



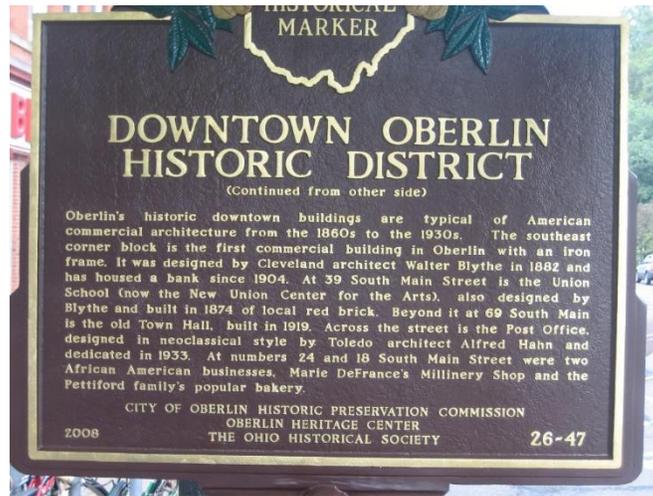
# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

## August 2021

PO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440) 774-1700  
[www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org)

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## Take a Stroll Through Oberlin's Downtown Historic District



Did you know that Oberlin's downtown commercial district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003? The district—which includes the south side of both West and East College Street, and South Main Street from College to Vine Street—has 38 buildings that were constructed between 1860-1939 and represent various styles of architecture, from Late Victorian to Neo-Classical and Prairie to Art Deco. The buildings were used, at various times, as commercial buildings, public buildings, and schools.

One of the more notable buildings is 18 South Main Street, where the Subway sandwich shop is now located. This building is the site of Pettiford's Bakery, which was owned and operated by a local African-American family from 1923-1980. A little further down the street is The Molyneaux Building (at 26 South Main), where you will find Watson Hardware. The structure, built in 1874, was damaged in a fire and rebuilt in 1898. It is the only building in Oberlin that has the distinction of housing the same type of business today as it did in 1900!

Over on College Street, you'll find the former home of Kinney and Reamer Dry Goods, where both Ben Franklin's and the Carlyle Shop are now located. Kinney and Reamer was only in business for one year, after which the first floor housed a grocery store, a

drug store, a clothing shop, a bookstore, and a tailor shop. The building's second-floor occupants included the Sherman Telegraph School (1870s), the Oberlin Business College (1880s), and a series of dentists' offices. A few steps down the street, you'll find the site of the college's first carpenter shop, which briefly became the home of Oberlin's Post Office. The 1865 building housed a drug store more than 50 years, and later became Smith's Home Furnishings and Floor Coverings. Today, the building's newest occupants are The Arb at Tappan Square and Doobie's Smoke Shop.

So, the next time you are shopping or walking around Downtown Oberlin, take a second to really look at the buildings. Many are more than 100 years old, and hold the secrets to Oberlin's history! Curious to learn more about this historic district? Drop in at the Monroe House to discover your town's storied past by renting the *Picture the Past* digital tablet tour of downtown Oberlin.

## Join OHC for the Final History Walks of the Summer Season

OHC will host the final two history walks of the summer season in August and September. All history walks will take place on **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.**, unless otherwise noted.

Each history walk will be 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



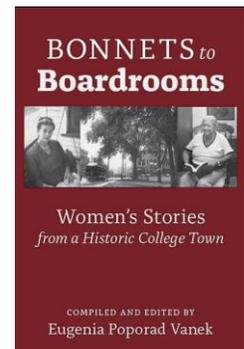
you register. Participants can register online at <https://bit.ly/3cLsGcg> or by calling (440) 774-1700. The cost for each tour is: adults: \$6; children/students/members: free. Please keep an eye on our website as additional history walks are scheduled throughout the season! To keep in the loop, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3cRV0dc>.

**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.

Already enjoyed the tour and want to learn more? Check out *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, by Eugenia Poporad Vanek. This book features the recollections of 52 Oberlin women—teachers, mothers, administrators, wives, concerned citizens, community activists, and a few trailblazers. To purchase the book, visit the Museum Store during our open hours, or shop online at: <https://bit.ly/3zvmfml>.



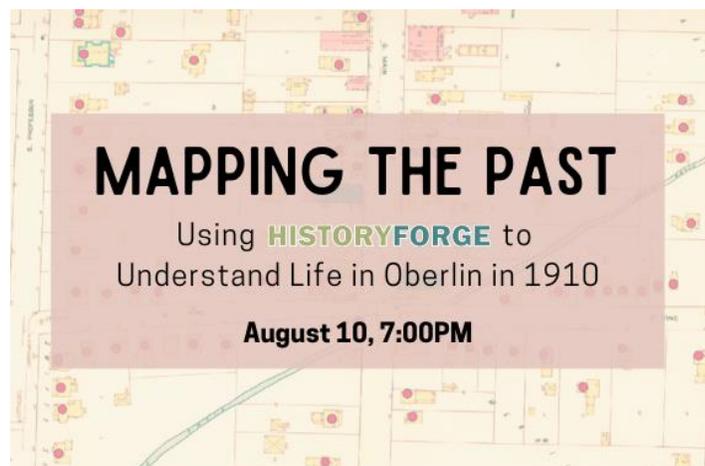
### **September — *Radicals and Reformers* (Westwood Cemetery)**

This guided tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as “gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool.” Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council.

## **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/forge>. (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>.

## 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.*

## Root Beer & Yesteryear

***Sunday, October 3, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.***



OHC will once again be hosting a fun afternoon for all ages! Play historic games at the Little Red Schoolhouse, listen to antique phonographs, check out a Model T car (weather permitting), and meet a Civil War soldier. Enjoy a free root beer float and popcorn thanks to Oberlin IGA and the Oberlin Athletic Boosters. Watch for more details in future newsletters!

## Join us for OHC's Annual Trivia Night!

*Friday, November 12, Time and Place TBD.*

Oh, yes. It's happening. Get your game face ready!



## News from the Second Floor:

### OHC Members Celebrated Summer at the Wakeman Elevator

OHC members and other supporters gathered at the Wakeman Elevator last month for a summer social that included craft beer and wine, a raffle, and a brief history of the Elevator itself. Co-owner Darlene Krieger was a gracious host and shared her story of growing up on a farm in Wakeman, as well as the history of the building—from its start as an iron foundry to its transformation into a grain elevator, and its current evolution into an eclectic restaurant! Rich Holsworth provided music for the event, and generous volunteers put together gift baskets for a raffle to benefit the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation. It was wonderful to see everyone's smiling faces after such a long time apart. Thank you to everyone who attended!



### Thank you, Ascension Biomedical!



Thank you to the employees from Ascension Biomedical, whose offices are on Artino Street in Oberlin, for volunteering several mornings this month to help OHC keep the grounds nice for guests and pedestrians. We appreciate your hard work—teamwork really does make the dream work!

## Virginia Highway to be Renamed in Honor of John Mercer Langston

Officials in Arlington County, Virginia voted last month to rename Lee Highway in honor of abolitionist John Mercer Langston. Born in Virginia in 1829, Langston was the child of a wealthy plantation owner and emancipated woman. Orphaned at the age of four, he was placed with guardians and moved to the free state of Ohio. Later, he earned 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. One of his greatest political achievements, however, came when he was seated as the first black Congressman from Virginia.



### Also of Interest:

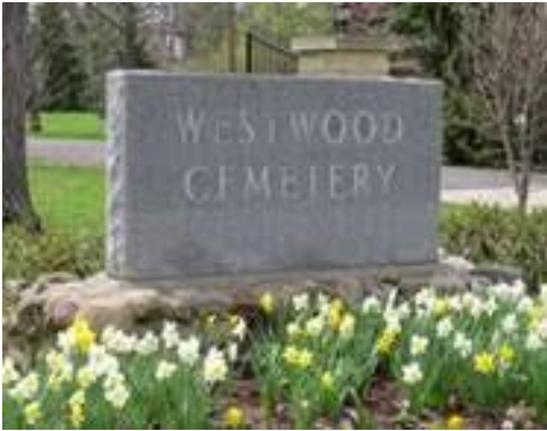
## LHS Announces Installation of the Toni Morrison Marker



The Lorain Historical Society is proud to announce the installation of the Ohio Historic Marker honoring Nobel Prize winning author Toni Morrison **on Thursday, August 12 at 4:00 p.m.** A brief ceremony will be held outdoors in front of the Carnegie Center, weather permitting. Community sponsors of the Toni Morrison marker are the Lorain Historical Society, Lorain YWCA, Ohio History Connection and the Ohioana Library Association. A reception will follow, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

For more information, please contact the Lorain Historical Society at 440-245-2563. To RSVP for the reception, email [info@lorainhistory.org](mailto:info@lorainhistory.org). **Please make your reservations by August 5!**

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



The Friends of Westwood Cemetery have scheduled an additional stone-cleaning session this summer, and need volunteers. **The session will take place Saturday, August 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

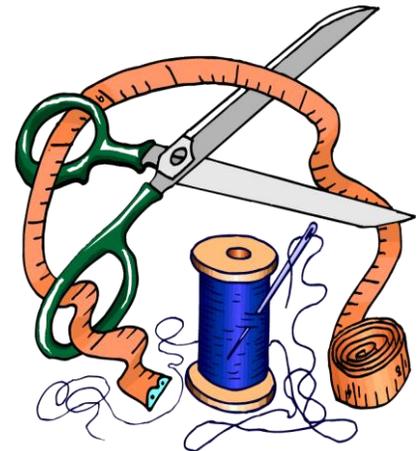
Hesitant to help? Just know that only minimal scrubbing is involved! The spray-on solution does all the work, and resulting rains re-activate the solution to remove dirt and algae over time.

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. to get your cleaning supplies and assignment. Thank you!

## Join a Thursday Sewing Circle at Hale Farm & Village

Join the educators of Hale Farm for a sewing circle at the Hale House on Thursday afternoons, beginning around 1:30 p.m. Guests of all skill levels and interests are welcome to attend any Thursday sewing circle for a chance to learn more about 19th century needle crafts as well as a behind-the-scenes peek at Hale Farm & Village production of historic costuming and reproduction materials for the Hale community. Share your needlework skills with others, or grow your own skills, while helping to build and repair historic costuming and materials!



Guests are encouraged to be part of the fun with ongoing community projects, such as a tied quilt, and all are welcome to bring their own projects to work on—the focus for each session will include knitting, quilting, hand sewing, embroidery and more!

Interested in getting your needlecraft group involved? Contact the farm's Public Programming Coordinator at (330) 666-3711 ext. 1723. For more information, visit the WRHS's website at: <https://www.wrhs.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 have enjoyed visiting with you during the summer months and sharing Oberlin's history—through both virtual programming and in-person community events. We hope you plan to visit soon and that you will enjoy our upcoming offerings!



*Photo of the Oberlin Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse.*



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