

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – July 2011

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700 www.oberlinheritage.org members@oberlinheritage.org

A Life Recorded One Day at a Time: Fannie Bailey, Oberlin & the Civil War

Join us **Wednesday, July 13 at 7:15 p.m.** for a fascinating up-close-and-personal account of the Oberlin home front during the Civil War, presented by **Dr. Kelly D. Selby**, a Walsh University assistant professor of history (and a former Oberlin Heritage Center student intern in the mid-1990s). This illustrated presentation provides a glimpse into the life of local resident Fannie White Bailey and illuminates the complex and diverse nature of how the national conflict altered Ohioans' lives. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Free and open to all.

Summer Camp Scoop

Just a few openings remain for the Oberlin Heritage Center's newest camp for kids (ages 8-13), the **Soldiers & Civilians: Civil War Era Day Camp**, which will be offered **July 25-29** from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Oberlin Heritage Center's summer camps are among the lowest priced in the area: an excellent investment at \$95 per child or \$85 for children and grandchildren of OHC members. Some scholarship assistance is available for those who qualify. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org for more information or to register online, or contact (440) 774-1700 to request a camp flyer. Limited space also remains for **Kids & World Cultures Camp** (August 8-12) and **Architecture Camp** (August 15-19).

Eight bright and energetic teens recently joined the ranks of **Junior Docents** after they attended the Oberlin Heritage Center's two-day camp in June. By the end of the second day they were ready to give room tours to friends and family! Led by **Liz Schultz**, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, and assisted by Summer Assistant **Laura Laubenthal**, preparation included mini research and presentation projects, museum tours and discussions, games, and learning about the proper care of historic objects. Campers came from Oberlin, Wakeman, Elyria, Olmsted Falls, Lorain, and Westlake. The final tour was a grand success, and one Junior Docent quietly whispered during the mini-tour, "I wish I had taken a bigger room. I didn't know this would be fun."

History Walk Receives Rave Reviews

The Oberlin Heritage Center's **Soldiers & Civilians Civil War History Walk** has been deemed "first rate" by participants in the new 75-minute walking tour through historic neighborhoods surrounding downtown Oberlin. Plan to attend one of these weekly walks offered on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. before the month is through. Next month, the Heritage Center will switch the schedule and present the **Freedom's Friends History Walk** (abolition-and-Underground-Railroad-themed) on Saturday mornings in August and September. Advance reservations are needed; visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to register. Interested volunteers are invited to attend a free **Training Workshop** for the **Freedom's Friends History Walk** on **Sunday July 10 from 1-4 p.m.** No previous experience is necessary. We'll meet at the Monroe House and move on from there. Sign up by July 8 at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

You Can Help OHC by Hosting, Writing, or Drinking Coffee!

It's time for one of the Heritage Center biggest fundraisers of the year: when local volunteers open their homes to parents and college-age students during Oberlin College's Freshman Orientation at the end of August. **Volunteer hosts in Oberlin are needed for one or more nights from Monday, August 29 through Wednesday, August 31 (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights).** If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple

breakfast provided in the morning, please let us know. It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador. The Oberlin Heritage Center benefits from all proceeds raised by the accommodation fees. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, please contact Oberlin Heritage Center Board Member, **Cathe Radabaugh**, at cathe.radabaugh@oberlin.edu or (440) 774-4646.

The Oberlin Heritage Center is submitting a nomination to the Ohio Local History Alliance for our Summer Camps for Kids programs to be considered for a History Outreach Award in the Public Programming category. The nomination packet will be accompanied by letters of support from people who think that the Heritage Center's Summer Camps benefit the community. Please take a few minutes to write down your thoughts in a letter addressed to: Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards Committee, c/o Ohio Historical Society Local History Office, 800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211. **Send your letter of support to the Oberlin Heritage Center by July 22** (MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455) or e-mail it to members@oberlinheritage.org.

We need plastic or metal **coffee cans** that are 11 oz. or larger for use during the Civil War Era camp for kids. These will be used in making drums to accompany a discussion of how boys too young to fight in the War still marched off to battle serving as drummers for the troops. Deliver containers to the Oberlin Heritage Center **by July 23** or call (440) 774-1700 to arrange for a convenient pick-up (within Oberlin).

Welcome New Members

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Joanne Busiel, Rick & Margie Flood, Robert Harmon** (Upper Arlington), **Miles & Angela Heilman, Judith A. Hinds** (Nutley, NJ), **Timothy & Patricia LeFebvre, Dennis Ortner** (Wellington), **Tracy Shed Logan** (Elyria), **Brittnei Sherrod, Brett Watts & Sonia DiFiore**, and **James H. Young**. (All are from Oberlin unless otherwise noted.) We're so glad you joined the Oberlin Heritage Center! New members keep the organization vibrant and strong. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join -- visit www.oberlinheritage.org or request a membership brochure at (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org).

Endowment Campaign Update

The Endowment Fund for History Education has received \$44,662 in gifts and pledges from 43 donors, on its way to a goal of \$400,000. We salute **Daniel and Elizabeth Goulding** who made a pledge this past month that will move them up from the "Copper" to the "Aluminum" level of **Endowed Life Membership**. There are now 83 individuals or couples who are Endowed Life members -- please 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. For more information, contact Executive Director Patricia Murphy (patm@oberlinheritage.org) at (440) 774-1700 or Board Member Nick Jones (nrjones360@gmail.com) at (440) 774-3671.

Listening to Our Readers

Thank you to all who sent comments back last month when we asked our E-Gazette readers if they preferred a once-a-month (and lengthier) version of the Heritage Center's E-News, or a more-frequent (and shorter) version. The end result was **3:2 in favor of keeping the E-Gazette coming on a monthly basis**...and we'll even try to be briefer in future, too! Those who want additional information or up-to-the-minute news may also visit www.oberlinheritage.org or follow us on Facebook.

Out and About: Staff and Intern News

Liz Schultz was a panel presenter at the 2011 National Underground Railroad Conference held June 14-18 in Clermont County in southwest Ohio, where many stations along the Ohio River were historically

active. Liz participated in the session “Overcoming the Past: Reimagining Legends of the Underground Railroad” and discussed the challenges of developing the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Freedom’s Friends History Walk. Earlier in the month, Liz also “starred” in a broadcast feature about the Oberlin Heritage Center that aired on the 6 p.m. news on WKYC TV3 News (Cleveland’s NBC affiliate) on Monday, June 6. See Liz (and some charming Oberlin third-graders who were spending the day in the Little Red Schoolhouse) by clicking [here](#).

Karyn Norwood was quoted in a special sidebar piece on Ohio’s Civil War 150 commemoration in Cleveland’s 2011 Official Visitors Guide (Spring & Summer edition) published by the Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau. You can view the online version at www.positivelycleveland.com (and look for Karyn on page 80!) or order a free copy from the Positively Cleveland website.

Check out the fun, eye-catching new look of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Main Street kiosk (between the Oberlin Post Office and the Vineway Building), created by Summer Assistant **Laura Laubenthal**.

School may be out, but the OHC’s Resource Center is lively with student help this summer. Volunteer **John Olmsted**, who grew up in Oberlin and who will begin pursuing a Ph.D. in history at Berkeley this fall, is creating a Google map of historic photographs of Oberlin that will be launched on the Heritage Center’s website in the very near future. **Cassie Dutton**, of North Olmsted, is an anthropology major at The College of Wooster, and has begun transcribing oral histories as a Heritage Center volunteer. Several local high school students also will be helping at our summer youth camps.

Kudos Corner

Author **John Vacha** of Lakewood won a bronze medal for Best Regional Non-Fiction in the Independent Publisher Book Awards 2011 for his book “*Meet Me on Lake Erie, Dearie!: Cleveland’s Great Lakes Exposition, 1936-1937.*” The former Cleveland teacher’s book was recently published by Kent State University Press. This was Vacha’s fourth book on local history. He is regional coordinator for the National History Day in Ohio competition.

Congratulations to Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee and family historian **Jean Foggo Simon** who spoke last month in Hamilton, Bermuda at a presentation featuring University of Pennsylvania Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Theodore Schurr, Director of the North American Regional Center for The Genographic Project and Jill Bennett Gaieski, Project Administrator. The Genographic Project is a National Geographic Society genetic and genealogy study designed to better understand human migration around the globe. Since 2009, Jean has worked with The Genographic Project in identifying family members and collecting DNA samplings from targeted families on her native St. David’s Island, a 560-acre island off the east coast of Bermuda. For more about this fascinating study, click [here](#) or visit the National Geographic Society’s website.

Hip-Hip-Hooray and Huzzah! The Oberlin Heritage Center surpassed the 200 mark last month in the number of people who “Like” us on **Facebook!** All 201 friends were invited to a free Saturday history walk as a thank you. Stay up to date this summer by giving the Oberlin Heritage Center a “thumb’s up” on Facebook.

Also of Interest

The **8th annual Taste of History** sponsored by the Black River Historical Society takes place, **Saturday, July 30, 2011 from 3-10 p.m.**, at the Black River Landing in Lorain, Ohio. The event includes displays by local wineries and restaurants, as well as vendors of crafts, art and antiques. Admission is free; and \$10 buys a souvenir wine glass and 5 wine tasting tickets. For more information, call (440) 245-2563.

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