2015: A Year of Passages, Planning, Partnerships and Progress

While some people might associate history with dry facts or think of historical organizations as frozen in time, those images are far from reality at the Oberlin Heritage Center. 2015 was a year of changes – some almost imperceptible and some momentous. For OHC, change means constantly embracing new histories and practices that help us better connect with the world today. It also means planning for long-term changes that result in deeper investigations, better programs, and stronger connections.

But we all know that change is not easy. It often involves leaving your comfort zone and bidding farewell to the familiar. In 2015 the Heritage Center celebrated Pat Murphy’s twenty-two years of exemplary service and leadership as she moved on to a new chapter in her life. In true Pat Murphy fashion, she had carefully laid the groundwork for this change many years ago – by building a strong board, implementing professional policies and procedures that are now second-nature, securing support to build a professional staff, working with hundreds of volunteers, establishing OHC as a community anchor in programs, events, and historical research, and growing the membership, person by person. Following her departure from the Heritage Center in August 2015, Pat moved to northern Wisconsin where she is enjoying opportunities to travel, visit family, run, relax, and explore more history too. For highlights from Pat’s farewell, see page 12.

The OHC Board and a hiring committee prepared themselves for one of the largest leadership changes the organization had seen in over 20 years. After a nation-wide call for applications and interviews, the hiring committee offered the position of Executive Director to Liz Schultz, who had been the Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator since 2007. Liz enthusiastically accepted, humbled to follow in Pat’s footsteps, encouraged by Board, staff, and community approval, and delighted with the privilege of leading OHC in its mission to “preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.”

One of Liz’s first decisions, made in collaboration with a second search committee, was hiring Amanda Manahan as the new Museum Education and Tour Coordinator.

Planning for the future was a major focus of the organization in 2015. OHC members and friends were encouraged to attend one of several S.W.O.T. sessions facilitated by J.D. Britton, retired director of the Local History Office at the Ohio History Connection (at left with OHC Executive Director Pat Murphy). A community-wide discussion of the Heritage Center’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats represented the initial step in developing a new Strategic Plan for the organization.

As Pat Murphy prepared to retire as the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Executive Director, the Board of Trustees launched a national search for her replacement. What good fortune it was for the organization to find the best candidate for the position in OHC’s own Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz!
Amanda Manahan was selected as the new Museum Education and Tour Coordinator from more than 130 applications from 33 states and one foreign country. This national interest in the position is a credit to OHC and the reputation of Oberlin. With all of these changes, one might think OHC would pause for breath, but such was hardly the case. Assistant to the Director Mary Anne Cunningham, Business Manager Bethany Hobbs, and Collections Manager Maren McKee kept the organization humming along and provided guidance and much-needed reminders as Liz and Amanda got their feet wet in new roles. The Board and members of the community also played a critical role by collaboratively developing a new three-year strategic plan for the organization. We appreciated the many diverse perspectives involved in the process of assessing the past work of the organization, discussing what is needed most in the present, and setting goals for the future.

The new plan, which will guide the organization from 2016 through 2018, has seven areas of focus:

• Evaluate programming in relation to the mission and develop new partnerships that involve more and diverse community members,

• Involve more OHC volunteers and Board members in the fundraising process,

• Assess the OHC’s subsidiaries and focus resources to the primary mission and future of the museum,

• Give Board members the training and resources they need for success,

• Ensure exceptional work through ongoing training, diverse recruiting, and professional accreditation programs,

• Implement improvements to the collections and storage space, and

• Improve OHC’s presence in the community and highlight Oberlin’s history within the national historical narrative.

As busy as the year was with organizational planning and transitions, there still was much good work going on in the community. Many highlights of 2015 related to educational programming are featured on page 19. We are ever grateful to the Community Foundation of Lorain County and Nordson Corporation for supporting OHC’s educational programs and ongoing mission.

OHC made several technology upgrades in 2015 to make sure that people near and far can access Oberlin history resources. Staff worked with Emerge Inc. to launch a new website design that made it easier to find information and view the website on mobile devices. The Oberlin College Library helped OHC transfer its database of 10,000+ records of Westwood Cemetery to a new, easier-to-use online platform. Staff, volunteers, and guests keep adding fascinating stories to the History Features and Blog pages of the website. We also were thrilled to finish a multi-year project of converting all of OHC’s oral histories from 30 year old cassettes to digital copies to ensure their continued preservation and open up new avenues for sharing these historic voices. Keeping up with advances in technology is necessary in a world where visitors want to access information in ways that fit best into their fast-paced lives. In response, OHC released two new digital tablet tours focused on Oberlin’s historic downtown and on abolitionist history, which were developed with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Do enjoy reading about other highlights of the year as you review these pages of the 2015 Annual Report. Your encouragement and support have played an important part in celebrating the community’s remarkable past, examining its impact on the present, and creating a roadmap for continued learning and collaboration in the future.
Annual Meeting Features New Research on Oberlin’s Underground Railroad Activity

More than 175 members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center gathered at the Oberlin Inn on April 1 to celebrate the nonprofit’s accomplishments of the past year and to look ahead to the organization’s future. OHC’s Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz and Board member/docent Ron Gorman presented the feature program of Old Secrets/New Stories, which included a sampling of the extensive research they have done recently on Oberlin’s role in the Underground Railroad movement in anticipation of a future Heritage Center publication on the topic.

Highlighting the evening were the 14th Annual Community Awards presentations for outstanding dedication to history, service, and the Oberlin community. Among those honored were:

Danielle Camino, who received the Community Teacher of the Year Award for tremendous dedication to teaching art (at Oberlin High School) while also instilling in her students valuable lessons in local history, service to others and community pride;

Mary Louise VanDyke, who was recognized with the Heritage Guardian Award for preserving important aspects of the community’s musical and spiritual history, and for building bridges through hymnology to bring people together from a community of many different backgrounds and beliefs;

Sheila Hicks, a social studies teacher in Oberlin’s Langston Middle School who was saluted as History Teacher of the Year for opening her students’ eyes to the value and relevance of history in the world they live in today;

Ron Gorman, who received the Community Historian Award for his vast knowledge of the antebellum period which he shares with the Heritage Center through his work as a docent, researcher, blogger and program presenter;

Continued on page 6

2015 Oberlin Heritage Center Community Awards recipients: front row, left to right: Mary Louise VanDyke, Beverly Miller, Tania Boster (representing Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning’s Community Service Work-Study Program); back row, from left: Ron Gorman, Sheila Hicks, Danielle Camino and Beth Blissman (also representing the Bonner Center for Service & Learning).

Voted in as new Oberlin Heritage Center Trustees at the Annual Meeting were (top) Ron Gorman at left and Claudia Jones, while (bottom) Past President Walt Edling (right) and long-time Board officer Robert B. Calhoun were appointed as Honorary Trustees.

Former Oberlin Heritage Center student intern Laurie Stein (OC ’06) attended the Annual Meeting with Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning Director Beth Blissman (left) and Associate Director Tania Boster (right). Laurie was invited back to campus as a featured speaker in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the College’s Work-Study program and also had the opportunity to make brief remarks at OHC’s Annual Meeting. She reflected on how her campus and community experiences influenced the path to her present position as curator at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society in Lake Forest, Illinois.
On page 5 of this annual report you will find the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Statement of Activities, Statement of Financial Position, and Functional Expenses for fiscal year 2015. This audit, conducted by Cohen and Company, yielded a clean, unmodified opinion, and can be found in its entirety on OHC’s website along with prior audits and IRS Form 990s. The 2015 audit shows the consolidated results of the Oberlin Heritage Center and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, OHC Properties, Inc., (a property holding agency for 81 S. Professor Street) and Vineway, LLC (a commercial rental property at 82-86 South Main Street).

The beginning of 2015 saw a generous grant from The Nord Family Foundation allowing the Oberlin Heritage Center to achieve much needed work on the Jewett Barn (constructed circa 1860-1880). Completion of the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant (awarded in 2014) led to the debut of a more user-friendly website and the introduction of two tablet-based tours. A list of all grants and special project support awarded to OHC in 2015 can be found below. While grants allow OHC to accomplish critical improvement projects it’s the individual donors who make sure OHC staff can complete the day-to-day work of preserving and sharing history. Annual Fund and membership accounted for 31% of the general operations revenue. The 2015 Annual Fund campaign had 306 donors bringing in $42,300 – the second year in a row OHC has exceeded $40,000. By the end of 2015, there were 735 members including 96 Endowed Life Members (ELM) – an increase of 10 ELMs from December 2014. Donations and pledges from current and new ELMs and other individuals to OHC’s endowment funds grew by $249,279 seen in the Statement of Activities Permanently Restricted Fund column. These endowment donations will allow planning for much needed preservation work in the coming years.

Expenses in all categories remained steady from the previous year as staff worked hard to make sure every dollar spent served the mission of the organization. Salaries and payroll items accounted for 56% of the Unrestricted Funds expenses (first column of the Statement of Activities). Overall, unrestricted funds revenue saw a 12% increase while unrestricted funds expenses only rose 5.3%.

In the coming years, the Oberlin Heritage Center will continue to seek contributions from donors through membership and annual fund campaigns and build self-sustaining programs and tours. OHC also plans to become more proactive in promoting planned giving, sponsorship, and increased member engagement which will support long-term sustainability. As always, I can answer questions you may have about OHC’s finances or provide you additional information.

Ed Wardwell, Board Treasurer

This super-duo of Oberlin College interns Rand Zalzala (left) and César Palacio are integral members of the OHC team. Both are popular tour docents – César even helped translate the Monroe House tour into Spanish. Both have been program presenters for the Heritage Center and have helped with office duties, public relations, history research, and much more. Rand, an architecture major at the College, has been a great asset to OHC’s Architecture Camp for Kids. César, a dual major in history and clarinet performance, wrote a special history feature for the Heritage Center’s website on The Musical History of Oberlin.

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Grants and Special Project Support

City of Oberlin/Oberlin Business Partnership/Bed Tax Grant

Enjoy Historic Oberlin Rack Card

Community Foundation of Lorain County

The Jane & Eric Nord Fund (Mrs. Jane Nord)

General operating support

Edward W. and Gail F. Hubbard

Hubbard History Day Prize

David and Eleanor Ignat

General operating support

The Nord Family Foundation

AmeriCorps Grant

The Nord Family Foundation

Jewett Barn & Jewett House capital improvements

Nordson Corporation

Educational program support

Tom & Mary Kirtz VanNortwick

Children’s programming

Internships, Training Programs and Professional Development Support

AmeriCorps

with OHC support from The Nord Family Foundation and the Ohio History Service Corps/Ohio History Connection

Leadership Lorain County Internship Program

with OHC support from Nordson Corporation

Mature Services, Inc.

Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning

Oberlin College Student Work-Study Program
Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. Financial Summary for 2015
Audited by Cohen & Company, Ltd.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual fund, grants &amp; other contributions</td>
<td>$84,868</td>
<td>$104,576</td>
<td>$249,279</td>
<td>$438,723</td>
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<td>Special events and fundraising</td>
<td>30,895</td>
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<td>30,895</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>27,960</td>
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<td>27,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program revenue</td>
<td>13,436</td>
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<td>13,436</td>
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<td>Museum store sales</td>
<td>6,176</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
<td>34,559</td>
<td>(20,114)</td>
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<td>14,445</td>
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<td>Change in value of funds held in trust by others</td>
<td>(11,539)</td>
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<td>(11,539)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind revenue</td>
<td>14,550</td>
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<td>14,550</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>18,020</td>
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<td>18,020</td>
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<td>Loss of Subsidiaries</td>
<td>(17,834)</td>
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<td>(17,834)</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>181,898</td>
<td>(181,898)</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>382,989</strong></td>
<td><strong>(97,436)</strong></td>
<td><strong>249,279</strong></td>
<td><strong>534,832</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<td>Salaries, benefits and payroll taxes</td>
<td>224,108</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>28,269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building / grounds maintenance</td>
<td>16,937</td>
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<td>16,937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative / office operations</td>
<td>79,956</td>
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<td>79,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs and projects</td>
<td>26,131</td>
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<td>26,131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and professional fees</td>
<td>23,625</td>
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<td>23,625</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>399,026</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>399,026</strong></td>
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Change in Net Assets

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>(16,037)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(97,436)</strong></td>
<td><strong>249,279</strong></td>
<td><strong>135,806</strong></td>
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Net Assets at beginning of year

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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at beginning of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,478,606</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,782,650</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,567,114</strong></td>
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Net Assets at end of year

<p>| | | | | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,462,569</strong></td>
<td><strong>$208,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,031,929</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,702,920</strong></td>
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>$43,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed assets (less accumulated depreciation)</td>
<td>516,687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td>97,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment in OHC Properties Inc &amp; Vineway LLC</td>
<td>788,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,115,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds held in trust by others</td>
<td>130,751</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,719,550</strong></td>
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Liabilities and net assets

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,630</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,462,569</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>208,422</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,031,929</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,719,550</strong></td>
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FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$290,636</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>79,203</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>29,187</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$399,026</strong></td>
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The Oberlin Heritage Center’s Finance Committee, which reports to the Board of Trustees, provides fiscal oversight. The complete audited financial statement is posted online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and is available upon request.
Beverly Miller, who was honored as the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Volunteer of the Year for her weekly service as an OHC public relations liaison with downtown businesses and community visitors; and

Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning’s Community Service Work-Study Program, which received the Business Service Leader Award for partnering with the Heritage Center over the past 20 years by providing student interns to assist in all areas of museum administration, visitor engagement and collections care.

Board President Nick Jones conducted the annual business meeting which included the election of other office holders, including 1st Vice President Gail Wood, 2nd Vice President Ken Grossi, Secretary Barb Enos and Treasurer Ed Wardwell.

Board President Jones also thanked Pat Murphy for her exceptional leadership as Executive Director since 1993. He noted that Pat would be stepping down at the end of the summer and that the Board would conduct a national search for her replacement. Meantime, the creation of a new strategic plan this year by Board, staff, volunteers and community representatives would help provide a roadmap for the future as OHC began its next chapter. Murphy concluded the event by saluting the staff, Board and volunteers and thanking them for the opportunity to serve the organization and to facilitate its growth.

In the spring, restoration experts at Grunwell-Cashero Building Restoration (Toledo, OH) and Royal Barns Restoration and Repair (Athens, OH) made repairs and stabilized the circa 1860-1880 barn behind the Jewett House at 73 South Professor Street, giving it a new coat of paint and transforming it from a previously sagging structure to one which now stands straight and tall. The work was made possible by a generous grant from The Nord Family Foundation.

The Grunwell-Cashero Company undertook two other big projects on the grounds of the Monore House later in the summer. Repairs were made to the existing sandstone sidewalk to the north (front side of Monroe House) with new reinforced concrete replacing the deteriorating curb. To the rear of the house, major work was done to excavate and waterproof the southwest corner to stop water seepage in the Monroe House basement. We’ve been dry ever since! As a bonus, the small sandstone patio previously located in that corner was reconfigured and expanded. The work was funded in part by a bequest made by former OHC trustee Sara Carter Balogh.

Exterior improvements (as shown in photo to the right) also continued at the Vineway Building (82-86 South Main Street), which is owned by an LLC subsidiary of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Not wanting to waste a teaching moment, OHC hosted the Lorain County Preservation Network’s open house at the Oberlin Public Library in the fall. To round out the year, preservation architect Lorri Sipes came to assess property conditions and OHC’s space needs to help us plan for long term improvements.
**OHC Program Summary for 2015**

**JANUARY 28**

Who Hauled Hall on Top of Hall presented at Kendal at Oberlin by Norman Craig was an entertaining and informative discussion of Charles Martin Hall (OC 1885), discoverer of the modern aluminum extraction process, and new developments in Hall’s historic legacy. The program’s title was prompted by a student-written song submitted in a 1954 local contest, which Ann Craig performed in delightful fashion to begin the program.

**FEBRUARY 5**

On the Home Front presented at Kendal at Oberlin by Judy Cook balanced history and music in an original program based on Civil War-era letters written by her great-great-grandparents, Gilbert and Esther Claflin.

**FEBRUARY 17**

Rules of Engagement: Civil War Courtship Letters, presented at Oberlin College by Professor of History Carol Lasser, drew on the correspondence between two couples to explore ways in which soldiers turned to women at home for support to sustain them through the war. Co-sponsored with the Oberlin College Archives and the Oberlin College History Department.

**FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 18**

Hands-on-History & Cultures of the World Home School Series, a four-class series held on Wednesday afternoons, explored the Swahili Coast, the Maya civilization, the Byzantine Empire and the land of China.

**MARCH 28**

National History Day Ohio District 3 Competition included three OHC representatives among the judges: Liz Schultz, Kaitlyn Goss, and Nicole Hayes. This year’s Oberlin Heritage Center Hubbard Prize, supported by members Gail and Ned Hubbard, was presented to the Oberlin High School team of Hannah Cipinko (left), Angela Mavrich (third from left) and Catherine Mavrich (right) for the design of a website about the work of British chemist Rosalind Franklin. The team’s entry advanced to the national level of competition held at the University of Maryland in June. Also pictured is OHS student Lucy Cipinko (second from left) whose paper on Mary Church Terrell (OC 1884) took her to the state level of competition at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, OH.

**FEBRUARY 21**

On the Home Front presented at Kendal at Oberlin by Judy Cook balanced history and music in an original program based on Civil War-era letters written by her great-great-grandparents, Gilbert and Esther Claflin.

**MARCH 18**

APRIL 1

The 2015 Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Oberlin Inn featured Old Secrets/ New Stories about Oberlin’s role in the Underground Railroad presented by OHC’s Liz Schultz and Ron Gorman. The evening also included recognizing the recipients of the Heritage Center’s 14th Annual Community Awards.

**APRIL 21**

Forever Young: The History of Case Western Reserve University enlightened the audience about the university’s history (which involved the merger of two academic institutions of higher learning) and offered insights into the development of northeast Ohio as well. OHC Board member Richard E. Baznik presented the program at Kendal at Oberlin.

**MAY 23-24**

Commencement/Reunion/Memorial Day Weekend – History walks and guided tours filled this busy weekend with visitors from near and far (plus the special debut of a new Spanish language version of the Monroe House tour – Exploración Histórica de La Casa Monroe).

**MAY 27**

From Civil War to Civil Rights: Stories from the Oberlin Oral History Project was presented at Kendal at Oberlin and highlighted changing attitudes about race, inequality and activism over the years. Eugenia Poporad Vanek’s program was based on 30 years of volunteers’ interviews for Oberlin’s Oral History Project.

**JUNE-SEPTEMBER**

Warm-Weather History Walks: Freedom’s Friends Abolition & Underground Railroad History Walk, Scholars & Settlers (Tappan Square) History Walk, “One Step More” Oberlin Women’s History Walk and Radical & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk were led regularly by volunteer docents in and around Oberlin.

**JUNE 10**

James Hieb presented Local Stories of Quarry Life in a salute to 160 years of quarrying in Amherst, South Amherst and Lorain County. The event drew a large community audience to Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium.
SUMMER
OHC introduced two new tablet tours for visitors who prefer to learn in a “do-it-yourself” format. You can move at your own pace with Picture the Past: Historic Downtown Oberlin or Freedom’s Friends: Abolition & Underground Railroad when you follow the tour on an iPad borrowed from the Heritage Center during regular business hours.

JULY 27 - 31
Hands on History: Oberlin Changed the World Camp led by Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz introduced youngsters to movers-and-shakers such as Adelia Field Johnston (1837-1910), a champion for the turn-of-the-century City Beautiful movement who advocated for cleaning up Plum Creek, creating a park system, and improving sanitary conditions throughout the community. A plaque is dedicated to Johnston in Wright Park where a walkway also bears her name.

AUGUST 3- 7
Hands on History: Architecture Camp for children ages 8-13 led by Liz Schultz.

AUGUST 8
Family Fun Fair, with free family activities throughout Oberlin, included mini-tours at the Oberlin Heritage Center, hands-on history fun, and old-fashioned lawn games. The day concluded with a casual lawn party on the grounds of the Little Red Schoolhouse for a community Farewell to Pat Murphy as OHC’s Executive Director prepared to retire following 22 years of organizational leadership.

AUGUST 10-14
Hands on History: Artists in Their Time Camp for children ages 8-13 led by educator (and former OHC Museum Fellow) Maria Surovy.

SEPTEMBER 26
The Oberlin Heritage Center participated in the Smithsonian Magazine’s 11th Annual Museum Day with free guided tours.

OCTOBER 17
The Oberlin Public Library was the site for this year’s Lorain County Preservation Showcase with mini-displays about preservation projects taking place throughout the local area. The Heritage Center and the Special Collections Department at the Oberlin College Library also hosted open house activities on-site throughout the afternoon.

OCTOBER 28
Dramatist and educator Wesley Williams (pictured here, from left, with OHC Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan, Assistant to the Director Mary Anne Cunningham and Executive Director Liz Schultz) offered a compelling first-person performance as a civil rights activist, orator, and author in An Evening with Frederick Douglass presented to a capacity audience at Kendal at Oberlin.

NOVEMBER 6-8
Oberlin College’s Parents Weekend included tours and history walks hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center.

NOVEMBER 11
OHC Executive Director Liz Schultz and Board member/docent Ron Gorman shared new research about Oberlin’s abolitionist history in Old Secrets/New Stories of Oberlin’s Underground Railroad in this illustrated program at Kendal at Oberlin.

DECEMBER 8
Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer Annalee Sekulic, a senior at Western Reserve High School, spent the past year abroad in Finland through the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Annalee, or Ansku as she was called in Finland, shared stories from her overseas adventure in Ansku: American in Suomi presented at Kendal at Oberlin.

In addition, OHC staff members and volunteers presented off-site programs for other organizations including the Aurora Women’s Club, Avon Lake Historical Society (aka Heritage Avon Lake), Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL), Elyria Public Library, Elyria Senior Women, Lorain Public Library, National Organization for Women (Oberlin chapter), Oberlin College, Oberlin Public Library, St. Petersburg Beach Public Library, Wakeman Library, and numerous area schools.

THE MISSION OF THE OBERLIN HERITAGE CENTER IS TO PRESERVE AND SHARE OBERLIN’S UNIQUE HERITAGE AND TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND VISIT.
Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Nicholas R. Jones, President
Robert B. Calhoun, 1st Vice-President (January – April)
Gail Wood, 2nd Vice-President (January – April); 1st Vice President (April – December)
Ken Grossi, Secretary (January – April); 2nd Vice-President (April – December)
Barbara Enos, Secretary (April – December)
Edward J. Wardwell, Treasurer
Camille Hamlin Allen
Michele Andrews
Richard Baznik
Scott Broadwell
Judy Cook
Adam Freas
Rich Fredrickson
Ron Gorman (term began April 2015)
Stephen Johnson III
Claudia W. Jones (term began April 2015)
Kurt Russell
Brittnei Sherrod
Donna Marie Shurr

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Roland Baumann
Sigrid Boe
Howard Broadwell
Robert B. Calhoun (appointed April 2015)
Marianne Cochrane
Fran Cooper

Walter Edling (appointed April 2015)
Roberta Garcia
Dick Gilbert
Bradley A. Hayes
Patricia Holsworth
Richard Holsworth
Carol Lasser
Bert Latran, Jr.
Ann Livingston
Elisabeth M. Mahjoub
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David W. Mellott
Cathe Radabaugh
Dina Schoonmaker
Ruth Schweagerle
Shirley Shubert
Eugene Foggo Simon
Thelma Quinn Smith
Martha Stacy
James R. Underwood
Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick
Eugenia Poporad Vanek

STAFF MEMBERS
Patricia Murphy, Executive Director+ (retired August 2015)
Elizabeth Schultz, Executive Director+ (begun August 2015)
Deloris Bohn, Museum Housekeeper
Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director
Bethany Hobbs, Business Manager

“+” = full-time staff member


BOARD PRESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT
Oberlin Improvement Society
(later renamed Oberlin Village Improvement Society) (OVIS)
1903 - 1959 Presidents included:
J.F. Randolph
Giles Waldo Shurtleff
Adelia Field Johnston
W.F. Bohn
Helen White Martin
Louis E. Lord
Paul B. Sears and Ira L. Porter

Oberlin Historical Society
1960 - Cliff A. Barden
1961-1964 - Donald M. Love

Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization/
Oberlin Heritage Center
1964-1967 - Frank C. Van Cleef
1969-1972 - Raymond A. Campbell
1985-1990 - Robert D. Jenkins
1990-1998 - Marianne Cochrane
1998-2001 - Roberta Garcia
2001-2010 - James W. White
2010-Present – Nicholas R. Jones

Oberlin Historical Society
1961-1964 - Donald M. Love

Board Presidents, past and present, enjoyed a farewell luncheon hosted by Pat Murphy prior to her departure from the Heritage Center. From left is Walt Edling, Pat Holsworth, Nick Jones, Cathe Radabaugh, Roberta Garcia, Marianne Cochrane and Pat Murphy. Dearly missed was Jim White who passed away in 2011.
Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015

STAFF MEMBERS, continued
Amanda Manahan, Museum Education/Tour Coordinator (hired October 2015)+
Maren McKee, Collections Manager
Maria Surovy Education Assistant (Summer 2015)
Ohio Historical Society
Ohio Service Corps/ AmeriCorps Member
Kaitlyn Goss+ (term completed August 2015)
Mary Manning+ (term began September 2015)
Staff Provided by Mature Services, Inc.
Linda Gates, Front Office
Linda Gilmore, Front Office
Student Interns (from Oberlin College except as noted)
Madison Bishop (Spring Semester)
Ava Nicolai (Work Study; Spring & Fall Semester)
Alexandra Nicome (Work Study; Spring & Fall Semester)
César Palacio (Work Study and Bonner Scholar; Spring & Fall Semester)
Maggie Bender (Miami University) (Leadership Lorain County Intern; Summer 2015)
Hanna Van Reed (Spring Semester)
Rand Zalzala (Spring & Fall Semester, Summer)
Board Committee Chairpersons
Development – Gail Wood
Executive – Nicholas R. Jones
Finance – Edward J. Wardwell
Governance – Donna Marie Shurr
Strategic Planning – Nicholas R. Jones
Special Interest Group Chairpersons
B&B – Gail Wood and Barb Enos, co-chairs; Bethany Hobbs, staff liaison
Docents – Amanda Manahan and Liz Schultz, staff liaisons
Kendal Mailing Crew – Mary Anne Cunningham, staff liaison
Oral History – Liz Schultz, staff liaison
Westwood Inventory Project – Liz Schultz, staff liaison
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Chair - Walter Edling
Secretary - Nicholas R. Jones
Treasurer - Marianne Cochrane
Board Members – Richard Dunn, Stephen Johnson III
Staff liaisons - Pat Murphy, Liz Schultz and Bethany Hobbs
Vineway, LLC, Property Manager
Mike Galbreath, National Business Brokers
OHC Properties, Inc., Board of Directors
President - Cathe Radabaugh
Vice-President – Terry Hobbs
Secretary - Sarah Colson
Treasurer - Rich Fredrickson
OHC Board Liaison – Rich Fredrickson
OHC Properties, Inc., Property Manager
Robert Dillon

MEMBERSHIP
“We are happy to contribute a little when we can. We think the Heritage Center is just a wonderful organization in a very unique corner of the world ☺”
~ from an OHC member, 2015

Thank you to so many individuals, families, businesses and organizations who felt the same as the member above and supported the Oberlin Heritage Center with a membership contribution last year. In 2015, membership was 735 strong, 65 of whom were brand new members to the organization. If you are not yet a member, please join today by completing and returning the membership form on page 23 or making an online contribution at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. Oberlin history has made a difference in our nation’s history; your membership also will make a difference in preserving and sharing that history with future generations.

ENDOWED LIFE MEMBERS
(donors whose cumulative giving to an endowment fund totals $2,000 or more)
Platinum ($50,000 and above)
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Jeptha* & Demaris Carrell
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Emiko Hara Custer, in honor of Jannd & Pearl Lin
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Craig & Barb Enos
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Elizabeth Schultz, in honor of Pat Murphy
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In memory of Bob & Wanda Singleton
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Keith R.* & Victoria K. Young
* Deceased during or before 2015

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Dennis & Karla Hubbard
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Patrick & Diane Ives
Gary & Penny Jaffe
Mark & Kathy Jaffee
Gregory L. Jewett (Lexington, VA)

Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015

Continued on page 14
With Treasured Notes and Delightful Toasts, OHC Celebrates Pat Murphy

More than 100 Oberlin Heritage Center members and community friends gathered on the grounds of the Little Red Schoolhouse on Saturday, August 8 to bid a warm farewell to Executive Director Pat Murphy. Pat was presented with a lovely vintage “treasure chest” that overflowed with cards and notes sent from fans around the country wishing her well in retirement. The following Friday, August 14 at Kendal at Oberlin, Pat received a marvelous ABC Memory Book of photos reflecting an alphabet of topics and special moments from her 22 years of leadership at the Oberlin Heritage Center. This special friends’ breakfast, attended by Board Members, Honorary Trustees, Endowed Life Members (ELMs) and staff, also saluted new Executive Director Liz Schultz. Planning is underway to build a new endowment fund that bears Pat’s name to help maintain and preserve OHC’s historic buildings, grounds and collections – more news to come in the year ahead!

Heritage Center members and friends were encouraged to write personal notes of appreciation and good wishes that were collected in a vintage “treasure box” and presented to Pat.

Pat Murphy (right) and her husband Keith Koenning soak in all the fond memories and heartfelt thanks expressed to them at the community gathering on the Heritage Center grounds.

Jennifer Abram, representing the Pittsfield Township Historical Society, spoke at the community farewell about the impact Pat Murphy made on local history efforts not just in Oberlin but on a much broader scale.
Here’s Cheers to Pat!

So, welcome all! But there are two amongst us here this morning, who we need to single out for special note — and, just for them, our rhymes devote. First — no surprise! — will be for Liz, Who’s taught us well what history is, whose tours and camps and docent training are only a few I could be naming, and now, with no qualm or inhibition, she takes on for us her new position!

And then there’s Pat! What can I say? our leader now for many a day… well, many a year, or decade, too, a visionary and a worker, who took a small and dedicated group and made them into such a troop of volunteers, who hired a team and led them to achieve a dream. And now, as she moves on to other things, with her our fondest thanks she brings!

So, staff and board, and volunteer, ELMs, and all who hold this center dear, raise now your glass in a collective toast: to OHC, and all this host of friends; to Liz; and most to one whose leadership has made all that a real and lasting thing

— here’s cheers to Pat!

Board President Nick Jones welcomed OHC friends from near and far to a casual afternoon lawn party that honored retiring Executive Director Pat Murphy.

The musical trio of Nick Jones (left), Prue Richards and Pete Richards led guests at the breakfast celebration in singing a delightful “Tribute to Pat Murphy” song as a special surprise. The lyrics were penned by Oberlin hymnologist Mary Louise VanDyke in photo at right with Pat Murphy.

Pat Murphy holds a copy of the “ABC Memory Book” presented her at the friends’ breakfast. From “Awards” to “Benchmarks” to “Collaborations” to so much more, the book’s pages were filled with photos from Pat’s 22 years of professional accomplishments and personal friendships at the Heritage Center.
Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015

Continued from page 11

ANNUAL MEMBERS
($50), continued
Ben Jones & Tanya Rosen-Jones
Robert & Marilyn Kasayka
(South Amherst)
Steve & Kim Koos
Richard & Lorna Kretchmar
Adina Jocelyn Langer
(Decatur, GA)
Michael & Cheri Lavigne
(Avon Lake)
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Ellen Mavrich
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Richard & Mary McKe
Barbara Mehwald
John & Nicola Memmott
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Ken Sloane & Lisa Shomo
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David Young & Georgia Newman
Elizabeth E. Young
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Alberto Zambenedetti & Denise Birkhofer
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(Wakeman)

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Anonymous
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Theodore R. Goodman (Grafton)
Ron Gorman (Columbia Station)
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(Bowling Green)
Katllyn Goss
Jen Graham (Cleveland)
Carol Graham
Janet K. Haar (North Olmsted
Tacie Hampton (Lorain)
Carrie Handy
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Matthew Hintz (Elyria)
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Ed Holsworth
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Lessa Inman (Jonesboro, AR)
Sheila Ives (Rocky River)
Ondrea Keith (Powder Springs, GA)
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Janet Kretschmar
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John Leinenweber
Linda Lewis
Dianne Mahar (Amherst)
Amanda Manahan
Katherine McCordwell
(Anvarda, CO)
Sue McKain
Maren Ann McKee
Steven J. McQuillin (Hayesville)
Barbara Morgan Meade, in memory of George W. Morgan
(Washington, DC)
Cheryl Johnson Mees
(Georgetown, TX)
Ruth Miller
Lauren Miranda
Sharon L. Miranda
Brittany Mittler
Monica Monsalve (Miami, FL)
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Kate Pilacky
Brenda Pitts (Columbus, IN)
Michele Poling (Los Alamos, NM)
Joe & Pat Price (Vermilion)
Elizabeth Ragosta
(Charlotteville, VA)
Kathy Reichard
Nina Reid-Maronery
(Thamesville, Ontario, Canada)
Cecilia Render
Thomas Rice
Elena Rippel (Pittsburgh, PA)
Beth Rosenquist (Omaha, NE)
Sarah Schaffer (Washington, DC)
Ruth E. Searles
Gary Seidman (Cleveland Heights)
Drew H. Severs (Pacific Grove, CA)
Brittney Sherrard
Louise Shoemaker
Beatrice A. Skeens (Amherst)
Chris Smith (North Ridgeville)
Ruth E. Spencer
(Poughkeepsie, NY)
Austin J. Spence (Avon Lake)
Laurie Stein (Libertyville, IL)
Patricia B. Stetson
Marilyn Stock (Elyria)
Preton Sundin (Troy, NY)
June D. Swartwout
Salvatore Talarico
Harriett A. Thomas
Grace M. Tompos
Kathy Toth-Smith (Vermillon)
Jason Trimmer
Emily Troiano
Carol Tufts
Carla VanDale
Hanna Van Reed
(Gwynedd Valley, PA)
Kelsey Voit (Elyria)
Debbi Walsh
Margie Walter
Andrew Laurence Watiker
(New York, NY)
Ann Watkins (Moline, IL)
Robert O. Williams ( Sarasota, FL)
Richard Wood
Rhonda Worcester (Wellingto
Tyrene Yates (Cincinnati)
Nancy Yood
James H. Young
Lynn M. Youngblood (Wellingto

Senior/Student ($20)
George & Cleo Abram
Anonymous

Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS &amp; ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage Ambassador ($500-$999)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Laboratory, Inc.</td>
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<td><strong>Heritage Leader ($250-$499)</strong></td>
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<td>Cohen &amp; Company (Cleveland) General Plug &amp; Manufacturing (Grafton)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorenzo's Pizzeria / Larry Cariglio Meadowbrook Investment Advisors (Livonia, MI)</td>
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<td>Oberlin College Melanie B. Satterfield DDS</td>
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<td><strong>Heritage Recreator ($100-$249)</strong></td>
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<td>John Berkmyer Painting LLC / John &amp; Betty Berkmyer Broadwell Painting</td>
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<td>Emerge Inc. (Avon Lake) Forthofer Alarm Systems (Elyria)</td>
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<td>The Jewett Family of America, Inc. (Lexington, VA) Kuno Creative Group (Avon)</td>
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<td>Lorain County Community College</td>
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<td>19th Century Club Oberlin College Inn</td>
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<td>Oberlin College Office of Government &amp; Community Relations</td>
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<td>PlaceMakers Land Co., Ltd. Rafter A., Ltd. / Rich Fredrickson</td>
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<td>Eric R. Severs Co., L.P.A. Tabor Historical Society (Tabor, IA) Turnbull Plumbing &amp; Heating, LLC Turnbull Trucking &amp; Excavating Watson Hardware</td>
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**Sustaining Members ($50)**

- Bead Paradise II Carlyle Gift and Shop Cochrane Inc.

**Active Members ($25)**


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<tr>
<td>Charles A. Thold</td>
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<td>Tommy Trice (Elyria)</td>
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<td>Naomi R. Twining (Toledo)</td>
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<td>Linell Walker</td>
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<td>Dorna B. Ward (Bedford)</td>
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<td>Wilma L. Weber</td>
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<td>R.B. &amp; J.K. Werner</td>
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<td>Jerry White (Lakewood)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Martha J. Wilkins</td>
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<td>Shirley Coleman Wilson (Westerville)</td>
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<td>Mrs. Lee B. Wood (West Branch, IA)</td>
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<td>Carol H. Zavodsky*</td>
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<td>Gerald Zeitlin</td>
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<td>May Zitani</td>
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**Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015**

- P. Lal Arora
- Walter Atwood
- Gabriella Bachnik
- Dorothy Baker
- Suzanne Barsay
- Mary Clare Beck
- Phyllis Bement (Columbus Station)
- Maggie Bender (Avon)
- Ruth Bent
- David W. Blood
- Louise Breese
- Joan Bresnicky*
- Walker & Joanne Brock
- Roger Buffett (Chicago, IL)
- Theron Burnett* (Elyria)
- Joanne Busiel
- Catharina Meints Caldwell
- Marion Campbell
- Deborah Carden (Elyria)
- Terry & Claudette Carlson
- Bânú Casson (Broadview Heights)
- Mrs. Glenn M. Clapp
- George E. Clark
- Virginia S. Clarke (Littleton, CO)
- Jim & Joan Cobb
- Sid Comings
- Chariene Connors (Lorain)
- Lyn Cope
- Olivia A. Cousins
- Thomas L. Cranham
- Don & Susie Cunningham
- (New Waterford)
- Jane Currie (North Ridgeville)
- Bill & Bonnie Cutcher (Vermilion)
- Cynthia A. Dede
- Charles E. Dial (North Olmsted)
- Kay L. Diederick
- Marion Drummond
- Roy U. Ebihara
- Eugene English*
- Anna R. Ernst (Hurst, TX)
- Cerie L. Fabian (Elyria)
- Ann Farnsworth (Scarsdale, NY)
- Paul & Suzie Farnsworth
- Tom Farnau (Avon Lake)
- Andrew Ferko (Seven Hills)
- Gerry & Ann Findlan
- Daniel & Carol Fishwick (Willoughby)
- Ann M. Francis
- Stuart & Diane Friebert
- Bertha Browne Fusseman (Avon Lake)
- Linda C. Gates
- William J. Gorman (Wooster)
- Mary Lynne Grove
- Ovidia Guaderrama
- Kenneth Hahn* (Mansfield)
- Dolores Harper
- Beverly A. Hentges (Bowling Green)
- Bill Hilton (Sunnyside, CA)
- Gretchen Holden (Portland, OR)
- Allene C. Hollman
- Glo Holtwick
- Stephanie Howe (Miami, FL)
- Carolyn L. Husted
- Ann Emerich Ingram
- James Jablonski (Elyria)
- Doris J. Jewett (Elyria)
- Molly Johnson
- Nancy L. Kewish (Lyndhurst)
- Sarah Khalil
- Dr. Vasant P. Kharkar
- John M. Klein
- Roderic Knight
- Sue Elly Krueger (Elyria)
- Judith K. Kruger
- Dennis C. Lamont (Wakefield)
- George H. Langelier
- Phyllis Lawson
- John & Mary Leek
- Pam Lenz
- Diana Leonard (Collins)
- Larry Leppard (Norwalk)
- Catharina D. Lester
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Lewis (Willoughby)
- Penny Locke
- Nancy Lombardi
- John Lopatkovich (Wakefield)
- Marian Lott
- Becky Lower
- Doris Y. Lyle (Amherst)
- Claudina Macdonald
- Ali & Ann MacKay
- Judith Makens (Kent)
- Anne V. Martin
- Jim & Betty Mason
- Jean Marie Matthews
- Robert S.* & Nancy McClusky
- Vivian McCullough (Sheffield Lake)
- Marilyn K. McDonald
- Dean & Juanita McKee (Geneva, IL)
- Sue E. Meyer
- Laraine Meyers (South Amherst)
- Beverly B. Miller (Vermilion)
- Carolyn Moes (Vermilion)
- Naomi Moore
- Elizabeth C. Morris
- Patricia C. Morrisson (Lorain)
- Katherine Nunley
- Noël Oakley
- Betty O’Connor
- Margaret O’Neal
- Gary Olin & Saranne Nelson-Olin
- David & Elaine Orr
- Moreau Parsons
- Sandi Pasadyn (Wellington)
- Tom Peters (Elyria)
- Betty Pippert (Wakefield)
- Sarah Pryor (Wellington)
- Joyce L. Redden*
- Melissa C. Reed
- Don & Barbara Reeves
- Kay Rider
- Cathie Ritz (Wakefield)
- Rebecca M. Rogers (Youngstown)
- Mary Ellen Romney (Manchester, MO)
- Tom & Phyllis Roth (Sylvania)
- Ed Rowe
- Retta L. Russell
- Sandra Ruth (Amherst)
- Jean Schaefer (Tomahawk, WI)
- Jo-An Schnauch (Avon)
- Eugene Schmiel (Gainesville, VA)
- Peg Schultz*
- Nancy E. Schwarzwalder*
- Sharon L. Schwenk
- Ronald & Diane Senyak
- Jean L. Shannon
- Eugene Foggo Simon
- Jean Sionnager
- Taylor J. Smith (Avon)
- Kathy Sobieski
- Sharon Fairchild Soucy
- Arthur W. Sprague (La Grange, IL)
- Linda A. Stang (Grafton)
- Sally Staruch (Lorain)
- Janet Stephenson (Lakeside)
- Geraldine R. Stewart*
- Mark R. Stewart (Elyria)
- Mr. & Mrs. George Duncan Strom (Elyria)
- Dorris Sturges
- Barbara Surovy (Amherst)
- Erin Svenson-Klatt (Grand Marais, MN)
- Lillie Faye Taylor
- Eileen K. Telegdy
- Heidi Thomann Tewarson
- Charles A. Thold
- Tommy Trice (Elyria)
- Naomi R. Twining (Toledo)
- Linell Walker
- Dorra B. Ward (Bedford)
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- Gerald Zeitlin
- May Zitani

* Deceased during 2015
Who’s Who at the Oberlin Heritage Center in 2015


table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Ackermann</td>
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<td>Teri Anderson</td>
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<td>Erik Andrews</td>
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<td>Asst. Fire Chief Susan Hiessner</td>
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<td>Fr. Brian K. Wilbert</td>
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<td>Reid Wood</td>
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<td>Tom &amp; Edye Wood</td>
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<td>William Yin</td>
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Continued on page 20

Volunteers have kept the Heritage Center a vibrant, forward-moving organization for more than a century. About 75 current friends who contribute their time and talents to all aspects of OHC’s operations attended the annual holiday volunteer breakfast in December.
Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director

A highlight for me in 2015 was the debut of OHC’s bright, new, interactive E-Gazette. I have been the chief writer of this monthly electronic newsletter since 2007. The news flowing from the Heritage Center is ever-changing at a fast pace, but the “look” of our newsletter remained stuck in a simple word-processed, visually drab format. We spend a lot of time and energy getting the news out each month, but we had no way to tell if people were reading it. For years, we knew we needed an E-Gazette facelift, but lack of time, funds, and frankly, my lack of confidence in learning a new system, held us back.

All that changed in the past year. Thanks to a technology grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the technical insights and encouragement provided me by OHC Board member Brittnei Sherrod, and the creativity, expertise and patience of our friends at Emerge Inc. (Avon Lake, OH) who designed the new E-Gazette format, we were ready to launch our new E-Gazette in December 2015.

The newsletter now is as appealing on the surface as it is when you dive-in and start reading. It’s colorful, full of photos, and strikes a nice balance between providing news highlights for the casual reader while linking to further details on our website for those who want to learn more.

The reader feedback on the new E-Gazette has been positive. The ability to track and analyze our readership activity is a bonus. Now the Heritage Center is able to get some hard numbers on who opens the newsletter, who clicks through to the website to learn more, what features receive the most “click-throughs,” and much, much more.

It’s fun and rewarding to share all the good news coming from the Heritage Center with OHC’s members and friends, and I hope you enjoy receiving the E-Gazette each month. If you are not yet a subscriber, you can sign up for the e-newsletter at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. We look forward to keeping in touch!

Amanda Manahan, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator

2015 was a busy year of transitions for me personally and professionally. After spending the last five years in Upstate New York, I decided it was time to switch gears in my career and began exploring new opportunities, which lead me here to Oberlin. In late September, I was thrilled to accept the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator position and officially joined the Oberlin Heritage Center team a month later.

In my first week here, I was able to immediately witness Wesley Williams’s exceptional dramatization of speeches written by Frederick Douglass, meet the new Oberlin City Schools Superintendent and leaders in local cultural organizations, and engage in tours and conversations with our volunteers, docents, and visitors. There definitely was much to learn and experience in those first couple of months, but the transition has been very smooth thanks to Liz’s guidance and the support of the staff here at OHC.

Even though I missed most of OHC’s accomplishments and celebrations in 2015, I was able to experience some of Oberlin’s distinctive events, including the Oberlin College Parents’ Weekend and Empty Mugs Holiday Brass and Organ Spectacular, enjoy local historical and cultural attractions such as the Weltzheimer/Johnson House and the Lorain Historical Society, explore Oberlin on my own, and meet many dedicated and passionate Oberlinians. Oberlin has proved to be a unique and bustling community, and I am proud to now call it home.

Maren McKeel, Collections Manager

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job as Collections Manager is facilitating visitors’ exploration into the collection. In addition to the items on display in Monroe, Jewett and the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Heritage Center has a large collection of items in storage. I had the opportunity to highlight the stored collections several times in 2015, including putting together a small exhibit of recent acquisitions that was on display in the Monroe House dining room during the Lorain County Preservation Showcase in October, and getting out several quilts for a pair of quilt researchers visiting Oberlin from Colorado. In fact, these two women made a special trip to Oberlin just to view the Stetson Quilt, a lovely appliquéd quilt that dates from the 1830s, after reading about it in one of our online publications!

Another highlight from 2015 was giving a special behind-the-scenes tour for students enrolled in an Oberlin College class called The Archive. The class visited the Heritage Center to learn about how we preserve and interpret Oberlin’s history. I had a lively conversation with the students that touched on collection care methods and how objects themselves can be read as primary source material. The class looked at several objects from the collection and discussed the type of information they could glean from them without other supporting documents. I enjoyed working with the class and it was a wonderful opportunity to get a new group of people excited about the collection at the Oberlin Heritage Center!

Bethany Hobbs, Business Manager

My 2015 highlight comes from a wonderful intersection of my work and personal life - my son and his class getting to attend a school day at the Little Red Schoolhouse on May 22nd.

For years, we knew we needed an E-Gazette facelift, but lack of time, funds, and frankly, my lack of confidence in learning a new system, held us back.
Staff Spotlights: A Year in Review

I had the pleasure to be able to see the kids arrive, line up, and walk into the school when their teacher rang the bell. I took pictures of the kids as they ate lunch, worked on a school lesson outdoors, and spent recess learning how to walk on stilts. When I was in my office, it was a delight to hear their laughter as they played like so many generations of kids before them and the many who will come after them. I know this community will continue to support OHC to ensure the Little Red Schoolhouse remains a 3rd grade tradition.

Most people know that I manage the finances for the Oberlin Heritage Center, but another job I have is tracking our monthly and annual statistics – a different kind of number crunching. This includes keeping a detailed list of every OHC event, meeting, tour, and program occurring on our site or in the community.

My son’s class was one of four Oberlin 3rd grade classes to visit the Schoolhouse in May 2015 – a total of 77 students. Another 25 students visited from St. Mary’s (Elyria) to participate in a “Lessons in the Past” program and 189 students from Midview attended a youth outreach program on the Underground Railroad. Add in the adult programming and OHC had 575 people take part in 11 different programs in May 2015.

It is not always easy keeping track of all these events as our small staff seems to move in many different directions at once, but getting to see the number of people who are experiencing Oberlin history, whether through an adult program at Kendal or students making a day of it at the Little Red Schoolhouse, makes it FUN.

Liz Schultz, Executive Director

What can I say? The year 2015 was a bit of a whirlwind as I transitioned from Museum Education and Tour Coordinator to Executive Director. I spent about a third of the year planning school field trips, outreach programs, and tours. After an anxious period of applying and interviewing, I accepted the position of director and spent the middle part of the year asking Pat Murphy questions ranging from the strategic plan to the trees in the yard, while secretly trying to absorb just a fraction of the magic that she brought to OHC. The final part of the year I spent testing the waters in my new role while searching for my replacement (I am, indeed, replaceable).

I could not be more delighted with Amanda Manahan’s work as the new Museum Education and Tour Coordinator. Thank you to my co-workers, past and present, for their encouragement (and extra work!) throughout the transition.

The part that I love most as director is the same as what I enjoyed as the education coordinator – the opportunity to learn and uncover new stories. Some projects are initiated with the simple question, “Why don’t you do this?” Others begin when we see a need in the community or a gap in the historic record. And more come to fruition because one of us, a staff member, board member, or volunteer, says, “I would LOVE to do this.” And off we go! While as the director budgets and bricks now capture more of my attention, I still get to occasionally join in a hunt for an 1848 map, listen to an oral history, or create a new public program. Some of my favorite memories of 2015 were seeing so many brave souls come out for a women’s history walk on a cold Sunday in March, greeting visitors at Family Fun Fair, discovering new stories related to Oberlin’s underground railroad history, talking with community members during the strategic planning process, and personally thanking so many of our volunteers and supporters. It is a pleasure and an honor working in an organization and with people who have learning, exploration, engagement, preservation, and community betterment at their core.

Join the Legacy Circle

Oberlin’s history is filled with stories of “Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.” Your planned gift can have an extraordinary impact beyond your lifetime. Through the years, bequests have come to the Oberlin Heritage Center from Frederick B. Artz, Marguerite Ball, Sara Carter Balogh, Mary Ann Danenberg, Charles Martin Hall, Richard R. Hallock, Evan W. Nord, Lt. Col. Jarvis A. Strong Jr., Jane Reamer White, and Jean F. Wright.

OHC’s Legacy Circle salutes the wonderful individuals whose gift planning promises a long-lasting impact on the Oberlin Heritage Center. One of the easiest ways to give is to designate the Oberlin Heritage Center as the beneficiary of some or all of an IRA, retirement plan, life insurance policy, bank account, or brokerage account. Or consider including a simple statement such as the following in your will or trust:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O., a non-profit educational and charitable organization whose mailing address is Oberlin Heritage Center, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, Ohio 44074, _____ percent of my estate (or, the sum of $_____; or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) to support the Oberlin Heritage Center’s endowment fund (or for a special project of the donor’s choosing).

If you have included the Oberlin Heritage Center in your will or estate planning, please consider letting Executive Director Liz Schultz know so that we can thank you and make sure your intentions are honored. For more information, contact Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Margaret Glider Papworth was Oberlinian-to-the-core, living her entire life in the same house on North Professor Street and graduating from Oberlin High School, Oberlin College, and the Oberlin School of Commerce. She was Secretary to the Dean of the Conservatory for over 50 years. Papworth served as a leader in many community organizations, including as a trustee of OHC. Her bequest helped the museum make significant neighborhood improvements and, through investments, continues to support OHC’s ongoing mission.

Continued on page 23
History Education: Not Just Learned from a Book Anymore!

1. OHC welcomed museum professionals from Libya to discuss history, interpretive techniques, collections care practices, and the state of museums here and abroad. Retired Collections Assistant Prue Richards guided them through an archival box making workshop. During their trip to the US, coordinated by the US Department of State’s Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, they also visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, and the National Park Service. They appreciated OHC’s comparable size, community focus, and low-budget/hands-on approach.

3. Students participating in a Letterpress Winter Term project at Oberlin College worked with Special Collections Librarian Ed Vermue and OHC to create the booklet Ohio from A to Z for use in the Little Red Schoolhouse and outreach programs. The letters, or type, for each word were individually placed in the old press, the illustrations were hand-carved, and the booklet hand-sewn. Come see these limited edition booklets in the schoolhouse!

4. OHC staff and volunteers visited all of the fourth graders in the Lorain City Schools to lead a “Pioneer Living” program that guided students through activity stations of games, pioneer food, chores, and schooling. Here the students practice their A-B-C’s on the old fashioned slate boards and read from McGuffey Readers. OHC had a 34% increase from 2014 to 2015 in the number of people reached through outreach and education programs!

5. We were happy to talk with over 340 elementary school students at the Vermilion River Reservation/Lorain County Metro Park Pioneer Craftsmen Experience in September. AmeriCorps member Mary Manning started her service with this event and by the end of day two was leading lessons about the Underground Railroad.

6. OHC Collections Manager Maren McKee and retired Collections staff member Prue Richards were excited to welcome quilt researchers Lorie Stubbs and Carol Born in September. The women, who are both quilters involved with the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in Golden, Colorado, made a special stop at the Heritage Center to view the Stetson Quilt, a floral appliqué quilt from the 1830s. Maren and Prue enjoyed conversing with them about this unique quilt, and we wished them well as they continued to explore quilt collections in Ohio and Indiana.

7. Carver Clark Gayton, researcher, author, and great grandson of Lewis Clarke stopped in to do some research and talk history in October. OHC’s Maren McKee was delighted to accept a signed copy of Gayton’s 2014 book When Owing a Shilling Costs a Dollar, a biography of Lewis Clarke, an Oberlin resident, was the real-life inspiration for a character in the book Uncle Tom’s Cabin, a powerful abolitionist figure in the mid-1800s, and a man caught between color lines later in the 1800s.

8. OHC toured or taught students from over 21 local and regional schools in 2015. Here, students from Bolton Elementary School in Cleveland enjoy games at the Little Red Schoolhouse as part of their Freedom’s Friends History Walk.

9. Collections Manager Maren McKee worked with the new owner of Oberlin IGA, Leo Braido, to create high quality reproductions of historic photographs from the Heritage Center’s collections. These photographs now decorate the walls and aisles of this award-winning store.
DONORS TO ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Gifts to OHC’s endowment funds support salaries of the two full-time professional staff (Executive Director and Museum Education & Tour Coordinator) and provide funds for the daily operations of the organization including maintenance and conservation of our historic buildings and museum collection. Endowment gifts have a lasting impact on the Heritage Center as the interest generated from the donor’s original investment keeps on giving year after year. Some donors choose to honor or remember a family member or friend with a gift to an endowment fund; this year in particular many honored outgoing Executive Director Pat Murphy for her 22 years of service to the organization. The following donors made Endowment Fund commitments in 2015. (This listing does not include Endowed Life Members making payments on previous-year Endowment pledges – those donors are listed on page 10).

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BUY-A-BRICK FUNDRAISER
With the addition of these inscribed bricks in 2015, the Oberlin Heritage Center proudly proclaims warm sentiments on 440 century-old bricks that line its walkways. Proceeds from the brick project help maintain and improve the Heritage Center’s beautiful grounds. Find out more by calling (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

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By becoming part of the Oberlin Heritage Center family. All members receive timely notices of events and programs, free admission to the Oberlin Heritage Center’s tours and history walks, reduced prices on programs for which there is a fee, Time Travelers benefits at other historical institutions throughout the country, and a 10 percent discount in our Museum Store. Your membership and contributions will support the preservation, maintenance, and administration of our historic sites and regular tour program, as well as public programs about Oberlin heritage, local history and civic affairs. We appreciate your membership at whatever level you select.

How can I resist? Please enroll me!

Name, as I wish it to appear in the Gazette and on the Oberlin Heritage Center mailing list:
______________________________________________________________________________
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\( \square \) Sustaining $50
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\( \square \) Heritage Rescuer $100
\( \square \) Heritage Leader $250
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\( \square \) Heritage Rescuer $100
\( \square \) Heritage Leader $250
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Business and organizational members receive all of the membership benefits listed above, as well as a special Certificate of Appreciation suitable for display.

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomes gift memberships and contributions in honor of or in memory of individuals. Please contact the office for more information.

\( \square \) I am a new member
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\( \square \) $______ for the Endowment Fund
\( \square \) $______ in memory/honor of: _____________________________

\( \square \) I wish to learn more about becoming an Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer

Thank you for helping us serve our community! Please complete this form and mail it, with your check payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center, to P. O. Box 0455, Oberlin, Ohio 44074 or join online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. For further information, call 440-774-1700, e-mail <members@oberlinheritage.org> or stop by our office at the Monroe House, 73½ South Professor Street. Office hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

2015: 2571  
2014: 1915  
2013: 1106

**Tour attendance**  
Youth: 678  
College Students: 189  
Adults: 926  
Seniors: 326

**OHC Special Event Visitors:** 497

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**Our STUDENT INTERNS & AMERI CORPS MEMBERS:**  
Rand – Baghdad, Iraq  
César – Dallas, TX  
Ava – Seattle, WA  
Alexandra – Minneapolis, MN  
Madison – Stamford, CT  
Hanna – Penlyn, PA  
Anna – Wakeman, OH  
Kaitlyn – Brookville, OH  
Mary – Warren, OH  
Maggie – Avon, OH

**POPULATION in 1880**  
Oberlin: 3242  
Elyria: 4777

**4285 Volunteer Hours**

**Membership**  
2015: 735  
2014: 711

**Youth Outreach Program attendance:** 1386

**New Tablet Tours – 2**

**Collections Over**  
2000 objects,  
1500 archival records,  
1300 photographs

**Steps within the Monroe House:** 76

**Number of carriage makers listed on an 1857 map of Oberlin:** 3  
(Isaac Penfield, Robert Alexander, and A. Jackson)

**Where tour visitors were from:**  
9% Oberlin  
19% Elsewhere in Lorain County  
24% Greater Cleveland area  
23% Other areas of Ohio  
22% Other states (36)  
3% Foreign nations

**Oral History 232 hours of digitized interviews**

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**Fun Feedback:**  
What a wonderful tour of the square. Can’t believe how much I learned about Oberlin in just over an hour. What a beautiful town!

Thanks for always putting together an amazing field trip! The children love the tour, games, and especially the schoolhouse.

Thank you for this wonderful, much needed facility in the rich, historical town of Oberlin.

VISIT www.facebook.com/oberlinheritagecenter