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**For Immediate Release:** January 7, 2013

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## What a Way to Become a President!

*Oberlin Heritage Center Launches 2013 Community Programs with Inaugural Theme*

Kicking off the Oberlin Heritage Center's 2013 community program calendar on **Wednesday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m.**, and fitting right in with this week's Inaugural festivities, **Allison Powell**, park ranger for the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** in Mentor, Ohio, offers an inside look at becoming Chief Executive in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Powell's illustrated presentation, "What a Way to Become a President!" looks at the legacy of presidential campaigns and elections prior to the year 1900. The event is free and open to the public and takes place in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive).

More so than today, 19<sup>th</sup> century elections generated extremely high voter turnout and tremendous excitement. They were occasionally characterized by noble dignity and restraint, but more often were filled with extravagance, excess and some of the most slanderous rhetoric ever printed! See how presidential candidates were chosen, what the expectations of these men were, and how they were elected.

As a park ranger for the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Allison Powell is involved in many aspects of daily operations at this restored home of President Garfield. Prior to her position with the National Park Service, she served as Operations Manager of the Garfield site when it was under ownership of the Western Reserve Historical Society based in Cleveland. Programming has been a big part of her career in history; before moving to the Garfield site, Powell developed programs and led the volunteer program at the Historical Society's home base in Cleveland's University Circle.

Allison Powell has a BA in History from Notre Dame College of Ohio, and a Certificate in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin University in Nachodoches, Texas. Her career highlights include developing programs for and working with school children, and last year she introduced a series of merit badge programs for Boy Scouts with resounding success.

For more information about this program or other upcoming events offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, please visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

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