



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

For immediate release: October 25, 2011

Contact: Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, at (440) 774-1700 or patm@oberlinheritage.org
or Gary Kornblith at (440) 775-8526 or gary.kornblith@oberlin.edu

The Coming of Emancipation

As part of a national effort to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Oberlin Heritage Center will host “The Coming of Emancipation,” presented by Oberlin College Professor of History, Gary Kornblith, on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:15 p.m. The program, which is free and open to the public, takes place in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive). Kornblith is a highly regarded scholar and teacher on the moral and political issues of slavery and abolition in the early development of our nation.

In this illustrated discussion, Professor Kornblith examines why the United States ended slavery through a massive war rather than by peaceful means. Among the puzzles considered is the fact that President Abraham Lincoln and Congress insisted in 1861 that the North was not fighting for abolition, just for the perpetuation of the Union "as it was." Kornblith draws on new research on the role of insurgent Southern slaves in forcing a shift in Northern war aims and on Lincoln's reluctant transition from colonizationist to "Great Emancipator."

Gary J. Kornblith joined the faculty of Oberlin College in 1981 and has taught many courses in American History, from our nation's founding through Civil War and Reconstruction. Kornblith received a BA from Amherst College and an MA and PhD from Princeton University. He has written extensively on topics in American History. His recent book, *Slavery and Sectional Strife in the Early Republic*, published by Rowman & Littlefield, inaugurated that press's *American Controversies* series. A volume of essays titled *Capitalism Takes Command: The Social Transformation in Nineteenth-Century America* (co-edited with Michael Zakim OC'81) is scheduled to be published by the University of Chicago Press in January 2012. He currently is working on *Elusive Utopia: A History of Race in Oberlin, Ohio* (with his wife, Oberlin College Professor of History, Carol Lasser). Professor Kornblith, along with Professor Lasser, received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Historian Award in 2008.

For more information, or to learn about other upcoming community programs sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, or subscribe to the organization's monthly e-newsletter by sending an e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

###

End