

Oberlin Heritage Center

March 2022 Gazette

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or send an email to members@oberlinheritage.org

New to the Collections!

In last month's newsletter we asked for photos and collections items related to local Black-owned businesses. We were delighted and honored to receive digital copies of photos and articles from Jorgelle Lawson, daughter of George and Ruth Goodson. The couple owned a variety of Oberlin businesses in the mid 1900s, including George and Ray's Barbershop, Hats by Ruth, Goodson's Bait Shop, Queue and Cue Barbershop, Goodson's Tropical Fish Store, and Craft Cruise.



George and Ruth Goodson in the "Craft Cruise" craft store, which was at their home at 76 East College Street and then in an Oberlin Inn retail space. c. 1960s.



"Goodson's Tropical Fish Store" was located at their home in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Thank you so much to Jorgelle, the Goodson family, and to Kathy DeRuyter for helping us connect.

**Readers: Do you have more photos or information about Oberlin businesses?
We're interested!**

Upcoming Events



Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells

Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

In the mid-1890s, journalist and anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells made headlines for her public criticism of Frances Willard, president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Wells accused Willard of making racist remarks and not denouncing lynching. The two women, one black and one white, were drawn together in the cause for women's rights but divided by race, privilege, age, and priorities.

Join us for a free Zoom presentation by Lori Osborne, Director of the Frances Willard House Museum and the Center for Women's History and Leadership. This 45-minute presentation during Women's History Month is based on their award-winning exhibit "Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells," which explores the context, timeline, and impact of this dispute. Locals may know that Willard lived in Oberlin as a very young girl while her parents attended Oberlin College, a claim she later used to try and defend herself against the accusations of racism. The presentation will be followed by Q&A from the audience. Register at bit.ly/33UGekI to get the Zoom link. Those who want to dive deep before the program can visit the exhibit website at <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/willard-and-wells/index>. The Frances Willard House Museum is located in Evanston, IL.

Women's History Month Walk

Saturday, March 26, 11:00 a.m.

For those who want to stretch their legs, consider joining us on a free *One Step More: Oberlin Women's History Walk* (advance registration required) in honor of Women's History Month. This illustrated 75-minute walking tour explores how Oberlin confronted and defined issues of femininity in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Weather may be exaggerated in photo. March can bring anything -- be prepared.*





2022 Annual Meeting & Community Awards

Wednesday, April 13

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
The Hotel at Oberlin

We are excited to welcome people back for an in-person Annual Meeting. OHC will honor Community Award recipients, welcome new board members, thank outgoing board members, and share announcements. Be sure to read the information below to understand our safety measures this year, and know that our plans may change if necessary. Everyone is also welcome to watch the meeting live via our Facebook page.

★ Join us as we honor our Community Award winners ★

Event Schedule

5:40-6:00 p.m. Check-in, Hotel at Oberlin

All attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination and current booster.

6:00-6:45 p.m. Brief Business Meeting, Announcements, and Community Awards

Guests will be seated theatre style in distanced clusters. Masks are required.

6:45-8:00 Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar

Those who feel comfortable doing so are invited to stay, snack, and socialize. We ask attendees to continue distancing and wearing masks when not eating or drinking.

Community Award Recipients

Community Historian

- **Donald Payne** - Author and storyteller of Oberlin history

Heritage Guardians

- **Francine Toss and Sue Weidenbaum** - Eastwood School history preservation and collection processing

Heritage Guardian

- **Don Hilton** - Author, researcher, and cemetery preservation advocate

Volunteer of the Year

- **Angela Cecil** - OHC front desk greeter and office assistant

Community Teacher of the Year:

- **Sarah Colson** - OHS Building Sub, Backpack Program and Interact Club advisor

Keep Oberlin Beautiful

- **Community Mural Project** - Coordinator Tanya Rosen-Jones; artists Martha Ferrazza, Jared Mitchell, and Isaiah Williams; advisors Whitney Brown (OHS) and Brenda Grier Miller

Youth Community Service

- **Carson Bauer** - OHC grounds and digital accessibility assistance

OHC Trustees

We look forward to welcoming new OHC board members Rachael McCray, Paul "Bud" Spierling and Mary Worthington, as well as returning honorary trustee Claudia Jones. We will also honor current and outgoing trustees, including soon-to-be honorary trustee Brittnei Sherrod.

Registration (by April 4)

The Annual Meeting is open to OHC members and the public. We will be limiting capacity this year, so don't wait to register! Paper invites will not be mailed, so if you wish to attend, please register online, download a form, pick one up at OHC, or call us at 440-774-1700.

News From OHC

Conversations with Lothrop



We are excited to announce that 30 community interviews conducted by Richard Lothrop on Oberlin Cable Co-op in the 1990s and 2000s have been digitized and made public! These interviews provide a unique snapshot of the happenings and concerns of Oberlin at that time. Pictured here is Connie Ponder, then Oberlin Recreation Coordinator, being interviewed in 1994. Visit our YouTube Playlist to watch the interviews. <https://bit.ly/3HD4FAB>

This project was made possible in part by all of the original participants, including the interviewed community members, Richard

Lothrop, and Oberlin Cable Co-op. We were grateful to have project support from volunteers Lynn Eastman and Carl Jacobson, interns Callie Howard and Sophie Falvey, Visitor Services Assistant Alex Shaver, and digitization provider Stilson Video Services. This project was also supported in part by community member Linda Lewis and an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

Interviews That Are Publicly Available

(with more to come in the future)

Gary Boyle
Greg and Neil Brennan
Rob DiSpirito
Ann L. Fuller
Mary Hammond
Pat Holsworth
William Jindra
Robert "BJ" Jones
Dennis Kirin
Douglas Long

Carol Longworth
Brad Masi
John Mullaney
Pat Murphy
Charlene (Cole) Newkirk
Booker Peek
Barbara Pierce
Katherine Plank
Connie Ponder
Ralph Potts

Dale Preston
Robert Scheren
Eric Severs
Robert Shriner
Michael Sigg
Francine Toss
David Young
Brian Wilbert
Frank Zavodsky

We need your help!

Do you have a way for us to get in touch with the following interview participants or their families to seek permission to share their interview? If so, please help them connect with OHC Executive Director Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org or 440-774-1700.

Sharon Anderson
Jane Armitage
Marian Baum
Juanita Brown

Peter Goldsmith
James Gray
Robert Jackimowicz
Fred Lassen

Robert Morse
Ron Twining
Linnell Walker
Herbert Willis

Kelly Clark
Gary Goddard

Paul Matus
Michael Medgyessy

Karen Wolff

Didn't see your name?

If you or a family member was interviewed but a video isn't posted yet, please reach out to us for an update. We're still working on a few behind-the-scenes.

OHC Paid Summer Internship Opportunities

For more information on how to apply for an internship, please see our website.

Education & Research Intern

(Application Deadline: March 26, 2022)

The Education and Research Internship is for any currently-enrolled college student. This intern is responsible for helping staff and volunteers lead tours, prepare and implement public education programs, and maintain historical and administrative records. We are invested in helping interns meet personal interests and professional goals as far as is feasible.

This internship is made possible through the support of The Community Foundation of Lorain County.

Junior Intern

(Application Deadline: April 2, 2022)

The Oberlin Heritage Center is hiring an Oberlin High School student employee this summer. This individual will assist with youth camps, greeting visitors at community events, mini research projects, and the ongoing activities of the museum. If you want to learn more about the community, meet new people, learn professional skills, and earn money, then this is the job for you!

This internship is made possible through the support of Nordson Corporation.

Members Update & News from the Second Floor



Thank you to Lillian Gibson (pictured) for spending her Oberlin College Winter Term mining the Oberlin Heritage Center's oral history collection and yearbooks for memories, events, names, and images that will help OHC better understand and interpret the complicated history of race in the Oberlin public schools. Research topics have included teacher and staff representation (or lack thereof), de facto segregation when schools were populated by neighborhoods rather than grade, curriculum bias, and more. We look forward to continuing this research and finding ways to share it with the public and researchers. (The photo on the next page is from the 1959 O-High and features majorettes Donna Patton, Judy

Rogers, and Lynette Means.

Welcome to new members John Clement and the Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society!

We are grateful to The Nord Family Foundation for matching gifts from Camille Hamlin Allen, Emma Mason, Emily McClintock, and David Ignat, doubling their impact. We also send thanks for a gift from private donors that is helping expand the hours of the Collections Manager position, staffed by Maren McKee. Gifts like this help us tackle strategic projects while we continue to build the Pat Murphy Endowment for Heritage Preservation.

Congratulations to former intern Monica Monslave upon her marriage to Evan Burr!



We note with sorrow the passing of OHC member Bill Arthrell and community members Allyn Gibson and Jerene Rosa. We also send warm wishes of support to others who lost loved ones or who are having a difficult time these cold winter days.

Freedoms Friends History Walk Training April 30, 1:00-3:30



Being a docent is a great way to learn more about the nationally significant history of Oberlin and to meet many interesting people from near and far who visit Oberlin to take part in these warm-weather walking tours. Training for the Freedom's Friends: Abolition and Underground Railroad History Walk will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. (register by April 22). Training starts at the Monroe House (73 1/2 South Professor Street).

Training is free and open to the public. Volunteers need no previous experience; all that is required is a commitment to assist with at least four history walks within the coming year. Find out more or register today by contacting Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or 440-774-1700.

Also of Interest:

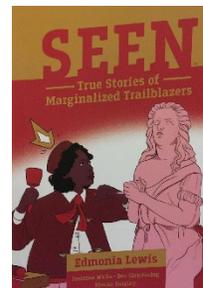
Women's History Month Program



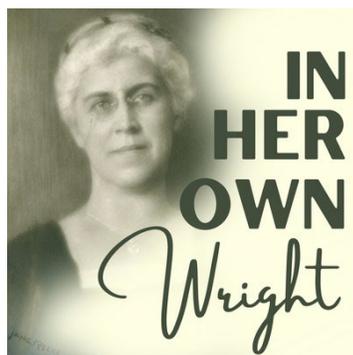
The International Women's Air and Space Museum, located at Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, is open and also hosting the program "Researching Black Women in Aviation: Barriers & Breakthroughs" on March 25, both in-person and virtually. For more information, visit www.iwasm.org/wp-blog/events or call 216-623-1111.

Edmonia Lewis Graphic Novel

Check out the graphic novel series "Seen: True Stories of Marginalized Trailblazers" for a fresh look at artist Edmonia Lewis. Lewis was recently featured in a new US postal stamp and, as shared in our February newsletter, has complicated ties to Oberlin, which are also included in this illustrated history. The book can be purchased at Ben Franklin / MindFair books and will soon be sold by OHC as well.



Katharine Wright Podcast



Harry Haskell, an OHC member and step-grandson of Katharine Wright, has created a three-part podcast series about this remarkable woman. As he states, although she was sister to the more famous Wright brothers, this Oberlin College alumna played second fiddle to no one.

Visit the playlist to listen to episodes, including "Introducing the Wright Sister," "Katie and 'The Boys,'" and "The Hazards of Love." (<https://bit.ly/3ptx9au>) When you arrive on the page, look for the circular play button to begin the episode of your choosing. For more information about Mr. Haskell, his works, or other ways to listen to

the podcast or read transcripts, visit his website (https://www.harryhaskell.com/in_her_own_wright_.htm).

Let Ohio Women Vote Documentary



The documentary *Let Ohio Women Vote* tells the story of the long fight for women's suffrage in our state – a fight which created unpredictable alliances as well as surprising connections to national events. This film is available to watch for free on PBS and ThinkTV (<https://thinktv.org/let-ohio-women-vote/>).

Victoria Woodhull Project

Some OHC fans may remember that we hosted a living history program about Victoria Woodhull at Kendal at Oberlin in 2016. Woodhull was an Ohioan and the first woman to publicly address the United States Congress and first woman to run for U.S. president. She was an active suffragist, newspaper editor, and stockbroker. Local nonprofit Eden Valley Enterprises, who provided the program, is fundraising to create a documentary about Woodhull. If you are interested in contributing, visit their website (<https://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org/woodhull/woodhullinf.htm>)



Ohio History Fund

We know many of you are quick on the draw, but if you haven't filed your taxes yet, please consider contributing to the Ohio History Fund when you get to the donations section. The Fund has made 94 grants for history projects across the state, totaling nearly \$870,000. The Oberlin Heritage Center received a \$2000 grant from the Ohio History Fund in 2019 to benchmark self-guided tour options. For more information about contributing or applying for a grant later this year, visit <http://bit.ly/OHFund>.



Oberlin in the News

Did you know Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center were included in the *Chicago Tribune* article “Seven Midwest cities to visit in 2022 for history buffs, nature enthusiasts, foodies and more”? Other Oberlin sites mentioned include Oberlin College, local monuments, outdoor sculptures, Ben Franklin, and Ratsy’s. The article was published on January 19, 2022 if you want to check it out (subscription required).

OHC is Keeping History Alive

The Oberlin Heritage Center is working harder than ever to fulfill its mission: to preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work, and visit. And although we have faced challenges this past year, we want you to know that we are still open—thanks in large part to **YOU!** Thank you, again, for helping us continue with our work. Our members are the foundation of this organization, and your support helps keep the lights on. We appreciate every single one of you!



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[Contact Us](#)