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## **Oberlin Heritage Center Debuts New Civil War History Walk During Memorial Day/College Commencement Weekend**

The Oberlin Heritage Center's staff and volunteers will be seen all around town this Memorial Day Weekend as the history organization kicks off a busy summer season with a variety of tours and history walks. In commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, the Heritage Center will debut a NEW "Soldiers and Civilians" Civil War History Walk. Events begin Friday morning May 27 and run through Monday afternoon, May 30. Advance reservations are requested for most Heritage Center events and may be made online at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or by visiting the OHC office in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street. Free parking is available near 20 West Vine Street in Oberlin.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's main site features three beautifully preserved buildings including the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836), and the Jewett House (1884). Together the buildings and the stories they hold within offer visitors a glimpse into Oberlin's past and tell how ordinary people in this community did some extraordinary things to influence the history of our nation.

In addition to the on-site historic house tours, visitors will be able to reserve a space for one of several neighborhood history walks led by Oberlin Heritage Center docents. The Scholars and Settlers/Tappan Square History Walk focuses on the early history and architecture surrounding Oberlin's downtown, park-like setting, while the Freedom's Friends History Walk includes stories of abolition and the Underground Railroad in Oberlin as visitors travel through the square and end at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Each of the Oberlin Heritage Center's tours is approximately 75 minutes and most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up. In case of rain, the neighborhood history walks will be cancelled.

New this year is the Soldiers and Civilians/Civil War History Walk, which will be offered for the first time to the public during Commencement/Reunion Weekend. The community of Oberlin played a proud role in the Civil War, recognized by many as one of the defining events in the history of the United States. Oberlin men enlisted in over 30 regiments, white and black, from infantry to cavalry, while residents at home formed relief groups and recruiting details, wrote letters, and continued the cry for abolition. On this guided neighborhood walk, visitors will see sites and photographs from the era, while hearing stories of exhausting marches, the frustration of false news, longing for loved ones, struggles for equal treatment, moments of daring, and the loss of friends and family in the words of those who lived it.

The Heritage Center's Museum Store will be open extended hours throughout the weekend. Stop by for a variety of Oberlin-themed and history-related gifts, publications, unique hand-crafted jewelry by Jean Foggo Simon, and old-fashioned reproduction toys.

A schedule of the Heritage Center's Memorial Day Weekend events is listed below. This will be one of the only times this summer, other than by group appointment, that the Scholars and Settlers History Walk will be

offered, so make sure you make your reservation this weekend if you'd like to know more about early residents' triumphs and misfortunes associated with the landscape surrounding Tappan Square. All other tours and history walks will be repeated at other times throughout the summer. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org), or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).

### **Friday, May 27**

11:00 a.m. Scholars and Settlers/Tappan Square History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for Oberlin Heritage Center members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

3:00 p.m. Freedom's Friends/Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store open

### **Saturday, May 28**

10:30 a.m. Oberlin Heritage Center Guided Tour. Monroe House, 73½ South Professor Street (on the path behind Oberlin College's Kohl Jazz Building, or free parking available near 20 West Vine Street). \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children. Tour is limited to 25 people; reservations appreciated.

11:00 a.m. Freedom's Friends/Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

1:30 p.m. Oberlin Heritage Center Guided Tour. Monroe House, 73½ South Professor Street (on the path behind Oberlin College's Kohl Jazz Building, or free parking available near 20 West Vine Street). \$6 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children. Tour is limited to 25 people; reservations appreciated.

3:00 p.m. Soldiers and Civilians/Civil War History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store open

### **Sunday, May 29**

11:00 a.m. Soldiers and Civilians/Civil War History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

3:00 p.m. Freedom's Friends/Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store open

### **Monday, May 30**

1:00 p.m. Freedom's Friends/Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk. \$6 per adult; \$5 for OHC members and college students; free for children. Walk is limited to 40 people; reservation required.

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End