

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – January 2012

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Oberlin History Comic Book a Big Hit!

*So cool!...Fun!...Love It!... We sent one to each of the kids... What a great way to spread the rich history of Oberlin!...Excellent reviews of the new Oberlin History comic book are coming in from all over town! The Heritage Center has distributed 400 comic books since the arrival of the publication in mid-December. If you haven't had a chance to pick up your own copy of "Oberlin: Origins and Onward," click [here](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) (www.oberlinheritage.org) or visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store, or one of our business members who have graciously agreed to make the comic books available in their shops, including **Ben Franklin/ Mindfair**, the Cardinal Shop at **Kendal at Oberlin** or **FAVA's** Uncommon Objects. Comic book author and illustrator, **Bentley Boyd**, of Williamsburg, VA, will be in Oberlin on Tuesday, May 22 to present a community program – save the date and stay tuned!*

Civil War 150 News

Richard Donegan, the AmeriCorps/Ohio Historical Society's Northeast Ohio Regional Civil War 150 Leadership volunteer, who is based at the Oberlin Heritage Center, has been busy researching Oberlin soldiers involved in Civil War battles, and he will be updating the OHC website soon with soldiers' perspectives from their experiences. Richard looked at a variety of journals, letters, newspaper articles and other primary sources to create the narratives. Richard also is assisting staff at the **Woodland Cemetery** in Cleveland by working on an African-American Civil War soldier project and studying service records and genealogical records to write short, individual soldier-biographies for the Cemetery. To find out more about other local Civil War- related initiatives happening in northeast Ohio, subscribe to the Northeast Ohio Civil War Sesquicentennial e-newsletter by sending a request to cw150@oberlinheritage.org.

Recent Funding Supports Oberlin Heritage Center's Educational Outreach

Tours for all ages, kids' camps, and off-site history programming for youth and adults all continued to expand last year under the leadership of Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**. We're tremendously grateful for a \$20,000 grant received in December from **The Community Foundation of Lorain County** to help underwrite history education outreach activities in 2012. Thank you to Community Foundation donors supporting the Heritage Center's proposal, including the Fred & Mary Behm Fund and the Eric and Jane Nord Fund. Special thanks also go to **Nordson Corporation** for its \$2,000 contribution to support OHC's educational program expenses in conjunction with the 2012 City Recreation Department Prospect School playground program and other events. For more information about the Heritage Center's speakers' bureau, or to request an education program for your club, organization, school or scout group, contact Liz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

OHC Seeking Community Award Nominations

Whose face comes to mind when you think of friends, colleagues, or neighbors in Oberlin who are doing exceptional work in preserving our community's history, including local family history, or who are dedicated to making Oberlin a better place to live, learn, work or visit? Consider nominating someone you know whose recent or lifelong accomplishments deserve to be recognized. The Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Awards honor outstanding individuals, organizations, or businesses in the following categories:

Community Historian - for an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others

Heritage Guardian – for an individual or group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation and who serves our community as a leader in preserving history, historical

records, or historic buildings

Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year – for a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center

Community Teacher of the Year – for an area educator who inspires his or her students to get involved in community service

History Teacher of the Year – for an area educator who inspires his or her students to learn more about history

Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award – for an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community.

Youth Community Service Award – for a young person who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Heritage Center.

Anyone may submit a nomination by **February 1, 2012**. You may download an [entry form](#) by visiting the “What’s New” sidebar at www.oberlinheritage.org. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting on April 4, 2012.

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Randal W. & Ivy E. Cooper** (Lorain), **Kevin & Jennifer Hobbs** (Marietta), **Thomas & Eleanor Klosterman**, **Tim Krumreig**, **Dominique & Janet Michal**, **John & Harol Pesuit**, **Joe & Pat Price** (Vermilion), **Thomas & Eloise Pulsifer** (Xenia), **Mark R. Stewart** (Elyria), **Erin Swenson-Klatt** and **Diana Tittle** (Chesterland). (Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) The Heritage Center had **742** members at the end of 2011 (that’s an increase of **11** since last year at this time). Members are tremendously important to the continued strength and vitality of the Oberlin Heritage Center. If you are not yet a member, [please join!](#) Visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

You Did It – Annual Fund Tops Goal!

Oberlin Heritage Center members and friends are the greatest! This year’s end-of-the-year Annual Fund campaign resulted in **266** donors contributing **\$37,514** for the organization’s general operating account. Thank you for helping to surpass the 2011 Annual Fund goal of \$35,000 – **BRAVO!** Although there were fewer donors than in recent years, those who gave to the Annual Fund stretched further and raised the largest dollar amount (with the highest average gift) in the Heritage Center’s history. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again! We cannot say too many times how much everyone’s support means to the ongoing work of the Oberlin Heritage Center.

OHC Staff and Intern Update

Liz Schultz and **Richard Donegan** team up to present “**The Civil War: Oberlin Perspectives on the Home Front and the War Front**” at the Elyria Public Library’s North Branch on **Wednesday, January 25** at **7 p.m.** Registration is required; online at www.elyrialibrary.org or (440) 366-4919. Hurry, space is limited!

Congratulations to Liz upon being appointed by Oberlin City Council to serve a three-year term on the City’s **Historic Preservation Commission**.

Pat Murphy spoke this past week to Conservatory of Music Professor **Joanne Erwin’s** winter term class of Masters of Music Teaching (MMT) students about nonprofit management and strategic planning. Class member, **Brandon Henley**, will spend additional time at the Oberlin Heritage Center this month to learn more about audience evaluation and nonprofit management. Brandon received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin, majoring in French horn performance. In addition to his study in the MMT program, Brandon serves as the choir director for the Brownhelm United Church of Christ in Vermilion, as a student teaching

assistant for MusicPlay in Oberlin, and as an assistant conductor for the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestras. Brandon hails from Richmond, VA.

Oberlin College Classical Civilizations major, **Greg Brown**, also will be at the Oberlin Heritage Center during winter term. Greg will assist OHC staff, **Prue Richards** and **Liz Schultz**, on various museum furnishings/collections and museum education research projects. Greg is a senior at the College, and has interned previously at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, and also worked with the Sangro Valley Archaeological Project (Italy) and the Rabat Archaeological Museum (Morocco). He has had family members either living in Oberlin or attending the college since the late 1800s, and is very interested in learning more about local history by interning at the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Endowment Campaign Efforts

The Endowment Fund for History Education is now at **\$79,511** 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. A tip of the hat goes to **Dan and Marly Merrill** who stepped up their Endowed Life membership from the Copper to the Aluminum level in December. Consider making a New Year's resolution to become an Endowed Life member in 2012 with a gift or pledge of \$2,000 or more (payable over 5 years) to the Endowment Fund for History Education. It's the investment of a lifetime and will help keep Oberlin history alive for generations to come. For more information, 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

Follow the first-hand account of a local Civil War chaplain in **Michael Palazzolo's** blog chronicling the diary of **Richard L. Chittenden** of Elyria who served in the 43rd OVI (Ohio Volunteer Infantry) from 1862 to 1865. Palazzolo, an employee at Oberlin College's Mudd Library, has been transcribing Chittenden's diary, as it was copied by his daughter, Mary Chittenden Parks, and is recording it online at <http://chittendencivilwardiary.blogspot.com/>.

Did you know your **Ohio state tax refund** can help promote and preserve local history? For the first time, taxpayers will be able to donate a portion of their income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society. The 2011 Ohio individual income tax forms provide a "tax check-off" option—a blank box where those receiving a refund can designate an amount of it for donation. The Ohio Historical Society will use the revenue generated from the tax check-off to create a new grants program to support history-related projects throughout Ohio. The grants program is expected to be unveiled in the spring, and officials estimate that it will provide at least \$200,000 per year to local history initiatives across the state of Ohio.

Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, president of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, will present a free community program on "**The War of 1812 on Lake Erie: How Geology Influenced the Battle of Lake Erie**" at the Avon Historical Society in the Old Town Hall (SE corner of SR 254 and 611 in Avon) on **Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact herdendorf@aol.com.

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