

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – February 2012

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

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## Oberlin Here and Elsewhere

**Ken Grossi**, Oberlin College Archivist and OHC Board member, looks at the legacy of **John Frederick Oberlin** in an illustrated presentation on **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Find out more about this European pastor whose success was based on principles of faith, learning and labor and whose name was bestowed upon the local colony and college in 1833. Oberlin's ideals later were carried forth to establish other communities and schools around the country and as far away as Japan. The event is co-sponsored by the Oberlin College Archives and is free and open to the public.

## Memorial Service for OHC Past President, Jim White

A memorial service for Jim White will be held in the Meeting House of First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ, on **Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** Following the service, a reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please pass this information along to others you know who may wish to attend.

## Docent Training Introductory Workshop

Love Oberlin and its history and want to help share it with others? Consider becoming an Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer docent -- a great way to learn more about Oberlin and its unique history! Join us on **Sunday, March 18 from 1-5 p.m.** for a free introduction to leading tours at the Heritage Center. Take the first step by talking to **Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz** ([tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)) and making arrangements to experience a complimentary tour prior to the training workshop just to see whether docenting is your "cup of tea." Register by March 14. Visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call 440-774-1700 for more information.

## Save the Dates

Final touches are being put on the Oberlin Heritage Center's **2012 Events Calendar** -- you can look forward to a full schedule of noteworthy community programs, a new "Historic Quilts" guided tour, and an expanded selection of kids' camps for spring break and summer. Watch for the calendar to be mailed to members by mid-February; if you are not on the events calendar mailing list, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) for more information, or call (440) 774-1700 to request a calendar be sent to you. Meantime, save the dates for these upcoming events:

**Wednesday, March 28** at 7:15 p.m. "**You Cannot Resist the Call**": **Oberlin and Women's Changing Roles in the Nation.** A special Women's History Month presentation by Youngstown State University graduate students **Roger Juntunen** and **Jane Spies** who have been researching women, acknowledged and unsung, as part of an internship project with the Oberlin Heritage Center. Location: Heiser Auditorium, Kendal at Oberlin. Free and open to the public.

**TWO weeks of Spring Break Camp for Kids.** Since some area schools have break the first week of April, and others have break the following week, the Oberlin Heritage Center will host two mini-camps each week from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Oberlin Depot. Boys and girls ages 8-12 can attend the following:

**Legends, Tales, and History Camp.** Monday and Tuesday, April 2-3; repeated Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10-11. Kids will explore classic legends and fairy tales and learn a bit of history along the way. From cobblers, to spinning wheels, to magical lamps, we'll have fun with old stories.

**Innovations and Technology of the Civil War Era Camp.** Wednesday and Thursday, April 4-5; repeated Thursday and Friday, April 12-13. Campers will investigate the workings of ironclad ships, the telegraph, camp cookery, and more through hands-on activities.

Plan now to attend the always-upbeat and fun **Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Meeting and Banquet on Wednesday, April 4** at the Oberlin Inn, which includes presentations to the recipients of the Oberlin Heritage Center's **11th Annual Community Awards** as well as a brief OHC business meeting and a lively look at the Heritage Center's successes in the past year and its plans for the future.

## **Welcome New Members**

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new member **Tania Boster** and to new business member **OBERLIN.COM**. Keep track of how the Heritage Center's membership grows by visiting [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) and looking for our "Member Count" on the home page. Members are the Oberlin Heritage Center's most important resource – and we appreciate each and every single one of you! If you are not yet a member, **please join!** Visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700 ([members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org)) for more information.

## **Visitors, Visitors and More Visitors!**

The Oberlin Heritage Center was delighted to welcome almost 9,400 visitors to tours, programs, children's camps, the Museum Store, and more in 2011 (a 6% increase over 2010). This number included 4,200 who attended community educational programs hosted in Oberlin or taken "on the road" to outside community groups, and another 2,100 who participated in tours and history walks. Tour visitors were from 35 states and 6 countries. We hope YOU, too, will have a chance to visit the Heritage Center in the coming year!

## **OHC Honored by the State of Ohio**

Smiles all around! We recently received a proclamation from **The General Assembly of the State of Ohio/Ohio Senate** honoring the Oberlin Heritage Center for Exemplary Achievement upon receiving a 2011 Preservation Merit Award from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The certificate read in part: *"This prestigious honor is a fitting tribute to the Oberlin Heritage Center for its contributions to the preservation and rehabilitation of the Peoples Banking Company building in Oberlin [now LorMet Community Federal Credit Union]. All those associated with the Center have consistently demonstrated professionalism and expertise as well as a commitment to protecting Ohio's history, and due to their exceptional efforts and initiative, the facility has attained a tremendous record of service to the community. This noteworthy enterprise is truly deserving of high praise."*

## **OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer Update**

**Liz Schultz**, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, will be doing some special programming for area groups during February as part of Black History Month observances. In addition to leading two special tours for visiting church groups from Cleveland, Liz will make a public presentation for the **Lorain Public Library (Domonkas Branch in Sheffield Lake) on Wednesday, February 1 (7:00 p.m.)**. Preregistration is required by calling the Domonkas Branch Library at 440-949-7410. Liz also presents *"Freedom's Friends: Oberlin and the Underground Railroad"* at **Bowling Green State University's Firelands College on Wednesday, February 8, at 12:30 p.m.** The event, which is part of the College's Diversity Celebration month, will be held in the Cedar Point Center at One University Drive in Huron, Ohio, and it is free and open to the public. For more information, contact BGSU Firelands at (419) 433-5560.

Congratulations to **Liz Schultz** upon her recent appointment as the **Chairperson of the Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission**. Liz will serve a 3-year-term in the position. Other OHPC members include Eugenia Bobo, Doren Harley, Tracie Haynes, Rachel Luczkowski and Scott Broadwell (Council Liaison).

Welcome back to the OHC's Oberlin College student interns who were far-flung throughout the world during the College's Winter-Term break. **Erin Swenson-Klatt** and **Monica Monsalve** worked on projects at home in Minneapolis and Miami, respectively. **Cesar Palacio** toured Panama as clarinetist in a Conservatory music ensemble, while **Tim Krumreig** explored language accessibility to foreign visitors in Taiwanese museums (and he's preparing a blog which we can read next month!) As the new school semester gets underway, this fantastic foursome and others will be helping Heritage Center staff with tours, publicity, collections care, research and more.

We bid farewell to OHC Winter Term students **Brandon Henley** and **Greg Brown** – what a pleasure – and a big help – it was for us to have them with us during the month of January. Read about Greg's impressions of the Oberlin Heritage Center in his [blog entry](http://oberlinheritage.org/blog/) on our website (<http://oberlinheritage.org/blog/>).

It was great to receive a warm and newsy update recently from former intern **Genevieve Baudoin** (OC '02) who interned at the Oberlin Heritage Center her senior year at Oberlin College. Genevieve went on to receive a master's degree in architecture from Harvard University, and subsequently landed a job overseas at Foster & Partners, an internationally-known London-based architectural firm, where she worked for 2½ years. Upon returning to the States, she taught architecture as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico, and just recently moved to a tenure track position at the University of Kansas. How exciting to hear of Genevieve's success in the fields of architecture and higher education!

Volunteer **Dick Baznik** spent a full day at the Monroe House recently as he and **Collections Assistant Prue Richards** set up and photographed all of the Oberlin Heritage Center's historic quilts. The beautiful handwork will be featured in a special "The Quilt as Storyteller" program later in the year and a summer "Historic Quilts" tour at OHC. Stay tuned for more...

### **Also of Interest**

**Tax refund donations = grants for local history!** Remember that Ohio's 2011 income tax form will allow taxpayers receiving a refund on their state taxes to contribute a portion of their return to the Ohio Historical Society. OHS is using these contributions to create a new competitive matching grants program for history-related projects throughout Ohio. Tax time is a great time to support Ohio History!

Historic **First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.** will be the site of the annual concert to benefit homeless families through **Family Promise of Lorain County**. On **Sunday afternoon, February 19 at 3:00**, the **Amici String Quartet**, all players from the Cleveland Orchestra, will present music by Schubert, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn. Admission is free; donations will be invited. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Carol Longsworth at (440) 774-2226 or [carol.longsworth@oberlin.edu](mailto:carol.longsworth@oberlin.edu).

The State of Ohio's birthday is **Thursday, March 1**, and all are invited to Columbus for **Statehood Day**, a celebration of Ohio and its history, as well as a legislative advocacy event. The original 1802 Ohio Constitution will be on display at the **Ohio History Center**, and admission to the Center will be free for the day. For more information, visit the Ohio Historical Society's [website](http://www.ohiohistory.org) ([www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org)) and follow the calendar links to Statehood Day.

Hailed as "probably the toughest event on the planet," **Tough Mudder** is coming to Lorain County the weekend of **April 14-15, 2012**. The premier adventure challenge series will be held at the Quarries in South Amherst. Mark your calendars now; the events are very spectator-friendly! Online tickets purchased in advance are 50% off the admission gate prices. For more information, visit [www.toughmudder.com](http://www.toughmudder.com).

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