



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

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Contact: Patricia Murphy, Executive Director at (440) 774-1700 or patm@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Presents Glimpse into Civil War Diary

“A Life Recorded One Day at a Time: Fannie Bailey, Oberlin, and the Civil War” will be presented by Walsh University assistant professor of history, Dr. Kelly D. Selby, on Tuesday, February 1 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. This illustrated program, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, focuses on the Oberlin home front during the Civil War by looking into the personal journal of Mrs. Fannie White Bailey, an Oberlin resident during that time. The event is free and open to the public and is one of many upcoming Civil War sesquicentennial activities happening around the state over the next few years (2011-2015). The Heritage Center originally planned this presentation for December, but due to inclement weather, the program was postponed and rescheduled for this new date.

Born in 1827 in Massachusetts, Fannie and her husband, James, a harness and saddle maker, were living in Oberlin at the time she was keeping this diary in the 1850s and 1860s. During the Civil War, Fannie recorded the daily events of her life and those of her community. Her entries provide a glimpse into the Oberlin home front and illuminate the complex and diverse nature of how the national conflict altered Ohioans’ lives. The presentation is an outgrowth of Dr. Selby’s master’s thesis titled “The Home Front Spheres in the North: Fannie Bailey and Oberlin, Ohio During the Civil War.”

Audience members may remember Dr. Selby who spoke to a Kendal full-house last year on **“Oberlin’s Sable Arm: Black Ohioans and the Civil War”** in another community program hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center. Kelly Selby has local roots, being born and raised in Grafton, Ohio, while her father and his family were from Oberlin. In the mid-1990s, she worked at the Oberlin Heritage Center (then the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization) as a graduate student intern while pursuing a master’s degree in public history at Kent State University. Dr. Selby obtained her Ph.D. from Kent State in 2008, focusing on nineteenth-century United States history. Her dissertation was on “The 27th United States Colored Troops: Ohio Soldiers and Veterans.” She has been on the faculty of Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio since 2000.

For more information about this program, or other events and activities sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, please visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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