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Oberlin Heritage Center Presents Election Coverage – 1840s Style!

On Tuesday, October 9, at 7:15 p.m., the Oberlin Heritage Center hosts “The Campaign in the Wilderness,” the story of the presidential campaign of 1840, a contest between incumbent Martin Van Buren and Ohio’s favorite son William Henry Harrison. The talk by Marcia Goldberg features a political banner made for a Harrison rally in Elyria that year. It is one of the earliest works by the artist Alonzo Pease, an early Oberlin settler. The presentation takes place at Heiser Auditorium, at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive, just east of State Route 58) and is free and open to the public.

In addition, Goldberg will show Pease’s 1838 bird’s eye view of Oberlin, and will discuss how the country’s continuing financial crisis, one of many issues in the nation at the time, was affecting the fledgling Oberlin Institute and how that might have affected the votes of Oberlin citizens in 1840.

On display before and after the talk will be a red Harrison campaign bandana from the Oberlin Heritage Center’s textile collection. The kerchief features a border with the words “W.H. Harrison Hero of Tippecanoe” surrounding popular Harrison campaign symbols such as a log cabin and a barrel of cider. This is a fun opportunity for an up-close look at a piece of campaign memorabilia from the 1840 election.

Marcia Goldberg is an art historian who also enjoys writing about local history. She received her M.A. from Oberlin College and has published articles in a number of art history and historical society journals as well as College publications. She has been a popular program presenter for the Oberlin Heritage Center in the past.

For more information about this event, or other community programs and guided tours offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or contact the Heritage Center directly at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org .

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