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History Goes High Tech at the Oberlin Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to announce several high tech improvements that have been made over the past few months, thanks to a one-year Museums for America grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Oberlin residents and visitors can now move at their own pace through the community’s historic business district with the Heritage Center’s brand new “Picture the Past” tablet tour of downtown Oberlin. The tour was developed by Liz Schultz, OHC’s Museum Education & Tour Coordinator, and covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs, and more. To experience the tour, come to the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and borrow one of OHC’s iPads at $5/hour or $20/day (OHC members receive a 20% discount). Not sure if it’s something you’ll like? Stop by and see what it’s all about. A new digital version of the popular Freedom’s Friends History Walk will be available later this summer.

The Oberlin Heritage Center also worked closely with their web host, Emerge Inc. of Avon Lake, to overhaul the organization’s website to be easier for visitors to navigate, particularly on mobile devices. (Did you know that about 20% of OHC’s website visitors are now coming through cell phones and tablets?) Check out the Heritage Center’s new look at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.

A warm and grateful shout-out goes to Oberlin College Library and Oberlin College Archives staff who worked with the Heritage Center to convert thousands of records compiled by volunteers in OHC’s Westwood Cemetery gravestone inventory into a new, easy-to-search database. Genealogists, researchers, and all who are interested can explore more at www.oberlinwestwood.org.

If you’d rather “un-plug” from digital devices, no worries. The Heritage Center will always have offerings for you, too. Visitors in July can come on a guided Freedom’s Friends Underground Railroad History Walk every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. or an Oberlin Women’s History Walk every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. And OHC’s three historic buildings are open for full or sneak peak tours year-round. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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