

# LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



# Alameda McCollough Research Library

By L.A. Clugh

After six years of finishing new and old indexes, we will begin sharing these with researchers on our new website in 2017. While there are many genealogy resources online, our original collections are a wonderful addition to other sources and not available anywhere else. There is nothing like reading an original 1830's estate or holding the original marriage or naturalization papers of your family.

Our volunteers have finished several long term projects. Some of these projects include a new book inventory which is nearing completion, original court papers from 1899 to 1930's which were boxed and indexed, an index of our extensive newspaper collection is complete and they have been shelved in chronological order. Nearly 15,000 obituaries and death notices were photographed from the newspaper collection from 1830 to 1904 and an index for them is complete. This three-year project will help many family researchers find missing family members. This index, with others, includes obituaries up to the present.

Another project we are finishing is called "Finding the forgotten". Members of the Tippecanoe County Genealogy Society (TIPCOA) have been sorting and cleaning the early loose papers of the County Commissioners for poor relief. The new database will spotlight the folks that came to Tippecanoe County early, many who died in our County without family support before 1860. There are very few records for these people. TIPCOA will be finishing this collection with a grant from the Indiana Genealogy Society that provided funding for the archival supplies.



Eight binders of Bob Kreible's articles on *Old Lafayette* are 95 percent done, including a new index to these articles. Early Plat books are being cleaned and indexed. A new Court Book inventory spotlights the beginning and ending dates of each book, as well as location for refileing. You may not know that this Library was gifted most of the early court books in Tippecanoe County over thirty years ago. Some of these books are now on Ancestry.com.

Another wonderful donation this year gave us the ability to clean and inventorying the many ledgers from the Courthouse. This being finished brings together the ledgers to the loose papers we have in our collection. We have over four-hundred, many without spines, creating a challenge, but we will match them soon.

Our challenge will be to provide archival supplies and finish these originals and indexing to over one hundred boxes of loose papers still sitting in our basement. These along with our initial sorting the last year will provide us with some interesting collections. We have a great deal on early roads, trustee, poor relief, jail receipts and records, early licenses as well as other great originals waiting. Think about joining us if you have time available in your week.

New visitors this year were the students from Harrison High School Advanced History Class. Working with their teacher, we were able to show the students how to clean tombstones. We then shared today's online resources for family biographies, census records and history.



After finding more information on their person the students made a trip to this research library where, we were able to share the original wills and other resources to help finish their project.

Whether researching buildings, businesses, antiques or family or local history we are here to help you find what you need. We have wonderful and talented volunteers that will help you. We all strive to make this Library function better every week.

# TIPPECANOE BATTLEFIELD & MUSEUM



# TIPPECANOE BATTLEFIELD & MUSEUM

By Rick Conwell

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The Tippecanoe battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store began 2016 with our normal 2 week closure, during which we cleaned and did exhibit maintenance, and had much – needed new lighting installed in the store, a job which was long overdue.

In March, the status of Laura Smyser- Buit, was changed from temporary to permanent half-time staff.

## Attendance

Upon reopening, the museum welcomed visitors from at least 46 states other than Indiana as well as 20 foreign countries, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Illinois was the most heavily represented state, with 366 signers on the visitor register, followed by Michigan (126), Ohio, (125) and Wisconsin (107). The largest number of foreign visitors came from Canada (12), followed by the U.K. (10), and Australia (9).

For all of 2016, total attendance, as measured by door count totaled 9665 individuals. School tours and other groups booking programs accounted for over 1624 additional visitors. Although the number of individual visitors was down 8% from 2015, the group / program attendance was up 29% from the previous year, and is the largest I have record of.

Of the 9665 individual visitors, 5126, or 53% entered the museum, based on museum admissions recorded on end of day reports. The busiest month was July, with 1311 total visitors, of which 931 entered the museum.

## Events

History Store merchandise went on the road a number of times during the year; to indoor trade fairs at Linton, Indiana in January, the *Conner Longrifles Show* in Noblesville in February, and the *Kalamazoo Living History Show*, in Kalamazoo Michigan in March. The *Kohkohmah / Foster Living History Event* in September was our only outdoor event for the year, except for the Feast. All the events contributed substantially to the History Store's bottom line.

In May, the battlefield hosted *Indiana Heritage Day; 200 years of work and play in Indiana*, June brought the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual *Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering*. Fiddlers is the largest event held at the battlefield on an annual basis. It is always well attended, and a strong weekend for museum admissions and store sales.

June, July, and August are summer tourism season, and our time to start assembling merchandise for the upcoming Feast. Hard working intern Elisha Mantegna finished her archival work at the Arganbright Center and came over to the battlefield as a temporary store clerk and Feast Helper.

It was decided in 2015 that we should hold an event to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Indiana Statehood, along with the 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle, and Veterans' Day, thus, *Tippecanoe and Indiana, Too* was held November 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The event was attended by around 200 reenactor participants and went almost without a hitch in spite of the lack of a program coordinator, or any dedicated budget. Much thanks is due the 7<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry Living History Association who took over much of the administration of the event, Steve Abolt and Leslie Martin Conwell for their considerable organizational skills, Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department staff, and to Yankee Doodle Muzzle Loaders for sponsoring Saturday night's camp meal.

Commemoration events are always special, particularly when we get to work with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry and other reenactors. Everyone involved counts it a great privilege to be able to honor and remember those on both sides who fought and died here.

Commemoration weekend was a busy one for the museum store, and thanks to site assistant Laura Smyser- Buit and Board of Governors member Carolyn O'Conner, we turned in some of the largest daily sales totals of the year.

### **Sales**

Our merchandise sales at the Feast this year, at over \$21,000 were the largest in my 6 years' tenure as merchandising manager, due to strong visitor turnout and new specialized merchandise commemorating the event's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After finishing our return inventory, we bid a fond farewell to Elisha, who has now returned to Washington, D.C. to pursue the next phase of her career.

Sales in the History Store were also the strongest in several years, totaling \$53,673.00 by year end, eclipsing 2015 and 2014 totals by 17% and 16% respectively.

Inventory valuation at year end 2016 was \$64,695.00 compared to \$62,077.00 at the end of 2015, up about 4%.

A better economy, a well-stocked store, and a particularly hard working and dedicated site assistant undoubtedly all contributed to the store's success.

# THE OUIATENON PRESERVE



## OUIATENON PRESERVE OVERVIEW

By J. Colby Bartlett

In the summer of 2013 TCHA began working in earnest on a project that had been in the making for almost 50 years. Following the discovery and archaeological excavations that confirmed the actual site of Fort Ouiatenon in 1968, there was a strong desire to ensure that this important historical and archaeological site be protected for future generations. In the early 1970's TCHA was able to acquire a small parcel that included the area where the stockade trading post once stood, but the surrounding areas which contained important archaeological resources remained unprotected. At the 2016 TCHA annual meeting, in partnership with the Roy Whistler Foundation and The Archaeological Conservancy, we announced the creation of the Ouiatenon Preserve-a Roy Whistler Foundation Project. This was followed by several years of planning, grant applications, and negotiations to acquire the properties to the east and north of the site.

These acquisitions were funded in large part by the Roy Whistler Foundation with additional support from The Archaeological Conservancy. These donations allowed us to apply for and be awarded matching grants from the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust and the Indiana Heritage Trust. The preserve is co-owned by TCHA and The Archaeological Conservancy and will be operated by TCHA with technical support from NICHES and the DNR Nature Preserves. First and foremost the preserve is an archeological preserve, but as we restore the agricultural areas to a lowland grass prairie, it will also serve as an important nature preserve that will serve to improve the natural and biological health of the Wabash River and surrounding areas.

Since last year's meeting, we have completed the acquisition of property to the west of the Fort site which completes our goals originally identified as a priority for the preserve. This past fall, Dr. Michael Strezewski of the University of Southern Indiana, with funding from a National Park Service grant was able to complete additional remote sensing mapping of sites in the newly acquired preserve areas. The results of these will be presented at a later time, but initial results indicate substantial preserved archaeological features previously unknown. The preserve now contains over 200 acres and over twenty sites which are significant and important. It is also one of the largest archaeological preserves in the United States east of the Mississippi River.

This year we will proceed with work relating to the natural restoration in the preserve as well as the construction of a preserve entrance. The entrance to the preserve will be developed on land overlooking the site that was generously donated to TCHA by Lee Brand several years ago. It will include a parking area, trail head, and outdoor interpretive area with signage that explains the early Native American and European history of the area and its importance in our history.

Future plan include the creation of a trail loop that will take visitors down to the fort site as well as an extension of the Wabash Heritage Trail when they are ready to extend it. Our long range planning involves the creation of a museum and interpretive center that can house and display the artifacts recovered from the site and properly interpret the history of the site. With our partners, we are excited and proud of the accomplishments that have been made in this project and look forward greatly to the continuing work in bringing this vision to completion.



**49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

**FEAST OF THE HUNTRERS' MOON**



## **FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON 2016**

**By Leslie Martin Conwell, Event Manager**

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is a re-creation of the annual fall gathering of the French and Native Americans which took place Fort Ouiatenon, a fur-trading outpost in the mid - 1700s. The mission of the Feast is two-fold- to educate the public about 18<sup>th</sup> century cultures at Ouiatenon, and to serve as the major fundraiser of TCHA. Public education is done through the demonstration of heritage crafts, period music and dance, interactive and engaging children's activities, period impressions and cultural exchanges, and two school days.

The Feast Steering Committee is composed of 30 individuals from all walks of life who bring their unique talents and dedication. The committee exists to serve the best interests of the Feast, and to assist TCHA staff in the administration, guidance, and "putting on" of the event. Committee members include TCHA Board President Pete Bill, Executive Director Craig Hadley, retired TCHA Executive Director Kathy Atwell, Feast Chairman Jeff Schwab, Feast Coordinator Leslie Martin Conwell, Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Director Allen Nail, Sara Bartlett, Di Begley, Mac Bellner, Jerry Brickley, Debra Brown, Terry Clark, Barbara Deaton, Mike Geyer, Erin Hicks, Erika Kvam, Bob Leavitt, Nathan Murphy, Tara Raber, Preston Smith, Sheri Sondgerath, Jason Stanfield, Scott Stambaugh, Linda Swihart, Scott Walsh, Jeni Watkins, Rick Westerman, Joyce Wiegand, Bill Young, and Jan Young. We sincerely appreciate the Feast Steering Committees commitment to the health and welfare of the Feast- and also to TCHA. As Feast Coordinator, I rely on the committee very heavily for their wealth of knowledge.

The pre-event weather forecast was very threatening, with heavy rain expected. However, the Feast grounds were mostly spared, and the heavy rain fell in a circle around us. We only received 0.25 inch of rain Saturday night, with misty showers Sunday morning. It cleared Sunday afternoon, for a glorious finish to the weekend. Feast revenue is heavily dependent on the status of the weather, and we are thankful that the heavy rain did not fall on the event.

The 2016 Feast was an above average Feast in terms of gross revenue and attendance (42,899). It will take another month or so to figure final expenses, as we work on the food booth profit sharing.

With a project as colossally large and complex as the Feast is, for the purpose of the Annual Report it is best to break this report down into several sections for better clarification.

### **Food Booths**

Food booths are run by area non-profits. Expenses and profit are split 50/50 with TCHA. Food sales were extremely strong at this year's Feast. Thank you to Jason Stanfield for his leadership as food booth chairman. Several food booths cancelled at the last minute due to lack of

volunteers to help with the booth. Electronic food booth forms are working well. Thank you to Jeff Schwab for his work creating the forms. No problems were brought to my attention by the Board of Health.

### **Grounds**

As always, Nathan, Allen, and the TCPD are a huge help to us and are outstanding event partners. The Purdue Crew is paid to help with clean-up, and we need to re-negotiate their contract to fine tune their duties. Thank you to Barb Deaton for being an AWESOME set-up chairperson, and to Scott Stembaugh, Mike Geyer, and Bill Young for their extra efforts. We continue to reduce the amounts of booths built, and thus we need to adjust our set-up crew work to include other grounds duties. For emergency preparedness, we prepared an Initial Action Plan, authored primarily by Jeff Schwab, in cooperation with area safety authorities. WIFI, and everything electronic- Thank you to Erika Kvam, Dave Azpell, and Kevin Cullen for all of their hard work. The system still needs tweaking, but was better than the year before and we appreciate their efforts. ATM- the ATM man told me the ATMs ran out of cash by 1 p.m. Sunday and he'd never had that happen before. We met with many challenges in regards to delivery and carrying out of contractual services. Some of our contractual partners were seriously delayed in their deliveries of ordered items- i.e. tables and chairs, ice, trash dumpsters, etc. All of them told me the issues were due to staffing problems and a short workforce. Buses and parking- hooray for the buses! They indicate to me that they are having a harder and harder time securing buses, as many churches no longer have a bus. They had to hire two outside drivers who had their own buses. Wendy Starr is retiring as gate chairperson for the East and Center gates. The group doing the West gate pulled out at the last minute due to not having enough volunteers. We appreciated Wabash Center stepping in at absolutely the last minute.

### **Quality Control**

We are maintaining a relatively even number of high quality reenactors, vendors, craftspeople, and food booths. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a participant at the Feast, please contact me. We are always looking to recruit a new generation of Feasters!

### **Administration**

I am deeply grateful to the many people who work as a team to put on this fine community event. Jeff Schwab continues to be an inspiring leader in his role as Feast Chairman. Thank you to new Executive Director Craig Hadley for jumping in mid-stream, as well as thank you to retired Executive Director Kathy Atwell for working so hard and keeping a sense of continuity and institutional memory. TCHA Collections Curator Kelly Lippie did a great job coordinating the School Days. Joyce Wiegand and Jan Young volunteered to help with button pick-up and admin. Joyce and several other volunteers counted gate tickets at the Feast, which helped us have our attendance figured very promptly. Local advance ticket sales went smoothly. EventBrite's online ticket sales system works so well. We had less than 10 snail mail orders for

tickets, as online ticket ordering has become the norm! Thank you to Rick Westerman and Linda Swihart for running the registration tent, and thank you to LA Clugh and the awesome library volunteers for their work selling Feast tickets.

### **Programming**

Scheduled programming takes place in six stage areas around the grounds, with a myriad of other scheduled and impromptu programming going on in encampments and informal staging areas throughout the day. Effort is made to provide a wide scope of programming that highlights the cultural diversity that was at Ouiatenon, and also to have programming that appeals to various ages. For our Native American programming, we prefer to empower federally and state recognized tribes to interpret their own history through their traditions at the Feast.

### **Public Relations**

Pre-Feast PR went well, with articles and photos appearing in numerous publications. We have been placing ads in industry and tourism targeted media. We had good coverage by WLF1 TV18 this year, with several taped pre-Feast and post-Feast interviews, as well as a live interview. The Purdue Exponent ran a good article, and sent photographers. The Journal and Courier had several stories. Our partnership with WASK/K105 continues to go very well, and we appreciate their enthusiastic support.

Goals for 2017 Feast PR include expanding our advertising into other market areas including Chicago, South Bend, and Cincinnati. This will take more commitment of budget dollars.

- We need to reevaluate the Feast poster, and if it is a good marketing tool nowadays.
- We continued to increase our social media presence.

### **Volunteers**

This year we saw how the issue regarding an insufficient number of volunteers, something that we see impacting many organization in our community, hit the Feast in a serious way. It affected us across the board, as well as our food booths. I would propose that we hold several volunteer recruitment “outings,” including the Volunteer Expo, and several meet and greet programs.

Finally- thank you for the privilege of being Feast Coordinator. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated committee, staff, volunteers, participants, and community partners. I also very much appreciated everyone’s support during the final illness and death of my mother, Fern H. Martin.

### **Finances**

TCHA fundraising is accomplished through ticket sales (both advance and gate), TCHA and Feast logo branded merchandise sales, History Store period gifts and book sales sold at several

locations on the grounds, and a portion of the Feast food booth sales. An “average” Feast nets \$150,000.00 for TCHA, and provides 73% of TCHA’s annual operating income.

For 2016 the Feast’s net income was \$165, 545.30. This is an 8% increase in net revenue from the previous year. A complete breakdown of revenue and expenses comparing the 2016 Feast from the previous two years can be found below:

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**By John Thieme & Craig Hadley**

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2016 Represented the best financial year in years.

**Key Financial Numbers:**

- Income from Operations \$ 192,954
- Income from Operations without Roy Whistler Found Cont. \$ 70,954
- Income from Operations exceeded budgeted amount by \$100,683

**Financial Highlights:**

- Grapes and Hops festival added just under \$ 10,000 in income.
- Net Profit from the Feast was \$ 34,000 higher than budgeted.
- Bequests were up \$ 31,000 over budget. .
- Salaries were under budget \$ 15,000
- Battlefield sales were up 20%
- Current Cash position is \$ 1,149,815.41
- Total Assets are \$ 2,835,755.68
- Total Fund balances (Net Worth) is \$ 2,632,310.01.

**Additional Revenue Streams for 2017**

As good as 2016 was financially, it is still important to note that more than 72% of our fiscal budget is reliant on a single outdoor event (the Feast). This is not sound fiscal planning and contains a great deal of risk due to weather and other factors we cannot control. We need to strive to diversify our revenue streams by finding new avenues of income. Beginning in 2017 we will be adding a black-tie themed gala. This will be the Great Gatsby Gala in 2017.

We also need to increase grant submissions, sponsorships, overall donations, and corporate opportunities. In 2017 we are laying the groundwork for these additional sources by tapping some of them now and making plans for additional yearly fundraising events and opportunities to grow exponentially.

Part of these efforts will entail maximum support from all of our membership. We are ready to grow as an organization to the next level, but we cannot do it without solid support from our core foundation, which are our members.

### **Spreadsheets**

The following spreadsheets first show our budget actual numbers for 2016 along with the two previous years for comparison. This is followed by our balance sheet. It should be noted that these are unaudited final figures. The audit will not begin until sometime in late February and the final report will likely not be issued until April 2017. However there should be very little discrepancy between these numbers we are presenting now and the final audited figures.

Once the audit is completed we will be posting that report on the web site in a PDF file for anyone to access and an announcement will be made to the membership alerting you of its availability.