



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette June 2021

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

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or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.*

Last Call to Register for OHC's Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 2!



Time's running out to register! Join attendees from near and far as we come together for the Oberlin Heritage Center's 2021 Annual Meeting, which will be free and open to all on Zoom and **will take place on June 2 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** We look forward to honoring Community Award recipients, welcoming new board members, thanking outgoing board members, having a bit of digital fun, and sharing announcements. We will also have a special update from the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society, which recently formed to preserve 33 East Vine Street, a National Historic Landmark, and to share the legacy of the Evans family and local African American history with current and future generations.

We have some fun extras planned for the night, including a 50/50 raffle that supports the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. To participate in the fun, and to register for the meeting, please visit the OHC website now at:

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/whatsnew?action=show&id=647>.

The 2020 Annual Meeting minutes, financial report, list of new trustees, and proposed updates to the Constitution can also be found at the link above.

OHC Announces June and July History Walks

This year, OHC will be mixing things up with a uniquely-themed history walk each Saturday of the month, through September. All history walks will take place on **Saturdays at 11:00am**, unless noted otherwise.

Please note that history walks 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. Please check our website for the latest COVID safety requirements.



Advance registration is required and there is a limited capacity for each tour. No walk-ons will be accepted. Participants can register online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml> 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:

<http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/whatsnew/?action=show&id=648>.

Descriptions for the June and July themed tours can be found below:

June — *Freedom's Friends: Abolition and the Underground Railroad* (in honor of Juneteenth)

Hear stories about Oberlin's most famous freedom seekers and people known to have helped them make their way to freedom.

“Oberlin is perhaps the most important station along the whole line of the Underground Railway. It has rendered the most important services to Freedom. It is second only to Canada as an asylum for the hunted fugitive.” Hear stories about Oberlin's most famous freedom seekers and people known to have helped them make their way to freedom. This guided history walk is approximately 90 minutes and 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).

Special addition to the calendar: OHC is happy to add the **Scholars and Settlers History Walk** to our tour calendar on June 5, 12, and 19 at 2:00 p.m. On this tour, you will learn about the earliest residents of Oberlin and hear fascinating stories of the triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square. Compare the buildings of today to the buildings of yesteryear using historic photographs and walk away with a lively appreciation of Oberlin's unique heritage. Whether you've lived in Oberlin forever or are new to the area, you'll find much to enjoy during this guided tour!

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).

Join OHC for a Docent Training at the Monroe House and Little Red Schoolhouse

Saturday, June 12, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

OHC is hosting a docent training for anyone who is interested in learning how to give tours to the public. This training will provide a behind-the-scenes look into the Monroe House and Little Red Schoolhouse, as well as a discussion on how to engage visitors in learning about Oberlin's unique past. If interested in this volunteer opportunity, please RSVP to tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Save the Date and Elevate Your Spirits with OHC on July 21!

Save the date for a fun outdoor gathering to be held at the historic Wakeman Elevator—featuring a craft beer and wine bar. Registration details will be in the July newsletter!



Register for the Oberlin Heritage Center's Hands-On History Camps Today!

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer two week-long history camps this summer for boys and girls ages 8 to 13. Camps are designed to stimulate children's creativity and allow them to experience history, architecture, art, crafts, and games. An experienced educator leads the camp, assisted by college student interns and occasional community volunteers. Camp days will take place primarily outdoors and will include occasional walking field trips to locations around town, weather permitting. Children must bring appropriate outdoor wear, sturdy shoes, a mask, a bag lunch, and a water bottle each day.



Architecture Camp; August 2-6, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Children will love learning the basics of architecture in this hands-on camp. Campers will tour Oberlin architecture, explore building materials, try construction challenges, sketch designs, create mini structures, and envision buildings of the future. Scouts attending this camp will also complete some requirements for Architecture badges.

Oberlin Outdoors Camp; August 9-13, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Let's get outdoors and explore Oberlin's landscape! Campers will tour around famous man-made landmarks, gardens, and natural spaces. Children will learn about pollinators, plants, and how we affect our local environment, and try their hand at gardening and designing landscapes of their own.

Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations must be accompanied by payment. Children and grandchildren of Oberlin Heritage Center members may receive the member discount. No refunds will be made for cancellations within one week prior to the session the registrant is scheduled to attend. A camp session may be cancelled by OHC for any reason and a full refund will be made at that time.

Camp fees are: \$65 for members; \$75 for nonmembers (\$5 discount if registered before July 1). Scholarships are available to students who qualify for schools' free or reduced lunch programs (please inquire). Register online by visiting the OHC events page at: <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/events.shtml?month=8&year=2021>. (If you register online, you will be contacted and asked to complete a permission form. A health survey must be completed on the first day of camp.)

Questions? Please call the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Amanda Manahan, at 440-774-1700 or send an e-mail to tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the structure and logistics of these camps may need to be revisited and altered.

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



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



The Oberlin Heritage Center is tremendously pleased to announce once again that it has been chosen as a host site for an Ohio History Service Corps/AmeriCorps member for the 2021-2022 program year.

The selected participant will be able to 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/ameriCorps> 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 americorps@ohiohistory.org.

News from the Second Floor:

OHC Welcomes Its Newest Endowed Life Members

OHC would like to recognize Janis and Robert Q. Thompson as our newest Endowed Life Members, or ELMS. Thank you, Janis and Rob, for choosing to support OHC in such a meaningful way. The Thompsons join 99 other ELMS, whose gifts support the OHC Endowment for Heritage Preservation and make the work of OHC possible.

Local Historian's Tapes to be Digitized

OHC is moving forward with a project to digitize its VHS holdings, which include approximately 70 community interviews conducted by local historian Richard Lothrop in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, as well as 40 tapes that document OHC's programs. These tapes are approaching the end of their expected shelf-life and we are excited to both preserve their contents and make that content more accessible to community members and researchers 24 hours a day, seven days a week—online! This work is supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration, as well as a gift from OHC member Linda Lewis of Elyria.



OHC to Participate in the Lorain County Arts and Culture Collective



LORAIN COUNTY
ARTS+CULTURE COLLECTIVE

The Oberlin Heritage Center is now participating in the Lorain County Arts and Culture Collective, a group of arts and cultural organizations working together to support, uplift, and share information about the wonderful things happening in our area. Please visit <https://www.artsoberlin.org/lcacc> to learn more and to view LCACC's most recent

eDigest. You can even subscribe to receive updates about programs and events that might interest you!

Oberlin Heritage Center Has Been Named a 2021 Blue Star Museum

The Oberlin Heritage Center is proud to participate in this year's Blue Star Museum initiative, and to offer free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families this summer. The 2021 program began on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15, 2021, and end on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021.



More than 2,000 museums nationwide are part of this program to benefit military families. To find a list of participating museums, some of them local, please visit: arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and participating museums nationwide.

June's Memorial Minute

The staff members of the Oberlin Heritage Center extend their condolences to the families of Jean Broadwell, Nancy Gray, Beulah Williams, and all others who have lost loved ones this year.

Also of Interest:

Oberlin to Celebrate Juneteenth on Saturday, June 19

The Juneteenth Oberlin Executive Board is proud to present this year's annual Juneteenth Celebration Festival, "African Americans: The Struggle, The Fight for Freedom, And Still Yet Invisible" on Saturday, June 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In order to follow COVID protocols, no foot traffic is allowed. There will be a drive-by parade that participants can watch from their car, and drive-through food vendors stationed strategically around the periphery of Tappan Square. Food trucks will also be located on Professor Street.



At 6:30 p.m., the committee will present the Maafa Ceremony and Potters Field event at Westwood Cemetery titled “Celebrating African American Women of Oberlin in the Journey from Bondage and as Pioneers to Freedom: The Making of Herstory Rooted in the Emergence of the Oberlin Community.” A dedication of the Potter’s Field gravestone will take place during the ceremony. For more information, please visit:

<https://juneteenthoberlin2.wixsite.com/oberlin>.

Join OAAGHG for a Presentation on LGBTQ Genealogy

Saturday, June 5 at 11:00 a.m.

Join Stewart Traiman as he focuses on clues in the genealogical records to find ancestors that may have been Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer. Stewart tells stories of many LGBTQ ancestors in the historical context of LGBTQ rights. Clues to ancestors can also be found in photographs, census, newspapers, obituaries, cemeteries, military records, marriage records, and LGBTQ archives around the world. The program is free, and can be accessed through Zoom by login on at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84609721297>, Meeting ID: 846 0972 1297, and passcode oaaghg or OAAGHG.

Join the International Women’s Air & Space Museum for Rocket Day 2021



Rocket Day 2021

June 16, 2021

Session I @ 10:30 am

Session II @ 1:00 p.m.

www.iwasm.org

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[@IntlWomensAirSpaceMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/IntlWomensAirSpaceMuseum)

[@women_of_the_air](https://www.instagram.com/women_of_the_air)



The International Women’s Air & Space Museum (IWASM) will host Rocket Day on June 16, 2021. In celebration of the 58th anniversary of Valentina Tereshkova becoming the first woman in space, IWASM is teaming up with the Great Lakes Science Center and volunteers from NASA’s Glenn Research Center for a day of hands-on learning. This event is geared toward children ages 5-12, and participants will learn the history of

rockets, witness the launch of different types of rockets, and have the opportunity to set off film canister rockets.

Rocket Day 2021 will take place outside to ensure social distancing, and masks will be required. This year participants will have the option to register for one of two sessions. Registration is required, and space is limited to 60 people per session including adults and chaperones. In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place on Wednesday, June 23 following the same schedule. For more information, and to register, please visit: www.iwasm.org. If you have any questions, please call (216) 623-1111 or email info@iwasm.org.

Brownhelm Historical Society Announces Volunteer Opportunities

The Brownhelm Historical Society is looking for volunteers to participate in the group's Heritage Museum work days, which will be held on every third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will help with projects at the Heritage Church Museum, 1355 Claus Road, for approximately an hour—rain or shine. Projects include cleaning, hanging pictures, decorating, planting, weeding, raking, and planning events. Any and all help is appreciated!



The BHS also will host volunteers every Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Historic Brownhelm School (1950 North Ridge Road, Vermilion, OH). Help restore this historic school, which serves as the home base for the Brownhelm Historical Society. Again, volunteers of all skill levels are welcome. For more information, please visit brownhelmhistory.org or email brownhelmhistory@gmail.com.

Eden Valley's Bette Lou Higgins and Kathryn Eyring talk about Shoeless Joe Jackson



Eden Valley Storyteller-In-Chief, Bette Lou Higgins, joined Aging Gracefully TV's leader, Kathryn Eyring, to discuss spring's favorite past-time—baseball—and Cleveland legend Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Shoeless Joe Jackson was born in Brandon Mill, South Carolina, and went from working in a cotton mill to playing baseball in the major leagues. He was still a teenager in 1910 when he was signed to play on the Cleveland baseball team.

His talent was undeniable. But his life became wrapped in scandal, on and off the baseball field. Watch the video of Kathryn and Bette Lou's conversation and hear the story of Shoeless Joe: <https://aginggracefully.tv/shoeless-joe-jackson/>

Want more baseball stories? Eden Valley's *You Can't Play Ball in a Skirt* is now available on Amazon in paperback and for kindle. This book tells the story of Dr. Alta Weiss, who put herself through medical school in the early 1900s playing professional baseball on a men's team! To order, visit: <https://amzn.to/3bDPHx7>.

To learn more about Eden Valley's Publications and to view their upcoming calendar of events, please visit: <http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org/>.

OHC is Keeping 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. Despite the challenges faced last year, we are excited for the warmer months, and for the chance to help our members stay engaged with Oberlin's history through virtual programming, newsletter features, and safe community outreach. Visit soon, and enjoy our summer offerings!



**OBERLIN
Heritage
CENTER**

**73½ South Professor Street
MPO Box 0455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
(440) 774-1700**

www.oberlinheritagecenter.org