



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Tippecanoe County Historical Association

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association is to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County resident and visitors by collecting, preserving, and interpreting our unique and exciting history.



INTRODUCTION

The following report is a review of the operations, activities, and financial accountability of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association during the 2016 fiscal year.

2016 BOARD OF GOVONORS

OFFICERS

Pete Bill
President

Colby Bartlett
Vice-President

Shane Weist
Secretary

John F. Thieme
Treasurer

GOVERNORS

Del Bartlett

Diane (Di) Begley, MD

Kevin Cullen

Craig Graham

Walt Griffin

Amy Harbor

David Hovde

Matt Jonkman

Carolyn O'Connell

Quinten Robinson

Benjamin Ross

Jeff Schwab

Preston Smith

R. Todd White



2016 TCHA STAFF



Executive Director

Kathy Atwell

January to June 2016



Executive Director

Craig Hadley

765-476-8411 Ext. 1

Director@tippecanoehistory.org

July 2016 to Present



Curator of Collections

Kelly Lippie

765-476-8411 – Ext. 5

Curator@tippecanoehistory.org



Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

Rick Conwell

765-567-2147

Battlefield@tippecanoehistory.org



Battlefield Museum Assistant Manager

Laura Buit

765-567-2147

Historystore@tippecanoehistory.org



Feast of the Hunters Moon Event Manager

Leslie Martin Conwell

765-476-8411 Ext 3

765-426-2128 - Cell

Feast@tippecanoehistory.org



Genealogy Librarian

L.A. Clugh

765-476-8411 Ext 2

Library@tippecanoehistory.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear members of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association,



As you may have surmised from the location of the Annual Membership Meeting, many things have transpired since our meeting last January 2016. With the retirement of Kathy Atwell as Executive Director (thank you, Kathy for all your years of devoted service), the TCHA Board of Governors did some reflective soul searching regarding how we wanted the Association to grow in the next 10 years. At the top of that short list was the need to search for, recruit, and hire an Executive Director who would possess hands-on experience in helping historical associations, societies, and museums to grow, expand, and evolve to greater heights.

We were very fortunate to bring in Mr. Craig Hadley to fill this need and to take up this mantle of responsibility. You will hear from him during the presentation at the Membership Meeting.

New Governors have joined the Board this past year, and the Board has become infused with a refreshing enthusiasm and energy for ideas that will bring the Association and its various historical venues to a place that is more consistent with contemporary museum science and community-relevant historical missions. Make no mistake; our core mission value remains the same in our service to the community. But what we want to do is reach audiences that traditionally do not see the value in historical depictions, preservation, archiving, and educational programming. We want all citizens of Tippecanoe County and surrounding areas to understand that they are history and they are a part of a continuum that is captured and preserved in the archives and the activities of this Association.

As we go into 2017, there are many exciting projects rapidly unfurling, some of which you have read about in the Journal and Courier. But there are far more plans in the works to continue to make the Association fiscally strong, relevant to the community at large, and relentless in our mission to preserve, protect, and educate others about the unique and exciting history of Tippecanoe County.

I look forward to working with each one of you in the future to help make these plans a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Bill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Pete Bill
President, Board of Governors
Tippecanoe Country Historical Association

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and friends of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association,



It is our mission and mandate to tell the story of Tippecanoe County and the thousands of men and women who make up that story. From Native Americans to European traders, explorers and settlers, it is a sweeping saga than spans centuries.

To tell that story with authenticity can be a challenge, but one that we accept. Since the founding of TCHA in 1928, we have striven to be the voice and caretaker of Tippecanoe County History. In doing so, it is important that we are a transparent organization that is held accountable for its operations and programs. Having this accountability and transparency strengthens this organization from the Board of Governors to the staff all the way to the volunteers, who are the heart and soul of this association.

As Executive Director, it is my job to ensure that we provide both our membership and the general public a truthful and accurate record of our activities and financial information for review. 2016 was a great year for the association and 2017 promises to be even brighter. We have accomplished a great deal in the past year, but we are striving to move this organization forward with an eye on expansion and growth with new programs, new fundraising opportunities, and even a new building that will allow us to reach the public in all manner of educational activities.

I feel incredibly honored to be tasked with leading this association. I accept the enormous responsibility in ensuring that we have responsible and measured growth with sound fiscal management. With that said, I present to you our 2016 annual report for your review and approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Hadley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Craig Hadley
Executive Director

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

By Kelly Lippie

For the first half of 2016, membership was handled by the executive director. After her retirement, I took over handling membership until the new director could hire a Programs and Membership Director.

During the year, TCHA staff and volunteers have made efforts to boost membership numbers by attending off-site events to promote the organization. Visits made by the History on Tour experience were also used as an opportunity to sell memberships. In the spring, TCHA had a booth at the Lafayette Business Expo to promote business membership opportunities with TCHA. We have also used the River City Grapes and Hops Fest and Mosey Down Main Street events to reach a broader audience.

At the end of 2016, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association had exactly 440 active members; including business memberships and life members. There were 35 new memberships purchased in 2016. With a total of 440 members, here is the following breakdown of current membership levels:

- 39 Individual @ \$35 each = \$1,365
- 58 Senior Individual @ \$30 each = \$1,740
- 57 Senior Couple @ \$40 each = \$2,280
- 55 Family @ \$50 each = \$2,750
- 2 School @ \$100 each = \$200
- 58 Patron @ \$100 each = \$5,800
- 15 Sustaining @ \$250 each = \$3,750
- 2 Benefactor x @ \$500 each = \$1,000
- 1 Foundation (Business) @ \$250 each = \$250
- 1 Pillar (Business) @ \$1,000 each = \$1,000
- 2 Complimentary
- 150 Life Members
- **2016 Total Membership Revenue: \$20,135.00**

Beginning in 2017, we will have a new full-time Programs and Membership Director. This new position will be taking on oversight of the entire membership program. We anticipate a re-evaluation of the program, better communication with our members, added benefits and events structured specifically for our members, and a possible restructuring of the membership levels to better serve our current and future membership.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS



COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

By Kelly Lippie

In 2016, I became full-time Curator of Collections. Our part-time Collections Manager left at the end of 2015 and I moved into the position as the only staff person dedicated to collections care. Until a new programs person could be hired, I was also tasked with keeping up our school programs and some public programs. As TCHA spent the year without a program staff person, I spent a great deal of my time focused on continuing school education and public programs.

The collections department of TCHA includes a number of volunteers who have worked on projects that help us to better understand our collections and to make them more accessible to researchers. A great deal of this work includes creating inventories of artifact information that can be entered into our database system, called Past Perfect.

An ongoing project that volunteers worked on in 2016 was to catalog our non-circulating library book collection. This project began several years ago and is only now reaching the final stages. TCHA contains a large collection of books covering local history subjects, genealogy and curatorial reference. Volunteers have completed data record worksheets for each book that includes all the information necessary for researchers to find the book in our Past Perfect database system. We have also taken this opportunity to weed out books that are duplicates, are no longer relevant or are outside our scope. The completed worksheets are then entered into Past Perfect. As of November, 2016, over 6,000 library books from the rare book room and the non-circulating stacks have been cataloged.

Another volunteer project completed in 2016 was an inventory of the TCHA oversized two-dimensional documents collection; which includes maps, blueprints and posters. To complete this project, a volunteer physically examined every document in the archive's oversized file drawers and entered all the pertinent information into a spreadsheet. This information will next be entered into Past Perfect. Until the data is entered in our system, we can still search for and locate it by using the spreadsheet. As the information is entered into the database, we will also work to make the storage of these materials more organized and efficient.

Volunteers continue to process collections in the TCHA Richard B. Wetherill Archives. The archive contains over 200 processed collections from individuals, businesses and clubs. Archive collections contain records in the form of documents, maps, prints, scrapbooks, ledgers and photographs. Each year, TCHA receives new collections that are added to the waitlist for processing. It can take weeks or months for volunteers to fully examine and understand an archive before writing up a detailed finding aid that will allow researchers access to the material. In some cases, new material arrives that must be added to an existing collection.

In the fall, TCHA worked with an honors class at Purdue University. Part of the students' class work included processing a small archival collection, under the supervision of TCHA staff and

volunteers. A second part of their class work was to create a digital component that connected to the archive. They worked on two different digital projects that will potentially become a part of TCHA's new website in 2017. These projects will help communicate TCHA's mission to the community and provide greater access to the resources in the archive. An intern worked in the fall to examine all of TCHA's archive finding aids to help prepare them for inclusion on the new website. This project meant comparing each document to the physical collection and creating a list of corrections or edits that need to be made.

Our photograph collection is a subset of the archives that also continues to provide projects for our volunteers. This year, a major project was completed to catalog and digitize our historic photographic portraits collection. This included prints as well as tintypes, daguerreotypes and ambrotypes in cases. These photographs were cataloged into Past Perfect so they are now part of a searchable database. They were then scanned into the Past Perfect system, so a digital back-up copy of each portrait is now available to researchers. This collection, which continues to grow, now includes more than 1,000 photographic portraits of Tippecanoe County residents.

TCHA has a large collection of photographic negatives from the Journal and Courier that are now being inventoried in a searchable database. To date, 15,541 negatives have been added to this inventory.

A financial donation in the spring allowed TCHA to hire 2 interns and buy supplies to inventory, organize and preserve a large collection of ledgers stored with the library material. The interns worked to examine each book, carefully noting the contents, date and condition. Then, they provided the appropriate care by cleaning and wrapping books before finding a place to store them. 687 ledgers were inventoried and cared for in the course of this project.

To help celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial, TCHA partnered with The Fountain Gallery; part of Purdue Galleries, to exhibit George Winter: Reflections on the Native Peoples of Early Indiana. To put this exhibit together, TCHA recruited the help of an intern from the Museum Studies program at IUPUI. TCHA selected the artwork, wrote text and designed the layout for the exhibit. There were 1,462 visitors to the exhibit during the summer. The partnership with The Fountain Gallery worked out well for both organizations and we plan to partner again in 2017 to host a juried art show featuring artwork inspired by the Feast of the Hunters' Moon.

In addition to the George Winter exhibit, TCHA has loaned artifacts from the collection to other organizations. By loaning items, TCHA can increase the amount of people reached by our mission to share local history with others. Active loans in 2016 included the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, The Museum of the Soldier, Duncan Hall, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. Some of these loans will continue beyond 2016 and we will continue to make new loans to similar institutions.

Even without a county history museum, TCHA was able to increase exhibit space in 2016 by completing construction on new display cases at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center,

and developing new mini-exhibits at the Arganbright Genealogy Center and for the History on Tour experience. The three new display cases at the Battlefield were the result of a grant from North Central Health Services and were built by local companies. This will allow TCHA to create changing exhibits that will further tell the story and related topics of the history the battlefield and park and give visitors a reason to return. The display cases at the Arganbright Genealogy Center allow TCHA to highlight artifacts from the permanent collection. This year, we were able to highlight recent additions to the collection and give our interns a chance to create a mini-exhibit. The History on Tour experience was designed to be a continually changing and updated space. In 2016 we were able to highlight stories from Tippecanoe County that helped visitors understand our role in the larger Hoosier story in honor of the state's bicentennial.

In 2016 five internships were completed at the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. These internships were tied to our collections. The first intern helped to design and install the George Winter exhibit for the summer's show at The Fountain Gallery. Our second and third interns worked to inventory, clean and organize our ledger collection. This project, funded through the grant of a generous donor, helped in our mission to preserve as well as make the ledger information for accessible to researchers. The fourth intern researched and wrote a guide for educators and re-enactors about the adornment artifacts found through archaeology at Fort Ouaitenon. This guide will be available on the new website. The fifth intern helped in the archives to process a collection and to complete a thorough inventory and assessment of all the processed collections. This assessment will help us prepare the collections' finding aids for the new website.

Work continues on the new TCHA website to be launched in 2017. This website will include more details on the TCHA collection and ways to research and plan ahead for a visit to the library or archives. A class from Purdue's Honors college completed on-site research in the archives and completed projects that will help us offer more information on the new website. Photographs of artifacts and many searchable inventories are being prepared for the new site.

Research requests continue to come in from all over the country for on-site research or for the use of our historic photographs. Researchers came to TCHA this year to study historic flags, Fort Ouaitenon history, The National Homes Corps, Morris School and more. Every year, many requests are made for reproductions of photographs from the permanent collection or for permission to use these images in exhibits or publications. The George Winter collection images are the most often requested. There is a fee associated with each of these requests, which helps to offset the cost of printing and also helps support the continual care of the images.

Other ongoing projects include the preparation of artifacts that are stored in the Fowler House for their eventual move to a new interim storage location. Exhibit maintenance continues at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum to clean artifacts on exhibit and to update labels that have become damaged. Each year, we continue to exhibit Fort Ouaitenon archaeological artifacts at the Blockhouse during the summer season.

This year, we offered a series of public programs to help train people on archival methods for preserving their own historic materials at home. We will continue to offer advice and assistance to members and researchers who are looking for the best preservation methods for their materials. In addition to public training programs, I conducted a series of trainings for our TCHA volunteers to help them better understand proper handling methods of historic documents, archival systems and even customer service. We will continue to offer trainings to our volunteers that make them better prepared to care for the collection and to offer assistance to researchers.

For the next year, work will continue on all current projects. We anticipate that some of them will be completed and new projects will begin. Our priority is to catalog and inventory the collection that is stored in the Arganbright Center. This includes a large amount of backlog material that was accepted and set aside during several years that TCHA did not have a staff person caring for the collection. This backlog will require a great deal of research and processing time to fully understand the items and their provenance. We have already begun to explore the necessary steps that will be taken to complete this. We plan to offer opportunities for interns to help with the processing and cataloging of artifacts.

The artifacts that were (and are) stored in the Fowler House will be moved to a new interim storage location before the end of April, 2017. This means a new location will have to be prepared and a layout developed to maximize the usage of the space. These items have already been inventoried and cataloged, with appropriate moving containers created for each one.

We will also be developing new exhibit opportunities for several locations, including the History on Tour experience, to increase our outreach and audience. We plan to have many opportunities to exhibit material from Fort Ouiatenon, as we honor the 300th anniversary of the founding of the fort and of the Feast, as we celebrate the 50th Feast in the fall.

Another project we hope to begin in 2017 is the digitization of our collection of audio recordings; which includes musical performances and oral history interviews. This will help to preserve the recordings and make them more easily accessible. We hope to also offer the opportunity to collect oral history interviews that relate to the Feast of the Hunters' Moon.

In 2017, we will work to enter all the inventories created in 2016 to our Past Perfect database system. This will include any new inventories created in 2017 as well as newly processed archives. We hope that the increased accessibility of the new website will create an increased interest for researchers in TCHA. In 2016, the director began an Emergency Response Plan that is designed to help TCHA to quickly respond to emergency situations in regards to the collection. In 2017, we will look at this plan again to include any new storage facilities. We will also adjust the plan as we work more closely with the collection storage situation in the Arganbright Center.

2016 Collections Donors

Below is a list of donors to the permanent collection of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association in 2016, which includes backlogged materials recently processed. We thank them for their generous contributions by adding to the overall story of Tippecanoe County.

- Estate of Myrle Alford
- The American Literature Club
- Mary Anthrop
- Anonymous
- Kathy Atwell
- Colby Bartlett
- Kathleen Batz
- Shirley and Michael Benham
- C. Campbell
- John Christopher
- Ruby Clark
- Lou Ann Clugh
- Shirley Crosswhite
- Holly Cumming
- Dennis and Nancy Dunn
- Sherri Evans
- Marjorie Ewbank
- Susan Frederick
- Walter and Eileen Griffin
- Faye Groves
- Charles and Donna Gullion
- John M. Harris
- Doug Herr
- David and Marjorie Rush Hovde
- The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library
- The Journal and Courier
- Chris Kidwell
- Jack Korty
- Robert Leavitt, Jr.
- Margaret Lugg
- Karen Mahlke
- Cyrus and Katherine Meeks

- Joe and Joyce Micon
- Janie Norman
- Roland Pearson
- Melanie Ray
- Susan Robinson
- Quentin Robinson
- Ron and Susan Shaw
- Gregory Seiters
- Marsha Selmer
- Lorna Smith
- Carl Slayton
- Kathy Smuz
- Mary Springer
- The Tippecanoe County Sherriff's Department
- Phil Tucker
- Paul and Dorothy Van Cleef
- Susan Verellen
- Diana Vice
- Sharon Wolf
- Mary Anne Workman
- William Young

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

By Kelly Lippie

At the end of 2015, the Collections Manager retired and it was decided that I would move to the Curator of Collections position in January of 2016. The position of Programs and Membership Coordinator would be created as a part-time position and a new person would be hired. In January, we began accepting applications for the new position with the intention that this person would begin April 1st. In the absence of a program staff person, I would help to facilitate school programs and coordinate public programs. The new staff member began in April, but decided to resign after just three weeks. The Board of Governors decided to wait until a new Executive Director was hired to allow this new person to hire a program staff person. Until that time, I would help fill in for program development, with the assistance of Feast Coordinator Leslie Conwell. The position was revised under the new Executive Director to become a full time position beginning in January of 2017. Applications and interviews began in October to ensure a new hire was made by the end of the year.

To help the county celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial as a state, TCHA planned three special events. The first of these events was scheduled for May 7th; Heritage Day: 200 Years of Work and Play in Indiana. This event was held at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Park. Twenty-five local groups, with ties to history, participated in the free, day-long event. Over 300 visitors came to experience music, games and other activities that Hoosiers have long loved. This event also served as one of the county's special events to celebrate the bicentennial and was supported by the county's bicentennial committee- on which several TCHA staff members served.

From July to August, TCHA partnered with Purdue Galleries' Fountain Gallery to host the exhibit; *George Winter: Reflections on the Native Peoples of Early Indiana*. This exhibit included a series of free programs to celebrate George Winter's art and the Native Americans he painted. There were 1,462 visitors to the George Winter exhibit during its run. The free programs included a film screening, a children's portrait drawing class, informal gallery talks, and lectures. A special TCHA members- only opening reception was held prior to the public gallery opening, to give members a first look at this valuable collection.

The final bicentennial event was also an annual event for TCHA. For the 2016 annual commemoration of the Battle of Tippecanoe, it was decided to hold something a little larger than usual. Leslie Martin Conwell volunteered to coordinate the event, which would be a living history encampment similar to the 200th anniversary event held for the Battle of Tippecanoe. Helping to coordinate the event was Colonel Steve Abolt of the 7th United States INF. The event brought in hundreds of visitors as participants, vendors and guests. The day included events on the battlefield with the re-enactors and programs inside the museum.

In special recognition of Indiana's bicentennial, the History on Tour experience was offered to schools and local community events for free. The History on Tour experience is a traveling museum exhibit TCHA has offered for the last few years. This year's exhibit focused on highlights in Tippecanoe County's history that give it a special place in the Hoosier story. This experience is limited to spring and summer appearances and over 300 people visited the History on Tour exhibit during these public and school appearances.

The Blockhouse Museum at Fort Ouiatenon Park was open for the summer season, May through August. This educational opportunity is made possible through the efforts of volunteers. Visitation to the Blockhouse saw a small increase in 2016 with 392 total visitors (293 adults and 99 children).

Other public events were offered throughout the year to bring attention to local history topics. These included a Feast Sewing Circle, Time Capsule making, Preservation Lab, 'Lafayette in America' lecture, Collector's Show and Tell Quarterly and Archaeology Day.

School programs continued to draw many students to the Tippecanoe Battlefield and the Blockhouse at Fort Ouiatenon. TCHA offers several education programs that can be reserved for any age group, including clubs and scout groups. These programs are available to adults as well as students. At the Tippecanoe Battlefield, groups can register for "Conflict of Cultures", "Search the Museum", "Woodland Indian Ways", "A Day in the Life of a Pioneer", "Covered Wagon", and the "Indian Craft". We also offer a program called a "Staff Ride"; which is a military training program that offers a study of the historic battle. There were 41 registered programs conducted at the Tippecanoe Battlefield in 2016 with a total of 1,679 in program attendance. The Blockhouse also offered a number of programs to groups; "The Fur Trade"; "The French"; and "Fun at the Fort". Due to the outdoor nature of this program location and the extended time necessary for Feast of the Hunters' Moon set-up, programs at the Blockhouse are limited to April through early September. There were 6 registered programs held at the Blockhouse this year with a total program attendance of 64 people. TCHA also offered two off-site programs which local schools can request be performed for them by a TCHA educator or the kit can be checked-out for use in the classroom. These programs are "Faces and Places" and "Timelines and Maps". There were 3 check-outs for this program in 2016 with a total program attendance of 32.

Another important school event that TCHA hosts every year are the school days at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon. On Special Kids Day, we hosted approximately 696 students and their chaperones. For School Fun Day at the Feast, we hosted a record 3,081 students and their chaperones. Although the number of volunteer participants open to student on these days has decreased, the attendance numbers continue to increase each year.

For 2017, we look forward to the ideas and enthusiasm of our new Programs and Membership Director. We are already planning many activities that will help TCHA to celebrate the 50th Feast

of the Hunters' Moon; which include special programs and events throughout the entire year. There will also be new fundraising events and more opportunities for members to take part in special members-only activities. A new exhibit will be available in the History on Tour experience that will share Tippecanoe history with students and festival-goers. We will also look for new ways to partner with local organizations and businesses to make these educational opportunities available to a wider audience.