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Photo available upon request

The Lost Letters of Alonzo Barnard

The Oberlin Heritage Center presents local historian Lynn Youngblood sharing her discoveries about Alonzo and Sarah Philena Babcock Barnard, Oberlin College graduates of 1843 who served as missionaries on the Red Lake Mission in Minnesota. Youngblood transcribed more than a dozen letters sent back and forth between Alonzo Barnard and his brothers back home in Pittsfield Township, Ohio. Written between 1843 and 1857, Barnard's letters reveal the hardships these missionary pioneers encountered in traveling, surviving in the wilderness and working with the Native American population. Through her research, Youngblood learned more about the well-documented story of Alonzo Barnard and the Oberlin Band of missionaries who worked among the Chippewa tribe on the far northern frontier of the Wisconsin Territory, which is now Minnesota. Youngblood's presentation takes place Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin. The event is free and open to the public.

Lynn Youngblood was born and raised in Pittsfield Township and grew up on the family farm which has been in her family for more than 175 years. Through her research, she learned that her ancestors, the McRoberts, were neighbors and friends of Alonzo Barnard's family. Lynn 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. In 2009, Youngblood presented a well-received program about her great-great grandmother, Harriet Pomeroy McRoberts, for an enthusiastic Oberlin Heritage Center audience.

Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium is located at 600 Kendal Drive, one block east of State Route 58. For more information about the Oberlin Heritage Center and other upcoming community programs and guided history tours, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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