



Westwood

‘This that we tread was, too,
your father’s land.’
‘But this we tread
bears the angelic gangs
Sweet are their fathered
faces in their wings.’

–Dylan Thomas
from “I Fellowed Sleep”

A Historical and Interpretive
view of Oberlin’s cemetery

Oberlin, Ohio



In memory of
Frank Zavodsky
(1917-1997)
whose love for
Westwood
Cemetery inspired this
publication.

Second only to his love and caring for our family was my father's love and caring for Westwood Cemetery. He nurtured and protected its bounty of nature, taking great joy in its constancy yet ever-changing face. Each season brings its own special version of beauty to Westwood. From the Austrian Pines to the mallards on the pond, he savored it all. He considered its caretaking a sacred trust.

Those buried in Westwood provide a clear picture of Oberlin's rich history. Through numerous visitors' tours, my father opened these fascinating lives to many. He knew the cemetery's history by heart and enhanced its tales with many personal anecdotes. Some of these are shared with you throughout this book.

It is our family's hope that this book will assist others in continuing to enjoy and cherish this unique and beautiful place that is Westwood.

—Robin Zavodsky Jindra

Please see page 23 for more information about the life of Frank Zavodsky and the role he played in Westwood Cemetery's history.



“It is indeed a ‘pleasant country’s earth’ to which this Assembly of the Silent have given that which called for rest. With its great sheltering trees, and its sunny outlook over winding green lowlands, it is not gloomy, even in the presence of the Great Mystery. It is very near the village, and yet in its situation so retired that the faint sounds of business and of play serve only to assure us of that hold on life which every soul craves. Indeed, when you have heard the cardinal and the quail piping to each other through the still air of a summer morning, you will know that this city of the dead is brimming over with life and youth and joy.”

*– Francis J. Hosford
from “Our Treasure Field,” Oberlin Alumni Magazine, June 1930*

The focus of this publication is on 19th century Oberlin figures who lived the majority of their lives in the 19th century and died prior to 1920. Exceptions have been made in the case of congressmen and Oberlin College Presidents.

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The Cemetery

Perhaps Oberlin's founders had no idea how successful and popular the colony was to become when, in the 1830's they leased two acres of land from Oberlin College for a burial ground on Morgan Street. By 1861 it was clear that there were no more spaces to be sold and a larger cemetery would be necessary. In part, this was do to the need to accommodate soldiers who died during the Civil War. On July 9th, 1861, following a public notice, a meeting was held to consider a new cemetery. The Oberlin Cemetery Association was formed that day and charged with the duty of locating suitable grounds for a new cemetery.

After a year and a half, The Association secured 28 acres southwest of the village. One-third of the land was forest, one-third was clear and the remaining third was farmland. The land was purchased for \$1470. Following clearance, the cemetery was surveyed and mapped by H.B. Allen, Esq., a skilled engineer who was experienced in the formation of rural cemeteries.

The first burial in August, 1863, was that of Samuel Montgomery in Section V. At that time the cemetery was not completely cleared, ready or properly dedicated. All of the bodies buried at Oberlin's first cemetery were removed to Westwood by the close of 1863.

On June 8, 1864, citizens and students gathered at the cemetery to help clear the heavily forested acreage. Women of the community served dinner to the workers at noon. On the motion of James Fitch, the Oberlin Sunday School Superintendent, the name "Westwood" was adopted. An area was chosen and set aside for a place of burial for Civil War soldiers. The area is called, "Soldier's Rest."

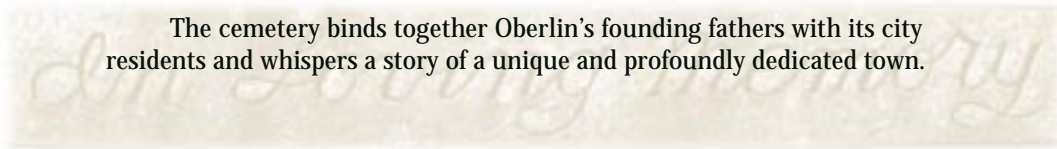
The site was formally dedicated on July 16, 1864. The program included an address by Professor James Fairchild, music conducted by Professor C.H. Churchill and a prayer given by Oberlin College President Charles Finney.

In 1944 The Cemetery Association transferred control of the cemetery to the City of Oberlin. In 1946 Frank Zavodsky became sexton for Westwood and remained such until his retirement in 1984. He was active and helpful in the affairs of Westwood until his death in 1997.

As in widespread 19th-century cemetery tradition, Westwood had a "Potter's Field" (now indicated on cemetery maps as "OAP") where poor residents whose families couldn't afford a burial site were placed. This caused a class division that Oberlin recognized early on. The practice was discontinued and these types of burials are now conducted throughout the cemetery.

Today the cemetery is thought of as a memorial park. Many city residents walk, jog and bike the cemetery pathways. In comparison with other cemeteries, Westwood's monuments are generally simple and plain; however, upon closer inspection, the inscriptions document who these people were that settled here during the formative decades. Oberlin's pioneers had strong Christian beliefs and rejected ornamentation and frivolity. Christian literature and symbolism prevail here.

The cemetery binds together Oberlin's founding fathers with its city residents and whispers a story of a unique and profoundly dedicated town.





Nature

Westwood Cemetery has long been a haven for a diverse variety of wildlife that seasonally or permanently resides there. In his many forays through the grounds Frank Zavodsky would take notice of the daily activities of the animals and birds that provide life to the grounds.

As one enters the cemetery from Morgan Street he or she is frequently greeted by squirrels of several types or chipmunks. These squirrels can be red or gray (occasionally albino), and rarely black fox or flying varieties. These energetic residents of the grounds take full advantage of any hollow tree limb they can find to call home. When sufficient accommodations are in short supply they can and do construct temporary nests from branches and leaves in the tops of trees to meet their needs.

Shagbark hickories, walnut trees and several varieties of oak thankfully provide a rich and diverse food supply for the many squirrels and chipmunks that inhabit the grounds. They in turn provide food for a family of red tailed hawks who are seasonal inhabitants as well as several varieties of owls who frequent the grounds.

Cotton-tail rabbits can also be seen frequently going about their daily chores. On occasion in the spring, one can stumble onto one of the nests they construct in the ground, lined with fur, where they conceal their young. A rabbit's life is a busy one trying to balance getting enough food with various social demands and occasionally dodging a predator.

Since there is a pond on the grounds it is natural that such an asset is bound to attract a plethora of regular residents as well as occasional visitors for potential food and/or drink. Bull frogs and leopard frogs top the list of resident amphibians. Painted turtles and snapping turtles are the most recognizable reptile residents. Muskrats inhabit the shore line in their burrows or occasionally in constructed mud and vegetable-matter momel huts.

Great blue herons make frequent visits to search for prey. Ducks, mostly mallards but occasionally wood ducks, use the pond as a source of food and shelter as well. At other times Canadian geese are known to stop over or take up residence to raise their families.

Frank took special note of one tree near the pond that has been a home for a hive of honey bees. With no bears in this part of the state of Ohio, their hive is relatively safe.

A relative of the bear, the raccoon, is a frequent visitor to the pond because of the plentiful food supply. Rarely seen during daylight hours, these resourceful omnivores also take full advantage of any unoccupied hollow trees or limbs to use for their homes.



During his frequent early morning walks, Frank would take delight in observing his quiet friends, the white tailed deer, going about their nightly routine that has spilled over into the early morning hours. Normally shy and secretive, these beautiful animals normally seek shelter in nearby thickets or wood lots during daylight hours for safety's sake.

As one makes a tour of the cemetery grounds our ears can't help but notice the almost constant presence of song birds of many types. Probably the most noticeable are the robins, relatives to the thrushes. If they aren't readily noticed hopping around on the ground searching for food or flitting from tree to tree, then it's their audible song of several varieties that provides joy to our ears and life to the grounds.



This pristine setting is frequently interrupted by the calls of squabbling blue jays who never seem to be able to live in peace and harmony with their feathered neighbors. These relatives of the crows share their temperament and eating habits and, in their peculiar way, help provide balance and diversity to the cemetery grounds.



As this nature tour of the grounds comes to a close one must not forget to mention the redheaded woodpecker and his several cousins that call the trees in the cemetery grounds their home and source of food. As we turn our backs on the rich history that these hallowed grounds embrace, we are reminded by the woodpecker's staccato in the distance that while some have eternal rest, others keep a watchful eye over them for eternity.



1. Shagbark Hickory
2. White Oak
3. Bur Oak
4. Black Walnut
5. White Spruce
6. Norway Spruce
7. American Beech
8. Bald Cypress
9. White Pine
10. Silver Maple
11. Pin Oak
12. Kentucky Coffee-tree
13. Tulip Tree
14. Red Maple
15. Red Oak
16. Scotch Pine
17. Thornless Honey Locust
18. Little-leaf Linden
19. Red Pine
20. Sugar Maple
21. Sycamore
22. Basswood
23. Sweet Gum
24. Austrian Pine
25. Ash
26. Flowering Pear
27. Eastern Hemlock
28. Willow
29. Cottonwood
30. Wild Black Cherry
31. Norway Maple
32. European Hornbeam
33. Arborvitae
34. Burning Bush
35. River Birch
36. Japanese Maple
37. Yellowwood
38. Magnolia
39. American Elm





The richest plant life of Westwood is undoubtedly its wealth of mature trees, many native to the United States. The trees are planted and maintained by the City of Oberlin, with replacement trees usually originating from the Vee Long nursery on Morgan Street, although some have been donated by citizens over the years. It is not possible to map and describe all the trees in this brief publication; however, included here is a short list of species that are encountered in a clockwise tour around the cemetery. There are many specimens of most species; the map on page 6 identifies the most striking examples, and whenever possible the first example of each kind of tree.

The walking tour begins at the Westwood Cemetery sign, with the large tree immediately behind the sign. This is a Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata* (1). The very distinctive shaggy bark of this tree is also found in some other hickory species, but only this one typically has its leaves divided into five leaflets—other species have seven or nine. There are many other impressive examples throughout the cemetery.

Next in line is a White Oak, *Quercus alba* (2). The leaves have rounded lobes and the acorn sits in a shallow cup that only covers one-third of the pointed nut. The wood of this tree is hard and close-grained, and often used for furniture or hardwood flooring. Native Americans used the acorns to make bread flour.

About fifty feet south of the White Oak is a Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa* (3). You can identify this oak by the fringe along the edge of the acorn cup from which it gets its common name. The leaves are shallow-lobed and widest at the end opposite the stem. In winter you may see corky ridges on the branchlets. It is also called Mossycup Oak.

Across the road at the corner of the house lot is a tall Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra* (4). The long divided leaves and deeply furrowed bark are quite distinctive. The edible fruits are enclosed in a green hull, the juice of which may be used to make brown dye. The nuts ripen in October. The strong heavy timber of this tree



is prized for cabinetry and veneers.

Looking left you will be passing a line of mixed White Spruce, *Picea glauca* (5), and Norway Spruce, *Picea abies* (6). The White Spruce has a greyish cast to the needles and short cones less than two inches long. The branchlets and twigs of the Norway Spruce hang down, and its cones are much longer, up to six inches. It was introduced to the US as an ornamental, although in Europe it is valued as a timber tree. More recently it has been widely grown as a Christmas tree.

Look around the fourth spruce towards the golf course, the cemetery's neighbor the the east, west and south, and you will see a large spreading tree with a silvery trunk. This is an American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia* (7). This majestic tree is valued for landscapes and as a source of timber used for furniture, tool handles etc. The fruits, known as "mast", provide food for many animals including deer, rabbits, foxes and possums. This tree is easy to identify in winter by its smooth silver-grey bark and the brown leaves which may cling to the twigs until spring. You will often see initials carved into the smooth bark of beeches.

To the right as you approach the fork look for a pair of Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* (8). There is another to your left behind the last Norway Spruce. This conifer commonly found in Southern swamps looks like an evergreen but sheds its needles for the winter. An ancient trunk of Bald Cypress was once unearthed in Pennsylvania, indicating that its natural range may once have extended much further north than it does today.

Closer to the fork on your right is a pair of White Pine, *Pinus strobus* (9). The soft appearance of this tree comes from its long flexible needles which are attached in bundles of five. This is the only native five-needled pine in the eastern U.S. The wood is valued for timber, and the inner bark was eaten by Native Americans and has also been used as an ingredient in cough remedies.

Follow the left-hand path and after passing another Bur Oak on your left you will see a large Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum* (10). This fast-growing tree has silvery backs to its leaves.

Between the Silver Maple and the Lyman-Keymer tomb is a Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris* (11). This tree gets its common name from the short pin-like twigs that develop along the branches. The leaf lobes are pointed and the tree has a distinctive downward slope to the lower branches when young. The acorn cups are quite shallow (which helps distinguish it from the Scarlet Oak). This tree is also called Swamp Oak and Water Oak because it grows in wet places.

In front of the Pin Oak is a smaller tree with leaves that are twice-compound— the leafstem branches and the leaflets grow on these side stems. This is a Kentucky Coffee-tree, *Gymnocladus dioica* (12). Its beans, which are enclosed in a flattened pod, were used by early immigrants into Kentucky as a substitute for coffee. The Latin name means "naked branch", as the tree goes without foliage for almost half the year in its native range. Because of its dead winter look it is also called Stump Tree.



Across the road to your right, south of the chapel-shaped storage building is a Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (13). In Ohio's woodlands this is usually the straightest tree. The leaf has four lobes, somewhat like a maple leaf with the tip cut off. The flowers are tulip-shaped, colored orange and green, and are usually hidden from view above the foliage. In fall this tree turns bright yellow, and in winter it can be recognized by the calyxes, or flower bases, which cling to the upper branches.

Just past the next fork in the path, on your left between the Montgomery obelisk and the Wood headstone, you will see a Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* (14). You can tell this tree from other maples by its reddish leaf stems and the comparatively shallow

notches between the leaf lobes. It is also called Swamp Maple.

Behind the Maple is a Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* (15). The leaf lobes are pointed and the acorns sit in very shallow cups. If you look at the upper trunk you can see flattened shiny ridges looking almost like ski tracks — this is a good way to identify the tree in winter.

Across the road to your right is a Scotch Pine, *Pinus sylvestris* (16). This pine is distinguished by the bark of the upper trunk and branches which is orange-red and flaky. Like many other pines, it has needles attached in bunches of two. The needles are typically 2–3" long.

Just north of the unpaved drive to your left you will see a Thornless Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* (17). The wild form of this tree has long branching thorns, but this ornamental variety has been bred to be thornless. The zig-zagging twigs and branches are an easy winter clue to this tree, as are the dangling pods which may persist until spring. The thin sweet pulp inside the pods gives the tree its common name.

On your left just after the gravel drive, behind stones marked Moore and Johnson, is a pair of Red Pine, *Pinus resinosa* (18). This two-needled pine has long flexible needles and short cones.

In Section S, to your right, there are few trees. Stand by the Pruitt-Johnson stone to your left, look west, and you will see a triangular tree. This is a Little-leaf Linden, *Tilia cordata* (19). Its fragrant green flowers which perfume the air in June may be used to make linden tea. The fruit hangs in front of a leafy bract



which gives it a distinctive appearance.

Walk a way before you come to our next specimens, set either side of the road behind the graves marked Harrison and Carter. These large trees are Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* (20). This species and the Black Maple are both used to produce maple syrup. It is also one of the most spectacular foliage trees in fall. The bark of old trees splits into rough plates which curl around their edges.

Towards the corner of the cemetery, on the left behind the Mitro stone you will see the distinctive mottled trunk of a Sycamore, *Platanus sp.* (21) The bark of this tree flakes off revealing the yellow and white underbark. Native Americans used the trunks of sycamores to make dugout canoes — one was 65 feet long and weighed 9000 pounds!

As the road curves, to your left behind the Clark stone is an American Basswood, *Tilia americana* (22). This is a close relative of the Little-leaf Linden you saw earlier, and has the same fragrant flowers and distinctive seeds. Basswood is among the most important of American honey trees. It is also known as American Linden, Lime Tree and Whitewood. The wood was once used to make buttermilk tubs as it imparts no flavor to the contents.

On your right as you round the curve is a Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* (23). The leaves of this tree are star-shaped and somewhat fragrant when crushed. Its fruit hangs in unusual prickly balls which can be threaded and hung as Christmas decorations. The name comes from the sweet sap exuding from wounds which is sometimes chewed like gum and has also been used medicinally.

On your left in the corner of the cemetery is a large Austrian Pine, *Pinus nigra* (24). This is another two-needle pine with needles that are five inches long and stiff. The grey bark forms regular dark-edged plates on the trunk.

At the south end of the cemetery are several large Ash trees, *Fraxinus sp.* (25). The largest is on the corner of Section T and has a double trunk. It is difficult to tell different ash species apart but the genus is easy to tell by the divided leaves which are arranged opposite each other on the twigs, and the many shallow parallel furrows on the trunk. Ash wood is used for baseball bats and furniture. Look around as you stand under this tree and you should be able to recognize at least eight more ash trees nearby by their distinctive bark.

Midway along section Q to the right of a stone marked Viets is a midsize tree with upright branches and dark green triangular leaves. This is a Flowering Pear, *Pyrus sp.* (26). It is a popular landscape tree for its white spring flowers, bright fall color and regular shape.

To the right of the large Rawson-Hinde tomb is a grove of four Eastern Hemlocks, *Tsuga canadensis* (27), planted around two stones marked Carter. This evergreen is popular in landscaping for its graceful winter form. It also may be found wild in Ohio's native woods. The short flat needles are arranged in two flattened rows on the branches.



As you walk along the southern edge of the cemetery towards the pond you pass between two huge trees — a Black Walnut on your right and a giant spreading White Oak on your left. Stop by the unusual Severance and Barber stones and look north to see a big Sugar Maple and behind it a large Red Oak with the characteristic “ski-tracks” on the upper trunk.

On the island in the center of the pond is a Silver Maple and a large Willow, *Salix sp.* (28). There are many different willow species native to the US. As a family they thrive in wet places such as flood plains and river banks. The wood is brittle and this tree has clearly suffered some damage. When a tree grows on a riverbank, limbs that break off can float down the river and then take root where they finally come to rest.

About eighty feet west of the pond, at the southwest corner of the cemetery you can see the deeply furrowed bark of a large Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides* (29). Another tree for wet places, this kind of poplar is fast-growing, and subject to wind damage. It is named for the downy seeds designed for wind transportation which carpet the ground in summer.

Turn the corner of the road, noting a group of large Sugar Maples to your right and a large White Oak on your left behind the Chamberlin stone. Our next pair of trees is just after the impressive Carpenter stone on your right. These are Wild Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina* (30). The flaky bark of this native tree has been described as “burnt potato chips!” The fruit is a valuable and reliable food source for wildlife. Look for another specimen further along on your left, behind the Sakellar stone.

After passing several Norway Spruces and a Sweet Gum on your left, you will notice a red-leaved tree in section A. This is the ‘Crimson King’ cultivated variety of Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides* (31).

Behind the Maple stands an unusual tree with many upright branches and small leaves. This is a variety of Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus* (32). This shape of tree is called “fastigate.”

As the road heads east, look for the huge stone marked Hall on your right. Behind it is a hedge of Arborvitae/Northern White Cedar, *Thuja occidentalis* (33). The common name of this shrub is a Latinized French name meaning “tree of life.” It was named when a French expedition in Canada used it to cure a disease (probably scurvy). The soft light-colored durable wood is used to make shingles and fence posts.

Also behind the Hall Stone, to the left of the Arborvitae is a pair of Burning Bush, *Euonymus alata* (34). This shrub stands out in fall when its leaves turn bright red.

Look left into the OAP section for several examples of River Birch, *Betula nigra* (35). In this section of the cemetery you can compare some recently planted river birches along the road near you with their much older relatives to the



north-west, flanking the left fork of the road as it continues. Birches are usually planted in groups of three together, in order to give a more substantial look to their slender trunks. The bark of this birch is unusual for being orange-brown in color on the upper branches, and shaggy on the lower trunk.

Continuing east, behind the Shipherd and Stewart monument to your right is a small cultivated variety of Japanese Maple, *Acer palmatum* (36). These small maples are popular for their graceful form and delicate foliage.

Look for the Straus stone on the right, marked with two urns. In front of it is an unusual small tree known as Yellowwood, *Cladastris lutea* (37). It has fragrant white flowers in spring and its bark may be used

to make a yellow dye.

Walking beside the line of Austrian Pines which begins here, look right and see a Saucer magnolia, *Magnolia sp.* (38), a small ornamental tree with large leaves and a grey trunk. In a good year this tree will be loaded with large fragrant pink or white flowers in spring, but the buds may be ruined by a heavy frost. The silver bark and strong lines of the branches are attractive year-round.

Continuing towards the exit, to your right you will see a huge Bur Oak sheltering the Johnson mausoleum. Look to your left further ahead and you will see a large arching tree just behind the line of Austrian Pines. This is one of the few surviving examples of American Elm, *Ulmus americana* (39). Many elms have fallen victim to Dutch Elm disease in recent years. As you make your way out of the cemetery, look again at the Tulip Tree in section J. From this side you can clearly see the bark damage caused by a lightning strike.



HE LIVES ON FOREVER IN OUR LIVES
 A KINDLING VITAL FORCE
 AMAZING COURAGE

Historical and Interesting Oberlin Figures

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Caroline Mary Rudd Allen

Caroline Mary Rudd Allen
 b. 1820 d. 1892

Allen was one of the first three women to take the bachelors degree when she graduated from Oberlin College in 1841.

Simeon Bushnell
 b. est. 1829 d. 1861

Bushnell was an Oberlin clerk and printer who was jailed for his role in the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue along with 19 others. While in jail, he told jailers, "I have sworn eternal enmity to the fugitive slave law, and while God lets me live I mean to defy it, and trample upon it." He died of tuberculosis in 1861 after collapsing in the Oberlin College chapel vestibule, shortly after the death of his daughter. He was 32 years old. The inscription on their joint monument reads, "Christ hath gotten us the victory." Cor. 15:57.

Alfred Butler b. est. 1850 d. 1917

Arriving in 1877, Butler lived in a hollow tree until he moved into a shack along a swamp northeast of town. He became well known as "Swamp Butler" as he worked to clear the forests.

He worked odd jobs throughout his life. He was an avid reader of literary magazines. His body was found sitting in a chair in his home, fully clothed, including his hat. After searching the premises, 26 cents were found. He was buried in an unmarked grave in what was then still called "Potter's Field."

Marie DeFrance b. 1873 d. 1926

The first African-American woman to own her own business, DeFrance was one of six children who came to Oberlin in 1883 with their mother Mary Elizabeth DeFrance. She purchased a millinery store in 1896, "Millinery M. DeFrance," and operated the business for thirty-five years. Marie and her mother are buried side-by-side in Westwood Cemetery.



Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Mary Kellogg Fairchild

Mary Kellogg Fairchild b. 1819 d. 1890

Mary Kellogg was one of the first four women to enter Oberlin College for a B.A. in 1837 although she did not complete her degree. She later became the wife of Oberlin College President James Fairchild.

Elizabeth Ford Atkinson Finney

b. 1799 d. 1863

Atkinson became the second wife of Charles Grandison Finney in 1848. She traveled with Finney during his revivals and was able to accompany him on two evangelical visits to England.

She also led the Maternal Association, the Infant School, and the Oberlin Female Moral Reform Society.

Lydia Root Andrews Finney b. 1804 d. 1847

Charles Grandison Finney's first wife and the mother of their six children. The couple was married in 1824.

Like all of Finney's wives, she shared in his revival work, traveling with him and developing ministries which were sympathetic to his own. And, like all of Finney's wives, she was active in her own right working for anti-slavery, moral reform, and causes for the poor and for children.

While living in New York, she led the first chapter of the New York Moral Reform Society. That group eventually became the model for the Oberlin Female Moral Reform Society.

In Oberlin, she was active in the Maternal Association, the Infant School, and the Oberlin Female Moral Reform Society. Finney's subsequent wives followed her example and also participated in these organizations.

She was also involved in the formation of the Ohio Ladies Anti-Slavery Society.

James Fitch b. est. 1816 d. 1867

A participant in the Oberlin-Wellington slave rescue, Fitch was jailed for his involvement in the rescue of John Price. At the time of the jailings, his known role was only that of an instigator. It wasn't revealed for some years that it was he who drove fugitive John Price to the home of James Fairchild for hiding. He was well-known for his abolitionist leanings. His home was said to have several secret rooms for the purpose of shielding fugitive slaves. He was also the superintendent of the Oberlin Sunday School.

Albert J. Gilchrist b. est. 1816 d. 1899

Reputed to be the wealthiest man in Oberlin at the time of his death, Gilchrist



gave generously to the poor. He gave \$5,000 to Oberlin College with the stipulation that the return of the sum be used to furnish coal to the indigent of Oberlin for many years.

Charles Martin Hall b. 1863 d. 1914

A chemist and inventor, Hall is long remembered for his gifts to the town and college of Oberlin.

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Charles Martin Hall

Hall first met chemistry professor Frank Fanning Jewett his freshman year when he went to the college laboratory to buy supplies for some of his chemistry experiments. During that year the two discussed Hall's interest in chemistry and his backyard experiments, conducted in the woodshed behind the Hall family home.

With assistance from his older sister Julia Brainerd Hall (b.1859–d.1926), Hall attempted to reduce aluminum ore through the process of electrolysis. His experiments eventually brought aluminum into general use.

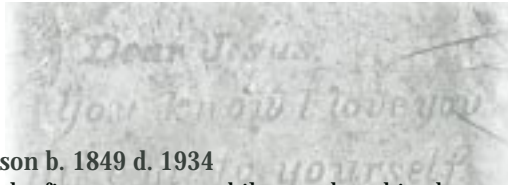
Hall continued to refine the electrolytic process for producing aluminum and began to look for ways to develop it commercially. His plant, called the Pittsburgh Reduction Company, opened in Pittsburgh in September, 1888. Hall's company continued to grow

and prosper, despite a number of lawsuits for patent infringement. The Pittsburgh Reduction Company was renamed the Aluminum Company of America, or ALCOA, in 1907.

He used his wealth in a variety of ways, to foster the development of Oberlin College and the town he grew up in.

Points of Interest in Oberlin

- Hall House (1853)—64 East College St.
(Hall family home, where C.M. Hall conducted his ground-breaking experiments in aluminum)
- Hall Auditorium—North Main
(given in memory of C.M. Hall's mother Sophronia Brooks Hall)
- Hall Sisters House (1901)—280 Elm St.
(C.M. Hall had this house built for his sisters Julia, Edith, and Louie)



Thomas Henderson b. 1849 d. 1934

Henderson sold the first two automobiles marketed in the world. They were products of the Winton Factory. He also placed the first order for automobile tires from the Goodrich Co. in Akron who made bicycle tires. This started Goodrich Co. on the road to its future enterprise. Henderson was also an Oberlin College Trustee.

Lewis Holtzlander b. est. 1797 d. 1861

Holtzlander was the first mayor and a pioneer resident of Oberlin. He ran the stagecoach between Oberlin and Elyria and on to Cleveland. In an advertisement Holtzlander ran in the *Oberlin Evangelist*, he promised, "good coaches, good teams of horses, and honest faithful drivers."

William O. Jenkins b. 1835 d. 1895

Farmer, laborer, stone mason and grocer, Jenkins owned a store near the railroad tracks in Oberlin that was fined several times for selling alcohol in the dry town. He riled the temperance advocates on more than one occasion.

Wiley L. Jennings b. 1854 d. 1902

Born a slave, Jennings was freed at the abolition of slavery. He later came to Oberlin and enrolled in Oberlin College for one year.

An eccentric known for being a hard worker, he had some trouble with the law. He advertised in a matrimonial publication for a white wife, which for many was unacceptable. This resulted in a white woman's arrival from Illinois with the expectation of marriage. She was unaware of his race and quickly left town. Because of the incident, Jennings was said to have used the mail to defraud and was threatened with legal action.

When Jennings became older he took on odd religious beliefs and believed he was a divine healer. His irrational behavior led to his removal to a state mental hospital. He never married.

Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett b. 1854 d. 1937

Born to missionary parents in Micronesia, Gulick spent most of her youth in Hawaii before attending Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. She then moved to Tokyo where she taught high school. Here she also met Frank Fanning Jewett and they were eventually married in Yokahama in 1880. She and Jewett came to Oberlin later that year where he assumed a teaching position with the college.

Frances Jewett's most important interest was in her work as a reformer for public health. Like many other middle-class women of her time, she was part of the "Progressive Era" and its various efforts to harmonize post-Industrial Revolution America. Her personal activism was represented in "municipal housekeeping" efforts, in which she advocated the development of regular street sweeping, garbage collection, better sewage systems, and improved plumbing. Through a series of textbooks written for elementary schoolchildren, Frances Jewett presented her recommendations for the personal responsibilities of hygiene: proper posture, abstinence from alcohol and tobacco, informed diet and nutrition, dress



reform for women, and the dangers of houseflies, mosquitoes, and the seemingly everpresent microbes.

In bestowing an Honorary Degree on Frances Jewett in 1916, Oberlin College President Henry Churchill King praised her for “translating accurate scientific knowledge into clear and simple language for the better health of a new generation.” The Jewett’s retired to Hawaii in 1923.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Jewett House (1884)—73 S. Professor St.
(House open for tours through O.H.I.O.—Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization)

Johnson Family

Albert, son of early Oberlin businessman, I.M. Johnson, was president of the Citizens National Bank, The Oberlin Gas and Electric Company and the Arkansas Midland Railroad Company. His home, now owned by Oberlin College, is an Oberlin showplace.

He was killed in a railroad collision in Colorado in 1899. His son, Albert M. suffered a broken back in the collision but survived to become a successful businessman in the west.

E.P. Johnson, also a son of I.M., died in 1915. He was a veteran merchant in Oberlin who helped organize the Oberlin Bank Company and the Oberlin Telephone Company. He was also Superintendent of the Second Church Oberlin Sunday School for 37 years.

Points of Interest in Oberlin

- Johnson House (1885)—216 S. Professor St.
- Johnson House (1857)— 240 E. College St.

Harriet Louise Keeler b. 1846 d. 1921

A graduate of Oberlin College in 1870, Keeler became a leading educator and education administrator in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1912 she accepted the position of superintendent of public schools in Cleveland, the first woman to hold that position. She was a suffragist and at one time was president of the Cuyahoga County Suffrage Association. Several memorials exist in Cleveland that bear her name.

Julia Rice Finney Monroe b. 1837 d. 1930

Julia Rice Finney Monroe was linked by marriage and birth to some of Oberlin’s most important figures, including Charles Grandison Finney (her father) and James Monroe (her husband).

She was born in Oberlin in 1837. At the age of 12, she began her education in the Oberlin College Ladies’ Preparatory Department. Later, in 1853, she took the Ladies’ Course at the college.

In 1865, Julia Finney married James Monroe. She was 28, he was 44 and the father of four children. By 1870, the Monroe family had returned to Oberlin where



she resumed her place in the intellectual and civic life of the town.

In 1885 she founded the Oberlin Industrial School, a charitable school which taught girls from 6 to 16 how to sew and knit. In its 30-year history, the school taught over 900 students. Mary Monroe, her stepdaughter, worked with her at the Industrial School for more than 15 years.

Julia was on the Womens' Board of Managers, a group that supervised women students, from 1894 to 1900. She was also very involved with the Oberlin Charities Association, which provided job-training for the poor.

Julia Rice Finney Monroe outlived her husband by 32 years, but she never remarried. After her husband's death, she traveled to the Middle East and Europe, often with stepdaughter Mary at her side.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: The Monroe House (1866)—73½ S. Professor St. (Monroe family home from 1870-1930. House open for tours through O.H.I.O.—Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization)

Charles A. Mosher b. 1906 d. 1984

An Ohio State Senator from 1951–1961, Mosher served in the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio's 13th district from 1961 to 1977.

Mosher was the only Republican member of Congress to vote against funding of the U.S. war effort in Vietnam in 1967. He and House Speaker Tip O'Neill co-sponsored a resolution that would have urged the U.S. to pull out of Vietnam. He was also the first congressman to list himself as a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

He published the Oberlin News Tribune from 1940 to 1961.

Alonzo Pease b. 1820 d. 1881

Pease was an Oberlin self-taught artist who had several paintings exhibited at the

Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Academy of Design in New York. He also painted portraits of several Oberlin College presidents for \$50 apiece in 1860. He was the nephew of Peter Pindar Pease, Oberlin's first citizen. His obituary reads, "Alonzo was a painter from his youth, was born such and could not help it. All efforts to make a

"Game of Life," by Alonzo Pease features man playing chess with the devil.



Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Alonzo Pease

student of him were in vain.”

Pease served as Captain of Company H in the 41st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He later resigned because the Colonel insisted on returning escaped slaves to their masters. An ardent abolitionist, he was said to have painted fugitive slaves white, enabling them to slip past slave catchers unnoticed.

Hiram Pease b. 1797 d. 1889

Brother of Peter Pindar Pease, Hiram Pease was a member of the first Oberlin College class. He was a Sunday school teacher and a deacon in the First Congregational Church. He was an abolitionist active in the underground railroad.

Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Hiram Pease

Pease was known for his sense of humor illustrated in the following tale: While he was still in excellent health, he took a large granite boulder to his shop and during his spare time he polished one side of it so it could be used as his grave marker. He requested that it read, “ Under this sod and under these trees, Lies the body of Hiram A. Pease. He is not here, only his pod: He’s shelled out his soul, and gone back to God.” His family didn’t comply because they said there wasn’t enough room on the polished side

of the stone. He is reported to have said many times that he wanted people to laugh when they visited his grave.



His sense of humor stayed with him till the end when he was said to have proclaimed on his deathbed, “It’s too early to plant Pease!”

Peter Pindar Pease b. 1795 d. 1861

On April 19, 1833, Peter Pindar Pease brought his wife and children from their pioneer home in Brownhelm, Lorain County, to his log cabin on the campus. Thus, he is considered Oberlin’s first citizen. His modest home was built in three days and was the first building in Oberlin.

He became known as “Deacon Pease” and was a builder throughout his life. He worked on many of Oberlin’s early buildings and the First Congregational Church.



— THERE CAME A MAN SENT FROM GOD —
— HIS NIGHT BEAR WITNESS OF THE LIGHT —

Henry M. Platt b. 1836 d. 1899

Platt was a pioneer photographer in Oberlin. Many of the early photographs taken of Oberlin and its residents bear his name. His first studio was located on the southeast corner of College and Main Sts. in Oberlin. An advertisement for his business contained his motto which read, “to have patience and perseverance with children.”

Helen Shafer b. 1839 d. 1894

A 1863 graduate of Oberlin College, Shafer was a leading mathematics instructor for over 20 years. From 1888–1894 she was president of Wellesley College. In 1878 Shafer received the degree of M.A. from Oberlin College, and in 1893 she was the first woman to receive the degree of L.L.D from the college.

Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Helen Shafer

James Sheridan d. 1943

A pioneer in telegraph work, Sheridan was recognized as one of the best telegraph operators in the country. He built lines to Lorain, North and South Amherst, and Vermilion. He also ran the Sheridan and Helman Telegraph School—one of the largest in the country.

Mary E. Burton Shurtleff b. 1836 d. 1924

Throughout her life, Shurtleff was very involved in charitable and social organizations. She was an active member of the Oberlin Temperance Alliance, the Non-Partisan Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, the Women’s Board of Missions of the Interior, the Oberlin Women’s Club, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. One young man who knew her described her as being “gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody’s fool.”

Mary Burton was wed to Giles Waldo Shurtleff in 1864. The Oberlin College Archives hold more than 200 letters that the couple wrote to each other during their courtship and marriage, giving witness to their loving and devoted relationship.

Alexander Steele b. est. 1803 d. 1872

Pioneer resident of Oberlin and the town’s first practicing physician, Dr. Steele was the father of John Steele. In 1867 he was the first to begin sidewalk reform by replacing his plank walk with a flagstone pavement eight feet wide.

John Steele b.1835 d. 1905

Steele graduated from law school at Ann Arbor, MI. In 1861 he and Alonzo Pease formed the 41st regiment of Ohio Volunteers. He



John Steele



AND WITH THE MORN THOSE ANGEL FACES
SMILE WHICH I HAVE LOVED LONG SINCE
I'VE LOST AWHILE

participated in the battles of Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, Franklin and the Atlanta Campaign. Major Steele won the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving as Aide-de-Camp. The war department records read "During a night attack of the enemy at Spring Hill, Tennessee, on November 29, 1864, upon the wagon and ammunition train of Major Steele's corps, he gathered up a force of stragglers and others, assumed command of it, though himself a staff officer, and attacked and dispersed the enemy's forces, thus saving the train." His final service was in Texas in opposition to Kirby Smith, after the backbone of the rebellion had been broken. He was mustered out of service in 1866 with rank of Lieutenant -Colonel.

In 1867 Steele became Probate Judge of Lorain County. He later worked in building the Canadian Southern Railroad. The U.S. Government later appointed him an inspector of mail routes in the west which led to his appointment as investigator in the Star Route scandals.

Throughout the rest of his life in Oberlin, Steele was dedicated to the progress of the town. He campaigned for adequate water service and modern protection from fire as well as a modern sewage system. He became the Postmaster of Oberlin in 1889. Steele was called to Washington at least once to confer with President McKinley.

Steele was appointed by Oberlin College President King to administer the trust given by Andrew Carnegie for the reimbursement of students and indigent persons who lost money due to the fraudulent operations of swindler Cassie Chadwick. Chadwick used Carnegie's name for her scheme and toppled the Citizens Bank of Oberlin.

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Clarke-Steele home, 420 E. College St.

Bradstreet Stevens b. est. 1787 d. 1870

At the time he died, Stevens was the last surviving Oberlin colonist who arrived in 1833. He aided in building the first college hall and built the first frame dwelling in town. He bucked the popular all-vegetable diet in Oberlin and it was said he hosted in his home, students who craved a heartier meal.

He was a cousin of Thaddeus Stevens, famous abolitionist legislator.

Alice Mead Swing b. 1859 d. 1944

Swing was elected to the Oberlin School Board in 1895. The first woman to hold this office in Oberlin she was also one of the first women in the state to hold an elective office.

Chauncey Wack d. 1900

Wack, a leading Democrat in Oberlin, has been called "Oberlin's 19th Century Anti-Hero." He owned a hotel south of Oberlin. It was there the slave catchers looking for fugitive John Price stayed. Wack was a sympathizer with the slave catchers and was a star witness for the prosecution of the men who were jailed for the rescue of John Price.

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Wack-Dietz House (1847), 43 E. Vine St.



William Wright b. 1814 d. 1883

Wright came to Oberlin in 1835 and graduated from the college in 1840. After a few years of employment with the college, he engaged in the nursery business and did much to supply Oberlin and the vicinity with fruit and ornamental trees. When the First Congregational Church was struggling to build, Wright sacrificed his dream home when he donated his entire store of collected woods (black walnut, oak and hickory).

Frank Zavodsky b. 1917 d. 1997

Zavodsky was a devoted employee of the City of Oberlin for over 50 years. He is remembered for developing, maintaining, and caring for Westwood Cemetery. He first came to Oberlin in 1925, at the age of eight. He married his Oberlin High School sweetheart, Carol Shreffler, and together they became partners in life and work. After serving in the U.S. Army for three years overseas in WWII, Zavodsky returned to Oberlin and began work with the City of Oberlin. The Zavodskys' were instrumental in, if not solely responsible for the cemetery which the city took over in 1946 when it was jokingly called "Westweed" Cemetery.

During his career with the City of Oberlin, he went from waterworks helper to cemetery chief to public works director, with occasional stints as acting city manager. He was public works director from 1954 to 1970 and served under more than half a dozen city managers. Although Zavodsky officially retired in 1984, he continued to keep busy with Westwood business, selling grave sites and meeting with funeral directors. He and his wife became genealogists of sorts, helping visitors trace their family histories.

Zavodsky's knowledge of those buried in the cemetery was immeasurable and a source of information for many. He conducted many cemetery tours, sharing its rich history with all.

He devoted much time and leadership over many years to the city's tree planting program. This resulted in the beautification of many of Oberlin's streets, parks, and the cemetery.

"Augustus and his family are quietly resting near a tree in Section U near the roadway. Mr. Z remembered the location of an old foot path so could locate the grave. Also buried in the plot is Frank Johnson, a member of the 'U.S. Colored Troops' of the Civil War and thus meriting a grave marker from the government. Frank Johnson's grave helps to locate Augustus and his family. Not too far away is one of Augustus' children Gus Chambers. There are other family members, I am still trying to locate in Westwood Cemetery but I know my task will be considerably harder without the competence and gentle caring of Mr. Z. Without him I may never have found a lost ancestor or obtained information that has been invaluable in my search. As I continue the research on my family and try to reconstruct the life story of the ex-slave, my great, great grandfather Augustus Chambers, I feel better knowing that in the end he was reunited with his Ruth Ann. And I owe that to Mr. Z."

-Wilhelmina Manns



"THE SLAVERY FROM WHICH SHE
FLED STILL RETAINS IN ITS GRASP
ALL HER RELATIVES.
CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
SURVIVE HER. BUT THEY WERE NOT
PRESENT TO SMOOTH HER DYING
PILLOW, NOR FOLLOW HER
TO THE GRAVE.
THE MOTHER DIED ALONE,
AND WAS BURIED BY STRANGERS,
WITHOUT ONE FROM
AMONG HER NUMEROUS
OFFSPRING TO FOLLOW HER TO
THE TOMB; FOR THEY ARE
ALL SHUT UP
IN THE PRISON HOUSE OF SLAVERY."

Taken from the obituary of Charlotte Temple in the "Oberlin Evangelist."

Slavery's Victors and Victims

In their quest for freedom, fugitive slaves arrived in and passed through Oberlin until 1861. It was Frederick Douglass who inspired the Underground Railroad effort and instructed the slaves to find freedom in Canada. The Underground Railroad led many to the shores of Lake Erie. Oberlin was a safe haven along several direct routes to Lake Erie. In fact, Oberlin was so safe that many of the fugitives decided to stay and live out their lives here. Many became leading abolitionists in Oberlin and the U.S., assisting others on the freedom trail. The following section lists "free people of color," freed slaves, fugitive slaves and underground railroad activists who were directly affected by slavery and are now buried in Westwood Cemetery.



Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Lewis Clarke

Lewis Clarke b. 1815 d. 1897

The Clarke's family story, describing their sufferings as slaves on a Kentucky plantation, was published in 1842. He met author Harriet Beecher Stowe between 1845 and 1850 and said it was his experiences that formed the basis for the character of George Harris in her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Throughout his life he lived in Kentucky, Canada and Oberlin. After he died the governor of Kentucky ordered that his body lie in state in the city auditorium so that many could pay homage to the ex-slave whose life had made such an impact on pre-Civil War history. His body was subsequently taken to Oberlin where he had been a popular abolitionist speaker.

Winifred Carter Quinn Conner d. 1874

Solomon Quinn b. est. 1836 d. 1894

Born in North Carolina as a "free person of color," Winifred was nearly 60 years old when she migrated to Ohio in the 1850's with nearly 50 members of her family. Most of the people were property owners in the South but were driven out by the "Black Codes," and the harsh reality of survival for themselves and their families. She brought with her two sons, George and Solomon Quinn, whose descendants live in Oberlin today.

Courtesy: Thelma Quinn Smith

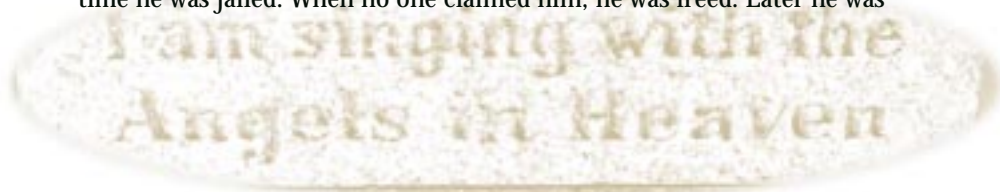


Solomon Quinn and Winifred Carter Quinn Connor

Solomon, born free in North Carolina about 1836, served for a brief time in the 17th U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. For the last decade of his life he was one of the pillars of the Second Methodist Church.

Sabram Cox b. 1823 d. 1897

Born into slavery, Cox tried to escape twice, both times being caught. The second time he was jailed. When no one claimed him, he was freed. Later he was





associated with prominent abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy who produced an anti-slavery paper. Lovejoy was killed by a mob that destroyed his plant and threw his printing press in the river. A drayman by trade, Cox was said to have retrieved the press .

In 1839, after saving a considerable amount of money, Cox left the south for an Oberlin education. He continued to participate in the anti-slavery movement and was known to have led slave escapes by posing as a slave. Slave catchers pursued him while the actual slaves escaped.

Cox became active within the Oberlin Community, serving on the village council and as street commissioner.

Lee Howard Dobbins b.1849 d. 1853

Lee Howard was a four year old slave child whose mother died in slavery. Before she died, she entrusted her son to the care of another slave women who treated him as her own. He was traveling the underground railroad to Canada with her when she was forced to leave him behind in Oberlin because he was so sick. She had several other children with her and Dobbins father, who was the slave owner was closely trailing them. Lee Howard died several days later in the care of an Oberlin family. A funeral was held in Oberlin's First Church where over 1000 attended. The townspeople raised a fund for his tombstone by spending ten cents each. His tombstone is now housed in the Oberlin College Archives. It reads: "Let Slavery Perish! Lee Howard Dobbins, a fugitive slave orphan brought here by an adopted mother in her flight for liberty March 17, 1853 left here wasted with consumption found a refuge in death, March 26, 1853 Aged 4 yrs." Lee Howard was originally buried in the old Professor St. Cemetery. His body was removed to Westwood where he now rests in an unknown location. His short life was the inspiration for the Underground Railroad Monument installed in 1993. It is located in the front of the cemetery.

Wilson Bruce Evans b. 1824 d. 1898

Freeborn in North Carolina, Evans came to Oberlin in 1854. He was an active abolitionist before the war, joining in the work of the underground railroad and was jailed for his participation in the rescue of John Price at Wellington. He served one year in the Union Army during the Civil War.

•Place of Interest: Evans House (1856) –33 E. Vine St.
(The home— as of 1997— remains in the same family.)

Jeremiah Fox b. 1827 d. 1909

A former slave who escaped bondage and came to Oberlin by the underground railroad in the mid 1850's, Fox took part in the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue although he was not jailed with the other participants. Since he was an escaped slave, he avoided court appearances.

Fox joined the Fifth United State Colored Heavy Artillery in 1865 and served a year in Vicksburg.



He endured a great deal of tragedy in his lifetime. A two year old son drowned in August, 1872. Two of Fox's children were deaf mutes. They both were involved in separate train accidents. One son was killed as a result.

Fox spent the last 20 years of his life enduring various illness including partial blindness. Despite the tragic circumstances of his life, history remembers him as a cheerful and happy person. He died poor, in the care of his youngest son and daughter-in-law.

Henry Johnson b. est. 1776 d. 1886

Before he escaped slavery in about 1844, Johnson was said to have been a servant of Andrew Jackson and to have cleaned guns at the Battle of New Orleans. He escaped to Canada but came to Oberlin after hearing of the town's reputation.

He worked as a gardener and brick layer and was known to have assisted escaping slaves on the underground railroad. One of his methods involved serving as a decoy along with other blacks aboard a wagon leaving town while the real escaping slaves left safely.

He became blind in the early 1870's and was said to have often sat alone all day at his home on Park Street (then N. Water St.) He lived to be about 110.

Allen Jones b. 1794 d. 1877

Born into slavery, Jones was trained as a blacksmith and gunsmith. He eventually saved enough to buy his freedom but his owner cheated him out of it. He later saved \$3000 and friends purchased his free papers for him. He then saved an additional \$2000 and purchased the freedom of his wife Temperance, their three children and his own father.

His passionate belief in education led him and other freedmen to build a school there in the south for their children. The school was burned out three times and the Quaker teacher was threatened to be tarred and feathered.

In 1843, along with John Copeland (who later was hanged for his participation in the raid on Harper's Ferry) and family, Jones left the south to escape persecution. Their destination was Indiana. On their way, they stopped at a friendly white farmer's where they were invited to stop and rest. While staying there, they attended an abolitionist meeting where they met Amos Dresser, an Oberlin Seminary graduate known for his anti-slavery activity. Dresser told them about Oberlin and gave directions. Copeland, Allen and another man went ahead.

Reaching an area about 20 miles from Oberlin, they stopped to ask directions. They were told there was no such place, that it had sunk. John Copeland was then said to reply that they would "go on and look into the chasm." After the men arrived they were welcomed and assisted by citizens and Dr. James Dascomb. Allen Jones sent word that he "had found a paradise and was going to stay." Copeland returned for the others.

After arriving in Oberlin, Jones set up his blacksmith shop opposite the First Congregational Church and later moved to a shop he built on South Main St. He



valued education his entire life, seeing that his children were educated. All five of his sons attended Oberlin college and four graduated.

A former Oberlin college student said Jones was, “a perfect Hercules in strength” who “clearly outranked in strength of individuality any white man of Oberlin, with the possible exception of President Finney.”

Mary Kellogg b.(est.)1818 d. 1863

Mary Kellogg was a Louisiana slave belonging to the family of her namesake Mary Kellogg, the wife of James Harris Fairchild. She was willed to Mrs. Fairchild who immediately set her free and employed her in their home in Oberlin.

Henry Lee b. 1836 d.1899

Lee was born into slavery in 1836. In 1858 he escaped to Syracuse, NY by underground railroad. He came to Oberlin in 1859, enrolled in the public schools and studied at Oberlin College. In 1865 in Wheeling, West Virginia, he refused to leave a first class train seat in order to move to a section reserved for black patrons. The conductor and another man tried to forcibly remove him. Oberlin College President Asa Mahan was on the same car and came to his aid. Four years later, the same thing happened on another train. Lee was ejected, beaten by three policemen, and jailed. He sued the railroad in a two year lawsuit and won damages.

In 1894 he brought before the Oberlin Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education, the fact that a textbook contained the name “Sambo”. He complained that the author intended to apply the name “Sambo” to blacks as a race. His efforts caused the superintendent to secure a pledge from the author to change the name in the next edition.

In the 1860's Lee was arrested for mistreatment of his wife, Hadessah Moles. They had six children. She died of tuberculosis in 1872 and he remarried shortly after. He had seven children with his second wife.

Lee fought for employment for poor blacks and acted as a paid financial agent for a society aiding blacks in the south. In 1890 he organized the Freedman's Western Educational Society and appointed friends as officers. Lee raised funds to support teachers in the South and kept poor records of the transactions. Most of the money he raised went to himself and two of his daughters who were teachers, stirring some controversy after Mayor Fauver declared Lee a fraud. Lee sued for libel, and the jury awarded him one dollar in damages.

Lee also developed and operated an ice-skating park on Park St. In 1893 he was the Lorain County champion checker player. In 1898 fourteen of his horses were killed when an enemy set fire to his livery stable on E. College St.

In 1899 he died after an iron roof fell on him.

John Scott b. 1827 d.1912

An emancipated slave who came to Oberlin in 1856, Scott worked as a harness and trunk maker. He was jailed in Cleveland along with 19 other men for his role



in the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue. He was the last survivor of those jailed.

Scott joined the Fifth Ohio Calvary in 1865 at age 38 and was discharged several months later. He later left Oberlin and moved to Tennessee but returned to Oberlin a few years later because he didn't like the treatment of blacks in the south.

Charlotte Temple - (gravesite unknown) d. 1841.

Formerly a slave, Temple had numerous scars from slavery. She died alone as her family were all in bondage. The *Oberlin Evangelist* reported of her death, "The slavery from which she fled still retains in its grasp all her relatives. Children and grandchildren survive her. But they were not present to smooth her dying pillow, nor follow her to the grave. The mother died alone, and was buried by strangers, without one from among her numerous offspring to follow her to the tomb; for they are all shut up in the prison house of slavery."

Henry Thomas d. 1945

A former slave who came to Oberlin, Thomas worked for the wealthy Johnson family.

John Watson b. est. 1820 d. 1872

A former slave who came to Oberlin with his family about 1840 for an education, Watson owned a grocery store and restaurant. He later acquired the entire building it was housed in the Commercial Block on South Main St.

He took part in the Oberlin-Wellington Slave Rescue and was jailed along with the others for his participation.

Following the Civil War, he presided at a state convention of black men at Columbus, Ohio.

John White b. 1815 d. 1903

White escaped slavery in West Virginia by using a fake document that claimed his freedom. He acquired the document from a man who had an official state seal.

He came to Oberlin in about 1838 after living in Canada and serving some time in the British army. He lived with Oberlin College President Asa Mahan for a while, and worked for Oberlin College Treasurer Hill. He also worked on the building of First Congregational Church.

He later acquired farm land northwest of Oberlin and farmed for most of his life.



Oberlin College Presidents

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



John Henry Barrows

John Henry Barrows

b. 1847 d. 1902

Barrows was a Congregational minister and the fifth president of Oberlin College.

He led churches in Massachusetts from 1875 to 1881. In 1881, he became the pastor of Chicago's First Presbyterian Church, where he stayed for 15 years. Barrows became known as one of the most respected preachers of the time, an involved and active minister who spoke before rapt audiences at temperance and missionary meetings. He gained popularity as a speaker in Chautauqua, New York; was on the Chautauqua advisory council; and taught comparative religions at the University of Chicago.

In 1893, Barrows organized the World's Parliament of Religions, held in conjunction with the Chicago World's Fair. The Parliament, for which he served as president, invited representatives of the world's religions to come together to discuss similarities and differences in their beliefs.

In 1901, Barrows caught pneumonia while touring the eastern U.S. His unexpected death in 1902 shocked and bereaved the Oberlin community. Students carried Barrows' casket to his resting place in Westwood. His headstone reads, "He gave His body to this pleasant country's earth. And his pure soul unto his captain, Christ, Under whose banner he had fought so long."

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Old Barrows Dormitory (1901)—207 S. Professor St. (Built as a home for Barrows)

Robert Carr d. 1979

Carr was Oberlin College president from 1960–1970, the years of explosive campus unrest due to the Vietnam War.

He was a noted civil libertarian. Carr was Executive Secretary of President Harry Truman's commission on civil rights and principal author of, "*To Secure These Rights*," a report which produced political storms over civil rights eight years before the U.S. Supreme Courts' 1954 desegregation decision. He was also Executive Associate at American Council on Education in Washington.



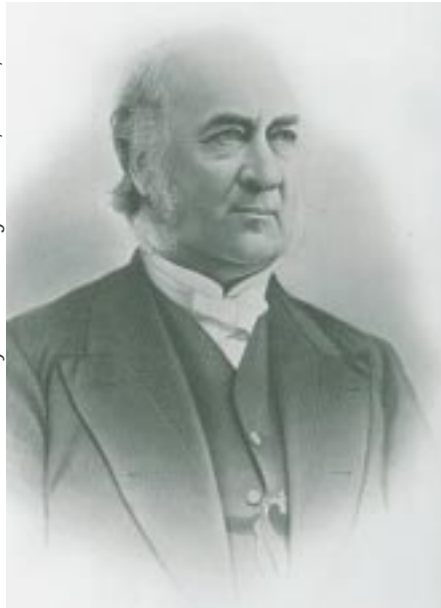
Emil Danenberg b. 1917 d. 1982

Born in Hong Kong, Danenberg made his piano debut there at the age of five. He received his A.B. and M.A. degrees in music at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1942 and 1944. He then became an instructor in Pianoforte and later a professor at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He made his New York debut in 1957 at the Darmstadt International Festival of New Music. He toured internationally as soloist and accompanist for many years. Danenberg also performed several times at Town Hall in New York.

Danenberg initiated legislation creating the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music, and the graduate program leading to the Performance Diploma.

He became Dean of the Conservatory in 1971 and later became the eleventh president of Oberlin College in 1975.

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



James Fairchild

James Harris Fairchild

b. 1817 d. 1902

Fairchild was the third president of Oberlin College after serving as a tutor, teacher and theologian. He married Mary Fletcher Kellogg, one of the first women to enroll in the college course in 1837.

Fairchild was well-known for his abolitionist views. After his wife, whose family owned slaves in the south, was given a slave (also named Mary Kellogg) from the family plantation, she and James Fairchild promptly freed her and she lived out her life in their employ in Oberlin.

Fairchild was also known for his role in the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue where he harbored the fugitive John Price in his home before he could be taken to Canada.

Charles Grandison Finney b. 1797 d. 1875

Charles Grandison Finney will be remembered for his work as a mesmerizing evangelical minister during the Second Great Awakening and as a founding member of the Oberlin community. Finney believed in and taught the New School Calvinist doctrine, including abstaining from tobacco, tea, coffee, and many amusements. He also preached that people were blessed with a limitless ability to repent for past sins. These views, collectively, were known as "Oberlin Perfectionism."

Initially trained as a lawyer, Finney underwent a life-changing religious conversion.



Historical & Interesting Figures

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Caroline Mary Rudd Allen (C-3#3) | 17. Harriet Louise Keeler (D-60#3) |
| 2. Simeon Bushnell (R-26#2) | 18. Julia Rice Finney Monroe (C-9#1) |
| 3. Alfred Butler (PF-6#11) | 19. Charles Mosher (I-52B#1) |
| 4. Marie DeFrance (Q-26#6) | 20. Alonzo Pease (I-41#6) |
| 5. Mary Kellog Fairchild (R-24) | 21. Hiram Pease (K-33#6) |
| 6. Elizabeth Ford Atkinson Finney (C-7) | 22. Peter Pindar Pease (K-33#2) |
| 7. Lydia Root Andrews Finney (C-7) | 23. Henry M. Platt (D-39#3) |
| 8. James Fitch (R-29#8) | 24. Helen Shafer (I-86#1) |
| 9. Albert Gilchrist (H-1#4) | 25. James Sheridan (V-18#5) |
| 10. Charles Martin Hall (E-10#1) | 26. Mary Shurtleff (C-39#3) |
| 11. Thomas Henderson (M-77#3) | 27. Alexander Steele (C-22#1) |
| 12. Lewis Holtslander (B-32#1) | 28. John Steele (R-22) |
| 13. William Jenkins (I-14#1) | 29. Bradstreet Stevens (B-33#3) |
| 14. Wiley Jennings (Q-43#3) | 30. Alice Mead Swing (E-31#6) |
| 15. Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett (E-80) | 31. Chauncey Wack (I-65#2) |
| 16. Johnson Family (Johnson Vault) | 32. William Wright (C-46#3) |
| | 33. Frank Zavodsky (V) |

Slavery: Victors & Victims

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lewis Clarke (D-56#4) | 9. Allen Jones (I-134#2) |
| 2. Winifred Carter Quinn Connor (K-25#1) | 10. Mary Kellog (V) |
| 3. Solomon Quinn (K-25) | 11. Henry Lee (N-16#4) |
| 4. Sabram Cox (Q-50#5) | 12. John Scott (E-70#5) |
| 5. Lee Howard Dobbins (unknown) | 13. Charlotte Temple (unknown) |
| 6. Wilson Bruce Evans (C-36#7) | 14. Henry Thomas (behind Johnson Vault) |
| 7. Jeremiah Fox (U-96#1) | 15. John Watson (K-35#3) |
| 8. Henry Johnson (U-111#2) | 16. John White (C-2#6) |
| | 17. Underground Railroad Monument |

Oberlin College Presidents

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Henry Barrows (H-34#1) | 4. James Harris Fairchild (R-24#11) |
| 2. Robert Carr (In-124#8) | 5. Charles G. Finney (C-7#7) |
| 3. Emil Danenberg (Z-167#9) | 6. Henry Churchill King (E-37#1) |

Oberlin College Presidents are indicated by circled numbers

Oberlin College Faculty & Staff

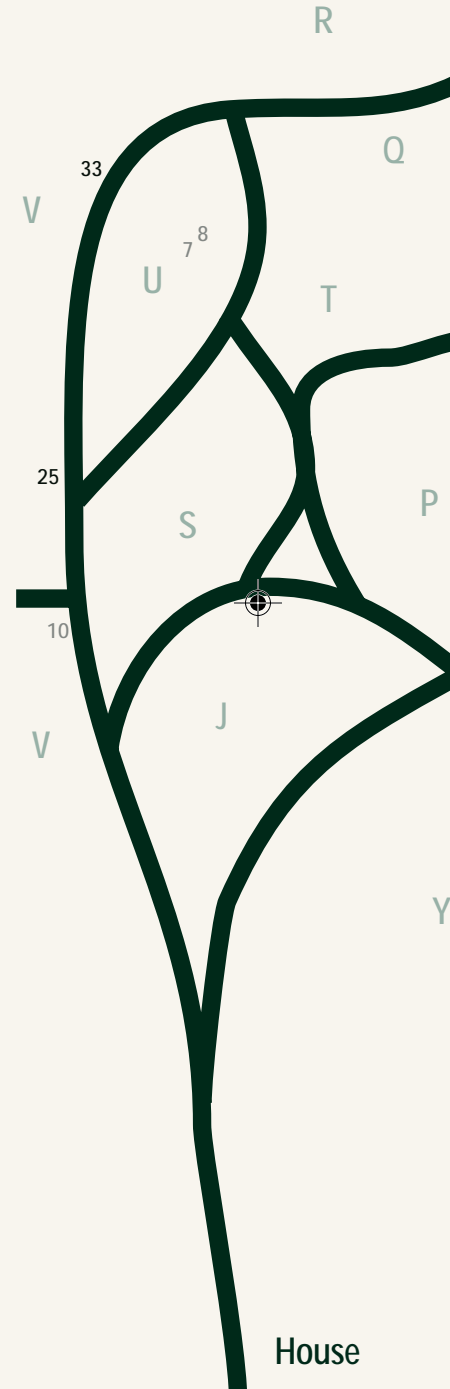
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. George Nelson Allen (C-3#2) | 12. Frank Fanning Jewett (E-80) |
| 2. George Whitfield Andrews (E-86#7) | 13. Adelia Field Johnston (D-60#2) |
| 3. William Frederick Bohn (E-27#1) | 14. Rev. John Keep (N-22#2) |
| 4. Edward Increase Bosworth (I-46#1) | 15. Fred Eugene Leonard (M-80#7) |
| 5. Jabez Lyman Burrell (N-24#9) | 16. James Monroe (C-16#5) |
| 6. Henry Cowles (B-28#8) | 17. John Morgan (C-44#3) |
| 7. James Dascomb (R-21#5) | 18. Henry Peck (B-34#1) |
| 8. Marianne Dascomb (R-21#7) | 19. Fenelon B. Rice (H-1#2) |
| 9. Rebecca Allen Rayl Finney (B-48#3) | 20. Azariah Smith Root (Q-69#1) |
| 10. Frances Hosford (M-23#3) | 21. James Severance (H/L-1#2) |
| 11. Timothy Hudson (B-30#1) | 22. Giles Shurtleff (C-39#2) |
| | 23. Albert Allen Wright (C-47#7) |

Missionaries

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Rev. John & Cornelia Bardwell (C-14#3) | MR. Missionary Rest |
| 2. John Holway (D-59#5) | |
| 3. James Steele (K-23#2) | |
| 4. Sela Wright (G-32#5) | |

Missionaries are indicated by underlined numbers

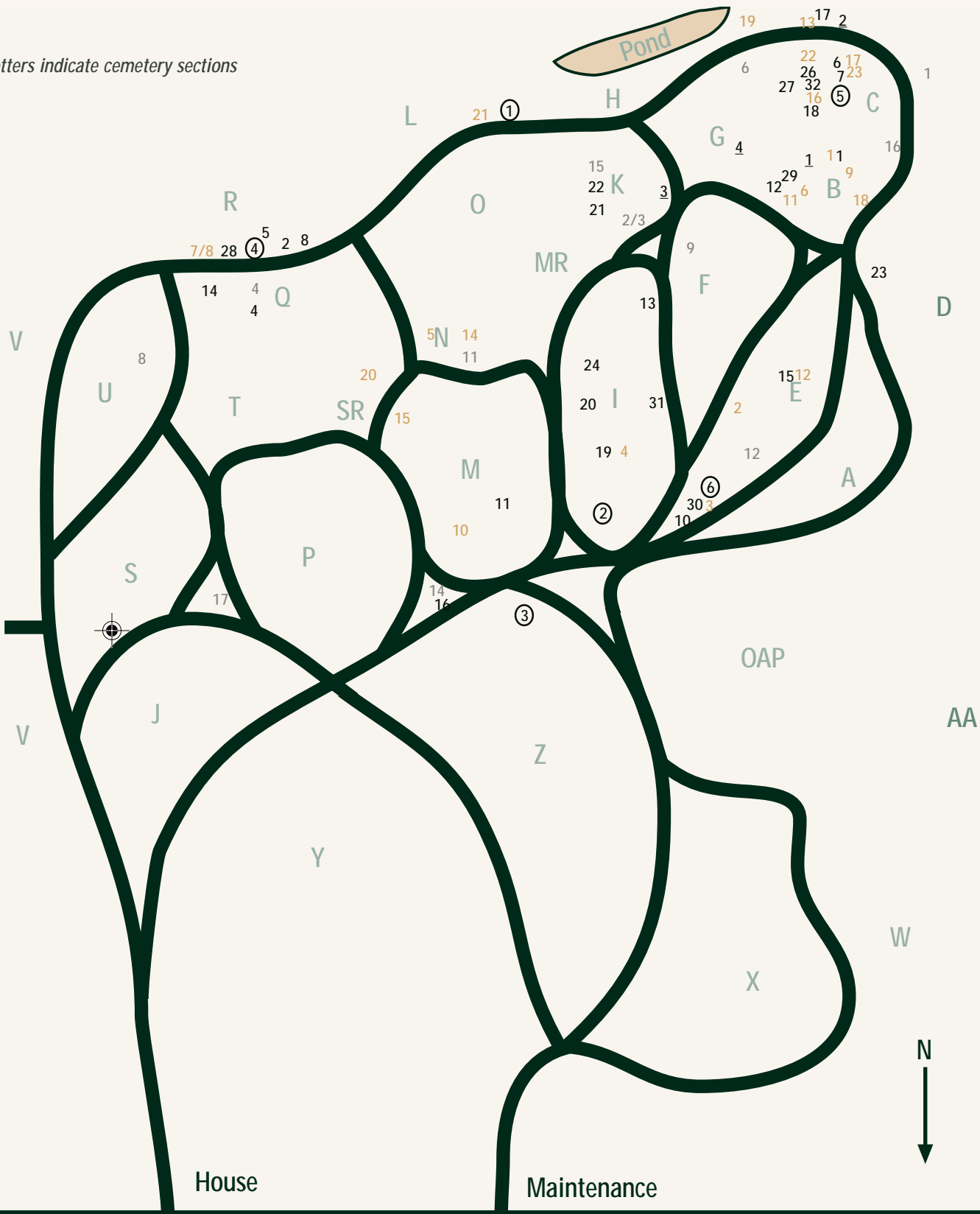
Letters indicate cemetery sections



House



Letters indicate cemetery sections



House

Maintenance

Morgan Street





Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Charles Grandison Finney

He gave up his law practice and put his substantial public-speaking skills to work spreading the Christian gospel. In 1823 he joined the St. Lawrence Presbytery as a ministry candidate; he was ordained in 1824. In 1836, Finney left the Presbytery (fueling a schism in the Presbyterian Church which caused it to split into two branches) and began to call himself a Congregationalist.

From 1824 to 1833, Finney conducted popular revivals in the east, with an emphasis on towns in New York state. In 1835, two years after he became the minister of the Second Free Presbyterian Church in New York City, Finney was persuaded by wealthy merchant and philanthropist Arthur Tappan to establish a theological department at a small school in Oberlin, then known as the Oberlin Collegiate Institute. Eventually Finney agreed, but only after establish-

ing certain conditions: that the school admit blacks and that he be allowed to continue his ministry in New York.

Finney was also minister to Oberlin's First Congregational Church (1837-72) which was designed to his specifications. In 1851, he was elected as the college's second president, a post which he held until 1865. Meanwhile, he continued with his popular and successful evangelical work, traveling throughout the United States and Great Britain.

Finney died in August, 1875 in Oberlin. President James Fairchild said of Finney, "He belongs to the world and not just Oberlin alone."

•Points of Interest in Oberlin

First Church (1842)—Corner of Main and Lorain Sts.

Finney Chapel (1908)—90 N. Professor St.
(Built in memorial by his son, on the former site of the Finney home)

Monroe House (1866)—Conservatory of Music Parking Lot
(home of Finney's daughter Julia)

Henry Churchill King b. 1858 d. 1934

King received his A.B. degree from Oberlin in 1879, and his B.D. from the Theological Seminary in 1882. He became a tutor in the Preparatory Department of Oberlin College in 1879 and associate professor of mathematics in 1884. In



Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Henry Churchill King

1890 he took over the teaching of philosophy, and the same year became college registrar. King served as Dean of the college for one year, and at the end of that time, in 1902, was elected president. He retired in June, 1927. His associations included; the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching where he was a charter member; he was president of the Religious Education Association, the Ohio College Association, the American Missionary Association, the Association of American Colleges and for six years was the chairman of the Commission on Missions of the National Council of Congregational Churches and was National Moderator of Congregational Churches.

In 1920 he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France for his signal work on the Inter-Allied Commission on

Mandates in Turkey where he was an American representative.

King was the first recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Medal at Oberlin College.

Points of Interest in Oberlin

- King Building (1964)– corner of College and Professor Sts.
- Burrell-King House (1852)–317 E. College St.





Oberlin College Faculty and Staff

George Nelson Allen b. 1812 d. 1877

Musician, scientist, professor, Allen was a religious man of far-reaching interests and activities.

A violinist, pianist and hymn-writer, Allen was hired by Oberlin College as an instructor in the Science of Music while he was still a student. Upon his graduation two years later, he was appointed instructor in Sacred Music. Allen was the college's first professor of music, a job he held for 26 years. He was also professor of geology and natural history.

In 1871, Allen retired from teaching, but he did not give up the pursuit of science. In the summer of that year, he was a member of the United States Geological Survey to Yellowstone, an important expedition that led to the establishment of Yellowstone as a National Park.

Allen was married in 1841 to Caroline Mary Rudd (1820-1892), one of the first three women in the United States to receive a college degree.

George Whitfield Andrews b. 1861 d. 1932

Andrews, a talented organist, served the musical community of Oberlin for 50 years.

A founding member of the American Guild of Organists, Andrews was skilled in performance, improvisation, and composition. A talented and devoted teacher, he conducted Oberlin's Musical Union for 30 years and the Conservatory Orchestra for 20.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Andrews House (1893)—195 Forest St.

William Frederick Bohn b. 1878 d. 1947

Bohn was assistant to Oberlin College President Henry Churchill King and to Ernest Hatch Wilkins, King's successor.

Bohn took an interest in religious and humanitarian organizations. He was a trustee of First Church, director of the Congregational Foundation for Education, and member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He was a trustee of the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, serving as chairman of the Shansi board from 1929 until his death.

In 1936 the Chinese government awarded Bohn the Order of the Jade in recognition of his service to China and his efforts to promote friendship between that country and the United States.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Bohn House (1913)—285 Oak St.





Edward Increase Bosworth b. 1861 d. 1927

Bosworth devoted his life to the teaching of Christian principles, in the classroom, in missions, and in everyday life.

Bosworth began teaching at the Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1887. President Henry Churchill King appointed him the first Dean of the Graduate School of Theology in 1903, a position he held for 20 years.

He wrote extensively on the New Testament and his books were often praised for their accessibility. A number of these books became the standard literature for Y.W. and Y.M.C.A. Bible classes.

He traveled extensively throughout the world on evangelical missions and supported many organizations and schools with a missionary purpose.

In 1911, Bosworth was affected by a tragic personal loss, the death of his son Lawrence. Just 12 years later in 1923, his wife Bertha passed away after suffering several years of illness. His own death stunned Oberlin and created a great loss in the community.

A 1930 article about Westwood Cemetery reads, "Perhaps the most haunting and compelling line is on the Bosworth double stone, under the sculptured cross and lilies. It is pleasant to find it written in the noble language of the Christian Hope, the language which he loved and through which he did his appointed work, but it is not the words that grip us. It is the Supreme Thought that the words reflect.



'Into the Light'

To Edward Increase Bosworth this was not merely a wish, or a hope, not even a prayer. It was a conviction. 'Do you really think that we shall see our friends in another life?' he was asked, not long before his death. 'I KNOW IT' was his answer."

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Monroe-Bosworth House (1857)—78 S. Professor St. (Built by James Monroe, members of the Bosworth family lived in this house from the turn of the century until 1956)



Jabez Lyman Burrell b. 1806 d. 1900

“Deacon” Burrell was a wealthy and influential Oberlin businessman, college trustee and anti-slavery activist. He contributed large sums to institutions in the south for the education of black freedmen.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Burrell-King House (1852)—317 E. College St. Burrell built the house and lived there for 30 years. He later deeded the house to the college. The house is now owned by the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization.

Henry Cowles b. 1803 d. 1881

Henry Cowles lived his life as a teacher, scholar, and abolitionist.

A graduate of Yale College, Cowles was ordained in Connecticut and became a missionary with the Connecticut Home Missionary Society. He later took a position at Oberlin College in 1835 as professor of languages.

Cowles soon joined with college President Asa Mahan, professor Charles Grandison Finney, and other Ohio abolitionists in the foundation of the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society.

Cowles was editor for the *Oberlin Evangelist* a religious periodical founded in 1839. The paper served as an outlet for the colony’s philosophies, exposing the eastern states to the Oberlin opinion on slavery, moral reform, missionary work, revivalism, and the notion of Oberlin Perfectionism.

The paper closed in 1862 due to a lack of money.



James Dascomb b. 1808 d. 1880

Professor of chemistry, botany and physiology for 40 years, Dascomb was Oberlin’s first physician and one time mayor of the village. He was responsible for the planting of hundreds of shade trees.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Dascomb House (1853–54)—227 S. Professor Oberlin’s finest example of Gothic Revival architecture

Marianne Dascomb b. 1810 d. 1879

The wife of James Dascomb, Marianne was principal of the Female Dept. of the College for 19 years. She provided leadership for 140 women of Lorain County who filed a protest against the movement for women’s suffrage. The petition read, “We are content that our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons represent us in the corn field, the battlefield and at

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Marianne Dascomb





the ballot box, and we them in the school room, at the fireside and at the cradle.”

Rebecca Allen Rayl Finney b. 1824 d. 1907

Rayl served as assistant principal of the Ladies Department at Oberlin College between 1856 and 1865, prior to her marriage to Charles G. Finney in 1865.

She was the first president of the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society of the First and Second Congregational Churches of Oberlin. The Missionary Society was begun in 1869 to employ “the prayers and efforts of Christian women in the work of sending the Gospel to those destitute of it, in foreign lands.” She was also active in other charities in Oberlin.

Often helping Charles G. Finney with his writing, she was especially interested in the subject of antimasonry.

Francis Hosford b.1853 d.1937

After earning her Masters degree from Oberlin College in 1896, Hosford became a Latin tutor, instructor and later the Dean of the Womens’ Academy. She wrote a 1930 article about Westwood Cemetery entitled, “Our Treasure Field,” that appeared in the Alumni Magazine. At that time, although the cemetery was nicknamed “Westweed” and had not yet been transferred to city responsibility, she already recognized the beauty and history that was so valuable at Westwood. As early as 1930 Hosford called out for preservation measures for the older headstones.

Timothy B. Hudson d. 1858

The chair of Latin and Greek at Oberlin College from 1838 to 1841, Hudson resigned in order to become a lecturer for the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society. In this role he held conventions and lectured throughout the state. He returned to a

professorship from 1847–1858. While traveling to an appointment near Cleveland, Hudson was tragically killed at the Olmsted train station while either boarding or departing a moving train.

Courtesy: Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio



Frank Fanning Jewett b. 1844 d. 1926
Beloved professor and mentor to Charles Martin Hall, Jewett studied at the University of Gottingen in Germany with Professor Wohler, the discoverer of aluminum.

As a professor of chemistry at Oberlin, Jewett was well-liked and popular among his students. He inspired Charles Martin Hall when he issued the challenge to his students one day that “any person who discovers a process by which aluminum can be made on a commercial scale will

Frank Fanning Jewett



bless humanity and make a fortune for himself.” In 1886 when Hall discovered the process to extract aluminum from its ore, he ran to Jewett to show him the pellets.

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Jewett House (1884)—73 S. Professor St. (House open for tours through O.H.I.O.—Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization)

Adelia A. Field Johnston b. 1837 d. 1910

Johnston graduated from the ladies course at Oberlin College in 1856. She was elected Principal of the Ladies Department in 1870. She taught as an instructor and as professor of medieval history, thereby becoming the first female member of the college faculty. In 1894 she became Dean of Women. She also served as president of the Village Improvement Society of Oberlin.

- Points of Interest in Oberlin: Plaque at the west end of the Plum Creek walkway near Morgan St. commemorates her role in beautifying Oberlin.

Rev. John Keep d. 1870

As the president of the Oberlin Board of Trustees in 1835, Keep cast the deciding vote to allow blacks to enter Oberlin College. It was also by his initiation that the Lane Rebels were enrolled in Oberlin. Keep was nicknamed “The Patriarch of Oberlin.”

James Fairchild said of Keep’s dedication to Oberlin College, “He traversed the land to gather means to sustain it, and crossed the ocean to save it in a crisis.”

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Keep Cottage (1912) –North Main St.

Fred Eugene Leonard b. 1866 d. 1922

A professor of physiology and director of the men’s gymnasium, Leonard believed the study of physical education was a legitimate part of the academic experience and should be respected as such. Through his efforts, academic credit was eventually granted at Oberlin College for courses in physical education.

Leonard was a Chautauqua lecturer and a special lecturer at Harvard and Columbia University. He wrote and published extensively, building a reputation for his knowledge on technique and the history of physical education. In 1895, he helped to found the Ohio Physical Education Society.

Leonard was also active in civic affairs. He was president of the Oberlin Hospital Association, a member of the Board of Education, chairman of the Oberlin Community Chest. He was also a temperance advocate.

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Warner Gymnasium (1901)—Facing Professor St. (Leonard helped to design this building)

James Monroe b. 1821 d. 1898

As a scholar and teacher, legislator and ambassador, Monroe spent his life serving the abolitionist cause, his country, and Oberlin College.



Born in Connecticut to Quaker parents, he began teaching school at the age of 14. He spoke out early against the evils of slavery and soon caught the eye of William Lloyd Garrison, a prominent abolitionist who encouraged Monroe to become a more visible anti-slavery lecturer. While lecturing, Monroe became acquainted with many of the leaders of the abolitionist cause including Frederick Douglass and Wendell Phillips.

In Boston, Monroe spoke to Charles Grandison Finney, who encouraged him to pursue an education at Oberlin College. While a student at Oberlin, he continued to lecture on abolitionism and gained a reputation for his magnetic style. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1846 and from the School of Theology in 1849.

From 1856 to 1860, Monroe served in Ohio's first Republican-controlled General Assembly, a seat he gained with nearly 90 percent of the popular vote. He was a State Senator from 1860 to 1862, where he was unanimously chosen President Pro-Tempore. Working hard for human rights, Monroe helped pass a bill which counteracted the effects of the federal Fugitive Slave Law. He also worked to protect the property rights of married women and quickly became known as an authority on educational issues.

In 1859, Monroe traveled to Harper's Ferry, Virginia in an attempt to recover the body of black Oberlinian John Copeland, who had participated in John Brown's raid. The mission proved to be unsuccessful.

President Lincoln appointed Monroe to the United States Consul in Rio de Janeiro in 1863. At the end of the war, Monroe returned home to Oberlin.

In the fall of 1870, after a second stay in Brazil, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

After leaving Washington in 1881, Monroe returned again to Oberlin to teach.

Monroe died in Oberlin on July 7, 1898. His monument reads, "This tablet is consecrated to the memory of one blameless in youth, devoted to the cause of human freedom, beloved as a teacher, long connected with the public affairs and men of his





time, in later years serving again his Alma Mater; Whose life was marked by cheerful labor, stainless integrity, surpassing sweetness of temper, love of his kind, and faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

•Points of Interest in Oberlin

Monroe-Bosworth House (1857)—78 S. Professor St.
(Monroe built this house while a young professor. He lived here until moving to Rio de Janeiro)

The Monroe House (1866)—73½ S. Professor St.
(Monroe family home from 1870-1930. House open for tours through O.H.I.O.—Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization)

John Morgan

A professor who was fired from the Lane Seminary because of his sympathy to the anti-slavery movement, Morgan was brought to Oberlin College as a mathematics professor in 1835 along with Mr. Finney. He later became chair of the Literature and Exegesis of the New Testament.

Henry Peck d. 1867

Professor of Sacred Rhetoric at Oberlin College from 1852-1865, Peck was then appointed minister of Haiti where, after two years, he died of yellow fever. Peck took an active and prominent part in political matters and had a national reputation for his usefulness in the affairs of state. It is a coincidence worthy of mention that he died on the same day as Mr. J.M. Fitch, his co-laborer in many good works.



Courtesy: Oberlin College, Archives, Oberlin, Ohio

John Morgan



Courtesy: Oberlin College, Archives, Oberlin, Ohio

Fenelon B. Rice

Fenelon B. Rice b. 1841 d. 1901

Soon after coming to Oberlin in 1869, Rice was appointed the first Director of the Conservatory of Music and from that time until his death his influence was a powerful factor in the life of the school. The standards of scholarship which he held and for which he fought have become the pride of the conservatory. Rice was also leader of the Musical Union and the Second Church Choir.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Rice-Moore House (1871)—155 Elm



Azariah Smith Root b. 1862 d. 1927

All of those who today enjoy Oberlin's fine libraries, both of the College and town, owe a debt to Azariah Smith Root.

He earned his B.A. from Oberlin in 1884 and in his M.A. in 1887. At the age of 25, he was appointed librarian of Oberlin College, and began a career in library administration science and the teaching of bibliography.

Root is responsible for making Oberlin College's library one of the largest in the United States. He helped to design the Carnegie Library, the modern library built for the College in 1908. Before the building of Carnegie, college students rarely used the library for their studies. With the new building Root helped to make the library central to campus life, and helped define what a liberal arts college library should be. The inclusion of a high school reading room and a children's room in Carnegie helped to insure it was a resource that could be used by townspeople as well as college students.

Even with his many professional interests, Root somehow found time to pursue political and social activities too. As evidenced by his many activities and appointments, Root was one of Oberlin's most active citizens. In 1893 Root helped to found the Anti-Saloon League.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin Carnegie Library (1908)—Corner of Professor and Lorain Sts.

James R. Severance b. 1846 d. 1916

Severance became treasurer of Oberlin College after Giles Shurtleff and served as such for 22 years. His service as treasurer to the college quadrupled the college's assets.

He also had a mechanical side and invented and perfected harvesting machinery. He worked as a consultant to the McCormick Company.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: Severance House (1894)—68 S. Professor St.

Giles Waldo Shurtleff b. 1831 d. 1904

Shurtleff was a respected town leader and one of Oberlin's most famous Civil War heroes.

He graduated from Oberlin College in 1859. The next year he became a Latin tutor for the preparatory school, while studying in the Oberlin seminary.

When the Civil War began in 1861, he became captain of Company C of the 7th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The company, known as "Monroe's Rifles" in honor of James Monroe, was mostly made up of Oberlin students. In August, 1861, Shurtleff was taken prisoner at Kesler's Cross Lanes, Virginia, and then held in a series of Southern jails, including an old tobacco factory, and Castle Pinkney, an abandoned harbor fort. He was released in August, 1862.



In September, 1862, Shurtleff was commissioned as assistant inspector general of the 9th Army Corps under General O.B. Wilcox. The corps took part in the battle of Fredericksburg on December, 14, 1862.

In 1863, he resigned from the army due to illness, but returned to service that summer as a Lt. Colonel of the 5th U.S. Colored Troops, the first troop of black soldiers recruited in Ohio, organized by John Mercer Langston. He remained with this unit until the end of the War. Shurtleff was wounded at Fort Harrison, Virginia in September of 1864. Before resigning from the army in the spring of 1865, he was made Brigadier General.

Upon returning to Oberlin, Shurtleff again took up his work at the college.

Shurtleff was in fragile health in his later years, due in part to the injuries and hardships he had endured during the Civil War.

•Points of Interest in Oberlin

The Monroe House (1866)—73 $\frac{1}{2}$ S. Professor St.
(Monroe family home from 1870–1930. House open for tours through O.H.I.O.–Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. The first home Shurtleff built in Oberlin; the family lived here until 1870.)

Shurtleff Cottage (1892)—159 South Professor
(This home stands on the site of Oberlin's first cemetery. A statue of Shurtleff has stood in front of the home since 1911.)

Albert Allen Wright b. 1846 d. 1905

A modern scientist and effective educator, Wright was the first Oberlin College faculty member born in Oberlin.

He entered the Oberlin College Preparatory Department in 1859 and the Collegiate Department in 1861. In 1864 he left school to fight in the Civil War, enlisting as a 100 day volunteer in Company K of the 150th Ohio National Guard. The company was made up almost completely of Oberlin College students.

Wright taught at the Cleveland Institute from 1865 to 1867. In 1870, he accepted the chair of Natural History at Berea College, where he taught for two years. After leaving Berea, he helped with the second geological survey of Ohio, making a report on Lorain County's lake ridges.

In 1874 Wright returned to Oberlin College where he accepted an appointment as professor of geology and natural history. Wright was one of the first modern scientists on the Oberlin faculty. He was influenced by Charles Darwin's writings on the theory of evolution, and wrote and published several articles on the subject. He also helped develop laboratory studies for students in the sciences. The College Museum, which at that time was made up mostly of natural history specimens, benefited greatly from his enthusiastic collecting. He served as curator of the museum from 1892 until 1905.



Wright lobbied the Ohio legislature to join other states in producing topographical surveys. After he presented papers to the committees of three different legislatures, his tenacity finally paid off and the State of Ohio began its first topographical survey.

Albert Allen Wright died April 2, 1905, following a sudden and acute case of peritonitis.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: A.A. Wright House (1880)—123 Forest St.
(This house is built on land originally owned by Wright's father.)





Missionaries

“The goal of the Oberlin Missionaries was to Christianize, provide an education for women, poor children and blacks.” Westwood Cemetery holds the remains of many Oberlin Missionaries and their children. One area of the cemetery, Missionary Rest, is the final resting place for many but not all of the missionaries buried at Westwood. Part of one small circle is reserved for the children of missionaries, children from Turkey, Albania, Africa, Mexico, India, Ceylon, China, and Siam. The following sketches are of some with recorded histories.

Rev. John & Cornelia Bardwell

John was a Congregational minister and an agent for missionary efforts among the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota.

Following the Civil War, he went south to organize schools for black freedmen. In 1866 he was beaten by a former slave owner and a white mob, in Mississippi. He died at Red Lake, Minnesota in 1871.

Cornelia was known to have hidden slaves in their home on E. Lorain. She died in 1894.

- Point of Interest in Oberlin: Bardwell House (1846) – 181 E. Lorain St.

John Holway b. 1826 d. 1914

Born in England, Holway came to Oberlin on the advice of Rev. Finney. He was a city missionary in London and later served in Chicago. He retired to Oberlin in 1900. He and his second wife were asphyxiated by natural gas in their home in Oberlin. He was found seated in front of the fire with his Bible open on his knees with his wife seated next to him. It was believed he was reading scripture aloud before retiring to bed.

James Steele b. 1808 d. 1859

Steele was one of Oberlin’s “Lane Rebels” who came to Oberlin after leaving the Lane Seminary due to his anti-slavery convictions.

Following the liberation of the Amistad captives — a ship of captured slaves from Africa who successfully mutinied — a Mendi committee was chosen to return the Amistad captives to their home which was about 100 miles south of Sierra Leone. They also wanted to open a new mission there. Steele sailed in 1841 along with two others and their wives and founded the Mendi Mission. Many of the missionaries died of malaria.



Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio

James Steele



Rev. Sela G. Wright d. 1905

Wright married Emeline Farnsworth in 1846. As missionaries to the Ojibway Indians in northern Minnesota, Wright and his wife endured great hardships and peril during their travel. They began in 1843 and stayed at Leech Lake until 1881.

•Point of Interest in Oberlin: S.G. Wright House (1854)—197 W. Lorain St.



Missionary Rest



One of many missionary memorials in Westwood.



Interesting Sites and Monuments



Sec. O



Sec. U

*These headstones all have
interesting personal
statements about personality,
lifestyle or occupation.*



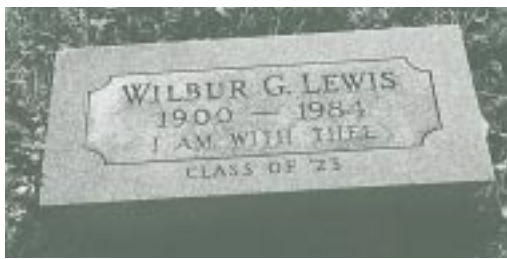
Sec. I



Sec. X



The above stones are government-issued military stones from the Civil War. (Left) Sec. U. Jerry Fox, fugitive slave and member of the 5th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery. (see biographical sketch). (Right) Sec. R. John Steele, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. (see biographical sketch).



Sec. T. "I am with thee" and "still, still with thee" are words from the Oberlin College Hymn.



These markers tell of the struggle for freedom these men endured. (Left) Behind Johnson mauseleum. Former slave, Henry Thomas (See biographical sketch). (Right) Sec. D. Lewis Clarke, the original George Harris of Harriet Beecher Stowe's book "Uncle Tom's Cabin," (See biographical sketch).



This complex floral frieze would cost upwards of \$1000 per square foot to reproduce today.

Sec. X. Several memorial benches can be found at Westwood. This is one handsome example. It is a nice invitation for visitors to sit and enjoy the cemetery.



Sec. O. This is the actual stone that George Frederick Wright, geologist, used to prove that this area was at one time glaciated. It now appropriately marks his and his family's graves.





Sec. F. A bronze bas-relief of male figure marks the grave of Wolfgang Stechow.

Sec. D. The Hungerford monument is hollow, cast aluminum with a sandstone base. This style was popular in other local cemeteries but is the only one of its kind in Westwood.



Sec. I. Memorial to Alonzo Pease, 19th-century Oberlin artist. The skillfully carved monument features detailed carvings of an artist palette. The urn on top also features detailed floral carving.



Sec. E. The sorrowful maiden finds support on the cross. A possible symbol for faith in resurrection.

THEY WERE LOVELY AND PLEASANT IN THEIR LIVES,
AND IN THEIR DEATH THEY WERE NOT DIVIDED.



(Above left) Sec. B. A moving tribute to two sons who died in the Civil War. Broken columns symbolize a life cut short. (Above right) Sec. U. Another example of the symbol.



Sec. I



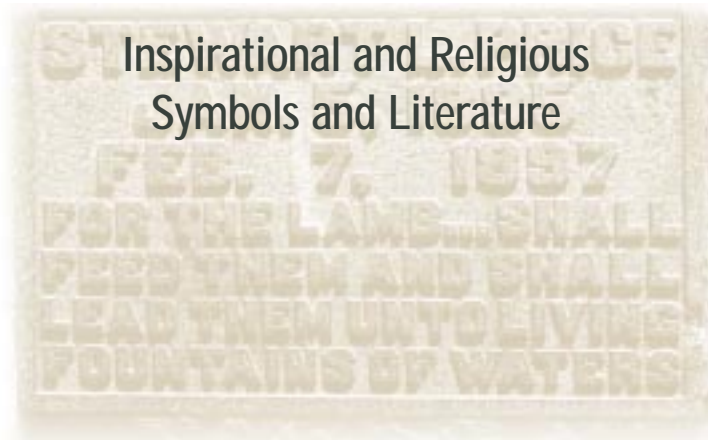
Sec. O. This detailed carving of a pillow is a Germanic concept of death.



Sec. Q. This common symbol, the shrouded urn represents immortality.



A sleeping child or lamb are the most common symbols for a child's grave. It represents the innocence and fragility of a child.



Crosses are the most prevalent symbol of Christianity and can be found all over Westwood. Below is a sampling.



Sec. R



Sec. P. Celtic crosses are a variation of the Latin cross.



Sec. R. Above is an Episcopalian cross. The basic Latin cross has horizontal and vertical bars flared and a nimbus surrounding the junction point of the horizontal and vertical arms.



A child's stone on Missionary Rest shows open gates. These are symbolic of heaven's entrance.



Sec. A



Sec. M. "There came a man sent from God—that he might bear witness of the light."



Sec. U



Sec. D. This is the backside of Hungerford monument. The monument is made of aluminum.



Sec. C. The gravesite of Rev. Charles Grandison Finney is said to be the most-visited in Westwood (See biographical sketch).



Sec. O. "His dying words were, 'Heaven's door is always open'"



Etchings

These very detailed etchings are made on polished granite. The process blasts sand or minute metallic beads at varying intensities which causes the feldspar to turn varying degrees of white. The Twining stone is an incised stone—a different process.



Sec. D



Sec. X



Sec. R



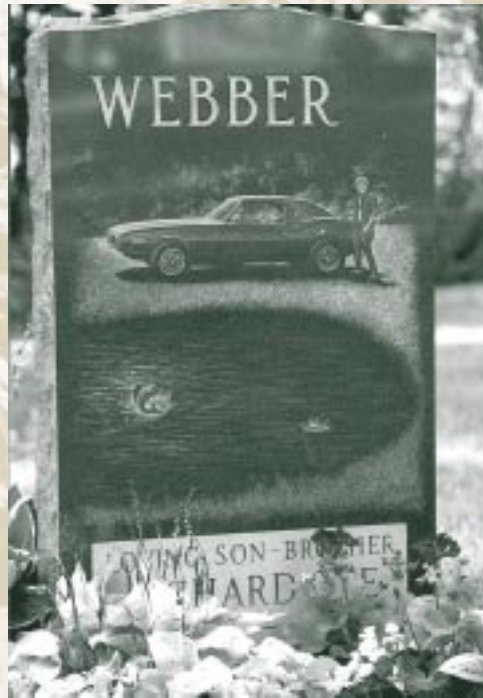
Sec. X



Sec. P



Sec. V



Sec. D



Large slabs of granite make up the ornate Johnson Mauseleum. The door and grillwork are bronze.

The inside is lined with white Carrera marble cut by an Italian stonecutter. (See biographical sketch)



Receiving vault built in 1887. It is now used for storage.



The Underground Railroad Monument, erected in 1993, pays tribute to all the slaves who passed through or lived in Oberlin. The poem is one read at the funeral of Lee Howard Dobbins, a four year old fugitive slave who died in Oberlin on his way to freedom. His is also memorialized on the bottom of the monument. Although he is buried at Westwood, his gravesite is unknown.



As is the case with many old cemeteries; Oberlin's Westwood Cemetery is in imminent danger of losing its oldest stones due to the effects of the environment and time. With it, a valuable historical resource that provides a rare glimpse into the town's history will be lost. Many of the oldest stones have already weathered beyond recognition and many more are close to it.

Westwood Cemetery remains an important historical site forever linked to Oberlin's history relating to the town, the college and the underground railroad. It is hoped that this publication will spark a public interest in the care and conservancy of Westwood and possibly community outreach programs geared to its preservation. Suggestions include a master plan for the careful preservation of Westwood; masonry conservation; recording, cataloging and photographing the oldest stones; and general cleaning of the stones under the direction of professional conservators. For more information concerning the preservation of Westwood Cemetery, call the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization, (440) 774-1700.





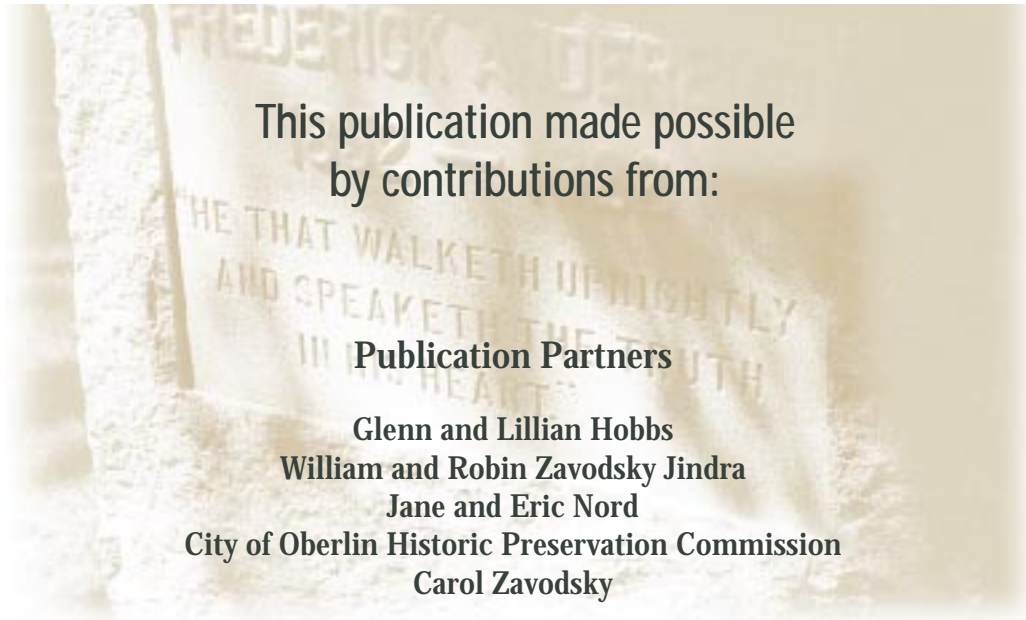
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