



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette July 2021

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OHC Wishes You a Happy Fourth of July!



As you get ready to fire up your grill or light sparklers this Fourth of July, ask yourself: what does freedom really mean? Before the Civil War, many early Oberlin residents felt it was false and hypocritical to celebrate “Independence Day” on the Fourth of July because so many other human beings—primarily enslaved African-Americans—were not free. Instead, on July 4, the town of Oberlin would hold antislavery meetings. Then, on August 1 (chosen because that was the anniversary of West Indian Emancipation Day) the town would celebrate Independence Day, honoring the freedom of Americans. Of course, things changed as time moved on, and Oberlin now celebrates Juneteenth as well as the Fourth of July, both in traditional, ceremonial ways—and with parades, as we can see in this photo from the Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

*Photo: Oberlin residents celebrate the Bicentennial in 1976 with a Parade around Tappan Square.
Photo courtesy of Paulette J. Miller.*

Befriend a Beekeeper, Please a Pollinator on Saturday, July 10

Join us on July 10, from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to celebrate bees and pollinators. Local beekeepers Randy and Brenda Leiby will be stationed on the greenspace near the Oberlin Heritage Center's kiosk on S. Main Street (just south of the Post Office). They will have information regarding local beekeepers, Wellington's designation as a Bee City USA, and honey production. The Leibys will also have a secure observation hive to show off some of their winged friends.



After visiting with these vital pollinators, follow the path down to the Oberlin Heritage Center's campus, where you can see an essential part of a bee's diet: flowers! An Oberlin Heritage Center staff member will be stationed by the new pollinator garden beds to chat about what native species are planted in the garden and why these plants are so important to many types of insects and animals.

This program is part of Oberlin's Second Saturdays list of town-wide events.

Elevate Your Spirits! Wednesday, July 21, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Join the Oberlin Heritage Center for an evening of fellowship at the Wakeman Elevator. This 19th century property has historically served as a foundry, flour mill, coal supply, and grain elevator. Today, guests can enjoy the space as a craft beer and wine bar. See your friends and make new friends!



The event begins at 5:30 p.m., with a mini history of the property shared by the proprietor at 6:00 p.m. Seating will be available both inside and outside, but please note that six-foot distancing cannot be guaranteed outside. Ticket prices are \$40 per person and include two drink tickets for a glass of wine, a beer, or a non-alcoholic drink, as well as hearty hors d'oeuvres. Guests will also enjoy acoustic music provided by Rich Holsworth, as well as several raffles.

Space is limited, so advance registration and payment is required. Register by visiting <https://bit.ly/3gSjMeg> or calling (440) 774-1700. Proceeds from this special event support the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation.

OHC Summer Grounds Day Scheduled for Saturday, July 24



Join OHC staff members anytime on Saturday, July 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to help spruce up the grounds of the Heritage Center for our visitors! Projects include trimming, weeding, and general yard clean up. Tools and supplies are provided, or volunteers are welcome to bring their own. (Volunteers can park in the lot behind the Monroe House, off of Vine Street.) Masks are not required outside. For more information or to sign up, contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org.

Summer History Walks Continue at OHC

Join OHC this summer for a series of uniquely-themed history walks each Saturday of the month, through September. All history walks will take place on **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.**, unless otherwise noted.

Each history walk will take place outdoors, with little or no indoor stops, and may be canceled if there is inclement weather at the start time. History walks will begin at various locations around town, so please check our website or ask for more details when you register. Participants can register online at <https://bit.ly/3cLsGcg> or by calling (440) 774-1700. The cost for each tour is: adults: \$6; children/students/members: free.



Please keep an eye on our website as additional history walks are scheduled throughout the season! To keep in the loop, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3cRV0dc>.

July — *Civil War to Civil Rights*

This tour highlights historic events that reveal both Oberlin's progress and setbacks in race relations dating from early Oberlin all the way up to the 21st Century. Learn how Oberlin was a leader in abolition, participating heavily in events such as the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, the Raid on Harpers Ferry, and the American Civil War, but also struggled with its own issues of equality and racism during these early years and later through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and today. This tour begins near the

front steps of First Church, U.C.C. at the northwest corner of Main Street (Route 58) and Lorain Street (Route 511).

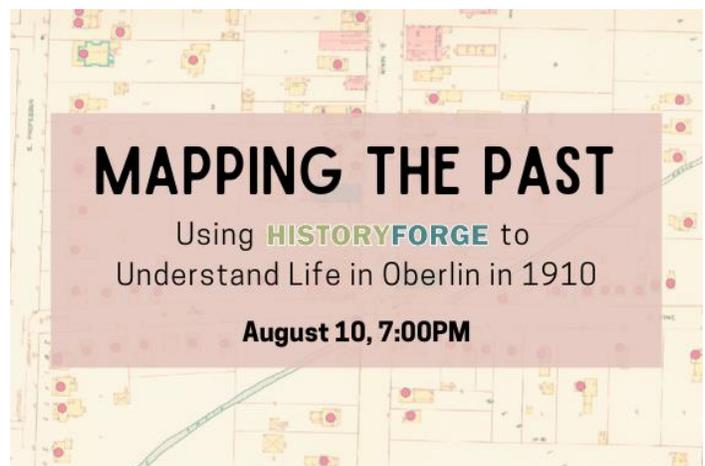
August — *One Step More: Oberlin Women's History* (to honor Women's Equality Day)

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

Mapping the Past: Using HistoryForge to Understand Life in Oberlin in 1910

Tuesday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what life was like in Oberlin in 1910? What were Oberlinians doing day to day? What type of jobs did they have? What were the big issues that had people talking? Learn answers to these questions and more as Ohio History Service Corps member Marissa Hamm paints a picture of Oberlin in 1910 in a 45-minute virtual presentation. Marissa will discuss her research sources, including census data from 1910 that OHC volunteers have been uploading to the new online tool HistoryForge.



HistoryForge is an interactive database that maps information from censuses onto historical map layers. The Oberlin Heritage Center is a participating partner so residents and historians can use the powerful search engine to explore the buildings, neighborhoods, individuals, and families of early 20th-century Oberlin. HistoryForge is being generously supported by a two-year grant for Public Engagement with Historical Records from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives (NARA). Want to check out the database beforehand? Visit <https://oberlin.historyforge.net>. (Can't find someone in the database yet? Don't worry, we're still uploading data.)

To register for this free program, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3q4a4JZ>.

OHC Seeks History Service Corps/AmeriCorps Member for the 2021-2022 Year



The Oberlin Heritage Center has once again been chosen as a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member for the 2021-2022 program year and is seeking applicants. The selected participant will dedicate half of their time to projects at the Oberlin Heritage Center, and will spend the other half assisting history organizations in the region. The program year runs from September 13, 2021 through August 31, 2022. Applicants must commit to the full year of service, and be at least 21 years of age and a college graduate by the start of service.

For a complete description of this unique position, please visit the OHC website at: <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work>.

To Apply: This program is managed by the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, OH (please visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/ameri-corps> for more information). In order to be considered for the position, all prospective members (including any current members interested in returning for an additional year of service) must apply through the MyAmeriCorps website. Paper or email applications will not be accepted.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2021, or until position is filled. Reviews and interviews begin immediately, so early applications are strongly encouraged. Questions can be referred to Amanda Manahan, the Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator or to ameri-corps@ohiohistory.org.

News from the Second Floor:

The 2020 Annual Meeting Overview

OHC's annual meeting took place virtually on Wednesday, June 2. A dessert to-go special from Blue Rooster Bakery sweetened the deal, and a 50/50 Raffle created fellowship and fun. Special guests Dr. Doris E. Hughes-Moore, Richard Hughes, Jr., and Nina Grooms Lee joined the program to give a presentation on the Wilson Bruce Evans Home at 33 East Vine Street. The house, which has been designated a National Historic

Landmark, was home to descendants of the Evans family for many generations. The family has come together to form a non-profit organization and historical society to preserve this unique piece of Oberlin history, as well as the legacy of the Evans family in Lorain County. Special thanks to Doris Hughes-Moore, Richard Hughes, and Nina Grooms Lee for joining us and sharing a very personal tribute to the family that built and preserved such a special place for so many to call home at one time or another!

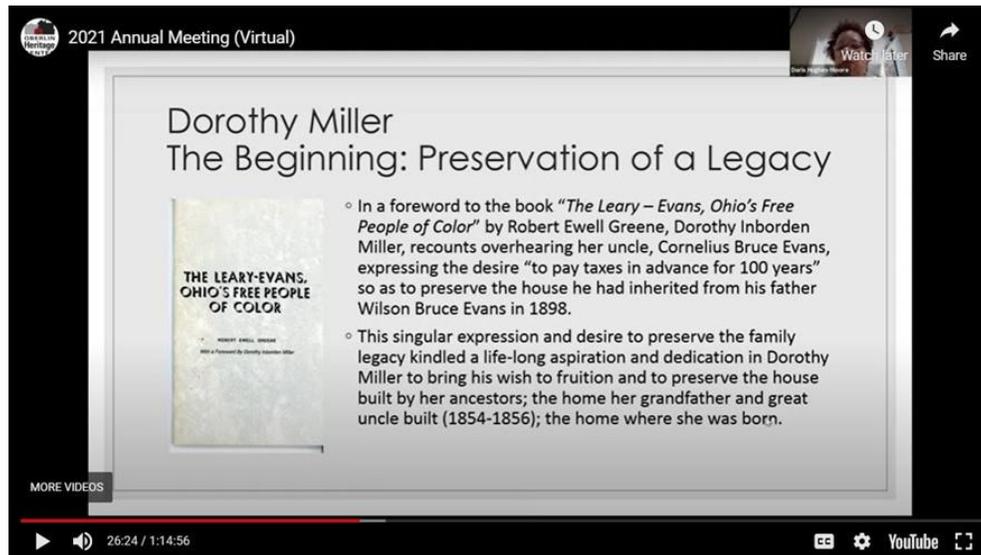


Photo: Doris Hughes-Moore presents on her ancestor Dorothy Miller during the OHC 2020 Annual Meeting.

During the meeting, OHC welcomed new trustees Elizabeth Elrod, Gene Matthews, Jean Simon (who is returning as a trustee), and Amy Szmania, while thanking outgoing trustees Kaitlyn Donaldson and Annessa Wyman for their service. Honorary Trustee status was conferred upon long-time board members Barb Enos and Claudia Jones. OHC also announced the 2020/2021 Community Award winners in a special pre-recorded segment, that allowed the winners to make a small speech to members. Award winners are as follows:

Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award - Green Circle Growers

Community Historian Award - David Ashenhurst

History Teacher of the Year - Ja'Niece Whitehead

Youth Community Service Award - Emily Winnicki

OHC Volunteer of the Year - Stephen Johnson III

Business Leaders Service Award – Northwest Bank

OHC thanks all who were in attendance for the meeting, and hopes to see even more people at next year's meeting, which should return to an in-person format!

OHC Welcomes Three Summer Interns

OHC is happy to welcome three new summer interns to the Monroe House this year!



Greta Arbogast grew up in Brownhelm Township, and attended the Oberlin City Schools. She just finished her first year at Oberlin College, where she is studying Comparative American Studies. She enjoys working at OHC because she wants to learn how history can be used to solve current issues and social inequalities. Greta sees OHC as an opportunity to become more involved with her community. She plans to pursue a future career in non-profit or mutual aid work. Fun fact—she lived in Guyana with her family for one and a half years during middle school. Greta comes to OHC as an intern through the Leadership Lorain County program.



Carson Bauer, from Elyria, Ohio, attends Oberlin High School. She is excited to be working at OHC because it gives her an opportunity “to look inside a world I’m interested in, and to learn more about Oberlin’s history as well as have the resources to do my own research!” Carson is still undecided about her future, but is leaning toward a career as a high school history teacher. She is an active member of the stage crew for the OHS drama club, and hopes to remain involved in the dramatic arts after graduation. Carson’s Junior Intern position is supported by a gift from Nordson Corporation.



Gianna Volonte grew up in Southern California, but now calls Eastern Idaho home. She just graduated from Oberlin College in May, and majored in religion with minors in anthropology and mathematics. Her deep dive into religious history got her interested in museum work. Serendipity directed her to OHC, where she hopes to gain experience in museum education. Gianna plans to go back to graduate school in a year or two for her Masters Degree (and possibly a PhD) in religious studies or anthropology. Fun fact—during her time at Oberlin, she was able to earn three scuba diving certifications, including the Dive Master certification! Gianna’s position is supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Top to bottom: Greta, Carson, and Gianna. Welcome to OHC!

Talbert Marker Installation

Mary Burnett Talbert, a civil rights and anti-lynching activist, suffragist, preservationist, international human rights proponent, and educator, was born, raised and educated in Oberlin, Ohio. Upon receiving her college degree from Oberlin, she accepted a position as a high school teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she taught science, history, math, and Latin at the high school and then at Bethel University. Now, Talbert is being recognized for her extraordinary leadership efforts to advance equality and inclusion with a historic marker in her hometown of Oberlin, OH. Former Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member Katrina Walker helped author the application for Oberlin to receive the plaque. Stay tuned for more updates on the installation time and place. You are all invited to the celebration!



Photo courtesy of the Oberlin College Archives.

Maintenance on the Monroe House and Jewett Barn Completed



OHC was happy to work with the Grunwell-Cashero restoration company again to paint the soffit, or eaves, of the 1866 Monroe House and install new compact stone flooring in the Civil War era Jewett House Barn. We appreciate their sensitivity to the historic nature of these buildings. This work was made possible by a grant from The Nord Family Foundation.

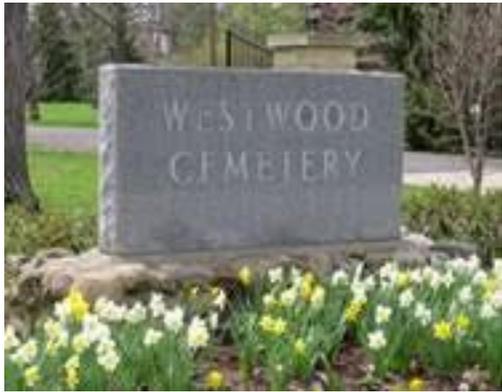
Need a Tent for Your Event? Oberlin Rotary Has You Covered!

The Oberlin Rotary Club has a 10 x 10 pop-up tent that community organizations can borrow for free! The Oberlin Heritage Center is volunteering as the pick-up and drop-off location for the tent. If you are interested in reserving this tent, please contact OHC director Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org well in advance to discuss policies and availability.



Also of Interest:

Calling All Volunteers! The Friends of Westwood Cemetery Need You!



The Friends of Westwood Cemetery are scheduling several stone-cleaning sessions this summer, and need volunteers. **The sessions will take place Saturday, July 17 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, August 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Hesitant to help? Just know that no scrubbing is involved! The spray-on solution does all the work, and resulting rains re-activate the solution to remove dirt and algae over time. Volunteers will be asked, however, to clean debris from around the headstones as they work. (If you'd like to do so, bring any small garden tools you think will make your job easier.)

If interested, please meet at the Tranquility Garden at 9:00 a.m. on the days above to get your cleaning supplies and assignment. Thank you!

Join FAVA on July 31 at OHC's Jewett House for a Day of Painting

FAVA (Firelands Association for the Visual Arts) is hosting a "Plein Air Workshop" **Saturday, July 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on the picturesque OHC campus,



in front of the Jewett House. As part of the workshop, OHC will offer a tour of the house beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please meet on the Jewett House porch before the workshop to begin your day!

Come practice the traditional technique of "en plein air" painting and drawing at this beautiful location with instructor Allison Bogard Hall of Lakewood. Students can choose their medium of choice—the instructor will be working in oil, but watercolor, acrylic, charcoal, and pencil are also welcome. The students will use viewfinders to create their

composition, and will practice observing and mixing colors to match their subject, emphasizing the natural light. Students are responsible to provide their own painting supplies, as well as a sketchbook. Drawing boards and viewfinders will be provided by FAVA. Students are asked to bring a lunch (beverages available). Masks are required while inside the Jewett House. (The Jewett House is not wheelchair accessible at this time.)

To register, please visit: <https://www.favagallery.org/classes/2021/07/31/plein-air-workshop-at-the-jewett-house>. More information about the class is available online, too. Class fees are \$50 for FAVA members, and \$55 for non-members.

Lorain Historical Society Resumes History Boat Cruises!

Cruise the Lorain waterfront and learn the importance of the waterways in the development of Lorain, beginning at the mouth of the Black River. This 2-hour history tour will be narrated by a member of the Lorain Historical Society. This excursion will explore the riverfront past the sites of industrial giants, American Shipbuilding and US Steel, to witness the rebirth of wildlife preserves on the Black River. Weather permitting, the excursion will venture past the Lorain Lighthouse.

Tours are \$20 per person and tickets can be purchased on the Lorain Port Authority's website at www.lorainportauthority.com or by contacting the Port Authority at (440) 204-2269. The boat leaves from Oasis Marinas at Port Lorain (near Erie Steak and Seafood) at 2:00 p.m. Guests are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior.

Excursion Dates are as follows: Friday, July 9 and Sunday, July 25; Friday, August 13 and Sunday, August 22.

Save the Date for the LCHS Ice Cream Social

Join the Lorain County Historical Society at The Hickories for a sweet summer treat on July 11 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.! Tickets are \$5 per person and each ticket holder will receive a slice of pie or cake with ice cream. There will be two ways for you to enjoy your pie or cake and ice cream: bring a chair and sit on the front lawn of The Hickories and listen to music and see the antique cars, or drive through and pick up your treats to go (like last year). Visit <https://bit.ly/3wSXGiI> to mail in your reservations, or purchase your tickets on the day of the event. For more information, contact LCHS at (440) 322-3341 or by email at lchs@lchs.org.

