

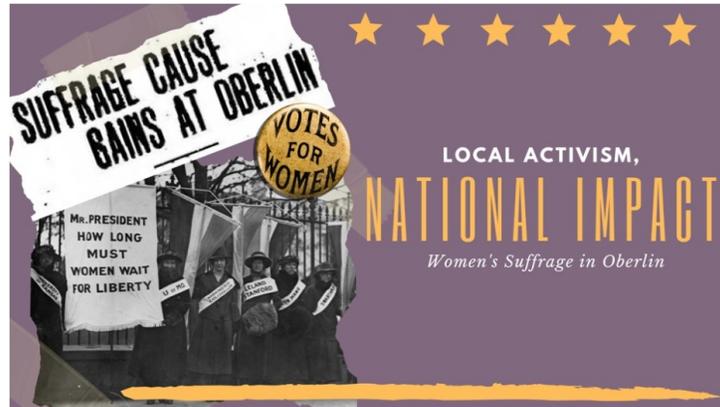
Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

September 2020

PO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440) 774-1700

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org
or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Friday, September 11 4:30-5:00 p.m.: *Local Activism, National Impact: Women's Suffrage in Oberlin Program (Zoom Program)*



The Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Amanda Manahan, will present on Oberlinians who fought for women's suffrage, working against discrimination on the basis of both sex and race. Drawing from newspaper accounts and historical records, this program will take a look at activism in a small town, and how it connected to the larger national movement and events that led up to Ohio's ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1919, and national ratification in 1920.

This program was originally researched and developed in 2019 by AmeriCorps/Ohio History Service Corps member Riley Thomas.

Advance registration is required for participation in this free program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A recording of this program will be provided to those who register but are unable to attend.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtdeGhpzkoH9Z7-Q6lt6vfpuld4WDP89OA>.

Ohio Women Vote — Free Exhibit September 8-19

The Oberlin Heritage Center is delighted to host “**Ohio Women Vote: 100 years of Change,**” a traveling exhibit of 12 informational banners that was curated and designed by the Ohio History Connection and funded by Ohio Humanities. These banners feature photographs, quotes, and biographies of Ohioan leaders in the suffrage movement, along with stories of political victories, racial barriers within the cause and to the ballot box, and the ongoing fight for equal rights.

The exhibit will be on view in OHC's Monroe House at 7 3 ½ South Professor Street, along with some additional displays and takeaways that tell more Oberlin-focused stories about women's suffrage. Visitors can come any time during OHC's open hours, although please note that only one family or visiting group will be allowed in the building at a time, so there may be a brief waiting period. OHC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. If you would like to save yourself the wait, please call ahead (440-774-1700) or email

tourinfo@oberlingeritage.org to ask about viewing

availability. This exhibit is free to see, but donations are very much appreciated. Please remember that masks are required.



School groups and clubs can make arrangements with Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan about a virtual presentation or how to safely visit the exhibit. Please call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

OHC Summer Tour Schedule Extended into October

Please note: Advance registration is required for all tours.



- **“Oberlin Origins”** Tours in the Monroe House. Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tours are \$3/adult; free for members, college students, and children under 18.
- **Outdoor History Walks:** History walks are \$6/adult; free for members, college students, and children under 18.
- Every Saturday in September and October at 11:00 a.m. - **Freedom's Friends: Abolition & the Underground Railroad** (begins in front of The First

Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.)

- September 12 at 3:00 p.m. - **Oberlin's Responses and Reactions to Issues of Race** (begins in front of The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.)
- September 26 at 3:00 p.m. - **Architecture Walk** (begins at Flagpole on Tappan Square at intersection of Main & College Sts.)

Tablet Tours are available through the rental of an OHC-owned device during museum open hours. Currently, OHC offers two self-guided tablet tours: *Freedom's Friends: Abolition & the Underground Railroad* and *Picture the Past: Downtown Oberlin*. Please call (440) 774-1700 to

reserve your tablet in advance. Tablet rentals are \$5/hour or \$20/day; 20 percent discount for OHC members.

Make your reservations and payments for tours by registering online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml> or by calling the museum at (440) 774-1700. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All visitors or household groups must complete a COVID-19 screening survey. All visitors and tour participants are required to wear face coverings if they are physically able to do so. Disposable masks are available at the museum, as supplies last. (Donations are greatly appreciated to help offset the cost of providing this service.) We also encourage visitors to take advantage of our hand sanitizing station and/or restroom for hand washing before and after the tour. We ask all museum patrons to follow social distance guidelines by standing 6 feet apart from individuals not in their immediate familial or familiar group. Visitors who do not follow our safety protocols may be refused service and asked to leave.

Save the Date: Virtual Trivia is ON!

The Oberlin Heritage Center will sponsor a **VIRTUAL Trivia Night on Friday, November 13**. Stay tuned for registration details, as the staff works out the behind-the-scenes logistics necessary to pull off a fun—and dare we say, historic—family-friendly evening for all ages.

The logo for Trivivia Night features the word "Trivivia" in a multi-colored font (T: red, r: green, i: blue, v: purple, i: pink, a: yellow) and "Night" in a black font, all enclosed in a thin orange rectangular border.

History Minute: The Legacy of Charles Martin Hall



When was the last time you used aluminum foil? Or cooked a meal in an aluminum pot or pan? Chances are, you've had a can of pop recently, or taken a bike ride. How about your fence? Did you opt for wood ... or do you have an aluminum one? And that stapler on your desk—did you know the staples are made from aluminum? If you nodded “yes” to any of the items above, you can thank Charles Martin Hall, Oberlin College Class of 1885.

Hall, a native Ohioan, was the sixth child of two Oberlin College graduates. From an early age, he showed an interest in chemistry, even going so far as to make his own fireworks— and almost burned down his house in the process. While at Oberlin, he became fascinated by aluminum. In fact, his teacher and mentor, Frank Jewett, recalls that when told that the person who could invent a process by which aluminum could be produced on a

commercial scale would be very wealthy, Hall said “I’m going for that metal.”

In February of 1886, Hall discovered the process to produce aluminum commercially. He applied for a patent, and then went on to co-found the Pittsburgh Reduction Company—later known as the Aluminum Company of America, or Alcoa.

Hall never lost his fondness for Oberlin, and bequeathed a significant amount of his inheritance to the college’s endowment as well as to the upkeep of land that he donated to the college. He also donated money for the improvement and continuous management of Tappan Square. After Hall’s death, the buildings were removed from the square, and trees and shrubs were planted along grassy walkways for all to enjoy.

In 1925, the Class of 1895 dedicated a monument to Hall at the celebration of their 40th reunion. The monument reads: “Charles Martin Hall ’85 gave these walks and provided for the care of the campus. His classmates on their fortieth anniversary here express their appreciation of his benefactions.” You can see Hall’s monument at the corner of W. College and N. Professor Streets.

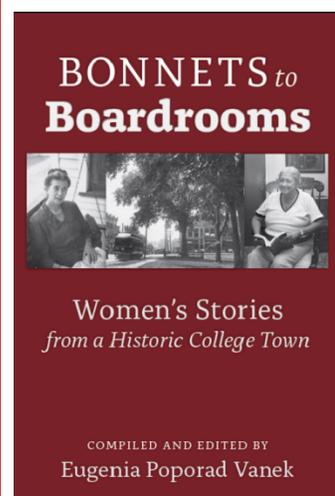


To learn more about Hall, please see our website for an overview written by OHC intern Jacob Selent at:

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/platform/cms/Hall%20Memorial%20Article%20Final.pdf>.

Photos courtesy of the Oberlin College Archives and Jacob Selent.

September’s Book Pick: *Bonnets to Boardrooms*



Are you looking for some new reading material as the days grow a little cooler? Look no further than the OHC Museum Store! This month, we’re featuring *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women’s Stories from a Historic College Town*. Compiled and edited by Eugenia Poporad Vanek, this book features excerpts from 52 oral history interviews that took place during the last three decades of the 20th century, as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Oral History Project. The women interviewed represent all facets of life in a small, rural college town, and their voices help preserve parts of a past that otherwise might be forgotten.

Bonnets to Boardrooms is available at the OHC Museum store for \$19.95, with a 10 percent discount for OHC members. Pick up a copy today!

Farewell to Katrina Walker

OHC is wishing Ohio History Service Corps member Katrina Walker a fond farewell this month. Katrina has been with the Oberlin Heritage Center since last October. As part of her AmeriCorps Program Service, Katrina has dedicated half of her time to the Heritage Center where she assisted with tours and special projects. The other half of her time was spent with local history organizations in Lorain County and neighboring communities, assisting small museums and historical societies with projects that included updating internal policies, creating digitization guidelines for volunteer use, and adapting tours for educational purposes.



Katrina's accomplishments at the Heritage Center are many, but the highlights include: helping the City of Oberlin write a proclamation for women's suffrage; writing a successful proposal/application to the Pomeroy Foundation to fund a downtown marker (yet to be installed) for Mary Burnett Talbert, an Oberlin native and Civil Rights voting activist; maintaining OHC's social media and kiosk to share the museum's accomplishments, opportunities, and educational content; and building the organization's historical records with her research on women activists and suffragists, including a previously not-well-known and under-appreciated woman named Ruth Anna Fisher.

After spending almost a year with the Heritage Center, Katrina had this to say: "Despite the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented for both myself and the Oberlin Heritage Center, I could not be more grateful for the opportunity to serve with an exemplary organization, and learn from the passion and talent of all who are connected to it."

You can view Katrina's latest Kiosk display, which focuses on the Suffrage Centennial, through September. Katrina's next stop is American University (accompanied by her stuffed Suffragette Cat, Talbert), where she will be pursuing her M.A. in Arts Management, with the goal of a career in Museum Administration.

Amanda Manahan, the OHC Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, attended the AmeriCorps Farewell Celebration in Columbus with Katrina on August 10, where Walker received a certificate commemorating her work with the program.



OHC is also saying “goodbye” to our summer interns—Natalie Brennecke, Jacob Selent, and Alex Shaver. Over the summer months, each intern participated in and led OHC tours, assisted with summer camps and other various projects, and produced original research using OHC resources. Stay tuned for their research in coming newsletters, as the “History Minute.” We thank all of the interns for their good work this summer, and wish them luck in their new endeavors.

New ELMS!

The staff is pleased to announce that long-time members Judy and Dennis Cook have become the newest Endowed Lifetime Members. As ELMS, Dennis and Judy have pledged their commitment to helping OHC preserve Oberlin’s unique history. Thank you, Dennis and Judy, for your unflagging support!

Welcome New Members

OHC extends a warm welcome to its newest members: Sue Angell and Joe Delgado, Natalie Brennecke, Laura Geller, Pam Horvath, Charles T. Phillips, Doug Rutherford, Jacob Selent, and Alex Shaver. The Heritage Center now has 692 members, all of whom are extremely important to the continued strength and vitality of our organization! If you are not yet a member, please join. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, call (440) 774-1700, or email members@oberlinheritage.org for more information.

Ongoing Collecting Project

Just like we use journals, letters, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and oral histories to understand Oberlin’s past at the Heritage Center, people in the future will use these materials to try to understand what life was like during this time of COVID-19. Consider taking a few moments each day to record your thoughts, feelings, activities, and observations of what is happening in your world. As helpful as it might be for people decades from now to explore and hopefully learn from you, you might also find some solace in the process.



And, after things calm down, if you are comfortable sharing these items with OHC, please consider doing so and know that you are building a resource at the museum for the future. If you are interested in helping OHC collect stories of the pandemic and our lives, please contact Maren McKee at history@oberlinheritage.org.

Also of Interest:

Oberlin Weekday Community Meals needs YOU!

Oberlin Weekday Community Meals at Christ Episcopal Parish Hall is in need of your help! The organizers are currently looking for people to cover a few meal shifts on Wednesdays and Fridays. The group is also looking for “substitute volunteers” that would be notified 24 hours before the shift if there are additional vacancies to fill. In addition, the group needs at least one volunteer who can help move heavier items and organize the stockroom and pantry.

Please contact our volunteer coordinator at communitymeals440@gmail.com for additional information.

NOTE: Meals are being served as take-aways during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers are typically needed to be present between 4:40 and 5:45 p.m.

Meet the Candidates

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Oberlin Community Candidates Night (OCCN) will be held virtually this year. By early October, recorded conversations with candidates will be posted on social media sites, including the local League of Women Voters website (<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/oberlin-area>) and the Oberlin Community Candidates Night FaceBook page. Invited candidate positions include state and national representatives, county commissioner, prosecuting attorney, county recorder, and judge of the court of appeals. Other videos will address issues that will be on the ballot. You also have until **September 4** to submit questions for the candidates. Go to tinyurl.com/occn2020 to participate!

Help Grow the Lorain County Minority Business Database

The Lorain County Chamber of Commerce is seeking submissions for the Lorain County Minority Business Database. If you or someone you know owns a business and is African American, Hispanic, a woman, a veteran, LGBTQ, or lives in a rural area, consider completing the form at this link: <https://survey.loraincounty.com/zs/UjzoSI>.

Make a Gift to Help Keep History Alive!

While so much of the country is shut down due to the pandemic, the Oberlin Heritage Center has reopened its doors with a powerful message — *history is not cancelled!* We've been busy behind the scenes, creating virtual programming about the Underground Railroad, suffrage, the OHC collection, and the experiences of four African-American women (affiliated with the College and/or town) abroad. We are following local and national news updates daily, to help plan our fall programming schedule so that we can safely interact with our members and make history available in safe, accessible ways for all.

But we need **YOUR** help to launch these new initiatives. A tax-deductible gift to the 2020 Annual Fund campaign will help OHC take on new challenges and deliver history experiences that are educational, fun, interactive, and relevant to all our members—virtually, and in person. You can make a gift online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> today. Thank you! Your gift is much appreciated as we negotiate this uncertain time in our history.

Please note—the CARES Act allows up to a \$300 charitable donation to be tax-deductible on your 2020 taxes, even if you do not itemize. Consult with your tax advisor if you have any questions regarding this deduction.



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