



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette October 2021

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www.oberlinheritagecenter.org

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Join OHC for an Afternoon of Fun at Root Beer and Yesteryear



Join the Oberlin Heritage Center for the family-friendly **Root Beer & Yesteryear on Sunday, October 3 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** This free community event will take place on the OHC grounds behind the Monroe House, so that everyone can enjoy a safe afternoon full of fun activities. *Social distancing is required and masks are requested when not enjoying refreshments. Please watch our website for updates if it looks like it will rain.*

Come for the root beer floats and popcorn, but stay for the historic games in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse; listen to demonstrations of an 1895 Edison Cylinder and 1917 Victor Talking Machine (both working phonographs) by OHC trustee Fr. Brian Wilbert; have your photo taken in a 1923 Model T (weather permitting); meet Powhatan Beatty, who fought at the Battle of New Market Heights during the Civil War as a member of the 5th United States Colored Troops (and who will be portrayed and interpreted by Howard Carter); and enjoy the sweet sounds of the Front Porch Swatters (Dave Lengyel on mandolin, Ron Hause on lead guitar, Ralph Ballard on rhythm guitar, Katie Galt on fiddle, Nick Malakar on bass, and Clyde Hohn on dobro) throughout the afternoon.

OHC thanks Oberlin IGA and the Oberlin Athletic Boosters for their generous donations and sponsorship of this event.

Volunteers are still needed! Please contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700 if you can help make this event possible! We still need volunteers in

the 2:30-4:30 shift serving root beer floats, and we could always use more set-up helpers at 11:30 a.m. that day.

Oberlin Celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day



Members of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee invite residents and other guests to attend two separate events in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day. On **Saturday, October 9**, committee members plan to paint Tappan Square's famous "rock" with their logo during the city-wide garage sale. If you'd like a picture of yourself near the rock, committee members will be offering those to the public. Jean Foggo Simon will be selling her handmade jewelry that day on the square, with proceeds benefitting the committee's work. On **Monday, October 11**, the committee will meet on the corner of Main and College Streets at noon to read the proclamation that Oberlin City Council issued in 2017, abolishing Columbus Day and replacing it with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Members of the public are invited to attend the proclamation's reading.

Celebrate Mary Burnett Talbert's Legacy

Come celebrate the life of pioneering Civil Rights activist and suffragist Mary Burnett Talbert on **Friday, October 22** during the dedication of a historic marker that honors her extraordinary leadership. A ceremony to commemorate Talbert's legacy will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the front yard of the New Union Center for the Arts at 39 South Main Street, with the unveiling of her marker at 5:00 p.m., and a lemonade reception to follow. The marker will be installed near 9 South Main Street, where the Burnett family home once stood. Collaborating organizations on this initiative include the City of Oberlin, Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group, Oberlin Heritage Center, and the NAACP – Metro Central Unit 3183. Special thanks go to Katrina Walker, a former AmeriCorps member through the Ohio History Service Corps program, as well as FAVA, the Oberlin College Archives, and Madeline Scott. Please RSVP by October 20 if you plan to attend by emailing director@oberlinheritage.org or by calling (440) 774-1700. In the event of rain, the ceremony will take place at the same time on October 27.



The marker is part of the National Votes for Women Trail, a program of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS). The marker is also supported by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

Photo credit: *The Champion Magazine*, October 1916

Save the Date!

OHC Hosts One Last Big History Walk Weekend November 5-7

Join OHC staff members and docents for the final outdoor tour weekend of the year, which also incorporates Oberlin College's Parents Weekend! History walks are open to the public as well as to campus visitors, and include opportunities to participate in the *Civil War to Civil Rights History Walk* (Friday at 3:00 p.m.); the *Freedom's Friends History Walk* (Saturday at 10:30 a.m.); and the *Scholars and Settlers History Walk* (Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.). Self-guided tours of the Monroe House will also be offered throughout the weekend. Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's website at <https://bit.ly/3nYCKyN> to find out more about fees and starting locations.

Join us for OHC's Annual Trivia Night!

Friday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. – via Zoom



Join OHC on **Friday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m.** for our annual Trivia Night! This year's contest will take place virtually on Zoom. Questions will be announced live by an MC and posted on slides for everyone to see. After announcing a round of questions, teams will be sent to their own virtual break-out rooms to confer and then text a photo of their answer sheet to an answer checker using a smartphone. Please register your team by **November 8** if you'd like to participate. To register, please have your team captain visit <https://bit.ly/3u7ktqt> or call (440) 774-1700. The cost to play is \$40/team. 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, prominently displayed in the Museum Store.

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!

Thank you to Kurt G. Sarringhaus for being the premier sponsor of Trivia Night!

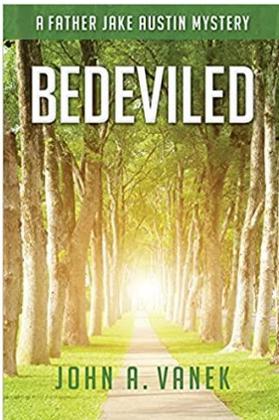
Member News:

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

(440) 775-1471

www.sarringhauslaw.com

Congratulations to Jack Vanek



OHC congratulates member Jack Vanek on the publication of his fourth Father Jake mystery, *Bedeviled*. In this latest novel, Father Jake Austin investigates a charismatic preacher and the connection between his church and the drug overdose of one teenager, the abduction of another, and the savage beating of a nun, which leads him to uncover a human trafficking ring. Vanek, a doctor-turned-writer, has also published poetry in many literary journals, and has received an Artist Enhancement Grant from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council for his writing. If you're interested in Jack's novels, OHC sells them in our Museum Store!

Kurt Russell Named Ohio Teacher of the Year

Oberlin High School teacher Kurt Russell has been named the 2022 Ohio Teacher of the Year, as announced by the Ohio Department of Education in September. "I'm extremely honored to have been recognized as Ohio Teacher of the Year," Russell said. "I applaud all those wonderful and gifted teachers throughout the state that are making impactful relationships in students' lives. It is a joy to represent my fellow educators and students in being a voice for educational improvement." Russell is a lead teacher at Oberlin High School and is an advisor for the Black Student Union, student council, and the junior class. He has also received teacher of the year awards from the Oberlin Heritage Center (2009) and the Oberlin Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (2019.)

News from the Second Floor: Community Foundation Grant Awarded



The Heritage Center is very grateful to the Community Foundation of Lorain County's Jane and Eric Nord Fund for a grant of \$25,000 to support programming and general operating expenses of the organization in the year 2022. This grant is critical to behind-the-scenes operations, as well as special projects and initiatives, particularly focused on local schools.

OHC is Seeking a Translator!



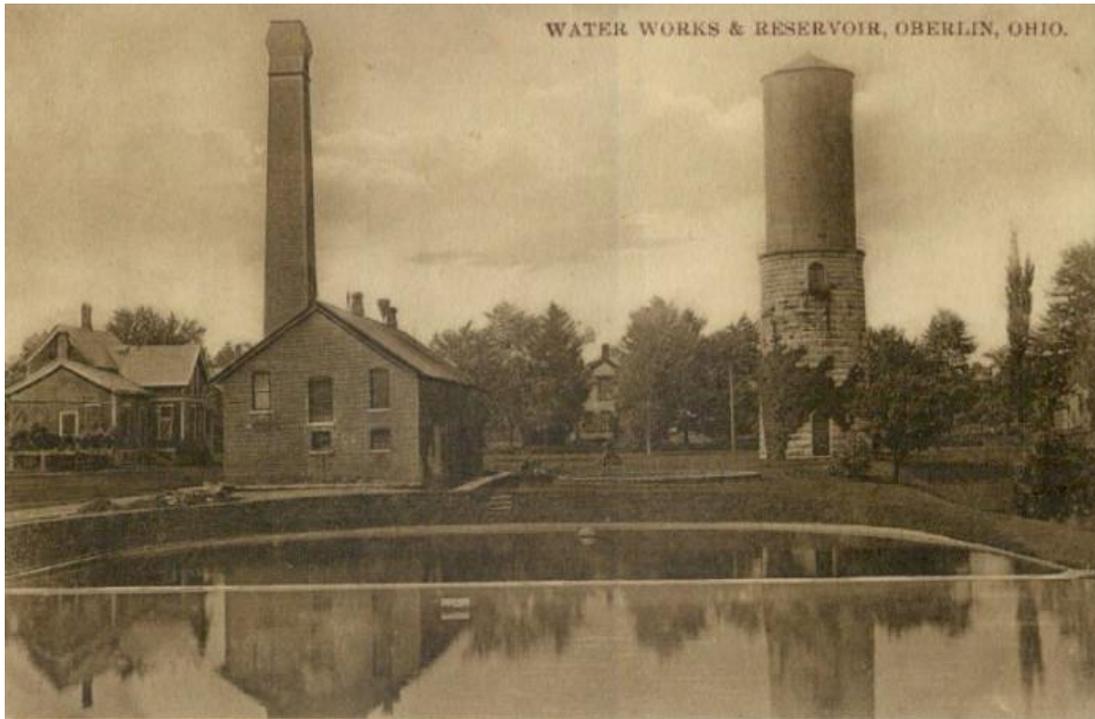
Professor Norm Craig, who passed away earlier this year, had a passion for researching and sharing the history of aluminum with colleagues near and far. His quest ultimately put him in touch with researchers around the world, including Yoshimitsu Miyagi. Miyagi, a Japanese metallurgical engineer, visited Oberlin and Ohio several times to study the work of inventor Charles Martin Hall and Professor Frank Fanning Jewett, as well as the time Frank and Frances Jewett spent studying and teaching in Japan. Earlier this fall, he airmailed five *Alutopia* trade magazines, in which he authored a series of articles about the discovery of the aluminum reduction process. OHC is delighted to add these unique journals to our collection. Miyagi also mentioned that he would appreciate someone translating the magazines into English so we can factcheck one another's research. If you know of anyone who might be interested in such a project, please contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Thanks the Oberlin Rotary Club

Staff and supporters of the Oberlin Heritage Center greatly appreciated that the Oberlin Rotary Club selected the organization as the non-profit to which they donated supplies in August. Educational supplies like tape and scissors will be used in our youth camps, office supplies like flash drives and paper help with research projects, and safety supplies like gloves and masks will help keep the museum safely open for guests. Thank you so much, Oberlin Rotarians!



History Minute – The Long Drought of 1930



During the summer of 1930, Oberlin was suffering from a long drought that destroyed crops and threatened the city’s water supply, just like many other cities across the nation. The drought was so serious that the superintendent of the city’s Maintenance Department was concerned that a lack of safe drinking water would lead to a possible outbreak of typhoid fever if people were to seek out alternative water sources. By late July, residents were asked to conserve water, and not use it for “unnecessary purposes” such as washing cars or watering gardens. The drought lasted into the fall, prompting college officials to consider delaying the start of the academic year in order to put less of a strain on the town’s already compromised water supply. However, the city found a new source of water to fill the Morgan Street reservoir—a large stone quarry located east of Kipton—which helped alleviate the impending emergency. The drought lasted until March of 1931, when the rains finally came. City officials revealed that at their lowest point, the reservoirs only held enough of a water supply for 30 days and that the situation was “the most critical it had ever been in the history of the Oberlin waterworks.”

To read more about this period of Oberlin’s history, please visit our website at <https://bit.ly/3zv43ZT> for a blog entry authored by Zenobia Calhoun, a Summer 2021 OHC Volunteer.

Photo credit: Postcard of the Morgan Street reservoir and waterworks, held by OHC, in the William Annable collection.

Also of Interest:

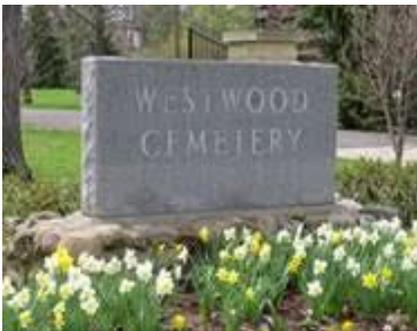
Historical Program: The Curious Case of Dr. Sam Sheppard

Wednesday, October 6 at 6:15 p.m.

Join the Brownhelm Historical Association for a free, virtual presentation about one of Cleveland's unsolved mysteries. In the summer of 1954, Dr. Sam Sheppard was arrested for the murder of his wife, but as the world would soon find out, there was much more to this case than met the eye. Did Dr. Sheppard murder his wife? If he didn't, who did? Join Cleveland History Center Public Programs Manager Whitney Stalnaker for an overview of the perplexing case that has haunted Cleveland for 67 years. To join the program, click the following link after 6:15 p.m. on October 6th: <https://bit.ly/OctoberBHA2021>.



Stone Cleaning at Westwood Cemetery—Volunteers Needed!



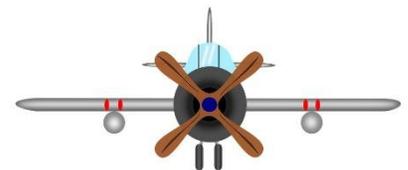
The Friends of Westwood Cemetery have scheduled the final stone-cleaning session of this summer, and need volunteers. **The session will take place Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Volunteers will be asked to spray a cleaning solution on headstones and to clean debris from their area as they work. (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 assigned day to get your cleaning supplies and assignment. Thank you!

Join IWASM for a Virtual Book Launch!

Wednesday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.

The International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM) will host the virtual book launch of Sarah Byrn Rickman's new WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron) biography entitled, *Teresa James WAFS Pilot: Gear*

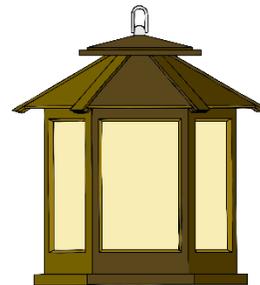
Up/Gear Down – a P-47 to Newark on **October 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** Rickman will discuss her experience interviewing Teresa James in 1999 about her experience as a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) during WW II. Registration for the event is required, and is \$10 per person with proceeds directly benefitting IWASM in its mission. To register, visit www.iwasm.org or call (216) 623-1111. For more information, call the museum at (216) 623-1111 or email info@iwasm.org.



Join AHS for their Annual Cemetery Walk

Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 24 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Amherst Historical Society will present “By My Lantern’s Light,” a tour through the Cleveland Avenue Cemetery that features stories of days gone by from some of the town’s more historic spirits. Tours begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 per person, but children under 5 years old are free. (Children will not be admitted without an adult!) Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (440) 988-9255.



Make a Gift to Support the 2021 OHC Annual Fund Today!

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. Thanks to **YOU**—our members and supporters—we have been able to continue sharing Oberlin’s history, through both virtual programming and in-person community events. If you’ve enjoyed our programming this past year and want to help support OHC, **please consider making a tax-deductible gift to our 2021 Annual Fund campaign.** Your gift will help us 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!



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