

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – October 2011

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Come Walk with Us

Mix one part crisp autumn morning with two parts colorful Oberlin stories of yesteryear and you've got a great start to your weekend! Make a reservation now for the Oberlin Heritage Center's **Radicals and Reformers History Walk** offered at 11 a.m. on Saturdays **October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29**. This walk through Westwood Cemetery promises a pleasing balance of scenic landmarks and tales of spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. The fee is \$6 for adults; OHC members and current college students receive a \$1 discount; children under 18 years of age are free (most likely enjoyed by those 9 years and up). Reservations are required and may be made online at www.oberlinheritage.org, or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Travel through Time on Community Arts and Culture Day

Area youngsters have the day off **Friday, October 14** because of NEOEA professional development teacher workshops, and the Oberlin Heritage Center is partnering with local arts and culture organizations to offer **FREE** family fun for this day-off-from-school. Activities revolve around the theme of "**Time Travel**" and lost technology. Elementary school-aged children will enjoy a variety of activities at the Little Red Schoolhouse from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Send a secret message in Morse code, examine mysterious old objects, perfect your beanbag toss skills, heft the water buckets, ring the old school bell, and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult (who may have even more fun!). Other participating organizations include the Allen Memorial Art Museum, America Reads, Firelands Association for the Visual Arts, and the Oberlin Public Library.

Frank Jewett and the Jewetts: More than Aluminum

Brothers **Gregory Jewett** and **Kenneth Jewett** (presenting in 18th century period costume) introduce us to Oberlin Professor Frank Jewett's far-reaching family on **Wednesday, October 26** at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Learn about this illustrious family whose roots date back to the earliest of America's settlers and include John P. who operated the Jewett Publishing Company, the first to publish Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Jacob R. Shipherd's *The History of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue*; Sarah Orne Jewett, 19th century novelist and short-story writer; and Frank Jewett's brothers, Charles and Richard, who served in the Civil War as officers of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the regiment of free black soldiers whose superior service was made famous by the movie "Glory." Ken Jewett is the author (and Greg is his editor) of the "The Valley Series," three fast-paced historical fiction novels, all of which have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in American Literature. This evening's program is free and open to the public.

OHC Hosts Ohio Historical Society Workshop

"**Building a Meaningful Collection**" workshop will be presented **Friday, October 28** (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) by **Andy Verhoff**, Local History Coordinator for the Ohio Historical Society, and **Prue Richards**, Collections Assistant at the Oberlin Heritage Center. The session is designed for local history museum staff, board members and volunteers and is based on the American Association for State and Local History's "StEPs" (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations). Location: Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Register [online](http://www.ohiohistory.org/register) by October 24 at www.ohiohistory.org/register or call 1-800-858-6878 for more information.

400+ Travel the Underground Railroad

Last month, the Oberlin Heritage Center participated in the **Pioneer Craftsman Experience**, a special event for school groups, hosted by the **Lorain County Metro Parks** at Mill Hollow in the Vermilion River Reservation. Over 400 children and teachers from area schools and home school groups rotated between stations about wildlife, spinning and weaving, yarn dyeing, geology, and more. At the Heritage Center's station, children learned about the different ways people escaped from slavery, and they each had to pick three things they would bring with them on their journey to freedom. Children put themselves in the shoes of the brave freedom seekers, making difficult decisions about when they would travel, whom they would trust, and what they might have to

leave behind. This was the second year that Museum Educator **Liz Schultz** and her team of volunteers took part in this fun and memorable day of learning.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Thomas Colon & Jennifer DeStefanis**, **Charles E. Dial** (North Olmsted), **Jeff & Bethany Hobbs**, **Frank Pease** (Bellevue, WA), and **Tom & Edie Wood** (all are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise). Yes, Frank has a family connection to Oberlin's first settler **Peter Pindar Pease**; he is a descendant of the Alonzo Pease branch of the family. We've also been tickled to count among our members at one time or another more ties to historic Oberlin residents, including the extended **Jewett and Gulick** families (first owners of the Jewett House), the **Hubbard** family (second owners of the Jewett House), the **Tanner** and **Siddall** families (both of whom occupied the Monroe House), the **Cooley** and **Loftis** families (caretakers of our historic buildings before they were open to the public), the family of **Charles Martin Hall** (inventor), **Charles Grandison Finney** (evangelist and second President of Oberlin College), **John Copeland** (abolitionist and participant in John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry), **Robert Edwin Gillett** (an Oberlin Covenant signer), and **Ellen Logan Connolly** (turn-of-the-century boarder at the Jewett House). If you know of other "historic connections" among our membership, do let us know! Meanwhile, if **you** are not yet a member and you like what the Oberlin Heritage Center does to preserve and share the community's nationally significant history, please join! Visit www.oberlinheritage.org to join online or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) to request a membership brochure be sent to you.

Annual Fund Campaign Needs Your Support!

It's time for the once-a-year, end-of-the-year campaign for annual operating support at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Members are asked to make a one-time additional donation over and above their membership dues. Non-members are encouraged to contribute, too, and help the Heritage Center continue its good work to keep Oberlin's proud history alive. The Heritage Center's annual budget is about \$300,000, and much is accomplished with each and every dollar! **Please make a contribution today; gifts of any size are needed and appreciated.** Donate at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or mail your gift to the OHC Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. Thank you to **130 donors** who already have contributed **\$17,500** toward this year's goal of \$35,000. The Annual Fund campaign continues through December 31, 2011.

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

Bethany Pulsifer Hobbs joined the staff last month as part-time Business Manager, replacing **Pat Holsworth**, who is retiring (save the date of Saturday afternoon, **November 19**, for an open reception at First Church in Oberlin to thank Pat Holsworth for ten-years as OHC's Financial Assistant). Bethany is a graduate of The Ohio State University and has extensive experience in accounting, financial recordkeeping, office management, and human resources, both in a non-profit academic setting and also in private enterprise. She is married to Jeff Hobbs, a long-time Oberlin resident, and mother to five-year-old Glenn. We're also pleased to announce the return of **Sue Meyer** to the front desk. Sue's part-time position is funded through Mature Services, Inc.

During the past 18 years, the Heritage Center has hosted **88** student interns, many of whom we remain in touch with yet today (for more, see the story that follows below). We welcome back this autumn fourth-year student intern, **Tim Krumreig** (of Oberlin), and third-year student intern, **Erin Swenson-Klatt** (Minneapolis, MN). Joining us this year are first-year students, **César Palacio** (Dallas, TX) and **Monica Monsalve** (Miami, FL), both of whom are Bonner Scholars, which means they have an especially strong commitment to community service as they pursue their college degrees. César plays several musical instruments and plans to double-major in clarinet performance and English, while Monica plans to major in Politics and History with an emphasis on Peace & Conflict Studies. **Roger Juntunen** and **Jane Spies** (Hubbard, OH) are a husband-and-wife team lending a hand this fall as graduate student interns in Youngstown State University's master's program in Historic Preservation.

Congratulations to **James Schmitt**, an Ohio University intern at the Heritage Center in the summer of 2010, who was just appointed to the editorial board on the *Ohio University Undergraduate Journal of History*. He invites any college students to submit a history paper for review and consideration for publication. Submission deadline is October 15; guidelines can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/history/undergraduate/journal.html>.

Volunteer Job Posting: The Heritage Center seeks a volunteer to work at home on occasional transcribing of oral history interviews. This assignment requires knowledge of Microsoft Word and a home computer. A transcribing machine is available to borrow. Guidelines and instructions will be provided. For more information, please contact Pat Murphy at patm@oberlinheritage.org or call 440-774-1700.

A Visit with Former OHC Museum Fellow Laurie Stein

The Heritage Center's Executive Director **Pat Murphy** recently visited **Laurie Stein**, curator at the Lake Forest Lake-Bluff Historical Society in Illinois. The place was hopping, with preparations underway for a living history cemetery walk that afternoon. Historical society director **Janice C. Hack** sang Laurie's praises and thanked Pat and the Heritage Center for all the great ideas and skills that Laurie has brought to their organization. Laurie's excellent work was very much in evidence and included a featured exhibit she curated on "Uncanny, Unabridged, Unforgettable: 150 Years of Lake Forest" which opened this year as part of the community's sesquicentennial celebration. Housed in a large city-owned former carriage house, the museum is equipped with attractive exhibit areas, a spacious library/archives room, offices, and collections storage areas. Visit www.lfbhistory.org for more information. Laurie was a star intern for the Heritage Center throughout her years at Oberlin College. After her graduation in 2006 she served for a year as a full-time Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Fellow before leaving to obtain a Master's degree in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University.

Endowment Campaign Update

The Endowment Fund for History Education is now at **\$61,500** toward our goal of \$400,000 in Phase Two of the Oberlin Heritage Center's campaign to fully endow the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator staff position. Special thanks to **Anthony J. Mealy** who became a new **Endowed Life** member at the Copper level, and to current Endowed Life members **Jane Blodgett** and **Maxine Houck**, each of whom increased their support from the Copper to the Aluminum levels of giving. Presently, there are **86** Endowed Life members – we'd love **you** to consider joining this wonderfully supportive group with a gift or pledge (payable over 5 years) of \$2,000 or more to the Endowment Fund for History Education. Contact Executive Director Patricia Murphy at (440) 774-1700 (patm@oberlinheritage.org) or Board Member Nick Jones at (440) 774-3671 (nrjones360@gmail.com).

Also of Interest

Congratulations to Oberlin Heritage Center member **Sarah MacLennan Kerr (OC '61)** who was honored by the Oberlin College Alumni Association last month with the Oberlin College Volunteer-of-the-Year-award for all the work she did on her 50th class reunion. Sally served as editor of a marvelous Class Reunion Directory filled with photos and reflections from classmates near and far. An absolutely extraordinary volunteer throughout the community, Sally also received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2002.

Here's some exciting news just received from OHC Endowed Life member, program presenter, and published poet, **Jack Vanek**, who sent us this e-mail: "What a kick! **Dee Perry**, an NPR radio legend on WCPN in Cleveland, closed her broadcast of the "**Around Noon**" radio show by reading my poem, "**The Hardest Thing**" (written in the voice of a stroke victim). If you go online to "Around Noon" on WCPN and click on September 30th (Arthur Kopit) you can hear her reading of my poem (around the 19:00 minute mark). Made my day! Here's the link: <http://www.ideastream.org/an/entry/42640>." Bravo Jack! **Heart Murmurs: Poems**, is available at the Heritage Center's Museum Store, **Mindfair Books** in Oberlin, [Bird Dog Publishing](http://www.birddogpublishing.com), and at Amazon.com.

Let's salute the 1,500+ **Blue Star Museums** that participated in the summertime program offering free admission for all active duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This was the second year of the program, and how exciting to have over 700 new museums participating this year! Some, including the **Oberlin Heritage Center**, extend their free admission to military families all year-round. For more information, visit www.bluestarfam.org.

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