



Oberlin College

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Oberlin College is a small private liberal arts school located in northeastern Ohio in Oberlin. Both the city and college were founded in 1833 by a Presbyterian minister and missionary, Reverend John Jay Shipherd and Philo P. Stewart, who sought to create a community that more closely followed their religious beliefs after noting a lack of strong Christian values in settlers in the American West. Both city and college were known for supporting progressive causes: Oberlin was an important stop on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves, and the college was the first institution of higher learning in the United States to regularly admit both female and African American students. The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, established in 1865, is also connected to the college and is the oldest continuously operating conservatory in the United States.

Important Dates

- 1833: Oberlin and Oberlin Collegiate Institute are founded by Rev. John J. Shipherd and Philo P. Stewart. 29 men and 15 women begin classes at the Institute in December.
- 1835-1850: Asa Mahan, a social reformer and abolitionist, serves at the college's first president.
- 1835: Oberlin Collegiate Institute begins to regularly admit African American students.
- 1837: The first female students are admitted to the baccalaureate program.
- 1850: Oberlin Collegiate Institute becomes Oberlin College, reflecting a change in its educational focus from preparatory, manual labor and theology to formal instruction in classics, sciences, arts and other disciplines.
- 1858: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue occurs. Oberlin students were among those who helped rescue a fugitive slave from U.S. marshals and take him to Canada, violating the Fugitive Slave Act.
- 1865: The Oberlin Conservatory of Music is founded.
- 1867: The Conservatory of Music merges with Oberlin College.
- 1892: John William Heisman is hired as the college's first professional football coach.
- 1893: The Anti-Saloon League is established in Oberlin.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Search "Oberlin College" as a phrase or try combining it with the following terms as an "all" word search or in proximity: saloon, graduate, Conservatory of Music, student, mission.
- Limit search by date to find articles about specific events.
- Some results may be articles or brief notices written about Oberlin College faculty and students.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Anthony Burns..."](#) *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), June 30, 1855, Image 4, col. 3.
- ["Music in the Schools"](#) *Colored American* (Washington, DC), December 8, 1900, Image 1, col. 1-3.
- ["Dr. Barrows Dies"](#) *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), June 6, 1902, Image 3, col. 4.
- ["Tight Hold On a Half Million"](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), June 23, 1902, Image 2, col. 3.
- ["Honor College President"](#) *The Mahoning Dispatch* (Canfield, OH), May 16, 1913, Image 2, col. 2.
- ["Assumes Duties As Secretary"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), July 21, 1911, Image 7, col. 3-4.
- ["W. S. C. Musicians Rank with Best"](#) *Pullman Herald* (Pullman, WA), May 3, 1918, Image 2, col. 1.