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Paradise Found: Religiosity and Reform in Oberlin

Explore how religion spearheaded Oberlin's progressive push toward human rights and social reforms such as temperance and abolition in this Oberlin Heritage Center presentation taking place on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). In his illustrated program, historian **Matthew D. Hintz**, a former Heritage Center intern and volunteer, discusses how intense spiritual revival flourished on the early 19th century "Ohio frontier" where traditions were weak, cooperation a necessity, and egalitarian democracy reigned. Nearly 200 years later, Oberlin continues to carry the legacy of its idealistic, activist roots. Hintz's presentation is free and open to the public.

Matthew Hintz, a native of Elyria, holds a BA in History from Hiram College (Ohio) and an MA in History from Clemson University (South Carolina) where his research focused on religious reform in the 19th century. In 2011, he presented a paper on religious abolition at the "Ohio Goes to War" conference at Cleveland State University, held in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Hintz plans to begin doctoral studies in the fall of 2013.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is widely recognized as a model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization. It offers guided tours, history walks, educational programs for all ages, children's summer camps, and special events both at its complex of historic sites and throughout the community, often in collaboration with other organizations. The Heritage Center also houses a Resource Center for researchers of local history or family genealogies. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

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