



## Oberlin Heritage Center July 2022 Gazette

### It was a fun June!



June was a fun and busy month at the Oberlin Heritage Center! We began with a full slate of history walks and tours for Oberlin College's Commencement Weekend, and then had Oberlin Second Saturday activities, hosted a booth at Oberlin's Juneteenth celebration, and our Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Amanda Manahan, helped plan and execute Chalk Walk this last Saturday. Participating in these events is important to our broader mission to serve the Oberlin community as well as fulfilling for our staff and volunteers

*Photo Left: OHC's booth at Juneteenth.*

*Photo Right: Chalk Walk participants showcasing their masterpiece.*

## Upcoming Events

### John Vanek Father Jake Austin Reading at OHC

*Monday, July 18, 7:00 pm*

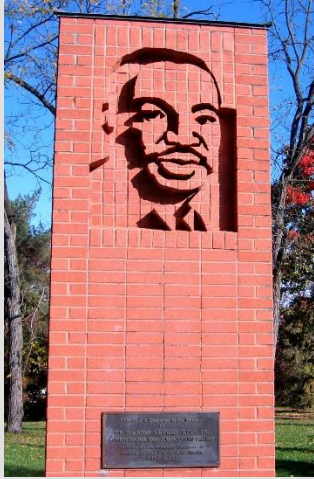
Author John Vanek is returning to Oberlin this summer for a book reading! For those not familiar, the Father Jake Austin mystery book series is centered in Lorain County and local readers will recognize many places and themes.



In this one-hour casual program, Vanek will talk briefly about the series, read a short passage from his latest book, *Bedeviled*, and take questions. Copies will be available for purchase and Mr. Vanek is happy to sign books. This program will be held outdoors on the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center on Monday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. If it is necessary to move indoors to the Monroe House of OHC, masks will be required and a limited capacity of 15 will be instated, to be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the book series, visit <https://johnvanekauthor.com/>.

## July's History Walk: Civil War to Civil Rights

July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 11:00 am



This July, OHC is offering our **Civil War to Civil Rights walking tour** on Saturdays at 11:00 am. This tour highlights historic events that reveal both Oberlin's progress and setbacks in race relations dating from early Oberlin all the way up to the 21st Century.

Learn how Oberlin was a leader in abolition, participating heavily in events such as the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, the Raid on Harpers Ferry, and the American Civil War, but also struggled with its own issues of equality and racism during these early years and later through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and today. Note: this tour begins near the front steps of First Church (106 N. Main Street; Oberlin) at the northwest corner of Main Street (Route 58) and Lorain Street (Route 511).

Admission is \$6 for adults and free for children, students, or members. **Advanced registration is strongly recommended. To register for a walking tour please visit our website.**

*Photo: The monument in Oberlin's Martin Luther King Jr. park*

## Summer Camps

Don't forget to sign up for one of OHC's unique summer camp experiences.

- Ancient Cultures Camp (7/18-7/22)
- Architecture Camp (8/1-8/5)
- Kids Through the Decades (8/8-8/12)

All programs run Monday through Friday from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm at the Oberlin Depot. Camps cost \$125 per registrant, with discounts for members of OHC. *Scholarships are available to students who qualify for free or reduced school lunch programs.*

For more information about camps or registration, visit our [camp registration page](#) or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan at (440) 774-1700 or [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org).



## OHC at Second Saturdays

July 9



OHC will be participating in Oberlin's Second Saturday festivities this July. Family friendly activities and games will be hosted from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Little Red Schoolhouse and we will also be offering the *Civil War to Civil Rights* Walking Tour information for which is available above.

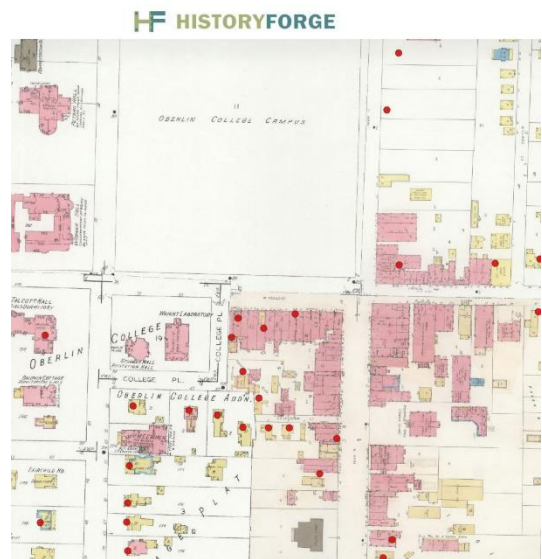
Locations all around downtown Oberlin will feature a wide variety of other fun events throughout the day.

## Comparing & Contextualizing Oberlin's 1940 Census in HistoryForge

Zoom Presentation - August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Join Ohio History Service Corps member Erin Robichaud as she shares OHC's exciting progress on HistoryForge, a database that plots census information onto interactive map layers. Come ready to compare employment, divorce, and home ownership statistics from the 1910 & 1940 censuses. Erin will also discuss the cultural context and controversies surrounding the 1940 census – such as how the Great Depression influenced census questions and impacted Oberlin residents – and depict the enumerators who originally collected census data by hand.

This 45-minute Zoom program is open and free to the public, but registration is required. To register, please visit <https://bit.ly/3a3YPhc>.



Since last fall, OHC volunteers have worked hard to transcribe, review, and publish the 1940 census to HistoryForge in addition to the 1910 census. OHC would like to thank all the individuals who made this database a possible research tool for the Oberlin community: Anita Buckmaster, Judy Cook, Mary Anne Cunningham, Ann Fuller, Lynn Gagy, Marissa Hamm, Kathy Jaffee, Steve Johnson, Suzanne McDougal, Cathy Meints, Patti Pitts, Joshua Rhodes, Prue Richards, and Mary Rowland. Thank you!

## News From OHC

Say Hello to Our Summer Interns

### **Emily Winnicki - Summer Education & Research Intern**

Emily is working on a presentation about Professor Jewett and his relation to the creation of the modern aluminum refining process and is also creating themed newspapers outlining events from each decade of the 1900s for OHC's "Kids Through the Decades" camp. Emily is a student at The College of Wooster (Class of 2025) where she is planning to obtain a double major in Biology and Anthropology. After college she intends to go to grad school for Anthropology or archaeology



### **Lauren Sands - Leadership Lorain County Intern**

Lauren is working on the self-guided tour of Black Civil War Union Soldiers who are buried at Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery. She is a rising junior at Oberlin College, and is participating in the Leadership Lorain County Internship Program this summer. In the future, Lauren plans to attend graduate school and work for an education related non-profit organization.

### **Violet Haas - Junior Intern**

Violet is working with working with interns and staff to prepare activities for all of OHC's summer camps, is helping update some of OHC's research files, and will be helping to provide captions for OHC's YouTube videos. She is currently a senior at Wellington High School and plans to study education or business in college.

**Thanks to the Community Foundation of Lorain County, Leadership Lorain County, and the Nordson Corporation for making these internships possible!**



### **Special Notice of Thelma Quinn Smith's 100th Birthday!**

Our best wishes go out to Thelma Quinn Smith for her 100th Birthday this July! Thelma served as a board member of the Oberlin Heritage Center from 1996 through 2005 and was then named an honorary trustee. She also volunteered as a docent, living history reenactor, researcher, and member of then O.H.I.O.'s African-American Preservation Committee. Thelma's impact on the organization and the greater community cannot be overstated. There were very few community history projects in which she was not involved and she was recognized with the Community Historian Award in 2007. She was committed to the preservation and recognition of the Wilson Bruce Evans home as a National Historic Landmark, Westwood Cemetery as a Network to Freedom

site, and so many more local initiatives. We wish Thelma and her family the best as they celebrate and reminisce together.

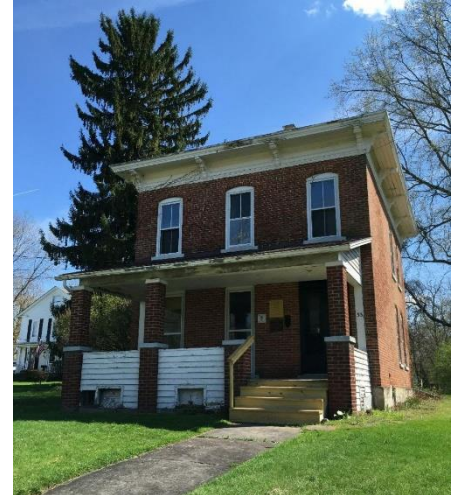
## New Addition to Conversations with Lothrop

We were excited to make yet another community interview public from the Richard Lothrop VHS collection. Check out the interview with Carl Koch who was a senior in Oberlin High School at the time.

[OHC YouTube Channel](#)

## Members Update & News from the Second Floor

More exciting news from Vine Street! The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office has announced an award to the City of Oberlin for \$30,000 to assist in the restoration of a Civil War-era entry at the [Wilson Bruce Evans House](#). OHC will be working in partnership with The Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society as the grant's fiscal sponsor. This grant and others will eventually allow the Evans House to open to the public as a museum and educational center telling the story of the Evans family, their descendants, and the struggle for racial justice in Oberlin and in the United States.



OHC would also like to thank the Community Foundation of Lorain County for a mini grant of \$500 for OHC to purchase a portable PA system and replacement microphone equipment for our history walk tour guides. Mini-grants are made possible by the Lakeland Community Foundation Endowment Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Lorain County. Small grants like this have a BIG impact!



We were saddened by the news that Tommy Trice passed away. Tommy was a Mature Services member who worked as the Oberlin Heritage Center's Grounds Assistant from 2009 to 2013.

## Welcome to The Jewett Family

OHC would like to offer a warm welcome to the Jewett Family of America, who are hosting their annual family reunion in town later this month. OHC is happy to provide tour or

program experiences like this to other families or organizations interested in using our grounds or facilities to enhance their events.

## Watch Research

OHC would like to highlight some new information about a Longines wristwatch in our collection that originates from the Frederick B. Artz Estate.

Collections Manager Maren Mckee and Communications Coordinator Steven Rice recently reached out to the Longines watch company in Switzerland for information on this watch. After providing the company with the serial number and some photographs, Longines was able to confirm that this watch left their factory on June 7th, 1923 bound for their distributor in France at the time, a company named Perusset. They also confirmed that the watch is cased in 0.925 sterling silver and is fitted with a manually wound mechanical movement, caliber 11.84N ZZ.



Frederick B. Artz was a professor at Oberlin College. It is our understanding is that he purchased the watch new while studying in Paris in 1924, which aligns with this new information.

## Also of Interest:

### Lorain County History Happenings

Every Saturday - Sandstone Village Garage Sales in Amherst  
July 10 - Lorain County Historical Society's Ice Cream Social at The Hickories



### AmeriCorps is Recruiting for 2022

Recruiting has begun for Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps members to start in September 2022 and serve through August 31, 2023. The Lorain Historical Society is a host site this year. More information and the application links can be found on our website at [ohiohistory.org/amicorps](http://ohiohistory.org/amicorps).



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