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Oberlin Heritage Center Hosts “Gold Rush” Program

Learn More About Lorain County Connection to the California Gold Rush of 1849

Re-live the thrills and perils of searching for gold in the California Gold Rush with Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf on Tuesday, March 16th at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium. ***“The Gold Rush of 1849: Adventures of Lorain County’s Buckeye Company on the California Trail”*** is hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, and is free and open to the public.

In March of 1849, Dr. Herdendorf’s great-great uncle, Henry Garfield of Sheffield Ohio, joined a company of Northeastern Ohio men for a six-month overland trek to California in the hopes of finding gold. The men dubbed themselves the *Buckeye Company*, and over the course of their journey they came to encounter innumerable adventures including steamboat explosions, buffalo hunts, rattlesnake dinners, harsh terrain, death, and the ultimate reward for some – *gold!*

Garfield’s logs and letters chronicling the quests of the Buckeye Company have survived to the present day, and Dr. Herdendorf and his wife, Ricki, repeated the journey two years ago. The illustrated presentation will include photographs from their expedition as well as historic images.

Dr. Herdendorf is Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences at the Ohio State University and an Affiliate Scholar in the Environmental Sciences Program at Oberlin College. He and Ricki live in the family homestead (Milton Garfield House, 1839) in Sheffield Village, which was settled by his great-great grandfather in 1815. Dr. Herdendorf also serves as president of the Sheffield Village Historical Society.

For more information about this program, contact the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org. For a calendar of other events being hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center this spring, visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

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