

# CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	xi
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xvii
Introduction. Oberlin—A College and a Cause	I
Chapter 1. Original Commitments to Black Education, 1833–35	15
1. Interest in Black Education Makes Its Debut before the Arrival of the Lane Rebels, 1834	20
2. Oberlin Collegiate Institute Presses the Trustees to Make a Daring Choice, 1835	22
3. Oberlin Collegiate Institute Launches a Colorblind Admissions Policy, 1835	24
Chapter 2. Building an Interracial Society, 1835–75	26
4. John Keep and William Dawes Conduct a Fund-Raising Tour in England to Save Oberlin, 1839–40	36
5. Black Abolitionism Joins White Abolitionism in a Community Venture, 1841	42
6. Oberlin Supports Equal Participation of Female Students in Abolitionism, 1850	44
7. A Student Pays Tribute to Philanthropist Charles Avery, 1858	48
8. Thomas L. Harris Applies for Scholarship Aid to Attend Oberlin, 1858	50
9. Blanche Harris Teaches in the New South and Faces Racial Prejudice, 1866	54
Chapter 3. Moderating the Oberlin Tradition, 1875–1959	71
10. A Benefactor Comments on the College’s Retreat from Tradition, 1882	81

*Contents*

11. Students Struggle with Societal Views on Race, 1910	87
12. Mary Church Terrell Appeals to Oberlin for a Return to Integration, 1913	101
13. The College Privately Rationalizes Segregated Housing on Campus, 1920	108
14. The Administration Dances around the Question of Social Integration, 1937	111
15. A Theology Professor Preaches against Segregation at Local Barbershops, 1944	116
16. The Student Senate Takes the Lead in Restoring Interracial Relations on Campus, 1946	121
17. The Campus Chapter of the NAACP Confronts Racial Discrimination at Lunch Parlors, 1948	127
18. An Alumnus and a Historian Reflect on the Tangled History of Race in the 1950s	130
19. A White Student Makes His Case to Participate in Black College Exchange Program, 1958	133
 Chapter 4. Reclaiming Equal Educational Opportunity, 1960–85	 138
20. The College Appeals to Foundations to Support Oberlin’s History and Mission of Inclusion and Access to Higher Education, 1969–72	156
21. A Black Faculty Member’s View of the Meaning of Black Solidarity, 1968	165
22. The College Reaffirms Its Commitment by Agreeing to Recruit 110 Students of Color, 1971	168
23. The College Trustees Call for Voluntary Affirmative Action in Employment, 1972	175
24. The General Faculty Debates the Future of the Integrationist Model at Oberlin, 1981	180
 Chapter 5. Moving toward Multiculturalism, 1985–Present	 201
25. A Student and a Professor Document Racism at Oberlin, 1988	234
26. The Faculty Address Minority Concerns through Curricular Change, 1991	246

*Contents*

27. The Administration Supports Multiculturalism on Campus, 1999	252
28. Students Create Safe Space in a Multicultural Environment, 2000	256
29. A White Student Addresses Racism in OSCA, 2003	260
30. Academic Politics, Race, and Strategic Planning, 2005–7	269
Epilogue	282
Notes	295
Selected Bibliography	387
Index	405