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Presidents Van Buren,  
Harrison & Tyler too!

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1837 to 1845

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# Martin Van Buren

- 8<sup>th</sup> President (1837-1841)
- Founding Father of Democratic Party
- Jackson's Secretary of State, VP
  - Hand-picked successor to Jackson
- Doomed presidency due to Jackson's Bank policies
  - Blamed for Panic of 1837
- Forced to finish the business of Indian removal Jackson had started
  - Trail of Tears



# Panic of 1837 – “Martin Van Ruin”



- Blamed for Panic of 1837
  - Five year depression
    - High unemployment, inflation
    - Bank closings
      - Over extended on credit
      - Lost British investors due to new British interest rates
  - Result of Jackson's bank policies
    - Pet Banks couldn't back notes, loans
  - Hands-off economic policy
    - Lost popularity
    - Nicknamed “Martin Van Ruin”

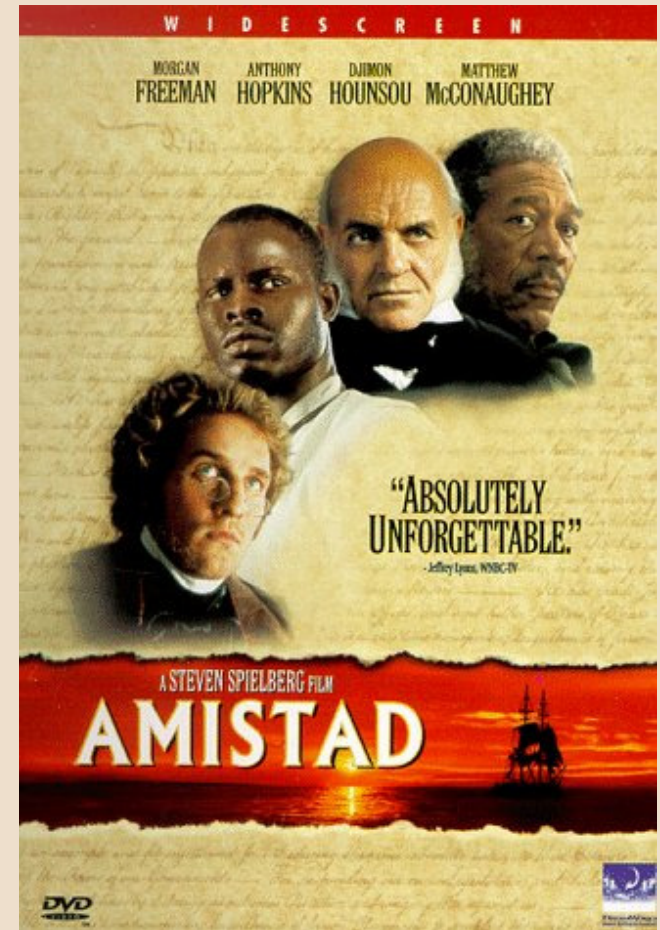
# Trail of Tears

- Van Buren enforced Treaty of New Echota -- finishing what Jackson had started
- Ordered Winfield Scott & 7,000 troops to remove remaining Cherokee
- 17,000 Cherokees relocated to Oklahoma
  - ❑ Nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  died along 800 -mile journey west to Indian Territory



# Amistad Case of 1841

- Slaves aboard a Spanish ship on route to Cuba revolted
  - ❑ Led by Sengbe Pieh (Cinque)
  - ❑ Took over the ship, killed crew
    - except 2 who were instructed to sail them back to Africa
      - ❑ took them to CT instead, and ship/crew was confiscated by US Navy
  - ❑ Held in jail for two years while courts attempted to decide their fate
    - Return ship/slaves to Spain OR Free Slaves?
  - ❑ Case went to Supreme Court
    - Van Buren sided with Spain
    - John Quincy Adams defended slaves
    - Supreme Court ruled in favor of slaves, all were returned to Sierra Leone



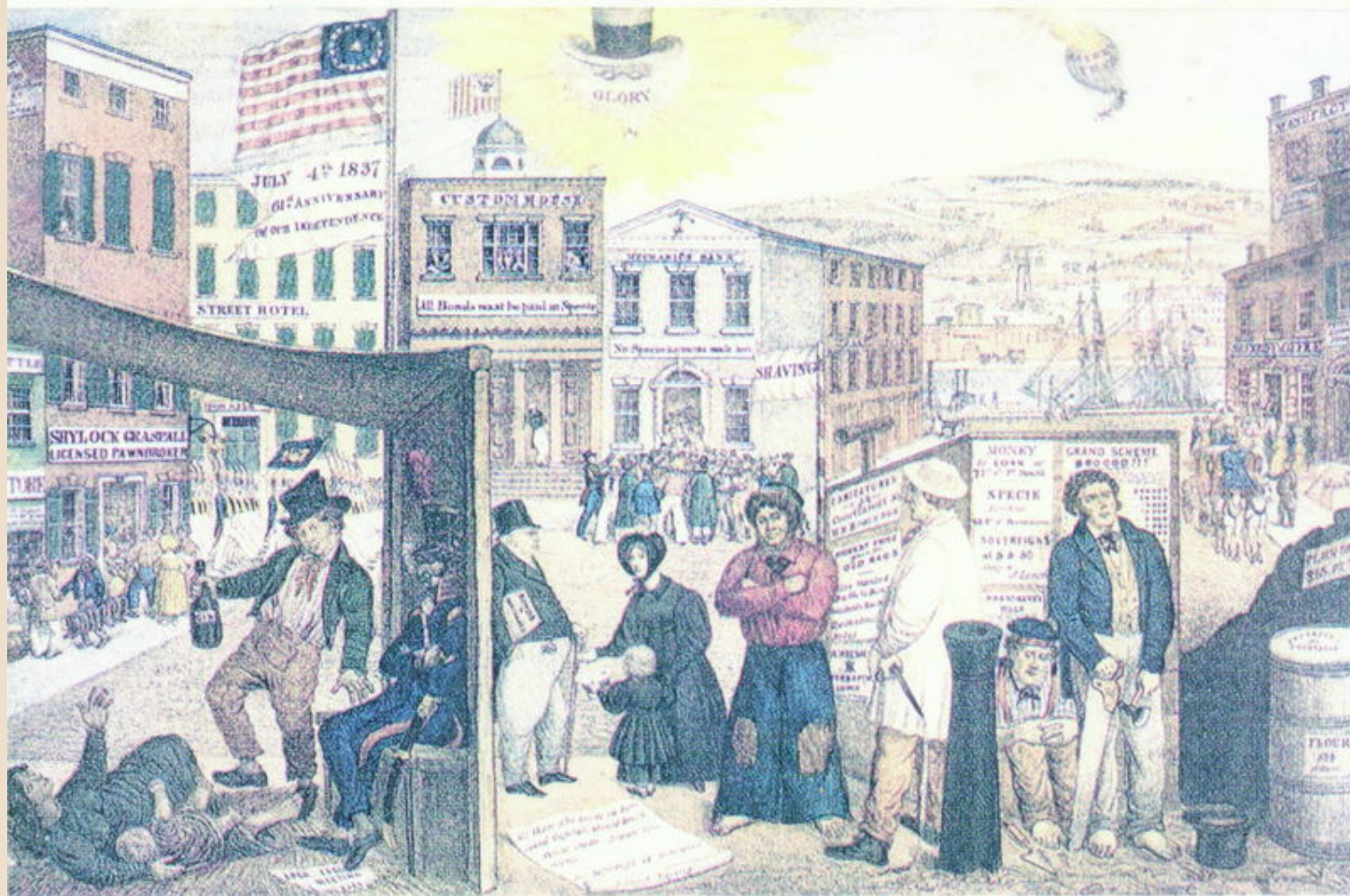
# The Whigs

- Formed in 1834 in response to Jackson's policies
  - Formed from the National Republicans
- Included:
  - Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, and William Henry Harrison
- Whigs believed in:
  - Strong legislative branch
  - Strong State Governments
  - American System
    - High tariffs
      - Promote industry & manufacturing
- Selected William Henry Harrison to run against Van Buren in 1840





## Election of 1840

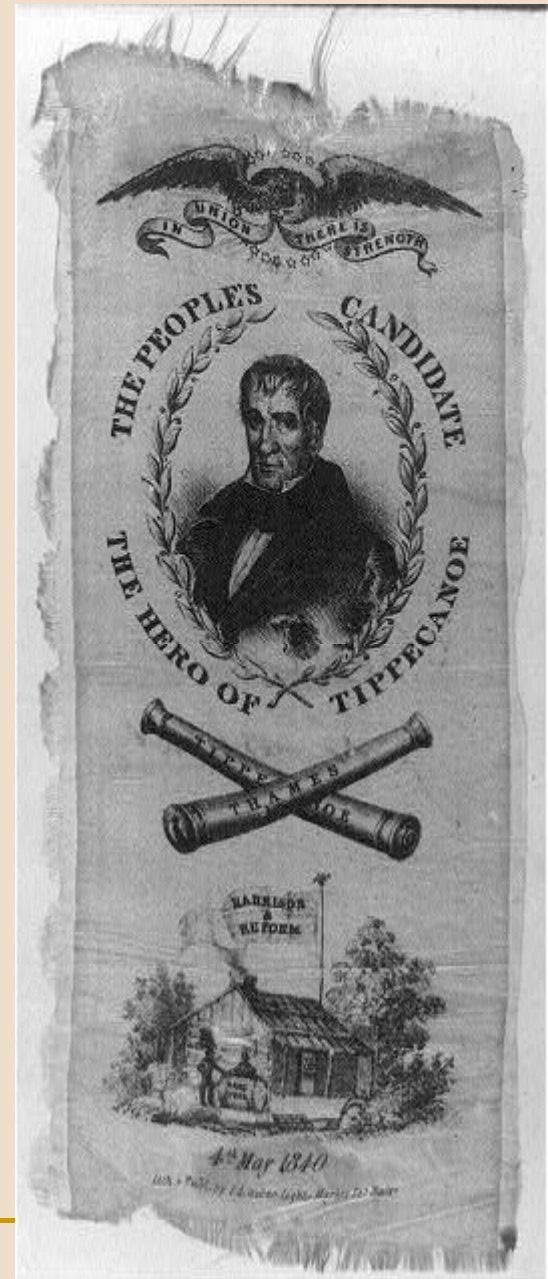


## Whig flyer showing the economic hardships under Martin Van Buren

# Tippecanoe and Tyler, too!

## ■ William Henry Harrison

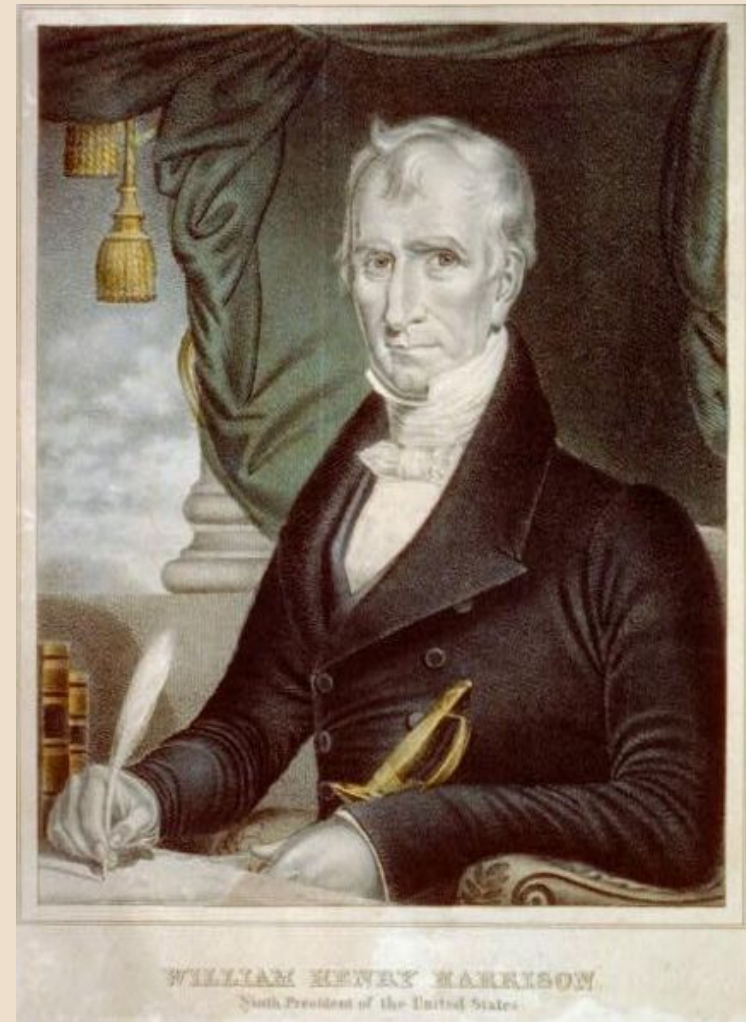
- ❑ First president to actively campaign for office
  - First elaborate, developed campaign
- ❑ Billed as war Hero
  - Battle of Tippecanoe
  - Battle of Thames
- ❑ Used Log Cabin and Hard Cider images
  - Man of the people
  - From the Rough-and-Tumble West
- ❑ Slogan/Song was “Tippecanoe and Tyler too!”
  - John Tyler (VA) was his running mate





# William Henry Harrison

- 9<sup>th</sup> President (1841)
- First Governor of Indiana Territory
- Whig Party
  - Supported Bank Bill
- Curse of Tecumseh?
  - Presidents elected on years ending in 0 would die in office
    - Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, Franklin Roosevelt and Kennedy. (Ronald Reagan, Bush)
- Inauguration Day was wet and cold.
  - Harrison wore no hat or overcoat
  - Gave 2 hour inaugural address
- Died 30 days into term



# John Tyler

- 10<sup>th</sup> President (1841-1845)
- Served remainder of Harrison's term
  - "His Accidency"
- Expelled from Whig party for vetoing the Whig agenda
  - Twice vetoed National Bank bill
  - Attempt at impeachment for "abuse of veto"
  - 'Man without a party'
- Annexed Texas just before leaving office
  - Could not get enough support in Senate to confirm treaty with Texas
    - Joint Resolution passed last day in office
      - Texas officially admitted under next president, James. K Polk

