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## Did Oberlin's Original Commitment to Racial Egalitarianism Prevail Over Time?

Oberlin was founded in 1833 as a Christian utopian experiment, and two years later the community made an almost unprecedented commitment to racial egalitarianism. Was the bold commitment realized in practice? This long-debated question is one that has generated detailed research in recent years by two Oberlin College professors. Drawing on data compiled from local tax lists and census records, Gary Kornblith and Carol Lasser will discuss some of their findings in **The Promise of Opportunity in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Oberlin**, presented on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:15 p.m. in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive). The program examines how ordinary black and white Oberlinians compared with one another economically from the antebellum era through the end of the nineteenth century. The event is sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center and is free and open to the public.

Gary J. Kornblith is professor of history at Oberlin College, where he has taught since 1981. He currently is working on *Slavery and Sectional Strife in the Early Republic*, to be published later this year, and *Elusive Utopia: A History of Race in Oberlin, Ohio* (with Carol Lasser). Carol Lasser is professor of history at Oberlin College, where she has taught since 1980. She currently is working on *Antebellum American Women: Private, Public, Political* (with Stacey Robertson) and *Elusive Utopia: A History of Race in Oberlin, Ohio* (with Gary Kornblith). Professors Kornblith and Lasser each received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Historian Award in 2008.

For more information, or to learn about other community programs sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center in coming months, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org), or you may request a copy of an events calendar by calling (440) 774-1700 or sending e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

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