For immediate release – February 6, 2017
Contact: Amanda Manahan, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Award-Winning Education Programs for Students of All Ages

Oberlin is a small town with Big Stories, and the Oberlin Heritage Center loves sharing them! Plan a field trip, book an outreach program for us to come to you, or rent a “history kit” to take time on your own to explore northeastern Ohio’s nationally significant history. Our award-winning programs are designed to teach accurate history, engage students through hands-on experiences and thought-provoking discussions, and help children and teens better understand their lives today. Learning themes include everyday life in the 1800s, community landmarks and changes over time, women’s rights and education, the struggle to end slavery, scientific discovery, and stories that remind us that people back then knew how to have fun, too! All guided tours and hands-on history programs meet academic content standards and can be tailored to enhance specific school lessons. Many activities can be combined to offer a full-day’s experience. Tour and program fees are waived for teachers and students in the Oberlin school district; a modest fee is charged for all other school visitors.

**Upstairs / Downstairs Tour: Small Town, Big Stories** EXPLORE the lifestyles and architecture of historic Oberlin in a guided tour of three beautifully preserved buildings that tells the nationally significant story of the community and college in Oberlin from their beginning in 1833 through the next 100 years. Learn about anti-slavery and the Underground Railroad, scientific discovery, women's history, early health movements, student life, and more. 75-minute guided tour for all grade levels (especially popular with Grades 3 and 4).

**I Spy Oberlin: History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt** SPY historic markers, decorative details, and oddities in historic Oberlin. Students will open their eyes and see hometowns in a new way following this tour. 60-minute guided activity for Grades K-5.

**Lessons in the Past** EXPERIENCE a typical school day from the early 1800s with a costumed interpreter in the Heritage Center’s one-room, pioneer-era Little Red Schoolhouse. Games and fun are mixed among lessons in readin’, writin’ and ‘rithmetic. 90-minute program for Grades 1-5; accommodates groups of 10-25 students at a time.

**Scholars and Settlers History Walk** ENJOY fascinating stories about Oberlin’s earliest residents and hear of the triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around
Tappan Square. Compare the buildings of today to the buildings of yesteryear using historic photographs and maps. 60-minute guided walking tour for Grades 3-12.

**Freedom’s Friends History Walk**  HEAR about Oberlin’s famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad. 75-minute guided walking tour for Grades 4-12.

**One Step More: A Walking Tour of Women’s History in Oberlin**  CONNECT with powerful stories of 19th and early 20th century Oberlin women who helped “elevate the female character” locally and across the nation through education, social causes and more. 75-minute walking tour for Grades 4-12.

**Radicals and Reformers Westwood Cemetery History Walk**  BE INSPIRED by tales of anti-slavery leaders, women’s rights pioneers and dedicated overseas missionaries memorialized in the beautiful park-like setting of Westwood Cemetery. 60-minute guided walking tour for Grades 4-12.

**Soldiers and Civilians History Walk**  COMMEMORATE men who fought in the Civil War as well as civilians on the home front who formed relief groups, who continued their cry for abolition, and who served as a support system for the soldiers. 75-minute guided walking tour for Grades 8-12.

Advance reservations are required for all field trip options; for tour guidelines visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org). The cost of $3 per student is waived for teachers and their students in the Oberlin school district. History Walks are available April 1 through October 31, while on-site tours and programs are offered year-round.

**Outreach Programs**
Heritage Center staff also can visit your classroom or youth group to lead students through a discussion, object exploration and hands-on activity. Programs can be tailored to different grade levels and interests. Topics include the Underground Railroad and Abolition, the Civil War, Historic Foods, Architecture, Fashion, Games and “History Mystery” objects. Outreach classroom programs are waived for the Oberlin school district; the fee is $50 for other Lorain County schools, with an additional fee applicable if outside of Lorain County. For more, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/outreach](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/about/outreach).

**History Kits**
If you prefer an opportunity for more in-depth study of a topic, consider renting a new “history kit” designed in accordance with Ohio social studies and many common core standards. Teachers can rent a kit for two weeks and build on the learning experience by pairing it with a field trip or requesting a museum staff member to introduce the kit topic to students with a story, discussion and activity. Each kit contains books, hands-on objects, primary and secondary source documents, a vocabulary list, and a teacher’s activity guide. Kits are available for grade levels 1-5, and grade 8. Fees to rent the kits are waived for the Oberlin school district. For others, the rental fee for the history kit is $25 for the kit alone, or $50 for
the kit plus an introductory program with a museum staff member. Delivery and pick-up of the kit can be arranged if needed.

**Tablet Tours**
Borrow an iPad from the Oberlin Heritage Center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and learn about Oberlin in a “do-it-yourself” format. The **Freedom’s Friends: Abolition/Underground Railroad** tour allows participants to move at their own pace through town and campus to learn about local monuments and discover new stories connected to Oberlin’s abolitionist history. The main tour covers about a mile, and participants can go farther afield (within Oberlin) if they wish to do more in-depth exploration. The **Picture the Past/Historic Downtown Oberlin** tablet tour covers a one block radius extending from the corner of Main and College Streets and is filled with fun facts, historic photographs, and more! There are 8 tablets that may be borrowed for using in a group setting. While the tour is free for classrooms in the Oberlin school district, a credit card is required for tablet loans. For non-Oberlin classrooms, the fee is $5/hour or $20/day per tablet.

**Educator Membership**
Consider becoming a member at the Oberlin Heritage Center at the special Educator’s rate of just $25.00 per year. In return, you’ll receive free tours and history walks for yourself, plus an additional five complimentary tour passes to share with family, friends or colleagues; discounts on group visits, and a 15% discount on publications purchased in the Museum Store. All members also receive reciprocal benefits at more than 300 history museums and historic sites around the country through the Time Travelers Network.

For more information about educational opportunities, or to make a reservation, please call Amanda Manahan the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or email tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org. To learn more about membership or to join at the special Educator membership level, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is widely recognized as a model small museum, historical society and historic preservation organization. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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