

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette September 2018

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074

(440)774-1700

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## A Month-Long Tour Extravaganza at the Heritage Center FREE Opportunities: Upstairs/Downstairs, Behind-the-Scenes, Out-and-About...or Learn to Guide a Tour!

Don't miss the special tour opportunities (all FREE) that are featured in this month's *E-Gazette*! Enjoy a fully-guided on-site tour as part of **Smithsonian Magazine's 14th Annual Museum Day**. For those who are curious about what goes on *behind* the scenes don't miss our guided "snoop," where guests may peek in closets and check out OHC's recently upgraded collections storage room. **Cabinets, Closets & Cupboards** is offered in conjunction with the statewide "Ohio Open Doors" initiative this month. The Heritage Center also will host **A Peek Through the Portal**, a new volunteer-led endeavor featuring the old (and no-longer-standing) Warner Conservatory. This one-time event is part-walking-tour and part-lecture. Or, perhaps you love Oberlin history so much you want to get involved even more? Sign up for the half-day **Docent Training Workshop** to be held at the end of the month. September is certainly a great month to enjoy a tour at the Oberlin Heritage Center -- we look forward to seeing you!

## Heritage Center Welcomes Oberlin College Students Serving Up FREE Root Beer Floats on the Jewett House Lawn



As another new school year gets underway, it's a good time to be reminded of all the opportunities OHC offers to local college students. Oberlin College students are invited to stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center (73 South Professor Street) on **Friday September 7 from 4 - 6 p.m.** for a refreshing root beer float and a peek inside the Heritage Center's historic museum buildings – the 1866 Monroe House, the 1836 Little Red Schoolhouse and the 1884 Jewett House. (And hear about Chemistry Professor Frank Jewett's fondness for making his *own* root beer at the turn of the century.) Special shout-outs go to OHC business members **Oberlin IGA** and the **Ohio Educational Credit Union** for co-sponsoring this event.

Remember that the Heritage Center welcomes ANY college student for FREE tours and history walks all year round. OHC's Resource Center and website provide excellent sources for local history research, and volunteer opportunities abound for college students who want to learn more about museums, nonprofit administration, historic preservation, and more. Local college students can visit the OHC booth and talk to Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** ([tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)) at the Oberlin College Connections Fair on **Thursday, September 6 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.** in Wilder Bowl on the Oberlin College campus.

## Scanning Saturdays - Digitally Preserve Your History!

September 8 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., by appointment



Do you want a high quality digital copy of your grandmother's high school graduation photo? Or maybe of a snapshot of your uncle when he was in the service? Or a slide from that memorable vacation?

From families, to parties, to pets, to homes, the Heritage Center can help you preserve and share your special photographic memories. Our high quality scanners in the Monroe House Resource Center can preserve items up to 11" X 17."

While the scanner is moving, Collections Manager **Maren McKee** (*pictured here*) will be happy to share ideas for storing and labeling your photo collection. You can scan up to 10 items for \$1 each (50-cents apiece for OHC members) within the 30-minute time slot. Participants are asked to bring a flash drive to take the copies home. Make an appointment now by contacting Maren at [history@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:history@oberlinheritage.org) or (440) 774-1700.

## Cabinets, Closets & Cupboards

### OHC (and Others) Takes Part in "Ohio Open Doors" Initiative



The Ohio Open Doors initiative, coordinated by the Ohio History Connection, runs from September 7-16 and involves many Ohio historic buildings and landmarks opening their doors for special free tours and events. Visit two of the Oberlin Heritage Center's historic buildings on **Saturday, September 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** as the Heritage Center offers a rare chance to explore *Cabinets, Closets & Cupboards*. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the first floor of the 1866 Monroe House and sneak a peek behind-the-scenes at the 1884 Jewett House where you'll be guided on the half-hour to poke your nose into off-tour closets and see the newly improved collections storage room.

Make a day of it September 15 and stop by **The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.** (106 North Main Street) to learn more about *Rebels, Reformers and Radicals* in Oberlin with tours of the Meeting House from 1 - 3 p.m. and stories of the church's place in reforms from abolition, women's rights, civil rights, temperance, and more. At 4 p.m., enjoy taking part in an ice cream social on the church lawn.

Visit **The Hickories** (509 Washington Avenue) and the **Lorain County History Center** (284 Washington Avenue) in Elyria to learn more about local entrepreneurs whose beautiful homes are open from 1 - 4 p.m., hosted by the **Lorain County Historical Society**.

Find out more about these and other Ohio Open Doors free events across the state during the ten-day span by visiting <https://www.ohiohistory.org/opendoors>.

# Smithsonian Museum Day

**FREE Tours for All on Saturday, September 22**



The Oberlin Heritage Center offers free admission for guided Upstairs/Downstairs tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. as part of the annual Museum Day celebration presented by *Smithsonian* magazine. At the Heritage Center, a knowledgeable and welcoming docent will lead you through the Heritage Center's three beautifully preserved buildings, which serve as backdrop for telling the unique, nationally significant stories of the community and college in Oberlin from their beginning in 1833 until the 1930s. By the end of your visit, you'll have learned about Oberlin's founding as a Christian Perfectionist colony, women attending college, African American education, abolition and the Underground Railroad, aluminum history, decorative arts, the Progressive Era, student life, and much more!

Smithsonian Museum Day involves more than 1,000 museums around the country and allows for one day only the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian's Washington, D.C.-based properties to be emulated throughout America. Attendees should present an official Museum Day Admission Card downloadable at the *Smithsonian* magazine website, which provides free entry for two people. Visit <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-2018/> to find out about all the museums nationwide that are participating in Museum Day and to download the free Admission Card.

## Learn to Share Your Passion for History

**Docent Training: Saturday, September 29 from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

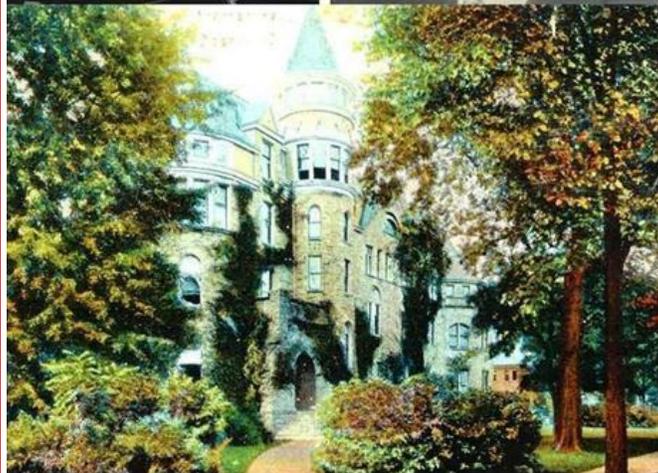


If you enjoy taking guided tours and exploring historic places, wouldn't you like to learn how to give a tour of your own? This free workshop is designed to train volunteers to lead tours or serve as room docents in the Heritage Center's three historic buildings (1866 Monroe House, 1836 Little Red Schoolhouse, and 1884 Jewett House). You'll learn how to present an engaging 75-minute tour while sharing stories of the community and college in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century.

Trained docents are asked to make a commitment of helping with at least four tours or open house events per year as part of OHC's volunteer program. Prospective docents should take part in a guided tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center prior to signing up for the workshop; talk with Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan (440/774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)) to receive a complimentary tour ticket to observe a tour to see what being a docent is all about. Then reserve your space with Amanda for the training workshop by September 21.

## A Peek Through the Portal

Saturday, September 29 at 11 a.m.



Local historian **Sid Comings**, assisted by volunteers **Bruce Colbert** and **Katherine (Kitty) Denny-Smith**, provide a glimpse of the original Oberlin Conservatory building, Warner Hall, which once stood at the corner of College and Professor Streets (replaced in the early 1960s by the present-day Conservatory building across the street). This outdoor conversation focuses on the history of the people, structure and artwork associated with the original Conservatory. The one-hour stroll around Conservatory sites (former and current) is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged by calling (440) 774-1700 or registering online at [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org). Meet at the Monroe House, 73½ South Professor Street in Oberlin, and we'll move on from there.

*Photos courtesy of Sid Comings, David Egloff, and Oberlin College Archives. Clockwise from top: This sculpted panel, one of several that were salvaged from the old Warner Hall, was incorporated into a low outdoor wall in front of the new Conservatory building. Center, right: Oberlin Conservatory Professor of Pianoforte William K. Breckenridge (1867-1956) taught on the Conservatory faculty for 44 years and was a personal friend of German composer Johannes Brahms. Bottom, a colorized postcard of the original*

*Conservatory, Warner Hall. Center, left: A peek through the portal windows of the new Conservatory building looking out onto the old Conservatory (Warner Hall), circa 1964.*

## Oberlin Heritage Center in the News

### OHC Featured in Media Outlets Locally and Statewide

Did you know that **Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted** highlights a sampling of Ohio businesses every month on his website? The Heritage Center was one of 14 nonprofits (out of 67,000 across the state) to appear in the Secretary's spotlight during August's NonProfit Month. **Katie Semo**, Regional Liaison in Northern Ohio for the Ohio Secretary of State's office, presented a special commendation last month at the Monroe House to OHC Executive Director **Liz Schultz**, which read in part:

*This Certificate of Commendation is tendered on behalf of the people of the State of Ohio as a small token of their gratitude and sincere admiration for the exemplary work of the Oberlin Heritage Center and its outstanding employees. The Oberlin Heritage Center is an important member of Ohio's business community and has achieved great success by focusing on quality and the people they serve... The accomplishments of the Oberlin Heritage Center are an inspiration to others for what they can achieve with a similar attitude, commitment and hard work.*

## *Oberlin Heritage Center in the News...continued*



Earlier in the month, the Heritage Center was part of a special **Fox 8 New Day Cleveland** feature of the community of Oberlin. And **Oberlin College's Peer Advising Leaders Program** recently posted a video for incoming students to acquaint them with their new community. First stop -- OHC!

We'd love to have you visit the Heritage Center in person, but if you can't do that, take a minute to find us in the news!

Visit the Secretary of State's NonProfit Profiles webpage at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/secretary-husted-office/office-initiatives/ohio-business-profile/august-2018/>.

View the OHC feature on Fox 8 New Day at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BX-MhF7f6uk>. (Or view the full-length Fox 8 New Day episode that includes many more great places to visit in Oberlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JBhSKnY2J0> )

View the Oberlin College video for new students at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X64wAEP1t4>.

*Photo: Top, the commendation from the office of the Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted. Bottom, OHC Staff and Board members surround Executive Director, Liz Schultz (back row, center), following a brief presentation by Katie Semo (also holding commendation folder), a representative of the Secretary of State's team.*

## **Members Update**

Welcome to new OHC members **David Cann, Nicole DeWitt** (Vermilion), **Lara Edwards, John Elrod, Sara Fisher, Glori-June Gyorf** (Lorain), **Bill Lamme**(Chicago, IL), **Mary McGill, Anna Schiff, and Sherry Suttles** (Hallandale Beach, FL). We're also pleased to welcome **Harmon's Automotive Service** as a new business member. Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.

We mourn the loss of Honorary Trustee **C. Richard Gilbert** who passed away in late July. Dick was a long-time, multi-talented Heritage Center volunteer, and with his wife, Norma, was an Endowed Life Member of the organization. He will be deeply missed.

OHC members are committed to keeping the organization strong. *New members always are needed to assure the Heritage Center's continued stability and success.* Not yet a member? Join today to enjoy learning about local history, meet others who share your interests, save money on tours, events, Museum Store purchases, and at many other history museums around the country through the **Time Travelers Network** (learn more at <http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/> ), and support a well-managed, creative and collaborative nonprofit organization doing good work in the community! Join or renew today by visiting [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) and clicking on the **"Join Now"** button at the top of the home page, or call (440) 774-1700 and request a membership brochure.