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## Historical Partnerships Bridge Past and Present

A current collaboration between the Oberlin Heritage Center and the James A. Garfield National Historic Site reflects a long-time friendship and working partnership between their historical predecessors. On Tuesday, October 15 at 7:15 p.m., the Heritage Center hosts a free, public program presented by Garfield site Park Ranger, Allison Powell, and site volunteer Andrew Mizsak. *The Intellectual Triumvirate: A Look at the Alliance of James A. Garfield, Jacob Dolson Cox, and James Monroe in the Ohio Senate* explores how these three men, with similar backgrounds and shared political ideals, led the way among Ohio legislators in calling for the abolition of slavery. The illustrated program takes place in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

In 1860, Garfield was the then-on-leave Principal of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute; Cox (a future Ohio Governor) had formerly served as Superintendent of the Warren Schools; and Monroe (yet-to-be-elected a U.S. Congressman) was a professor at Oberlin College. Learn more about how these young men, all three academics and progressives, came to be the intellectual giants of the Ohio Legislature. The friendship and partnership that emerged among them is mirrored today in the joint effort between the Heritage Center, which interprets Monroe's 1866 home in Oberlin, and the National Park Service, which offers tours of Garfield's 1876 home, Lawnfield, located in Mentor, Ohio.

As a park ranger for the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, **Allison Powell** is involved in many aspects of its daily operations. Prior to taking this position with the National Park Service, she served as Operations Manager of the Garfield site when it was under ownership of the Western Reserve Historical Society based in Cleveland. Programming has been a big part of her career in history; before moving to the Garfield site, Powell developed programs and led the volunteer program at the Historical Society's home base in Cleveland's University Circle. Powell has a BA in History from Notre Dame College of Ohio, and a Certificate in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin University in Nachodoches, Texas.

**Andrew Mizsak** is a social studies teacher in Northeastern Ohio and also is self-proprietor of a political/governmental affairs consulting firm. He volunteers at both the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, where he serves as staff coordinator of the Friends group, and he also assists at the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay. He has a BA in Political Science from Bowling Green State University, and a Master of Applied Politics from The University of Akron.

Please note that this program will not be presented if the government shutdown is still in effect. If that is the case, the Heritage Center will offer an alternate program on the same date and time. The new topic would then be announced on the [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) website. If questions, please contact the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

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