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OHC Presents Mini-Series on Military and Political Leader Jacob Dolson Cox

The Oberlin Heritage Center will host historian and author, **Eugene D. Schmiel**, in two community programs on Oberlin College graduate (1851) Jacob Dolson Cox, an important and multi-faceted figure in local, state and national history. Schmiel has written a new comprehensive biography ***Citizen General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era*** which is available in the Oberlin Heritage Center museum store and online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. Rising to the rank of Major General in the Union Army during the Civil War, Cox later was elected the 28th Governor of Ohio and also served as United States Secretary of the Interior. Those familiar with Oberlin history also will recognize Cox as the son-in-law of renowned evangelist and Oberlin College's second president, Charles Grandison Finney, as he was married to Finney's daughter Helen. Oberlin College's Cox administration building is named after him.

Gene Schmiel will present two distinct programs on Cox at two different Oberlin venues; both are free and open to the public. Join us at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on **Wednesday, October 15 at 7:15 p.m.** for **Jacob Cox and the 'Oberlin Letter' – Military Hero and Controversial Politician**. Schmiel reviews Cox's military career and his Oberlin education, while underlining how his political and racial views evolved over time from his years in Oberlin to the writing of the controversial "Oberlin Letter." The biographer notes the evolution of thinking in the nation (and by Cox) about Reconstruction and race relations during the war, and discusses how the unfortunate rise to the presidency of Andrew Johnson made the possibilities of compromise and the healing of the nation's wounds much more difficult. It was in this context that Cox, always the professor and minister at heart, added a new idea to the national debate about race relations and the conquered South.

On **Thursday, October 16 at 12 noon**, Schmiel offers a "History for Lunch" event at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). **Jacob Cox: Oberlin's Finest Civil War General** provides an overview of Cox's Civil War career, emphasizing that given his personality, Oberlin training, and educational focus on the ministry and theology, few would have predicted that Cox would have a successful military career. On the other hand, that same educational discipline learned at Oberlin College helped Cox carefully prepare himself and his men for battle. Guests are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch to the event. A book signing will follow.

Eugene D. Schmiel is a retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service officer. He was an assistant professor of history at St. Francis University (PA) and has taught at Marymount, Shenandoah, and Penn State universities. Schmiel has a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and coauthored, with his wife Kathryn, a book on life in the Foreign Service. His Oberlin programs are co-sponsored by the Heritage Center and the Oberlin College Archives, with the Oberlin Public Library collaborating on the "History for Lunch" event. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

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