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## A Glimpse into the Civil War Home Front through Stories and Song

The Oberlin Heritage Center welcomes folksinger/storyteller **Judy Cook** in an up-close-and-personal view of the Civil War home front as seen through family letters, songs and images from the time. The event takes place on **Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive). The program is free and open to the public.

In this one-hour presentation, balancing history and entertainment, Judy and her husband **Dennis Cook** read from Civil War-era letters written a century-and-a-half ago by her great-great-grandparents, Gilbert and Esther Claflin. Gilbert, a Wisconsin farmer, was drafted into the Union Army at the age of 40; when he left for war, his wife, Esther, kept the farm going with their two teen-aged sons. You'll listen to Esther's stories from the home front telling of the farm and the children, and get a glimpse of the war as seen through Gilbert's eyes, with the words of both spouses expressing timeless themes of joy, sorrow, humor, courage and love. Music, as important to daily life then as now, is interspersed throughout the program; the audience is encouraged to join in on the choruses of several songs originating from the era.

Judy Cook performs each year throughout the United States and Britain. She is recognized for her depth of understanding and storytelling ability in ballad form, her dedication to the music, and her willingness to do her research. Judy has released four CDs, the two most recent include "*Tenting Tonight: Songs of the Civil War*" and "*Lincoln's America*." This evening's program is based upon her first book, *A Quiet Corner of the War*, which was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2013. Northeast Ohio residents may recall Judy's appearance as a featured performer in Oberlin's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue (2008). Judy currently serves on the Board of Trustees at the Oberlin Heritage Center.

For more about Judy Cook, please visit [www.judycook.net](http://www.judycook.net). For more about the Oberlin Heritage Center, or other upcoming OHC programs, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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