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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Local Glimpse of Civil War Heroes

Hundreds of men from Oberlin, college and town, served in the Civil War. Learn more about these local heroes when the Oberlin Heritage Center's AmeriCorps member **Richard Donegan** sheds light on their motivations for enlisting, how the clearly abolitionist young men were perceived by other Union soldiers, the integration of free African-American Oberlinians into northern forces and much more. This illustrated program *From Students to Soldiers* will be presented **Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The event is free and open to all.

The lives of these young soldiers inspire with stories of determination, courage, leadership and greatness. A sampling includes:

Thomas Jefferson Janey, an African-American soldier who served in the 3rd United States Colored Heavy Artillery, first came to Oberlin in 1838 at the age of four. He was educated in part at the Little Red Schoolhouse in violation of the State's "Black Laws." (The Schoolhouse is one of three historic buildings on the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center.)

George K. Nash, hailed from Medina County, and served in the 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Nash attended Oberlin Preparatory Department from 1862-1863, and Oberlin College from 1863-1865. During the early summer of 1864, while still in college, he joined with 100 other Oberlin students to serve in the Union Army as part of an Ohio National Guard regiment. Thirty-six years later, Nash became the 41st Governor of Ohio (1900).

William Penn Bogardus, a resident of Oberlin, joined the Union Light Guard in 1863. One man from each county in Ohio was recruited for the service of protecting the White House, Treasury Building, War Office, and other public buildings. Bogardus later went on to be a 2nd Lieutenant in the 24th United States Colored Troops.

Program presenter Richard Donegan, is a native of New Jersey, with a degree in Historical Studies from The Richard Stockton College in Pomona, NJ. He is one of 20 AmeriCorps volunteers assigned by the Ohio Historical Society in the Ohio History Service Corps Program, and he has been based at the Oberlin Heritage Center since 2011. Among his responsibilities, Donegan has assisted the Heritage Center with a variety of historical research projects and has fostered partnerships among many museums, historical societies, and other local history organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties. This will be Donegan's final presentation for the Heritage Center as he completes his second year in the AmeriCorps program. At the end of summer, he will be leaving AmeriCorps and pursuing other opportunities in a history-related field.

For more on this Oberlin Heritage Center program or other upcoming events, please call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

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