

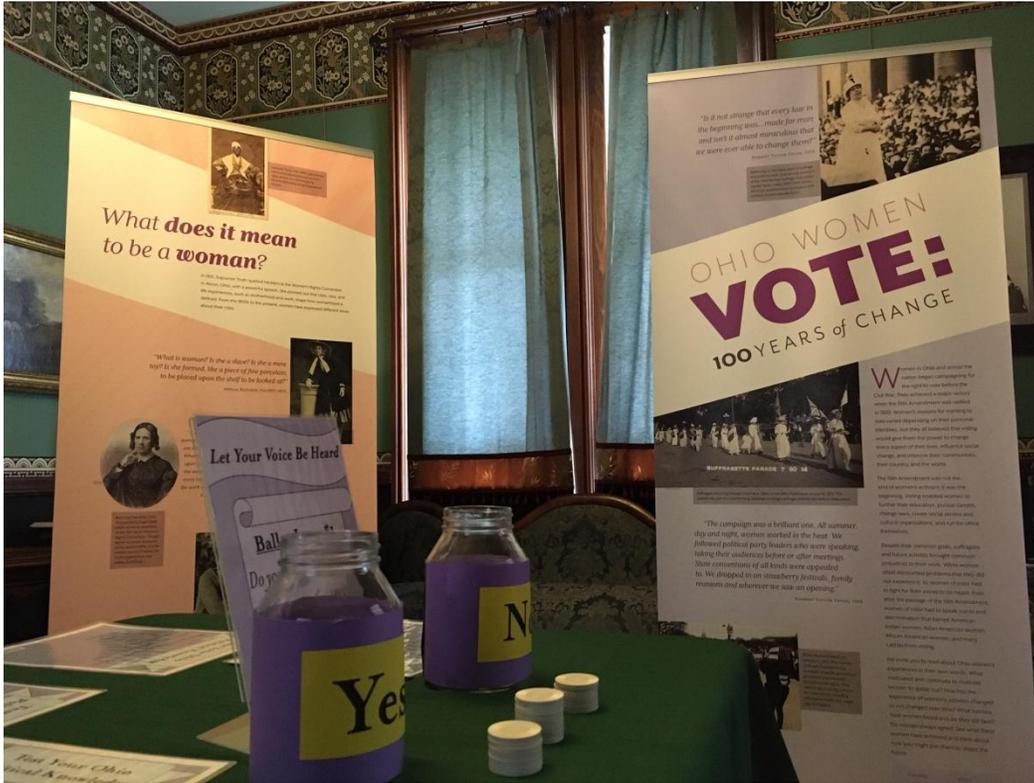
# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

**October 2020**

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

*To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org)  
or send e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).*

## Ohio Women Vote Exhibit Ends on High Note



“So many powerful women and ‘first’ women were from Ohio. Such courage then and now.”

“Really cool how much history is in this little town. Great exhibit, great to share this info with my daughter, especially today, when RBG died.”

“I really enjoyed reading about Mary Terrell and her views on the impact that discrimination had on her life outcomes.”

OHC was delighted to host the exhibit “Ohio Women Vote: 100 Years of Change” for two weeks in September and comments like those above indicate the information resonated with visitors. This travelling exhibit of 12 pull-up panels was created by the Ohio History Connection with funding from Ohio Humanities. Heritage Center staff added local elements, including features of Oberlin women who broke barriers in politics: Geraldine Donaldson (city council), Frances Gulick Jewett (suffrage), Sherry Suttles (city management), Alice Mead Swing (school board), and Betsy Mix Cowles (women’s rights). Visitors could also test their knowledge of Ohio voting history and see if they would pass eligibility tests that were commonly used during the Jim Crow era to deny African Americans the vote. OHC also created three interactive voting components.

Do you think the voting age should be lowered from 18 to 16?  
Do you think people convicted of a felony should have the right to vote?

Should the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico be granted statehood?

\*\*\*(See how exhibit attendees voted at the end of the newsletter.)



After seeing the exhibit featured in a *Chronicle Telegram* article, the social studies chair of Marion L. Steele High School in Amherst inquired about bringing the exhibit to the school. The Ohio History Connection gave the green light and the exhibit is already at its next site!

Wish you could have visited the exhibit? You can read digital versions of the panels by visiting the website of the Ohio History Connection. <https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/suffrage-centennial/ohio-women-vote>. You can also request a virtual program relating to Oberlin and/or suffrage for your own club or organization by contacting OHC at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

## Lunch and Learn - Update on COVID-19 in Lorain County

October 22, 12:00-12:45 p.m.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is inviting staff of Lorain County Public Health to share an update about the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including a look at the last year, current trends, and ongoing successes and challenges. This illustrated Zoom program will be followed by a brief period for questions and answers with attendees.

Advance registration is required for participation in this free program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please register using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-GrrDkvHtzojROJtIAwbqTI9rB4ycEo>.

## It's Trivia Time at OHC

Are you ready for Trivia Night? Well, then—let's go! **The Oberlin Heritage Center is excited to once again host a fun night for all ages (via Zoom) on Friday, November 13, 2020 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**



**Please register your team by November 6 if you'd like to participate.** To register, just have your team leader visit our website at:

<https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml?details=NTMwMQ> or call the Oberlin Heritage

Center to sign up and pay over the phone. (The cost per team is \$40.) Once your team is signed up, the team leader will be sent a Zoom registration link to forward to their fellow team members—who can play from the comfort of their own homes.

We recommend that each team has 4-6 players, but the overall size is entirely up to you. However, we ask that you please follow all safe social distancing guidelines, and that you keep the number of team members actually logging on to Zoom that night to less than five so that more teams have a chance to play. (A couple in the same household would count as one log on, for example.)

On Trivia Night, we'll have each team member log in to Zoom at 5:40 p.m., so that they can be assigned to their team's "breakout" room before the game begins at 6:00 p.m. You won't need to know everything there is to know about Oberlin to play—we will be asking general knowledge questions during the evening. (However, there may be a few questions where kids will have the upper hand, so consider adding a younger family member to your team!) Players should rely on themselves while playing—no internet searches or calling grandma for the answer (unless she is on your team). You're on the honor system for the night! There will be raffles and auctions throughout the game, as well as an image quiz.

The top three placing teams will receive goodie gift bags, and the winning team will have their name added to the OHC Trivia Champions plaque.

One final note—since we're going virtual that night, we won't be able to enjoy Lorenzo's pizza with you. But we do encourage you to support a local restaurant by getting takeout to celebrate a fun evening in!

Questions? Contact Liz Schultz (440-774-1700 or [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org)).

***\*\*\*November's Trivia night is generously sponsored by Kurt Sarringhaus Co., L.P.A.***

**Kurt G. Sarringhaus  
Co., L.P.A**

**(440) 775-1471**

**[www.sarringhauslaw.com](http://www.sarringhauslaw.com)**

## **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.
- **“Freedom's Friends: Abolition & the Underground Railroad” Outdoor History Walk** (begins in front of The

First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.). History walks are \$6/adult; free for members, college students, and children under 18.

**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% 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, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

***Please note:** 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.*

## OHC Needs YOU!

Are you looking for a new volunteer opportunity? If so, look no further! The Oberlin Heritage Center is currently seeking volunteers to join our team at the Museum Store front desk one or two days per week. Available days include Wednesday and Friday, preferably during the morning hours. Responsibilities include opening the store, processing incoming mail, and assisting OHC visitors. Volunteers would abide by the safety policies of social distancing and frequent sanitation. Training for all activities will be provided. If interested, please contact us at (440) 774-1700 or email us at [ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org).

## History Minute: The Burrell-King House



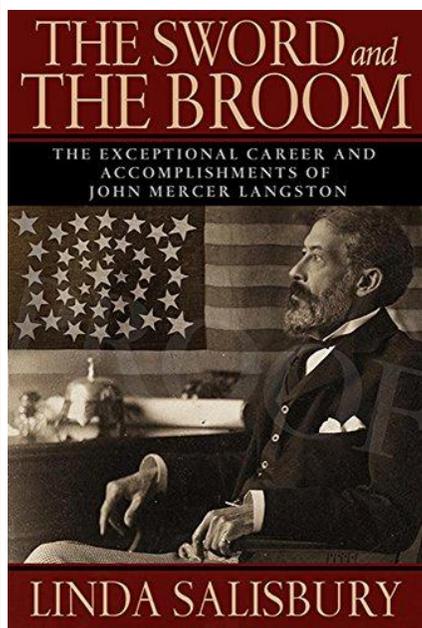
Oberlin is home to a cast of fascinating historical characters, but the houses where these individuals lived often prove to be just as fascinating as their owners. Take the Burrell-King House, for example. Located at 315 East College Street, it was built by Jabez Lyman Burrell, one of Oberlin's original settlers and an ardent abolitionist. Rumor had it that the house was a stop on the Underground Railroad, but no records exist to prove that this then-illegal activity had occurred within the home's walls. In 1882,

Burrell deeded the property to Oberlin College, and it became home to Henry Churchill King. King was a student and later professor at the college, and finally its president—a position he held for 25 years. Under his ownership, the house became a lavish backdrop for public readings, senior class parties, and an annual New Year’s open house. After King’s death, the home was sold to Axel Skjerne—a professor of pianoforte and knight (who received the honor from Frederick IX of Denmark) and his wife, Ebba. In 1971, the residence was sold to Thomas and Frances Irish, who lived there briefly. The Nordson Foundation then bought the house, but sold it to the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization (now the Oberlin Heritage Center) in 1989. In 2006, OHC transferred the property to the Oberlin College & Conservatory, and the Oberlin Community Music School became the home’s newest resident.

To read more about the colorful cast of characters that called 315 East College Street home, please follow the link below to OHC summer intern Natalie Brennecke’s original research.

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/platform/cms//Burrell-King%20House%20Feature.pdf>

## October’s Book Pick: *The Sword and The Broom*



In this month’s OHC book pick, Oberlin College graduate Linda Salisbury retells the life of John Mercer Langston in a book for young adults. Using Langston’s autobiography, *From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol* (1894) as a starting point, Salisbury explores Langston’s career in education, politics, and as a champion of Constitutional rights for all.

Born in Virginia in 1829, Langston was the child of a wealthy plantation owner and emancipated slave. Orphaned at the age of four, he was placed with guardians and moved to the free state of Ohio. Later, he received two degrees from Oberlin College, and became an abolitionist and orator, rivaling the great Frederick Douglass. He was a man of many state and national firsts for African Americans: first attorney in Ohio, first to serve as an elected official in Ohio, first to practice before the Supreme Court. Langston

also founded Howard University’s Law Department, and served as the first president of what is now Virginia State University. His greatest political achievement, however, came when he was seated as the first black Congressman from Virginia.

Unlike more celebrated figures, Langston and his extraordinary life have almost been lost to history. *The Sword and The Broom* is Salisbury’s way of sharing Langston’s inspiring life story with a new generation of readers and casting light on his achievements. To learn more about John Mercer Langston, pick up your copy of *The Sword and The Broom* in the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store today.

## Welcome New Members

This month, OHC is welcoming Katrina Walker as our newest member! Katrina was our recent Ohio History Service Corps member, and is happy to remain a member of the OHC family. We welcome back our renewing members, too, and thank you all for your patronage!

If you are not yet a member, please join. Visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org), call (440) 774-1700, or email [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

## Welcome Marissa Hamm!



OHC is excited to welcome its newest Ohio History Service Corps member, Marissa Hamm. Marissa is from Strongsville, Ohio, and graduated in 2019 from The College of Wooster, where she studied history and anthropology. She has previously worked with the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum and the Thomas Cole National Historic Site and she currently serves on the Wayne County Historical Society's Board of Trustees. Marissa is looking forward to helping with the Oberlin Heritage Center's initiatives this year, while also assisting other local history organizations in the Northeast Ohio area.

## Also of Interest:

### DPLA Unveils New Black Women's Suffrage Digital Collection

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) has announced the launch of its new Black Women's Suffrage Digital Collection, available at:

<https://blackwomenssuffrage.dp.la/>. The collection makes freely accessible

nearly 200,000 artifacts, including images, videos, letters, diaries, speeches, maps, diaries, and oral histories, from DPLA's more than 4,000 partner institutions that document the contributions and experiences of Black women during the women's suffrage movement as well as Black women's activism from the 1850s to the 1960s.



DPLA plans to launch an exhibit in the coming months that features items from the life of activist and suffragist Mary Church Terrell, courtesy of Oberlin College, as well as the Charlotta Bass Papers, which document the life of the publisher, activist, and leader Charlotta Bass. The new site also includes a timeline that reveals the breadth and depth of Black women's activism over more than a century and short biographies that give context to materials related to both well- and lesser-known suffragists and activists.

## Virtual 2020 OCCN Candidates in Conversation

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Oberlin Community Candidates Night (OCCN) will be held virtually this year. The pre-recorded, 30-minute conversations feature candidates for the United States Congress, 4<sup>th</sup> District; Lorain county Prosecutor; and Lorain County Recorder and will be available between October 1 and November 3. Just visit the local League of Women Voters website at <https://my.lwv.org/ohio/oberlin-area> to listen to the conversations, or to read more about issues on the Oberlin ballot. More information on all candidates is available at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), and is brought to you by the League of Women Voters.



**OBERLIN COMMUNITY CANDIDATES NIGHT** 2020 STYLE!

How will you govern?

If elected, I will...

**HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!\***

Video recordings will be available beginning October 1st on YouTube, social media, and the Cable Co-op channel.

- United States Congress, 4th District
- Ohio State House, District 56
- Lorain County Commissioners
- Judge, 9th District Court of Appeals
- Lorain County Prosecutor
- Lorain County Recorder

CONVERSATIONS WILL BE RECORDED WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE. BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OCCN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

## Documentary on Ohio's Grandma Gatewood Wins Indie Award



*Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story*, was awarded second place in the Short Documentary Category of the International Indie Gathering in July 2020 and is available to stream for a small fee at: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/237744>. *Trail Magic* is a production of Eden Valley Enterprises, an Elyria-based organization that is dedicated to providing unique educational experiences through drama. You can visit the group's website at <http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org/> for up-to-date information on the film, Grandma Gatewood presentations, and other programming information!

Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, a native of Southern Ohio, was the first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955 at the age of 67 after raising 11 children. Before she died in 1973, she had hiked the AT several times and completed hikes in Oregon, Vermont, and Pennsylvania. She was a charter member of the Buckeye Trail Association, and was inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame in 2012.

*Trail Magic* has also been chosen to compete in the WRPN Women's International Film Festival (<http://www.wwiff.com/>). Judging will take place in October, 2020, so stay tuned for further developments.

### **\*\*\*The Votes Are In ... And the Answers Are ...**

Voting age lowered? No 72 percent

Felon rights to vote? Yes 77 percent

Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico as states? Yes 82 percent

## 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, writing history features, inventorying the collection, giving virtual programs, and hosting a traveling exhibit. 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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