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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Civil War History Walk Training

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer a free workshop for volunteers interested in learning about Oberlin's perceptions of the Civil War, both on the battlefield and at the home front, and how to present it in the format of a 75-minute walking tour. The training will be held on Sunday, May 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. Participants will gather at the Oberlin Heritage Center's main office at the Monroe House (at 73½ South Professor Street in Oberlin), and training will move on from there. Parking is available in the Heritage Center's parking lot accessed off of 20 West Vine Street (behind Midas Muffler).

The history walk training session is just one aspect of the Oberlin Heritage Center's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and its recognition of the Oberlin community's proud role in this defining moment in American history. The "Soldiers & Civilians" Civil War History Walk will be offered each Saturday morning in June and to groups at other times by appointment. The guided neighborhood walk includes stories of Oberlin men who enlisted in over 30 regiments, white and black, from infantry to cavalry, and who participated in such battles as Kessler's Cross Lanes, Cedar Mountain, New Market Heights, and Petersburg. Visitors also will learn about Oberlin residents of the era who formed relief groups and recruiting details, wrote letters, and continued the cry for abolition. The walking tour weaves together local present-day sites with historic photographs, all the while intermingled with tales 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.

No previous tour experience is necessary, although trained docents will be asked to make a commitment of helping with at least four tours in the coming year as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center's volunteer program. Enrollment is limited for the workshop, and advance registration is required by May 2. For more information, or to reserve your place at the workshop, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator at 440/774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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