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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers New Westwood Cemetery Tour

Enjoy stories of some of Oberlin's most intriguing residents of days gone by, amidst a colorful backdrop of fall foliage, as you walk with Oberlin Heritage Center docents on the new **"Radicals and Reformers History Walk"** through Westwood Cemetery. This guided tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool." Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council.

The guided history walk will be offered on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. from September 18 through October 9. The fee is \$6 per adult with a \$1 discount for OHC members, and children under 18 attend free (history walks are recommended for children ages 9 and up). Space is limited and reservations are strongly recommended and can be made at www.oberlinheritage.org or at the Monroe House front office (73 ½ South Professor Street). Participants will meet near the Westwood Cemetery entrance (455 Morgan Street) to begin this historic journey (parking is available all along the paved pathways within the cemetery).

In conjunction with the launch of the new Radicals and Reformers History Walk, the Oberlin Heritage Center also will present an illustrated program about Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery on Thursday, September 30 at 7:15 p.m. Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, will talk about the history of the picturesque cemetery and highlight some of its unique features and monuments. She also will discuss the Westwood gravestone inventory, a remarkable project of cataloging and photo documentation undertaken by Oberlin Heritage Center volunteers, which is an excellent source of information for family genealogists, researchers and historians. The program will be held at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

The Westwood Cemetery history walk is the third in a series of community neighborhood walks developed by the Oberlin Heritage Center. Two others in the series, the Tappan Square History Walk and the Freedom's Friends History Walk, have been offered regularly throughout the summer and will continue through September 11. The Tappan Square walk is offered Fridays at 11:00 a.m. while the Freedom's Friends walk is offered Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Tour fees and the steps for making a reservation are the same as for the Westwood Cemetery Walks.

Any of the History Walks may be cancelled and fees refunded if it is raining at the tour start time. For more information, or to make a reservation, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact Liz Schultz at the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or by e-mail at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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