



Oberlin Heritage Center February 2022 Gazette

Open for History!



With Lorain County COVID cases on a downward trend, and hopefully staying that way, OHC is back open to the public. The *Oberlin Origins* guided tour of the Monroe House and Little Red Schoolhouse is available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. Reservations are currently required for this guided experience.

If you cannot make it for a guided tour, the new self-guided *Oberlin Origins* option is available any time during open hours and walk-in guests

are welcome. This tablet-based tour introduces visitors to the architecture and living spaces of the Monroe House as well as Oberlin's beginnings as a Christian Perfectionist community and its philosophies on education, abolition, and more.

If you'd like to arrange a special group tour with 8 or more individuals, please contact the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator to make plans at least three weeks in advance. For more information about OHC's tours and programs, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Rediscovering USCT Soldiers in Westwood Cemetery

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Join Adrienne Sato for a Black History Month program about the creation of a new self-guided tour highlighting African American Civil War soldiers memorialized in Westwood Cemetery. Sato is a second-year Oberlin College student from Louisville, Kentucky and a Community-Based Work Study Intern at OHC. She will discuss her year-long work researching the formation of African American Union regiments (known as the United States Colored Troops/U.S.C.T) and the

THE GALLANT CHARGE OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH MASSACHUSETTS COLORED REGIMENT. 624.

**Rediscovering USCT Soldiers
in Westwood Cemetery**

Tuesday, February 22 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Program is Free | Registration Required

individuals who answered the call, as well as provide biographical narratives of a few of these men. Come to the program to find out about the status of this exciting project and what is on the horizon. Sato will present this free program via Zoom but pre-registration is required at bit.ly/3Fmn1FK.

Edmonia Lewis Honored by U.S. Postal Stamp



On January 26, the United States Postal Service released the 45th installment of its Black History series: a stamp featuring renowned American sculpture artist Edmonia Lewis. Her historical relationship with Oberlin provides a stark counterpoint to the community's reputation as a bastion of equality.

Lewis was born as Mary Edmonia Lewis around 1844 in eastern New York. Her mother was of Ojibwe descent and her father was African American. Lewis came to Oberlin College in 1859, but her studies were disrupted in 1862 when she was wrongly accused of poisoning two white female students. Following this accusation, she faced racial discrimination in the community and severe violence when a white mob physically beat her. Despite successfully being acquitted of the charge with the help of her lawyer, John Mercer Langston, Lewis's troubles were not over. She was barred from registering for her final college term after being accused of stealing art supplies in 1863.

Lewis left for Boston, where she gained a reputation for sculpting busts of abolitionist figures. She then traveled abroad to Europe where she spent most of her artistic life. She was admired for not only her busts of famous figures, but also for her depiction of biblical allegories, representations of Native Americans, and the oppression of African Americans. The Allen Memorial Art Museum owns her sculpture "Bust of James Thomas Peck" in its collections and it will be back on view next week.

(Image source: USPS; design by Alex Bostic and Antonio Alcalá)

Black History Month - Call for Collections

The Oberlin Heritage Center is actively collecting materials about the community's past. Do you have photographs or information about these, or other, black-owned businesses that we can add to our Resource Center? We gratefully accept copies as well as originals.

Carter Nursing Home
Wiggins Nursing Home
Rainbow Gas Station
Taxi Companies
George and Ruth Goodson Businesses



Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells
Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

In the mid-1890s, journalist and anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells made headlines for her public criticism of Frances Willard, president of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union. Well’s accused Willard of making racist remarks and not denouncing lynching. The two women, one black and one white, were drawn together in the cause for women’s rights but divided by race, privilege, age, and priorities.

Join us for a free Zoom presentation by Lori Osborne, Director of the Frances Willard House Museum and the Center for Women’s History and Leadership. This 45-minute presentation during Women’s History Month is based on their award-winning exhibit “Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells,” which explores the context, timeline, and impact of this dispute. Locals may know that Willard lived in Oberlin as a very young girl while her parents attended Oberlin College, a claim she later used to try and defend herself against the accusations of racism. The presentation will be followed by Q&A from the audience. Register at bit.ly/33UGekI to get a Zoom link. Those who want to dive deep before the program can visit the exhibit website (<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/willard-and-wells/index>). The Frances Willard House Museum is located in Evanston, IL.

Women's History Month Walk
Saturday, March 26, 11:00 a.m.

For those who want to stretch their legs, consider joining us on a free *One Step More: Oberlin Women’s History Walk* (advance registration required) in honor of Women’s History Month. This illustrated 75-minute walking tour explores how Oberlin confronted and defined issues of femininity in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Weather may be exaggerated in photo. March can bring anything -- be prepared.*



News From The Second Floor:

Join the Team!



Communications Coordinator

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking a Communications Coordinator to work 25 hours a week, with the position expected to start March 29, 2022. Applications are due by February 18. Primary responsibilities include creating and managing a monthly electronic newsletter, press releases, bi-annual program calendars, annual report, program flyers, organizational publicity materials, and online event marketing. Other communication and stewardship responsibilities include recognition initiatives and cards, copy for major campaigns and acknowledgements, co-coordinating social media initiatives, assisting with

event coordination and displays, and maintaining positive relationships with members of the organization and community partners. This person will often be a front-line employee at events and at the museum and must be able to embody the community-oriented mission of the organization.

OHC is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences are strongly encouraged to apply. For full details about this position, benefits, and how to apply, visit <http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/work>.

OHC Summer Internship Opportunities

For more information on how to apply for an internship, please see our website.

Education & Research Intern

(Application Deadline: March 26, 2022)

The Education and Research Internship is for any currently-enrolled college student. This intern is responsible for helping staff and volunteers lead tours, prepare and implement public education programs, and maintain historical and administrative records. We are invested in helping interns meet personal interests and professional goals as far as is feasible.

This internship is made possible through the support of The Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Junior Intern

(Application Deadline: April 2, 2022)

The Oberlin Heritage Center is hiring an Oberlin High School student employee this summer. This individual will assist with youth camps, greeting visitors at community events, mini research projects, and the ongoing activities of the museum. If you want to learn more about the community, meet new people, learn professional skills, and earn money, then this is the job for you!

This internship is made possible through the support of Nordson Corporation.

Members Update

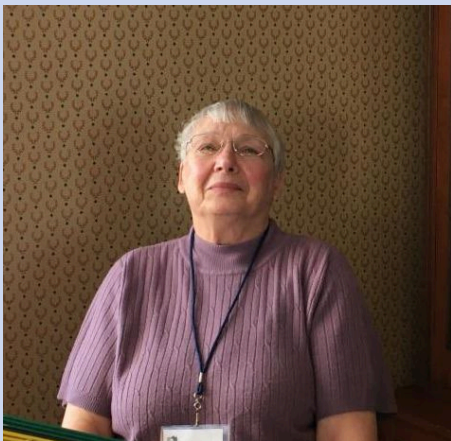


Congratulations to Oberlin High School history teacher Kurt Russell for being named one of only four finalists in the 2022 National Teacher of the Year program! Oberlin has long recognized and appreciated your hard work and dedication and we're so proud that the entire country can be inspired by your leadership. *(Image source: Oberlin High School)*

Welcome to new members William Thome (Portland, OR), Kathleen Hazelton, and all who joined in 2021!

Thank you to members Amy and Wuu-Shung Chuang for a gift at the end of the year that will help OHC improve its physical accessibility with a ramp construction project in 2022. Thanks also to Janet Kelsey Werner and her late husband Budd Werner for yet another gift from his estate. This gift to OHC's general operating endowment managed by The Community Foundation of Lorain County goes a long way in supporting behind-the-scenes work.

We note with sorrow the passing of several OHC members and friends in the last few weeks, including Endowed Life Member Catherine Wilber, Jerry DeMarinis, and Jeanne Pease. We also send warm wishes of support to others who lost loved ones this holiday season.



KayEllen Sharp joined the OHC team last fall and has been helping greet guests and process mail in the front office. Kay is a Vantage Aging participant, which helps seniors find employment through their Workforce Solutions program. Kay fits right into the museum world as a collector and exhibitor at gem and mineral shows. She loved traveling with her late husband, especially to Ely, Nevada, and enjoys learning about history and new places. She might be biased, but she thinks "OHC is a great place to work." We enjoy working with you, Kay!



Welcome to **John Clement** as OHC's new Special Projects Assistant. He will be here on Saturdays to greet visitors, give tours, assist with research, and help with numerous projects and events throughout the year. John has a B.A. and M.A. in History from Bowling Green University, and a certificate in Public History. He interned with the Toledo Police Museum, where he helped with visitor engagement, collections, and oral histories. John also volunteered with the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Berea Historical Society. If you stop by on a Saturday, be sure to say hello!

Also of Interest:

Support a Black History Organization During Black History Month!



The Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society formed last year and is actively seeking members to help preserve the unique 1850s home of a black abolitionist family and promote the home's historical significance as an integral part of local and wider African American history and culture. EHHS website: <https://evanshhs.org/>



The Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group typically meets the first Saturday of the month and has been meeting virtually during the pandemic. Get your questions answered by local, state, and national experts, access organizational resources, and find fellowship in your genealogical journey. Watch for news on their Facebook page and become a member through their website (<https://www.oaaghq.com/>).

Oberlin Chalk Walk is Returning for Year Fifteen - Help Needed!

June 25, 2022 (Rain Date: June 26)

The Chalk Walk committee is excited to return this marquee event to the sidewalks of Oberlin, but due to the pandemic and other challenges, they need support to help keep this event free for all. If you've enjoyed Chalk Walk in the past, consider showing your support. Any donation will make an impact!



Contact OHC's Amanda Manahan for details.

Statewide Black History Month Programs



The Ohio History Connection, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, The Children's Theater of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center are hosting a variety of online and in-person events this month.

Contact the Ohio History Connection for details and sign up!

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