



Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

January 2020

PO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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**BIG
THANKS**

from



**OBERLIN
Heritage
CENTER**

Thank you End-of Year Donors and Grantmakers

A BIG THANKS to **310** donors who contributed to the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Fund campaign! You helped raise \$52,026 -- far surpassing this year's goal of \$45,000! The campaign received the support of 45% of the organization's membership, with 100% of the OHC Board and Staff contributing. The generosity of members and friends is key to the Heritage Center's ability to provide easily available public history programming, classroom outreach, youth camps, research assistance and much more.

The Heritage Center also is very grateful to the **Community Foundation of Lorain County's Jane and Eric Nord Fund** for a grant of \$24,582 received last month to support programming and general operating expenses of the organization. We also extend special thanks to the **Nordson Corporation** for its generous \$4,400 education grant that will continue to underwrite school-age outreach and on-site history programming in the New Year.

OHC Board and Staff were tremendously grateful for each and every gift received as the year came to a close. The generosity and widespread support of donors near and far allowed the organization to end 2019 healthy and strong and ready to launch another wonderful year of exploring history together!

A History of Race & the Right to Vote in Reconstruction

Saturday, February 1 at 11 a.m.

The right to vote, perhaps more than any other symbol of equality, has sparked some of the most significant Civil Rights struggles in American history. **Ric Sheffield** discusses how African Americans, even in Ohio, literally risked life, limb, and livelihood to claim their places at the polls. His presentation takes place in the Community Room of the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) and is free and open to the public. The event is a collaboration between OHC and the **Oberlin African-American Genealogy & History Group (OAAGHG)**.



Ric Sheffield is Professor of Legal Studies and Sociology at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. In addition to having served as Associate Provost of the College, he is the Director of Kenyon's Law & Society Program and the John Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-legal Studies. His research has focused upon the relationship between law and issues of gender, race, and ethnicity. He has lectured widely on race and law, as well as on African-American life in rural Ohio. This event is supported by the Doug & Shirley R. Johnson Endowment Fund and **Ohio Humanities**, the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Salute Those Who Make Oberlin Special **Last Call for Community Awards Nominations**



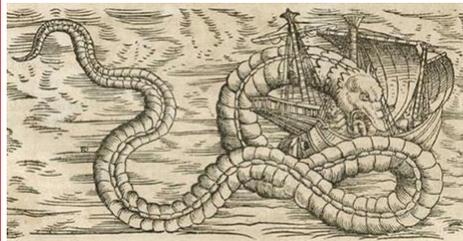
A few minutes are all it takes to nominate someone who is doing good work in local history, historic preservation or service to the community. The Heritage Center's Community Awards program, now in its 19th year, recognizes individuals, businesses, or organizations whose accomplishments are in keeping with OHC's mission to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. Categories include:

- **Community Historian**
- **Heritage Guardian**
- **Keep Oberlin Beautiful**
- **History Teacher of the Year**
- **Community Teacher of the Year**
(who encourages student service)
- **OHC Volunteer of the Year**
- **Business Service Leader**
- **Youth Community Service**

Nominations may be brief and you're likely to discover that the process of writing a paragraph or two about someone who inspires you is rewarding in itself -- try it and see! Submit your nomination by February 1, 2019. Award recipients will be honored at the Heritage Center's Annual Meeting, which takes place at The Hotel at Oberlin on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Find out more or download a nomination form at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Legends, Mythology, Folklore and Fairy Tales

Kids Spring Break Camp Uncovers History in Favorite Traditional Stories



Often, there is a bit of truth and history to 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 held at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Register by March 1 and receive an early bird discount. Scholarship assistance is available for those who qualify for free or reduced-school lunches. **Call 440-774-1700 to find out more or to register.**

OHC Winter/Spring Events Calendar on its Way to Members

The Heritage Center's 2020 Events Calendar will be mailed to members in the coming weeks. There's a great line-up of new, original (and free!) community programming in store, plus field trips, book readings, awards recognition, tours & history walks, kids' activities and so much more. Thank you to all of OHC's members for your support which helps make these events happen! If you are not yet a Heritage Center member, please consider joining. Your membership at any level really makes a difference to this nonprofit.

Please call 440-774-1700 for a member form, or for information on how you might be a sustaining member.

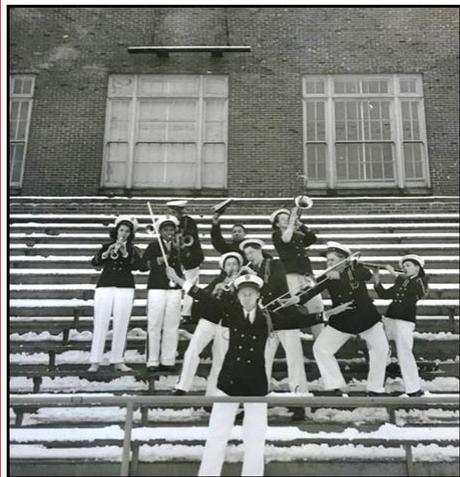
Giving Made Simple and Convenient with Insta-Charge Tailor Charitable Contributions to Best Fit Your Budget and Calendar

The end of each calendar year brings many requests from worthy causes. Did you know that donors to the Oberlin Heritage Center can sign-up for automatic credit card payments to handle membership renewals, Annual Fund giving, and other contributions so that they are made at any time of the year that is most convenient for you? Last year, an OHC member contacted our organization to see if she could sync up her annual donations around the time of her birthday -- that way she knew when she last gave and when she planned to give again. "Absolutely!" was the response from this end.

Other OHC members wanted to step up their giving to become Endowed Life Members (ELMs) without feeling a "pinch" to their budgets by making a larger contribution. A small monthly

donation via automatic credit card payments was the perfect way for these members to make a sizeable gift over several years.

As the New Year gets underway, consider automatic credit card payments to simplify or stretch your giving to the Heritage Center. It's easy, secure and saves time and money for both the donor and recipient. For more information, contact OHC Business Manager Bethany Hobbs by e-mail at ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org or by calling (440) 774-1700.



History Minute

Help Identify People and Places in the Museum's Photo Collection

The Heritage Center is putting a call out to local history sleuths to help identify faces, locations and events that appear in some of the historic photographs in the collection. This month's daily Facebook and Instagram posts, compiled by AmeriCorps member **Katrina Walker**, feature unnamed photos like the one pictured here. We believe this particularly jubilant photo of the Oberlin High School marching band was taken before 1946 behind what was then the Junior High building. (We know that after 1946, the uniform pants changed from white to a darker color.) If you have any information that could help identify the students in the photograph, we would love to hear it!

Follow the Heritage Center on social media and see more appealing -- yet anonymous -- photos. Grab your magnifying glass and your yearbooks and help OHC solve some of the mysteries in its photo collection. Contact **Katrina Walker** katrina.walker@oberlinheritage.org or Collections Manager **Maren McKee** history@oberlinheritage.org with your comments.

OHC Members Update

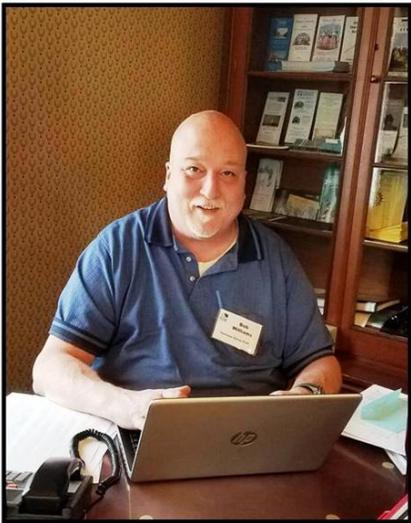
The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomed 63 new members to the organization in 2019, half of whom live outside of Oberlin, throughout Ohio and across the country! Some of OHC's newest members include: The **Philip Bak Family** (Amherst), **William Barrow** (Cleveland Heights), **Aimee Dickinson & Tim Hornbeck** (Oberlin), **Lori Ebihara** (Oberlin), **Aaron Fannin** (Brooklyn, NY), **Marny Fannin** (Elyria), **Kari Inglis** (Hilliard) and the **Oberlin Early Childhood Center**.

The Heritage Center also welcomed 4 new Endowed Life Members (ELMs) this past year. This circle of OHC friends has been especially helpful in furthering the good work of the Heritage Center through their warm support. Special thanks to our newest ELM -- **James H. Young** of Oberlin. We're thrilled to welcome Jim as the Heritage Center's 100th ELM!

If you are not yet an OHC member, make it your New Year's resolution to join! You'll enjoy being 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.

Heritage Center Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

A warm welcome goes to **Bob Williams** of Grafton (*pictured here*), the Oberlin Heritage Center's newest front office assistant and greeter. Bob comes to OHC as a new Vantage Aging participant



(formerly Mature Services) and will work 20 hours per week answering phones, welcoming visitors, and assisting the staff with many and varied clerical projects. Bob is a former corrections officer with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's office and also previously owned his own trucking company. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, having served as a legal services specialist both in the U.S. and in Japan.

Don't miss the newest blog written by OHC member and local history explorer **Melva Tolbert**. Melva is particularly interested in the abolitionist movement and recently visited two Sandusky historic sites related to this history. Read more at [**Sandusky's Underground Railroad**](#) posted on the Heritage Center's website.

Congratulations to the Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Amanda Manahan** who recently was elected to the Alumni Board of SUNY Oneonta's Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies.

Also of Interest

Gary Kornblith and **Carol Lasser**, emeriti professors of history at Oberlin College, present ***Elusive Utopia and Further Reflections on the History of Oberlin*** as part of Kendal at Oberlin's Community Conversations series on **Tuesday, January 21 at 7:15 p.m.** The discussion draws from the authors' latest book, *Elusive Utopia: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Oberlin, Ohio*, and takes place in Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). Free and open to the public.

The North Ridge Scenic Byway Commission and Firelands Archaeological Research Center will host an Enrichment Lecture ***Archaeology in your Backyard: Searching for the Ancient Peoples of the Black River Valley*** on **Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.** Featured presenter is **Dr. Brian Redmond**, Curator of Archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Adjunct Associate Professor of Archaeology, at Case Western Reserve University. Find out what Dr. Redmond and his team have learned about the original inhabitants of this area from their work over the past 25 years carrying out archaeological excavations at ancient Native American settlements in Lorain County's Black River Valley. The program will be held at the Sheffield Village Municipal Complex, Council Chambers (4340 Colorado Avenue). Free and open to the public.

