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Oberlin Heritage Center Hosts **The Diaries of Emilie Davis**

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to present **Alexia Hudson-Ward**, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College, offering an illustrated program about Emilie Davis, a 19th century free black woman who worked as a seamstress in Philadelphia. Davis attended the Institute for Colored Youth and kept a diary from 1863 to 1865, during the height of the Civil War. A young woman in her late teens or early twenties at the time, Davis recorded in her diaries both everyday moments and larger events that would affect the future of the entire nation. Her handwritten entries offer a rare glimpse into the life and reflections of someone who had much to say, yet little opportunity for her voice to be heard. This free community presentation takes place on **Monday, November 13 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The Heritage Center is particularly grateful for the support of Joe and Susan Woodward and their [1830 Hallauer House Bed and Breakfast](#) for sponsoring this program.

Prior to her arrival to Oberlin College in July 2016, Hudson-Ward was a tenured associate librarian at Penn State, where she had worked since 2006. During this time, she initiated a digitization collaboration between Penn State University Libraries and the [Historical Society of Pennsylvania](#), which holds the original Emilie Davis diaries. She earned a BA in English and African American studies from Temple University, a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, and currently is pursuing a PhD in managerial leadership in the information professions from Simmons College.

For more information about the Emilie Davis diaries and to see the diary entries, visit <https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/emilie-davis-diaries> and <https://davisdiaries.villanova.edu>. For information about this and other upcoming history-related tours and community programs offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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