



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

March 2020

PO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074

(440)774-1700

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or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Females in the Field

Using a field guide to identify a specimen is an important tool for any naturalist, but these guides are not as old as you may believe. Celebrate Women's History Month by learning how female naturalists of the early 20th century helped develop and popularize the use of field guides for an increasingly "outdoorsy" public.

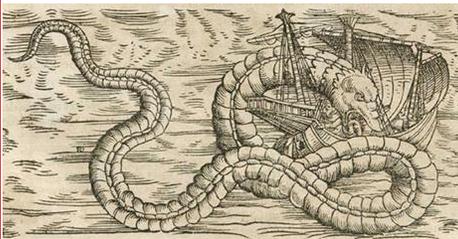
Interspersed with stories from Oberlin and Ohio, this program examines women's pioneering achievements in promoting outdoor recreation, education, and conservation. Jen Graham will present this free public program at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium on **Tuesday, March 10 at 7:15 p.m.**

Graham is a 2012 Oberlin College alumna. She grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated from Oberlin College with high honors in early U.S. history. She worked as a local history AmeriCorps member at the Oberlin Heritage Center before relocating to Cleveland in 2014. Jen has worked at a variety of northeast Ohio institutions, including Hale Farm & Village, the Cleveland History Center, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Cleveland Metroparks. Her historical interests include women's history, social movements, and the intersections of cultural and natural histories.



Legends, Mythology, Folklore and Fairy Tales

Kids Spring Break Camp Uncovers History in Favorite Traditional Stories



There may be a bit of truth and history in our world's greatest legends. Boys and girls ages 8-13 will have a fun opportunity to explore fables, myths and folk tales and learn about history along the way during the Heritage Center's three-day spring break camp. Registration is now underway for the hands-on-history fun, which takes place **Wednesday through Friday, March 25-27 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Campers

will experience a variety of stories and their main characters through readings, skits and performances, and other creative activities. At camp's end, family and friends are invited to see the children perform a puppet show of their favorite stories.

Camps are taught by Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** and AmeriCorps Member, **Katrina Walker** and held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Register by March 1 for an early bird discount. Scholarship assistance is available for those who qualify for free or reduced-school lunches. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org Call (440) 774-1700 or email:

tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

OHC Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, April 1 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(Social Hour begins at 5 p.m.)**

The evening of history, fellowship and recognition features Oberlin College Associate Professor of Anthropology Amy Margaris (OC '96) sharing the program "The Past, Present and Future of the Oberlin College Museum." The museum, which no longer exists as a physical structure, used to contain a variety of natural and ethnographic objects collected by alumni, missionaries, and others. Professor Margaris is the primary steward of the ethnographic collections and will discuss the history of the museum as well as current and potential uses of these objects.



Photo by Tanya Rosen-Jones

Presentation of the Heritage Center's 19th Annual Community Awards will take place during the meeting as well. The categories for the awards are:

***Community Historian: David Ashenurst**

***Youth Community Service Award: Emily Winnicki**

***Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year: Stephen Johnson III**

***History Teacher of the Year: Ja'Niece Whitehead**

***Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award: Green Circle Growers**

Invitations are sent to Oberlin Heritage Center members, and the event will take place at The Hotel at Oberlin, 10 East College Street. The public is encouraged to join in the meeting, and for additional information and registration, visit: www.oberlinheritage.org or phone 440-774-1700.



Sponsored by:

Please a Pollinator, Befriend a Beekeeper, and Explore History

April 4 (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) Smithsonian Museum Day:

The Oberlin Heritage Center looks to the future as much as the past. Come lend a hand for an hour or two as OHC volunteers build pollinator-friendly plant beds on the museum property. Tom Roth, a local beekeeper with more than 22 years of experience, will be on site to answer questions about bees and beekeeping from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Heritage Center will provide some gardening tools and gloves; participants may also bring their own favorites (please mark with your name).

Come inside and learn more about Oberlin's early history through a self-guided tour of the 1866 Monroe House. All activities are free as part of *Smithsonian Magazine's* annual Museum Day. Present the Museum Day Admission Card available at www.Smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

If you have questions in advance or would like to let us know you're coming to help, please contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at (440) 774-1700 or at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.



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History Minute—Parsons' Jersey Dairy



Parsons' Jersey Dairy

For this History Minute we'd like to highlight some items that recently came into the collections of the Heritage Center. Thank you to Karen Schrader, whose father Warren Bowman worked at Parsons' Jersey Dairy, for donating a milk bottle cap and for giving OHC permission to archive and share digital images like the ones shown here.

Formed in 1937, Parsons' Jersey Dairy came to Oberlin in 1940 when Frank Parsons purchased F. W. Clark's dairy (aka Dudley farm), which is west of Sterk's on Lorain Street/Route 511 today. By 1948 the dairy had moved to 355 East Lorain Street in the building that is now the home of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, near IGA. An ad in the 1977 telephone book promised "Quality Grade A Dairy Products for Particular People," ice cream, and home route service. That same year Parsons' sold out to Smith Dairy of Orville, Ohio. Parsons' owner John Paxton cited rising costs and the inability to compete with larger dairy firms as the reason. By the time the next year's telephone book was printed there were no longer any dairies listed in Oberlin.

These historic items fit several of OHC current collecting goals in that they document a trade, an Oberlin institution that no longer exists, 20th century history, and local connections to agriculture. If you have similar photographs or items that tell stories of Oberlin's past, please contact history@oberlinheritage.org about the possibility of sharing local history with the Oberlin community.



Florence "Flossie" Bligh circa 1950

Ready to become a docent?

Upstairs / Downstairs Guided Tour: Small Town, Big Stories / April 18 (Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Learn how to present an engaging 75-minute tour through the Heritage Center's three historic buildings while sharing stories of the community and college in its first century, from the 1833 founding through the turn of the 20th century. Register by April 14. Training begins at The Monroe House.

OHC Grounds Day – Saturday, May 16 from 9:00am-12:00pm

Please join us for an hour or two and help us spruce up the grounds for our busy summer season. Projects include trimming, weeding, planting, and general yard clean-up. Tools and supplies will be provided; volunteers are welcome to bring their own. Please contact Liz at liz.schultz@oberlinheritage.org or at 440-774-1700 to RSVP.

OHC Members Update

The Heritage Center welcomes three new Business Members! Welcome Perales Law, McKay and Associates, and Eden Valley Enterprises to the Center. Two community members joined this month, Barbara Brown and OHC's newest staff member, Veronica Vanden Bout. **Enroll now** and you too can be part of a great community organization -- and the Heritage Center will make sure you know how much you are appreciated! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (and click the "Join Now" button at the top of the home page) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Also of Interest

Madam President: The Story Of Victoria Woodhull will be presented on Wednesday, March 4th at noon by Eden Valley Enterprises. Find out about the first woman to run for president in 1872 at First Congregational UCC at 330 Second St. in Elyria. Victoria was also the first woman to speak before Congress (1871) and she and her sister, Tennessee Claflin, owned a newspaper and were the first female stockbrokers on Wall Street! Hear her remarkable story and enjoy a lunch before the presentation. Call the church at 440-323-5454 Ext 13 for reservations. Be sure to specify your request for the luncheon. Tickets are \$6.00 and payable at the door and reservations are required by Monday, March 2, 2020.

“Tainted: Anti-Suffragism and Race Politics in the Crusade for Women’s Votes”

A Panel Discussion to be held at Oberlin College, March 10, 2020 at 4:30pm, Hallock Auditorium

The National Women’s History Museum “Determined to Rise” traveling lecture series celebrates the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. This panel discussion will explore the history of the suffrage movement and divisions within it, the exclusion of African American suffragists from the broader movement, and the position of anti-suffragists who were critical of the movement to allow women to vote.

The panel features three esteemed scholars and authors who are experts on the suffrage movement, anti-suffragism and America’s racial history: Angela P. Dodson, author of *Remember the Ladies: Celebrating Those Who Fought for Freedom at the Ballot Box*; Ben Raillton, professor of English studies and coordinator of American Studies at Fitchburg State University, and author of *We the People: The 500-Year Battle Over Who is American*; and Carol Lasser, emerita professor of history at Oberlin College, coauthor of *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin*.

Tamika Nunley, assistant professor of history at Oberlin College, will moderate the discussion.

The free and public panel will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10th in Hallock Auditorium in the Lewis Environmental Studies Building at Oberlin College, 122 Elm St., Oberlin, OH.

Madam President: The Story Of Victoria Woodhull will also be presented on Tuesday, March 10th at 6 p.m. at the Elyria Public Library West River Branch, 1194 W River Road North, Elyria, Ohio. Victoria ran on a platform of suffrage for (including women!), an 8-hour workday, minority representation in Congress and public housing for the poor! These were radical ideas in the 1870s. This reader's theatre storytelling program is FREE and open to the public. For more information contact the library at 440 - 324-2270.

The African-American Family History Symposium, held on March 14th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will help attendees begin, expand or enrich their genealogical journeys! This free program is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in partnership with The African American Genealogical Society, Cleveland; The Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group, and underwritten by Benesch Friedlander, LLP. Keynote speaker at this event will be Sharon Gillins, an instructor at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. Register online at www.aafhs2020.eventbrite.com or phone 216-215-0373. Registration closes on March 10th.

Artifact ID Day Have you ever found a Native American artifact, strange rock, a pretty mineral or a fascinating fossil and wondered what it is? This is your chance to find out! You are cordially invited to

attend Artifact, Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Identification Day—Sunday March 15, 2020 1-3 pm at the Firelands Archaeological Research Center, 4944 Detroit Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio. Bring along your specimen and they will help you identify it!

Sponsored by The **Firelands Archaeological Research Center** (located on the Scenic Byway in Sheffield Village) is a volunteer organization founded to discover, document, interpret, and conserve archaeological sites in north central Ohio and convey our findings through scientific reports, exhibits, and presentations.



The **North Ridge Scenic Byway Commission** is designated by the City of Avon, Village of Sheffield, and Township of Sheffield to develop management plans and oversee the promotion of the Scenic Byway (State Route 254 within Lorain County) for the enjoyment and benefit of residents and visitors.

The 2020 Family History Jamboree is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020 and begins at 8 a.m. This event is designed as an all-day event to promote Family History activities among the public. Attendees can select up to six one-hour classes out of a menu of more than 25 offerings. Ranging from beginner level genealogy to more advance topics, visit <http://www.fhj1.org> for additional information and to register for programs. The Jamboree will be held at 901 E Whipp Rd., Centerville, Ohio and is sponsored by The Dayton Ohio Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

Queens of the Heartland Exhibition

This exhibit will take a look at prominent African-American women of Ohio and the Midwest. Of local interest, the exhibit will highlight the life and impact of Mary Jane Patterson, the first African-American woman to earn a B.A. degree (Oberlin College, 1862). This exhibit will open April 11 at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, OH.

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/national-afro-american-museum>



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