



2024 LEGISLATIVE MOMENTS

KENTUCKY'S OLD STATE CAPITOL

Great Whig Barbecue

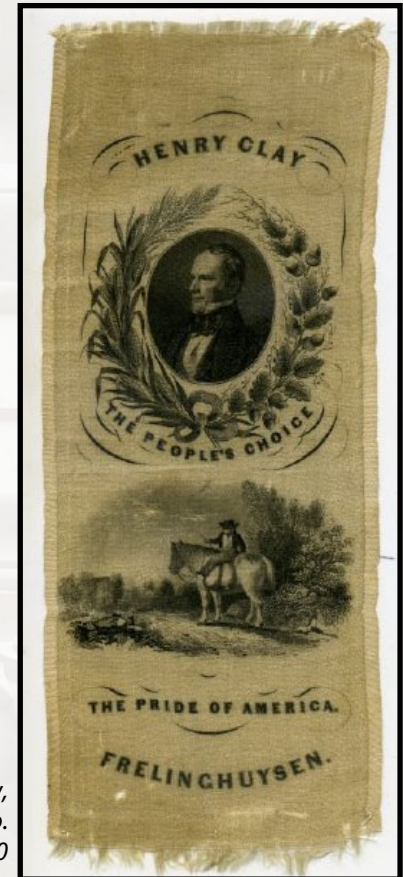
In the 1830s, the Whig Party rose up to challenge the Democratic Party, leading both groups to use innovative tactics to attract voters.

On October 26, 1842, the Whigs organized a massive barbecue, which was held on the lawn of the Old State Capitol (OSC). The gathering offered several resolutions in favor of Henry Clay for president in the upcoming contest of 1844.

A stage was erected on the steps of the OSC. Governor Thomas Metcalfe, who helped organize the affair, spoke briefly, but the highlight of the festivities was an address delivered by Henry Clay.

Whether or not barbecue played a role, the Whigs won the state of Kentucky in five straight presidential elections: 1836 (Harrison), 1840 (Harrison), 1844 (Clay), 1848 (Taylor), and 1852 (Scott).

*1844, Kentucky Historical Society,
Political Ribbon; catalog no.
1987.30.290*



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