotelatoberlin.com](http://www.thehotelatoberlin.com) / 10 East College Street). The event's optional Social Hour (with cash bar and a basket raffle) begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and then the business meeting, and featured program and Community Awards presentations. The Heritage Center appreciates the support of **Northwest Bank** ([www.northwest.bank](http://www.northwest.bank)) for sponsoring this evening's events. This year, a special salute will be made to OHC Endowed Life Members (ELMs) and to all others who have contributed to the organization's current campaign to raise funds for the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation, which was created to address ongoing maintenance, preservation and conservation needs of the Heritage Center's buildings, grounds and collections.

Featured program presenters **Gary Kornblith** and **Carol Lasser** will share highlights from their new book *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio*. The historians and authors spent long years doing research for the book that traces the rise and fall of Oberlin's idealistic vision and commitment to racial equality in the decades following the Civil War. The book is available for purchase at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store or online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

A brief business meeting will include the election of new Heritage Center Board members and officers. Outgoing Board members also will be thanked and applauded.

## *Annual Meeting & Community Awards Presentations continued...*

Rounding out the evening are the 18th Annual Community Awards presentations recognizing **Mike Demchak** (Christian Community School in Grafton, Ohio) as the History Teacher of the Year, **Ruby Denneen** and **John Elrod** (both Oberlin High School seniors) with the Youth Community Service Award, **Marty Buck/Techies** as the recipient of the Business Leader Service Award, and the Oberlin Heritage Center's **Westwood Cemetery GPS Team**, led by **Rich Fredrickson** and **Judy Connolly** with **Camille Hamlin Allen**, **Amy Chuang**, **Judy Cook** and **Adam Freas** as the OHC Volunteers of the Year.

Reservations for the Annual Meeting must be made by March 27. Online registration can be found at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

## **New Local Genealogy and History Resource Available** **Two Free Workshops Offered by OHC on Family Tree Maker Database**



While most family trees focus on particular families, the Oberlin Heritage Center has a database that is more like a genealogical forest. Former OHC Business Manager and board member **Pat Holsworth** spent years gradually adding local census listings, tax listings, city directory entries, and other records to build an Oberlin genealogy database containing over 57,000 individuals! This database was recently transferred to Family Tree Maker software and a copy has been shared with the **Oberlin Public Library** ([www.oberlinlibrary.org](http://www.oberlinlibrary.org) / 65 South Main Street) for access. If you have ancestors who lived in Oberlin or are researching

Oberlin history, this file might help you! The Family Tree Maker program lives on the computer in the Ohio Room / genealogy room of the Oberlin Public Library while the master copy is maintained at the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Come to a free training workshop (30 minutes + question time) to learn the basics of using this program for research. The same workshop will be offered twice so everyone has a chance to attend.

- **Thursday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Community Room of the Oberlin Public Library
- **Saturday, April 27 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Community Room of the Oberlin Public Library

If you are in a group that would like to get its own mini-training session, contact **Liz Schultz** ([director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org) or 440/774-1700) to arrange a visit. This sharing was made possible in part by a grant from the **Community Foundation of Lorain County** ([www.peoplewhocare.org](http://www.peoplewhocare.org)), a gift from OHC member **Anne Martin** *in honor of Tom Martin*, former OHC intern **Rebecca Posner**, and decades of painstaking work by genealogist-extraordinaire **Pat Holsworth**.

## Oberlin Heritage Center Awarded Ohio History Fund Grant

### If You Checked "Donate to the Ohio History Fund" on Your Tax Return then YOU Helped Make this Grant Possible!



The Oberlin Heritage Center was honored to receive a \$2,007 grant from the Ohio History Fund during Statehood Day activities in Columbus on February 27. The grant was announced recently by Ohio History Connection Executive Director **Burt Logan**, and the "big check" was accepted at the Ohio Statehouse by Executive Director **Liz Schultz** and Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** (pictured, top left). The funds will partially support an interpretive research project that will enable Manahan to travel to other historic house museums in Ohio to see how each interprets their site, in particular noting best practices in museums that offer self-guided tours. Many visitors report that they love OHC's docents who lead guided tours, but some visitors want to walk through at their own pace and explore according to their own whims. This grant will help us research how we can make that a great experience and will also help OHC share the findings with other small historic house museums so that we can all meet the needs of varied audiences.

Statehood Day is a day to commemorate Ohio's birthday -- and to advocate for Ohio history. Schultz and Manahan also spent the morning with directors **Barb Piscopo** of the Lorain Historical Society and **Kerri Broome** of the Lorain County Historical Society meeting with state representatives **Gayle Manning**, **Nathan Manning**, and **Joe Miller** (pictured here with the Lorain County history contingent). The local historians discussed with the elected officials the positive social and economic impacts of history education, historic preservation, and heritage tourism.

The Ohio History Fund is funded entirely through Ohio taxpayers' voluntary contributions, which support a competitive grant program that selects several projects to fund from initiatives submitted by local history organizations from all over the state. This year, two of the ten grants awarded went to Lorain County history organization -- helping to preserve local history in our own backyard! To learn more about the History Fund program, visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund>.

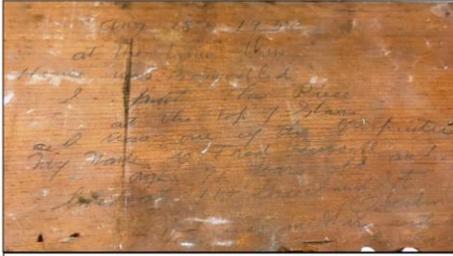
## History Minute

### Managing Museum Collections Often Involves Detective Work!

While working on a renovation project at 237 Oak Street, Oberlin carpenter Fred Russell left a message on the back of one of the boards he was installing. It read:

*August 18, 1950. At the time this house was remodeled, I put this piece at the top of the stairs. I was one of the carpenters. My name is Fred Russell age 71 years and I lived at 110 Groveland Street Oberlin O. US was at War with Coreia (sic) in the Pacific.*

## History Minute continued...



A special "historical note" documenting a bit of mid-20th century history was penciled on the back of a board as part of the carpentry work being done by Oberlin carpenter Fred Russell almost 70 years ago. It was discovered during a renovation project recently and donated to OHC by Kevin Stephens.

Sixty-eight years later, during another renovation project, the message on the back of this board was rediscovered. The home owners passed it on to the Oberlin Heritage Center where it was recently accepted into the collection.

Collections Manager **Maren McKee** was intrigued by the message and put on her sleuth cap to find out more: Fred Russell was born in Oberlin in 1878. He worked as a carpenter but also had a talent for art, studying at Oberlin College briefly at the turn of the century. He lived on Groveland Street for most of his life, first with his parents and then later with his own family. His father, John Russell, who had been born into slavery on a Virginia plantation around 1847, was also a well respected carpenter in town. Fred Russell died in 1955 and is buried in Westwood Cemetery.

If you have further information about Fred Russell, or have found a similar inscription in *your* Oberlin home, please contact McKee at [history@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:history@oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

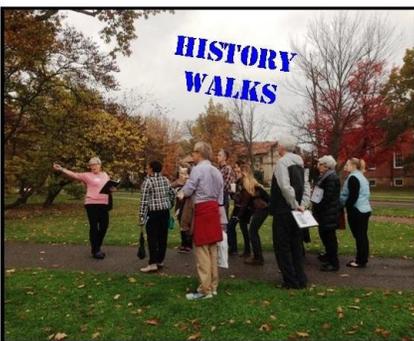
## Volunteer Opportunities at the Heritage Center

### Consider Helping with Tours or Special Events



**Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Upstairs/Downstairs Guided Tour training.** Learn how to present an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings while sharing stories of the Community and College in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century. Training is free and begins at the Monroe House; arrange to take a free tour in advance to see what being a docent is all about. Register now to take part in the training or to reserve a free advance tour by calling (440) 774-1700 or sending an e-mail to [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).



**Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. Freedom's Friends History Walk Docent Training.** Learn about Oberlin's role in the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad and how to present it in the format of a 90-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Register by April 6 by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.



**Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m. Participate with the Oberlin Heritage Center in Oberlin's Big Parade!** OHC members and friends will be marching in celebration of the 100th anniversary

## *OHC Volunteer Opportunities continued...*

of women's suffrage, as part of Oberlin's whimsical and colorful parade that celebrates the arrival of spring! E-mail AmeriCorps Member Riley Thomas at [riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:riley.thomas@oberlinheritage.org) to be added to the Heritage Center's merry band of suffragettes and their supporters -- and we'll contact you with details about our fun plans for appearing in the parade.



**Call for Cemetery Program Volunteers (& Ghosts!)** The Heritage Center will offer a weekend of family-friendly cemetery programs this coming autumn on the afternoons of **October 11, 12 & 13**. The program will feature stories of business owners and trades people as told by individuals who will dress and act the part of these Oberlinians of the past. ***This is where we need YOU!*** Individuals of all ages who are interested in dressing and acting the part of a historical figure are encouraged to volunteer -- prior experience in historical interpretation or acting is not needed. Cemetery guides can expect to speak for no more than 10 minutes, but should plan to be available for all three programs. The Heritage Center will help with composing the historical figures' stories and costumes. We also welcome ideas from you on who you think should be portrayed in this program. All inquiries can be made to Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

## **OHC Board, Staff and Intern News**



Oberlin Heritage Center college student interns **Logan McDermott-Mostowy** and **Colby Fortin** (both members of the Oberlin College Class of 2022), as well as AmeriCorps Member **Riley Thomas** show students at Oberlin's Eastwood Elementary how to play historic games. (Photo courtesy of City of Oberlin Recreation Department.)

OHC staff and volunteers have welcomed a plethora of individuals to explore Oberlin history this past month. Thanks to funding from **Nordson Corporation** ([www.nordson.com/en](http://www.nordson.com/en)), OHC Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and Honorary Trustee & docent extraordinaire **Michele Andrews** have been busy visiting every fourth grade classroom in the Lorain City Schools to present programs on Ohio and the Underground Railroad. Also in February, Heritage Center staff and volunteers welcomed classes from Oberlin College to tour the museum and learn about public history and historical methods, while students at Eastwood Elementary got a taste of pioneer life through hands-on history programs in the classroom (*see photo at left*).

Executive Director **Liz Schultz** recently added a new blog post to the OHC website about the *History of the Morgan Street Water Works*. Read it at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (click on the orange "B" icon at the top of the Home page) to learn more of the local and nationally-significant history behind this intriguing stone

## *OHC Board, Staff and Intern News continued...*

tower and grassy basin that are part of the landscape on the southwest side of town.

AmeriCorps member **Riley Thomas** attended the *History Across the Humanities* Conference sponsored by the Youngstown State University History Department and the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. The conference took place recently at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, and Riley presented on her experience as an Ohio History Service Corps member and shared her 2016 undergraduate research on a Viennese textile swatch book that gave insight into the trade practices of the Habsburg Empire.

A huge round of applause goes to **Steve Johnson** and **Ed Wardwell** as they prepare to wrap up their terms on the Heritage Center's Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting this spring. Johnson joined the Board in 2011 and was elected 2nd Vice President in 2017. Wardwell became a Board member in 2009 and has served as Treasurer of the organization since 2013. Both are OHC Endowed Life Members (ELMs) and volunteer weekly (sometimes daily!) at the Heritage Center as they carry out their Board duties and much more. Thank you both for your tremendous dedication to preserving local history and ensuring a bright future for this community nonprofit!

## **Membership Update**

### **Join Today and Save**

Remember, Oberlin Heritage Center members receive a 10% discount on reservations for the upcoming Annual Meeting. That's just one way you'll save when you become an OHC member. You'll also receive free admission to tours and history walks, a set of complimentary guest tour passes to share with family or friends, reduced fees for events, kids camps or workshops that are accompanied by a cost, and discounts in the Museum Store.

We extend a warm welcome to new Heritage Center members who have joined in the past month, including **Eugene L. Meyer** (Silver Spring, MD), **Therese Palmer** (Oberlin) and **Karen & Peter Regas** (Lakeville, MA). OHC is very grateful for your support of local history!

Join or renew as a member by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) (and click on the "Join Now" button at the top of the Home Page), or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership brochure be sent to you.

## **Also of Interest**

Travel through time and learn about the history of transportation when **Eden Valley Enterprises** ([www.edenvalleyenterprises.org](http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org)) presents *Moving Right Along* on **Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Maritime Museum of Sandusky (125 Meigs Street). This fast-paced look at how we get from place to place is free with admission to the museum (\$6/person). For more information about this illustrated storytelling program, call the museum at (419) 624-0274. The program will be repeated on **Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Grange Hall at Sandstone Village (113 South Lake Street) in Amherst. This presentation is free and open to all. Call the Amherst Historical Society at (440) 988-7255 for more information.

**Oberlin's Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee** will begin planning for the year with its first meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Oberlin Public Library's

*Also of Interest continued...*

Community Room (65 South Main Street) The meeting is open to any interested participants and new ideas are welcome. Subsequent meetings will take place at the same time and location on the third Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Jean Simon at [foggo@oberlin.net](mailto:foggo@oberlin.net).

If you missed OHC's March 19 program on Katharine Wright presented by Stephanie Kramer (see announcement earlier in E-Gazette), or if you'd like another perspective on this fascinating woman with Oberlin connections, the **Lorain County Historical Society** ([www.lchs.org](http://www.lchs.org)) will host a free community program on *Katharine Wright Haskell: Teacher, Suffragette, Loving Sister* presented by **Anne Michael**. The event takes place at the Lorain County History Center (284 Washington Avenue, Elyria) on **Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Contact LCHS for more information at (440) 322-3341 or [lchs@lchs.org](mailto:lchs@lchs.org).

Author (and OHC member) **Jack Vanek** ([www.johnvanekauthor.com](http://www.johnvanekauthor.com)) was interviewed about his newest novel, *Miracles* (the second of a three-part Father Jake Austin series), in the February issue of *The Big Thrill* ([www.thebigthrill.org](http://www.thebigthrill.org)), the magazine of the International Thriller Writers. You can purchase *Miracles* at the OHC Museum Store. Save the date of **April 9 at 7:15 p.m.** when Vanek will present a free community program at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on *The Father Jake Austin Mysteries - Evolution of a Lorain County Sleuth*.

Make plans now to attend the 23rd annual **Family History Jamboree** sponsored by The Dayton Ohio and Dayton Ohio East Stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on **Saturday April 27** in Centerville Ohio (901 East Whipp Road). The all-day event (which begins at 8:00 a.m.) is free and open to the public. Each attendee may select up to six one-hour classes from a list of about 20 options, which range from the beginner levels to more advanced topics. Space is limited and advance registration is requested. Make a reservation or find out more at [www.fhj1.org](http://www.fhj1.org).

Congratulations to our friends and neighbors at the **Southern Lorain County Historical Society** who also received a History Fund grant through the Ohio History Connection during Statehood Day activities in Columbus on February 27. The organization was awarded \$18,000 to professionally conserve a large mural by Wellington native Archibald Willard, the creator of the iconic painting *The Spirit of '76*. After conservation is completed, the historical society will make the mural the centerpiece display in its Spirit of '76 Museum (<https://thespiritof76museum.org/>) in downtown Wellington. For more about all of the 2019 History Fund recipients and their projects, visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/history-fund/recipients>.



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