



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2011

Contact: Karyn Norwood, Civil War 150 Leadership Corps volunteer serving in northeast Ohio through a joint partnership of AmeriCorps and the Ohio Historical Society; 440-774-1700; CW150@oberlinheritage.org

The Civil War: Oberlin Perspectives on the Home Front and War Front

“Never has there been a week in the history of Oberlin like the past one. Nowhere has the period of the country called forth a more earnest, determined spirit. Everything else is for the time forgotten. We can only briefly notice the doings of the week...”

News clipping from The Lorain County News (April 24, 1861), Oberlin’s local newspaper, announcing the beginning of the Civil War.

The beginning of the Civil War consumed the thoughts of many across the nation in 1861, and especially so in Oberlin, Ohio where the townspeople’s abolitionist spirit was known far and wide and later inspired some to even refer to the community as “The Town that Started the Civil War.” On Thursday, August 18, at 7:15 p.m., the Oberlin Heritage Center presents stories of Oberlin individuals and events from the war time period. **Karyn Norwood**, Civil War 150 Leadership Corps volunteer serving in Northeast Ohio, is the featured speaker at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. The program is free and open to the public.

Norwood weaves together both lively and poignant accounts from the war front and the home front in Oberlin. You’ll hear stories of the local push for emancipation, of war support efforts at home, tales of battles, long marches, imprisonment, humorous encounters amidst hardship, as well as episodes of extraordinary valor. She has spent the past year researching the Civil War in the local area, as part of the national effort to commemorate the 150th anniversary of The War Between the States. As a result of her work, Norwood developed a new Civil War history walk for the Oberlin Heritage Center. The guided 75-minute tour through downtown Oberlin has been very popular with local residents and visitors throughout the summer. Now she has taken her findings to another medium by adapting them into this one-hour illustrated presentation.

A native of Maine, Karyn Norwood is a 2010 graduate of St. Michael’s College (Vermont) and is one of 20 AmeriCorps volunteers assigned by the Ohio Historical Society in the statewide Ohio History Service Corps Program. Based at the Oberlin Heritage Center since October 2010, she has helped coordinate Civil War programming and events at museums, historical societies, and other local history organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties. Following completion of her term of service as an AmeriCorps volunteer in late August, Norwood will attend Simmons College as a graduate student in Library and Information Science.

For more information about the upcoming program, please contact Karyn Norwood at the Oberlin Heritage Center, (440) 774-1700 or cw150@oberlinheritage.org.

End