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Oberlin Heritage Center Celebrates Jewett Family Day

The Oberlin Heritage Center will celebrate “family” during the 21st annual Lorain County Family Fun Fair by shining the spotlight on its 1884 Jewett House, the home’s first residents, Frank Fanning and Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett, and their ties to other Jewetts on the family tree. Special guests for the day will include members of the national association of the Jewett Family of America (JFA) and others interested in the history and lineage of the Jewett Family, whose roots in America span nearly 400 years. Historically, Jewetts have strong ties to abolition, missionary work, higher education and more. Festivities take place within and around the Victorian Jewett House (73 South Professor Street) on **Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** and are free and open to the public.

An exciting line-up of Jewett-related mini-exhibits, “Tent Talks,” and guided walking tours has been planned for this year’s special celebration in addition to the Heritage Center’s more traditional Family Fun Fair activities such as hands-on-history fun and old-fashioned lawn games offered elsewhere on the Heritage Center grounds. One of the highlights of the Jewett-themed events will be the display of a 1923 DeLuxe Touring Jewett automobile, owned by OHC members George and Marjorie Strom, of Elyria. The Jewett House will be open all day (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) for self-guided mini-tours and a look at several Jewett exhibits created specifically for this event. Guests also will have the opportunity to learn more through a variety of presentations that will be offered on a rotating schedule, including:

10:15 a.m. ***Preserving Oberlin’s Jewett House.*** A brief walking tour of the interior and exterior of the house, showing preservation challenges and accomplishments, led by Patricia Murphy, Executive Director of the Oberlin Heritage Center.

11:00 a.m. ***Marriage Made in Japan: Sarah Frances Gulick and Frank Fanning Jewett.*** The Jewetts married in Yokohama in 1880. What had taken these two young people so far from home; how did they meet and fall in love? This 15-minute illustrated talk, presented by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Norman Craig, takes place in the Jewett exhibit room (first floor, rear). The presentation will be repeated at 3:00 p.m.

11:20 a.m. ***Charles Martin Hall and Frank Fanning Jewett.*** A brief tour of the Jewett House’s woodshed exhibit with scientific interpretation of Hall’s groundbreaking aluminum experiments and Professor Jewett’s role in the process, led by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Norman Craig. The tour will be repeated at 3:20 p.m.

A series of 15-minute Tent Talks will be offered on the Jewett House front lawn beginning in late morning and continuing through the afternoon, including:

11:30 a.m. ***The Jewetts and Civil War Connections***, presented by OHC member, Greg Jewett, of Findlay, Ohio, who is a director of the national non-profit Jewett Family of America. Two of Frank Fanning Jewett's brothers served as officers in the 54th Massachusetts regiment, the famed African-American unit that fought in the Civil War, whose powerful story was told in the movie "Glory."

12:00 noon ***Temperance in Oberlin and the Jewetts***, presented by Oberlin Heritage Center AmeriCorps member, Richard Donegan. The Anti-Saloon League was founded in Oberlin as a statewide initiative in 1893 and quickly gained momentum across the country. Find out more about Frank and Fannie Jewett's involvement in the national reform movement, which culminated in the 18th Amendment to the Constitution (1920) banning alcohol.

12:30 p.m. ***Jewetts and Literature***, presented by Greg Jewett. Learn about Jewetts as writers and publishers, including John P. Jewett who brought the abolition movement into many homes across America when he published Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852.

1:00 p.m. ***The Jewett Automobile***, presented by George Strom and Greg Jewett. Manufactured in Detroit, Michigan by the Paige-Detroit Motor Car Company from March 1922 through December 1926, this limited-production automobile bore the name of Paige-Detroit's president, H.M. Jewett.

1:30 p.m. ***The Jewetts and Civil War Connections***, repeat of 11:30 a.m. presentation by Greg Jewett.

2:00 p.m. ***Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett, the Progressive Era and Public Hygiene***, presented by Oberlin Heritage Center summer intern Courtney Martin, a rising junior at Grinnell College (Iowa). An early 20th century reformer, Mrs. Jewett wrote several books on public health and hygiene (c. 1906-1916) that collectively sold over 6 million copies.

2:30 p.m. ***Jewetts and Literature***, repeat of 12:30 p.m. presentation by Greg Jewett.

3:30 p.m. ***The Jewett Automobile***, repeat of 1:00 p.m. presentation by George Strom and Greg Jewett.

Visitors also will be able to explore on their own several Jewett-related sites elsewhere in Oberlin. Self-guided tour brochures will be available at the Jewett House. The tour was researched and prepared by OHC Honorary Trustee Dina Schoonmaker, a retired director of Oberlin College Library's Special Collections department.

Whether you are a member of the Jewett Family or simply interested in the vast contributions of this family to many significant aspects of American history, all are invited to stop by and enjoy a very special day at the Heritage Center.

For more on this Oberlin Heritage Center event or other upcoming activities, please call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org. **### End**