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Photo available upon request

## **Life in Pittsfield and Oberlin, 1890-1909** *The Diaries of Harriet Pomeroy McRoberts*

Family historian Lynn Youngblood will share stories about the remarkable life of her great, great grandmother Harriet Pomeroy McRoberts (1834-1911) in an illustrated presentation entitled “Life in Pittsfield and Oberlin, 1890-1909: The Diaries of Harriet Pomeroy McRoberts.” This program, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, takes place on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). All are welcome to this free, public event.

Harriet McRoberts was born in Vermont and moved with her parents to Pittsfield Township in 1839 via the Erie Canal. They were among the first settlers of the area. The farmhouse where she lived on Hallauer Road was built in 1834 and is located 3 miles southeast of Oberlin. It has been in the family for 175 years. Harriet McRobert’s diaries, photographs, and documents carefully recount her daily life over the course of twenty years on the 180 acre family farm in Pittsfield Township. Harriet McRoberts’ writing speaks of regular visits to Oberlin, Elyria and LaGrange and travels further afield, and shows the nature of her encounters with the world beyond Oberlin. Topics addressed include daily work on the farm, family life, confronting both weather and wildlife, medical care, advances in technology and communication, legal issues (her husband was both a farmer and Justice of the Peace and Tax Assessor), enjoying music both at home and at Oberlin College’s Conservatory, drilling gas and water wells, growing, harvesting and canning fruits and vegetables, women’s suffrage, national and world events and much more.

Lynn Youngblood has spent years transcribing diaries and going through family papers to pull together a remarkable story of a pioneer woman, her family and place in the world. Lynn Youngblood was born and raised in Pittsfield Township and grew up on the family farm. She is a graduate of the Oberlin schools and the Ohio State University and currently works as the business manager for a large veterinary practice. She and her husband and son live in Wellington Township. She is active in the Pittsfield Historical Society and stated that in learning more about her great-great grandmother she discovered more about who she is and gave her a stronger sense of her own place in the world.

For additional information, please call the Oberlin Heritage Center at 440-774-1700 or visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org)

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