Holiday Greetings from the Oberlin Heritage Center!

The OHC Staff is sending wishes to our readers for a happy and healthy holiday season! We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.


**OHC Closes to the Public until Further Notice**

In light of the rising number of COVID-19 cases and for the safety of our staff and community, the Oberlin Heritage Center closed its physical doors to the public on November 22. Although we can’t welcome visitors to our campus right now, we look forward to continuing our virtual programming and connecting with you on social media!

To learn more about our upcoming events and online resources, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).
Elisha Gray: Oberlin Inventor and Electric Music Pioneer

Join us online on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:15 p.m. for a free illustrated program about Elisha Gray, presented by Roderic Knight, Professor Emeritus of Ethnomusicology at Oberlin College. Gray was an Ohio native, attended Oberlin College in the 1860s, left and became a successful inventor/entrepreneur, and returned as Professor of Dynamic Electricity from 1880 to 1900. While Knight will present an introduction to Gray's life and many accomplishments, the main focus of the evening will be on Gray's invention of the world's first electric musical instrument and similar projects. The program will include a live demonstration of a reproduction of Gray's musical telegraph, as well as time for questions.

Advance registration is required for participation in this free 30 minute program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Register here: https://bit.ly/3eN9KK9.

Secrets & Scandals in Two Parts: January 12 and 26 at 5:15 p.m.

Join us for one or both free 25-minute programs, with time for a Q&A session afterwards. Advance registration is required using the links in the descriptions below. Registrants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Tuesday, January 12: Secrets & Scandals: Oberlin Women
A kiss? Forgery and deceit? This program will explore town and gown reactions to two scandalous events involving women of Oberlin's first century. To register for Part 1, please visit: https://bit.ly/3lNJHVI.

Tuesday, January 26: Secrets & Scandals: Oberlin Men
Trouble in "paradise"? Theft and fraud? This program will unmask stories and perceptions of Oberlin during its infancy. To register for Part 2, please visit: https://bit.ly/3kPowRP.
November’s Virtual Trivia Night a Success!

Krista Long and the Lightning Rods came back from an upset to reclaim their title as OHC Trivia Champions in last month’s virtual contest. Fourteen teams (with 79 players) registered for the fourth annual brain teaser, which was emceed by WOBL Radio personality Super Dave. We’d like to thank our sponsor, Kurt Sarringhaus, for helping make the evening possible, as well as all the volunteers who donated items for the raffle and gift baskets and worked behind the scenes to keep the technology running smoothly. We’re happy to have brought the community together for a fun-filled evening and look forward to hosting the event again—hopefully live and in person—next year.

Congratulations to our 2020 Trivia winners:
Trivia Night Champions: Krista Long and the Lightning Rods
Second Place: Amanda Meszaros and the Arch Rivals
Third Place: Barb Enos and Family Ties

Calling all Volunteers – We Need Your Help, Virtually!

The Oberlin Heritage Center has been asked to participate in a pilot program that combines digitized historic maps and census data. This project has the potential to
provide very interesting research opportunities about Oberlin's population and how it has changed over time. Since COVID has made even easy projects more difficult, we wanted to make sure we had enough volunteers before committing to such an endeavor!

Our work would start next spring and wrap up in the early winter months (or it may even take less time if we have more hands to help!). Please contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org by December 5 if you think you may be interested in volunteering on this project. (Only a few hours of your time is needed per month.) Participants would meet online for training sessions and then by virtual group or through independent data entry sessions.

Help us crack the code on some fascinating historic data!

**The Oberlin Heritage Center Continues to Document History as it Happens**

This spring OHC launched a new collecting initiative to document the Covid-19 pandemic in Oberlin. Since then, community members have donated photographs, oral histories and even original poetry. These contributions have been added to OHC’s permanent collection where they will help tell the story of the pandemic for years to come. It is not too late to add your story to this growing collection! OHC continues to actively collect photographs, writings (such as journals), and other material related to Oberlin’s shared experience of living through a pandemic. If you would like to participate but are unsure of where to begin, here are a few prompts to get you started for writing or photos:

- The holidays will look different for many of us this year. How has your family modified their celebrations?
- If you are a student, what does your school day look like? How is it different from last year?
- If COVID-19 has touched you or someone close to you, describe your experience with the illness.

If you are interested in learning more about this project or would like to donate please contact OHC’s Collections Manager, Maren McKee, at history@oberlinheritage.org. Include your full name and a phone number where you can be reached.
History Minute: The Martin Luther King Jr. Monument

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Oberlin is home to sculptures and monuments that honor those who stood up against injustice and broke down racial barriers, from the 1850s to today. The Martin Luther King Jr. Monument itself not only honors its namesake’s legacy, but also commemorates the reception of his Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Oberlin College. Dr. King made several trips to Oberlin during his lifetime, even speaking at Oberlin College’s 1965 Commencement when he was awarded his honorary degree.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Monument was designed by Paul Arnold, a retired studio art professor from Oberlin College. In order to construct the monument, Arnold commissioned custom sized bricks and contracted local mason Burrell Scott, owner of B.L. Scott Masonry and Construction Company in Elyria, OH to help realize this vision. Henry Young, an employee of Scott’s company and the oldest African American bricklayer in Lorain County at the time, served as the project’s bricklayer. The resulting monument celebrates the legacy of the great Civil Rights leader, as well as others who worked to achieve racial justice in the United States.

To learn more about this monument, you can visit our website to read a history feature by Alex Shaver, OHC’s Visitor Services Assistant. Follow the link here: https://bit.ly/3fn7LfM.

Retelling the Story of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue

The Oberlin Heritage Center is excited to be working with Scott Spears and Christia Paolucci to create a documentary about John Price’s journey to freedom and the 1858 event that is commonly referred to as the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue. This project will be made possible in part through an $19,800 grant from the Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Stay tuned for updates on the project as it progresses!
Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Heritage Center

This holiday season, don’t forget that the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store is a source of great holiday gift-giving ideas. The store is stocked with history-themed books, anti-saloon league beverage glasses, Oberlin afghans and other mementos, all of which are available online. Or, consider a truly one-of-a-kind and lasting gift by ordering an inscribed century-old brick to honor a special person or occasion in your life. A gift card announcement will be provided to the recipient for the holidays, and a photo of the installed brick will be sent when it is installed along the Heritage Center's brick pathway next summer. To visit the store, click: https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/store.shtml.

You can also support the Oberlin Heritage Center by using Amazon Smile when you do your regular Amazon shopping! Just use the special Amazon Smile link at https://smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will give a portion of each sale to the charitable organization of your choice at no extra expense to you! When using Amazon Smile, just search for OHC under its full name: the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization!

Do you like history? Become an OHC member today!

If you like history and want to support OHC, consider becoming a member today. Members are the lifeblood of our organization and make OHC’s mission-driven work possible. An OHC member enjoys the following benefits:

- Free admission to tours and history walks offered by the Heritage Center, as well as two guest passes to share with family or friends. (Educators, businesses, and organizations receive additional passes.)
- Reduced prices for most events for which there is a fee, including workshops and children’s camps. (Educators receive 10% off group visits as well.)
- Ten percent discount on shopping done online or at the Heritage Center’s museum store. (Educators receive 15% off publications.)
- Complimentary benefits at 300 history museums nationwide through the Time Travelers Network. (https://timetravelers.mohistory.org/)
• The enjoyment in knowing that you are making a difference and helping to preserve Oberlin’s unique, nationally significant history!

If you are not yet a member of OHC, please join. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, call (440) 774-1700, or email members@oberlinheritage.org for more information.

***A gift membership can make a wonderful holiday present for a family member or friend, too!

Also of Interest:

Welcome the Holiday Season with the Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum

Join the Chagrin Falls Historical Society & Museum for “Welcome Christmas: Take a Photo, give a Gift, Grab a Treat!” an outdoor exhibit experience. You do not have to go inside to visit our museum! Bring the family and enjoy our front yard of Christmas trees, take pictures, and learn about Chagrin history from each tree! Take a family photo on the front porch and get a sweet treat, too. This outdoor exhibit will be open November 27-December 26. For more information, visit https://www.chagrinhistorical.org/.

Take a 3D Tour of the AMAM with New Augmented Reality Feature

After the Allen Memorial Art Museum was forced to close its doors earlier this year due to COVID-19, curatorial staff quickly began to discuss how they might safely make the space available to all guests. The result is the creation of the Allen Augmented Reality (AAR), which launched this semester. This 3D world—an interactive replica of the physical space, complete with museum lighting—allows visitors to explore galleries as if they were there. By using a wide range of directional tabs and 360-degree views, guests can have a different experience with each visit. Clickable tabs next to artwork enlarge objects and provide detailed information. To explore these virtual galleries, please visit: https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=sm6LYvahtka.
New Content Available on the Oberlin Sanctuary Project Website

The Oberlin College Libraries have added more content to The Oberlin Sanctuary Project website, including a 25-minute summary video that can be found on their "About the Project" page. OHC was glad to work with the Libraries and co-host project intern Caitlin Merikallio this last academic year. Caitlin is also the author of a blog post that chronicles her role in project, which is available at:

https://humanitiesforall.org/blog/student-voices-the-oberlin-sanctuary-project.

The Oberlin College Sanctuary Project website was made possible by a grant from The Council of Independent Colleges. To view the website, please visit:


OHC’s 2019 Audit is Now Available Online

The Oberlin Heritage Center’s 2019 audit and 990 forms are now available online. As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, we are happy to share information about our organization's finances, governance, and program and service offerings with our members. To view these documents, please visit:

http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/irsform990

Make a Gift to Help Keep History Alive!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is working harder than ever to fulfill its mission: to preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. And although we have faced challenges this year, we want you to know that history is not cancelled! Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been busy behind the scenes writing history features, inventoring our collection, giving virtual programs, and working with the local schools. We’ve even decided to do something a little different this year, and
have decorated our campus for the winter season. We encourage locals to take a walk after dusk to see the Monroe and Jewett Houses lit up for the holidays. Even Straus has gotten into the spirit of the season and is dressed in his sparkling best.

Delivering history experiences that are educational, fun, interactive, and relevant to all of our members is our goal, and your financial support can help us reach it (as well as help us keep the lights on during these dreary winter months!).

Please consider making a gift to sustain OHC today. You can donate online at https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml today. Thank you!

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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