



Annual Report 2017



Tippecanoe County
Historical Association

1001 South Street, Lafayette,
IN 47901



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Letter from the TCHA Board of Governors President

Mission: To enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, and interpreting our unique and exciting history

Dr. Pete Bill, TCHA Board President



Greetings members of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association

I am pleased to report that 2017 has been a banner year for the Association's archival/artifact collections, physical facilities, educational and social programming, and for enhancing the financial stability of TCHA.

Part of the success this year has come from your Board of Governors, which is also making a transition towards a more diverse, mission-oriented, and professional governing board that operates under, and complies with, the Best Practice Guidelines for Not-For-Profit Boards.

2016 marked the hiring of Craig Hadley as our new Executive Director who came equipped with national museum management and curatorial experiences that would help us meet our goals for 2017. As such, 2017 saw the development of a strong, strategic vision plan to rejuvenate and expand all aspects of the TCHA mission, while simultaneously enhancing the fiscal stability of the Association to insure the financial viability of TCHA for many years to come. I am pleased to report that we have achieved much in both of those over-arching goals. In the Membership Report you will hear of some of the significant achievements from this year and the plans for 2018 that I hope will reassure you of the positive, upward direction the Association is headed.

As always, we invite participation from you, our members, to help on committees (a list of which is included near the end of my report), attend board meetings if you wish (dates of which are included below), volunteer for projects, focus groups, or task forces of your interest, and provide input and constructive suggestions on how we can continue to move forward.

My e-mail is billr@purdue.edu and I hope you will use this to send me your insights, perspectives, and ideas. I would be happy to meet one-on-one with any of you over lunch or coffee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Bill".

Pete Bill

President, TCHA Board of Governors

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION STAFF

Craig Hadley
Executive Director

Kelly Lippie
Curator of Collections

D.J. Tucker
Programs and Membership Director

Rick Conwell
Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

Leslie Martin-Conwell
Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager

L.A. Clugh
Genealogy & Library Supervisor

Laura Smysner
Assistant Museum Manager

BOARD OF GOVERNORS TERMS (3 Year Terms)

*** = term ended December 2017 – being considered for another term**

Name	Term Ends
Colby Bartlett	December 2017*
Del Bartlett	December 2018
Diane Begley	December 2018
Pete Bill	December 2019
Kevin Cullen	December 2018
Craig Graham	December 2017*
Walt Griffin	December 2019
Amy Harbor	December 2017*
David Hovde	December 2019
Quentin Robinson	December 2018
Benjamin Ross	December 2018
Jeff Schwab	December 2018
Pete Sherry	December 2019
Preston Smith	December 2018
Phil Tucker	December 2019
Todd White	December 2018
John Thieme	December 2019
Shane Weist	December 2019

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD 2017

(1 Year Term, not more than 5 consecutive terms)

Position	Name	First Term Began
President	Pete Bill	June 2016 (for 2016 term)
Vice President	Colby Bartlett	February 2015
Vice President	Jeff Schwab	February 2017
Secretary	Shane Weist	February 2014
Treasurer	John Thieme	February 2015

STANDING COMMITTEES

* indicates Chair

Executive Committee

Pete Bill *
Jeff Schwab
Colby Bartlett
Shane Weist
John Thieme

Nominating Committee

Quentin Robinson*
Preston Smith

Finance, Budget, and Risk Management Committee

Jeff Schwab *
John Thieme
Todd White

Facilities Committee (formerly the Grounds and Facilities Committee)

Walt Griffin *
Pete Bill
Colby Barlett
Del Barlett
Kevin Cullen

Collections Committee

Kelly Lippie*
Del Bartlett
Pete Bill
Kevin Cullen
Quentin Robinson
Rick Conwell
Leslie Martin Conwell
Sarah Cooke
LA Clugh
Craig Hadley

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Development & Membership Committee

Craig Graham *
Craig Hadley

Tippecanoe County Historical Association Foundation Board Liaison

Del Barlett

Ouiatenon Preserve and Roy Whistler Foundation Liaison

Colby Bartlett

Executive Committee Meetings (for agenda setting)

Meetings will be the Thursday before the Board meeting, 4:30, Arganbright

Board of Governors Meetings – Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:15, locations to be announced

February 2018	Tuesday, February 27 th
March 2018	Tuesday, March 27 th
April 2018	Tuesday, April 24 th
May 2018	Tuesday, May 22 nd
June 2018	Tuesday, June 26 th
July 2018	Tuesday, July 24 th
August 2018	Tuesday, August 28 th
September 2018	Tuesday, September 25 th (Feast is October 6-7 th)
October 2018	Tuesday, October 23 rd
November 2018	Tuesday, November 27 th
December 2018	Tuesday, December 18 th (3 rd Tuesday of December)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Craig Hadley, Executive Director



Dear Members and friends of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association,

2017 is now behind us and what a great year it was. TCHA has had many accomplishments in 2017 including expansion and healthy growth. While you will be reading about the successes of each department in this report, let me give you some highlights that I would like to share now.

FINANCIAL GROWTH AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Between the overwhelming success of this year's Feast of the Hunters' Moon and the total transfer of assets in the form of both disbursements and gifts from the Tippecanoe County Historical Association Foundation, TCHA has done the following:

- \$422,000 has been added to our restricted endowment TRUT, bringing our TRUT endowment to just over one million dollars. These are restricted funds that TCHA will use as a secure endowment for the security and stability of our future as an association, and will build upon for our future. We will be able to draw 3% to 5% each year based on the investment performance of the TRUT.
- \$100,000 has been set aside in a restricted account as a "rainy day" Feast fund. We hope to add to this fund each year as a firewall for a future Feast that is hurt by bad weather or some unknown calamity.
- \$50,000 has been set aside in a restricted account as an emergency maintenance fund. With all of the properties that we now own and maintain, it is prudent that we set aside funds for the day that a major maintenance issue rears its ugly head, such as roof replacement, HVAC repairs/replacement or other unforeseen issues. We hope to add to this fund each year as well.
- I am happy to report that TCHA has no long term debt.

FUNDRAISING

2017 has been an outstanding year for fundraising. We have raised more money in grants, sponsorships, and donations in decades, totaling more than \$600,000. These monies were raised for specific projects, from the purchase of additional properties for the Fort Ouiatenon Archaeological Preserve to the new History Center project.

Our first Spring Gala fundraiser at the Fowler House was a rousing success. Themed "A Great Gatsby Gala," this 1920s jazz party raised significant funds for the History Center project while everyone had a great time.



VOLUNTEERING

We have the best volunteers around at TCHA. From those volunteers who work in the library, archives and collections to those out at the Blockhouse and Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum. Finally, all the volunteers who help with the Feast of the Hunters' Moon for set-up, operations, tear-down and clean-up, we cannot thank you enough for your donation of time and expertise. All told TCHA's volunteers logged more than 8,000 hours of volunteer time! Thank you to ALL of our great volunteers! You are the backbone that helps keep this great association alive and well. We are always looking for more volunteers so don't be shy if you want to join our team.

STAFF

I want to take a moment to thank the amazing staff I have the privilege to work with on a daily basis. Kelly Lippie, D.J. Tucker, Rick Conwell, Leslie Martin Conwell, L.A. Clugh, and Laura Smyser. You are a fantastic staff and the best I have worked with in more than 20 years of working in this field. If you do not know all of our staff, please take the time to introduce yourself and get to know them. I think you will agree that we have a great pool of talent working for TCHA.

THE TCHA HISTORY CENTER

I would like to give you an update on progress at the History Center. We purchased the building at 522 Columbia Street in January of 2017. For most of 2017 we have only held a few events in that space as we allowed the Masons to continue to operate out of the center until the end of October of 2017, as part of the purchase agreement to allow them time to find accommodations for their lodge. We also spent this time making plans and fundraising. Demolition and construction of interior ADA work began in November. We currently anticipate having the building completed on the interior (with the exception of the exhibit installation) and the exterior ADA work in time for the April 28th spring gala.

Here is where we currently stand with fundraising for the new building:

Source of Funding	Amount Raised
TCHA investment for basic repair work	\$40,000
Lafayette Community Foundation for kitchen upgrading	\$12,500
Fundraising events for exhibit design work	\$21,685
TCHA Board of Governors for exhibits	\$32,000
Donations from TCHA members for exhibit design work	\$38,000
Tippecanoe County for exterior ADA work	\$44,000
City of Lafayette for exterior renovations	\$65,000
North Central Health Services grant for interior ADA work	\$123,675
Donor Brick Campaign & Annual Appeal <i>(campaign begins in February of 2018)</i>	0
Total	\$414,860

This is a list of items that we have paid for. They are in the process of completion or construction.

CURRENT ITEMS PAID FOR

Purchase of building by TCHA	\$350,000
Interior ADA work	\$123,675
Exterior renovation of the building	\$65,000
Exterior ADA work	\$45,000
New emergency steel door	\$7,000
Roof repair work	\$8,500
Basement security system for collections storage	\$1,000
Professional movers for collections move to basement	\$8,000
Kitchen refit	\$25,000
Exhibits design phase	\$70,000
Total	\$703,175

Here is a current breakdown of the remaining expenses for the project.

REMAINING EXPENSES

Item	Total Amount Needed
New flooring for entire main floor	\$60,000
New lighting, electrical, sheetrock, and painting interior, round tables & stackable chairs, outfit of Museum Shop, and other incidentals.	\$40,000
New exhibits fabrication & installation	\$225,000
Total	\$325,000

We are currently looking for a corporate sponsor to pay for the exhibit fabrication and installation in exchange for naming rights to the exhibit room and a small permanent exhibit highlighting their business.

As for the remaining funds, we begin our Annual Appeal and Donor Brick Campaign the first week of February of 2018. We hope that this will be a successful campaign that, combined with some additional sponsors, will help put us over what we need to complete the building. We are also pursuing other sponsorships and grant opportunities now.

BLOCKHOUSE

In 2017 we were alerted to the fact that the Blockhouse was beginning to show its age. Built in 1930, this building has become a cultural icon in the county. With a leaky roof, loose firebox bricks and concerns over the state of the logs, TCHA commissioned a preservation report on the Blockhouse with Ratio Design out of Indianapolis. This report was generously co-sponsored and co-paid by the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department.

The report was completed and released to TCHA and the Park and Recreation Department in the fall of 2017. The building is in need of a total roof replacement, repointing of the bricks in the firebox and chimney, and while the state of the logs was good, it was recommended that they be treated with a specific preservation chemical compound for long-term care. A lab analysis also concluded that the logs were manufactured out of white cedar, which seems to support the theory that the logs had been used for former telegraph poles and not electrical poles.

We are currently applying for a grant that we hope will cover the costs of the roof replacement and brick repointing that we hope will occur in April or May of 2018. We want to ensure the stability and health of this historic structure for future generations to enjoy.

50/300 Feast of the Hunters' Moon a Success!

Leslie Martin Conwell, Feast Event Manager



2017 marked the 50th annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon, and the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon- quite the coincidence with the two anniversaries falling on the same year!

I had the supreme honor of serving as the Feast Event Manager during this year of the 50/300 anniversaries. The 2017 Feast marked the 44th time I have worked the Feast as TCHA staff, or come as a visitor. I can truly say that the 50/300 Feast was the highlight of my Feast career.

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon was developed by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association as a culturally interactive venue to explore the area's rich history and heritage arts in a way that would be of great interest to the public and the local schools. The Feast is a re-enactment of 18th century life at Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park on the banks of the Wabash River just southwest of current day West Lafayette, IN. The 2017 festival was September 30-October 1, with "Special Kids Day" on Thursday, September 28 and the School Fun Day at the Feast on Friday, September 29. The event's time period depicts the heyday of Fort Ouiatenon, 1717-1791. The first European settlement in Indiana, Fort Ouiatenon was a silent witness to many different cultures and lifeways that built our nation. The Feast's participants educate and

entertain visitors from far and wide.



Skilled interpreters, musicians, and artisans come into interactive contact with public and school audiences and engage the imagination while inspiring exploration of the music, cultures, and crafts of the past. Programming provides insight into the era's lifestyles, industries, and entertainment. We have found a living history-style event to be a

most effective teaching tool, as visitors can get "up close and personal" with the past! A living history platform serves to invite more curiosity, involvement, questions, and discussion. It helps children and adults alike compare and contrast the lifestyles, politics, and heritage arts of the past

with what is now relevant in their own lives. TCHA collaborates with the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department on the production and grounds set-up/tear down for the Feast, as they own the land where the Feast is held.

Over 6,700 participants and volunteers registered for the Feast this year. Feast participants are juried for historical quality, artistic value, craft or musical relevance, and appropriateness to the event through the use of an application process that involves the submission of photos, videos and historical documentation. Besides artistic skills, we value interpersonal skills, and all participants are expected to mingle and interact with the public in a way that reflects

positively on the event and the organization. Performers include fife and drum corps, Native American drum and dance groups, musicians specializing in the English, French, and Native American songs of the time period, Native and Colonial reenacting groups, and heritage artisans. Our participants are partners in our vision of showcasing the cultures of historic Ouiatenon, and provide the most authentic glimpse possible into our shared past.

The Feast is TCHA's biggest fundraiser of the year, and over 50 other area non-profits raise funds at the event. TCHA partners with these other non-profits to sponsor an event that is an integral part of the quality of life for the community.

I do not, of course, run the Feast by myself! It takes many people to put their shoulders into the harness to pull together towards the success of this huge event.

My sincere thanks go to TCHA's Board of Governors for their support and guidance.

TCHA staff members help carry the load- our Executive Director, Craig Hadley, who works hard to get us sponsorships and grants, and oversees us all; DJ Tucker, our Programs and Membership Director who handles our school days and the membership tent; Rick Conwell, the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager who runs the TCHA merchandise booths; Kelly Lippie, our Curator of Collections, who helps DJ with the school days, helps with set-up and clean-up, did several exhibits with the Feast as the theme, and worked with the Fountain Gallery on a juried Feast art show; TCHA Librarian L.A. Clugh, who helps assist visitors to TCHA who have Feast questions, want to drop off applications, or buy Feast tickets; and Laura Smyser,



Museum Assistant of the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, who is Rick's capable assistant. TCHA is lucky to have staff of this caliber, all who willingly put aside their "usual" TCHA duties to assist with anything needed for our biggest fundraiser.

The Feast is shepherded by a group of talented individuals called the Feast Steering Committee. Committee members lend their expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to the planning and implementation of the event. 2017 Feast Steering Committee members included Kathy Atwell, Sara Bartlett, Di Begley, Pete Bill, Mac Bellner, Jerry Brickley, Terry Clark, Barbara Deaton, Mary Fisher, Mike Geyer, Craig Hadley, Erin Hicks, Roger Hooper, Erika Kvam, Bob Leavitt, Nathan Murphy, Allen Nail, Tara Raber, Jeff Schwab, Preston Smith, Sheri Sondgerath, Jason Stanfield, Scott Stembbaugh, Linda Swihart, DJ Tucker, Scott Walsh, Jeni Watkins, Rick Westerman, Joyce Wiegand, Bill Young, and Jan Young. The Feast Steering Committee works very hard throughout the year to ensure the success of the Feast, and we thank them- as well as TCHA staff, TCHA Board of Directors, and Feast volunteers- for all of their efforts to support the Feast.

The 2017 50/300 Feast planning actually began in 2015. For several years leading up to this significant pair of anniversaries, a "50/300" committee, led capably by TCHA Board of Governors member and Feast participant David Hovde, worked hard to make this year's event, and the months leading up to it, a memorable experience. 50/300 committee members for the two years included Craig Hadley, David Hovde, Harold Korey Cooper, Kathy Atwell, Rick Conwell, Del Bartlett, J. Colby Bartlett, Kelly Lippie, Walt Griffin, DJ Tucker, and Jeff Schwab.

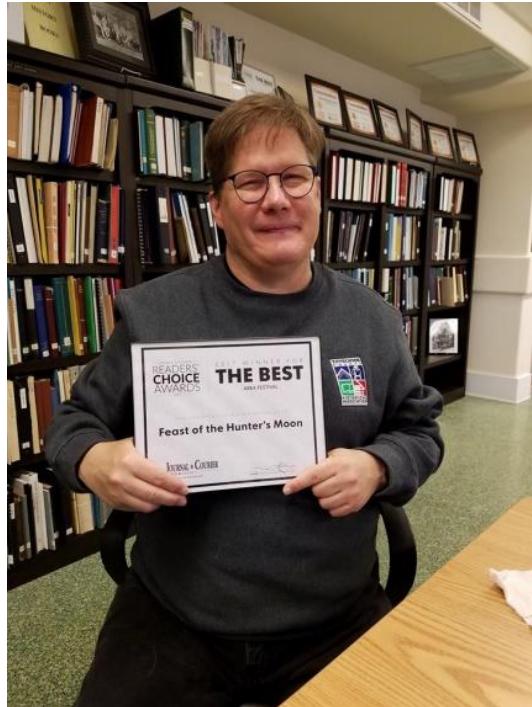
The 50/300 programming was very well received. Educational seminars, music performances, displays of artifacts related to Ouiatenon, a juried art exhibit, a tour of the archaeology site, a recreation by volunteers of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon through the reenactment of the canoe voyage from Fort Wayne to Ouiatenon, an archaeological conference, and many other activities were held during the year that helped set the tone and raise anticipation for a fantastic Feast! We thank David for his incredible devotion to the 50/300 project. Due to his hard work and diligence, much anticipation and excitement built as the months counted down to The Big Weekend. Several 50/300 commemorative items were designed and offered for sale, including mugs, t-shirts, medals, challenge coins, a poster, and pins. All served to remind everyone of the specialness of the 2017 Feast and the 50/300 year! We had a lot of great coverage in the media, including Early American Life.



When the Feast finally came, the weather was spectacular- perhaps the best ever seen in the 50 years of the event's history! 3,800 children, teachers, and chaperones enjoyed the Special Kids Day on Thursday and the Feast School Day on Friday. Feast weekend dawned clear, cool, and sunny and the great weather brought huge crowds all hungering for a "taste" of the Feast. 58,220 people enjoyed all the Feast has to offer, and the celebration of the 50/300 was a joyous one. Our fantastic Feast participants brought Fort Ouiatenon back to life on the banks of the Wabash, yet again. It is my hope that the people and cultures of Ouiatenon so long ago would have been honored and proud of the celebration.

In recognition of the historical and community importance of this anniversary year, area dignitaries speaking at Opening Ceremonies included Senator Brandt Hershman, Representative Sally Siegrest, Representative Sheila Klinker, Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski and West Lafayette Mayor John Dennis. Of special significance was a visit from the French Consul General, Guillome LaCroix, who addressed the longstanding partnership between France and America, as well as attendance by the Honorary Consul of France in Indiana, Martin Baier.

At the end of the weekend, the 2017 50/300 was definitely one for the record books. A Feast of this



success is not possible without the support of our Board of Governors, membership, staff, volunteers, participants, the Feast Steering Committee, sponsors, community partners, schools, the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department, the media, and our families.

Special thanks to Jeff Schwab, Feast Chairman Extraordinaire, who makes my job so much easier; Nathan Murphy and Allen Nail of the park department; the Feast Steering Committee; Kathy Atwell; and the TCHA staff.

I dedicated this year to my deceased mother, Fern Honeywell Martin, and all of the many Feast participants and volunteers of the past, who put so much of themselves into the Feast over the years so that it could grow, flourish, and survive into the future. I hope we made them all proud. I think we did!

My mother, Fern Honeywell Martin, and I at the 1978 Feast



TIPPECANOE BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM REPORT

By Rick Conwell, Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

On the heels of a robust 2016, it seemed unlikely that the growth in attendance and sales at the battlefield would continue. However, as figures will show, the trend continued in 2017, and spread to all areas of the museum operation.

The special nature of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon double "50/300" anniversary to be observed in 2017 gave rise to much organizational planning for special programming, and considerable design work on commemorative products related to the anniversary observances.

The 50/300 programming, planned and organized in large part by board member David Hovde, produced awareness of and generated enthusiasm for the 50th Feast of the Hunters' Moon and the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon. Sales of commemorative items contributed much to the success of the History Store over the course of the year.

Attendance and Museum Admissions

The Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store began its 2017 season on January 16th, and over the course of the year, was visited by individuals from at least 46 states other than Indiana, 18 foreign countries, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

As usual, the largest number of non-Hoosier visitors was from Illinois, the guest book being signed by just over 300. The next most heavily represented states were Ohio (106), California (74), and Michigan (73). The largest number of foreign visitors came from Canada (11), followed by Germany (9) and Australia (7).

Attendance in 2017 totaled 10,434 individuals, up 8% from 2016. June and July essentially tied for the busiest months of 2017, and June, July, and September all show higher attendance figures than the busiest month of the previous year.

Of the 10,434 individual visitors, 5,603, or 53%, toured the museum.

In spite of the absence of a program coordinator for part of the period, group attendance was up 26% over 2016, following a 29% increase over 2015. Group attendance is following a steep growth curve now in its 3rd year. At least part of the driving force behind this growth seems to be the increasing size of school tours. Student groups are becoming larger, in some cases enough so to strain the capacity of our facilities. Group attendance was 2,051 in 2017, resulting in total visitation of 12,485.

Events

The History Store took to the road several times in 2017, selling books and spreading awareness of our site throughout the region. Trade shows in Linton and Noblesville, Indiana, and

Kalamazoo, Michigan helped bring some income during the slow winter months. In the fall, sales at the Koh-Koh-Mah & Foster Living History Event, and Mississinewa 1812 both contributed significantly to our bottom line.

In June we had our usual busy weekend when the battlefield park hosted the 45th annual Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering.

Civil War reenactors gathered at the park in July for a Civil War living history event. The troops portrayed recruits of the 72nd Indiana Regiment as they mustered in at Camp Tippecanoe. Sweat ran freely as the troops, complete with blue wool uniforms, gamely drilled in 90+ degree heat.

The approach of the 50th annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon meant that there was even more than usual to do to prepare and ready merchandise for the big weekend. Former Executive Director Kathy Atwell, (who claims to be retired, but shows little evidence of it), stepped in as my Feast assistant in addition to everything else she contributes to the event. Her help was indispensable in making the 2017 Feast a record in terms of merchandise sales.

Along with Kathy, thanks are due board members Amy Harbor and Carolyn O'Connell for their help in the store and at the Feast, as well as Jerry and Jean Barnett and their crew of over 20 workers who work tirelessly operating some of our satellite merchandise locations at the Feast.

As always, special thanks go to Laura Smyser, my invaluable assistant, who is responsible for so much of the success of the museum and History Store.

Sales

Sales at the Feast

Sales of TCHA merchandise at the Feast have experienced a steady growth curve since 2010 at all locations except the books booth.

This year's total Feast sales, at over \$34,000 in cash and checks, far outstripped any previous total. Near record attendance, good weather, and strong sales of 50/300 anniversary merchandise were largely responsible. The books booth continues to struggle, due partly to structural changes in the bookselling industry, and partially to a recent change in its location on the Feast grounds.

Sales at the History Store and on the road

Combined taxable sales in the History Store and at living history events (other than the Feast) topped \$50,000 in 2016 for the first time since the 200th Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration year of 2011. Sales in 2016 and 2017 showed double digit growth rates. Sales total for 2017 was \$62,048, up 13.5% over the 2016 total.

In addition to an on-going strong economy and a dedicated and hardworking History Store staff, the sale of Feast anniversary merchandise from the store was a large factor in the 2017 total.

The History Store has earned a reputation for its knowledgeable and welcoming staff and an excellent book selection appealing to historically-minded patrons. Visits by repeat customers, some from far away, are increasing. This should serve to partially offset the expected decrease in sales for 2018 following an anniversary year.

Additionally, we look forward during the coming year to the opening of additional retail space in the History Center in Lafayette.

PROGRAMS AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By DJ Tucker, Program and Membership Director

This report highlights the activities of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Programs and Membership Department for the period of July through December, 2017. It is divided into two main sections; one that features our program undertakings and another that focuses on membership. Each section follows a chronological approach beginning with the arrival of the new Programs and Membership Director, DJ Tucker, at the beginning of July, 2017.

NOTE: Maggie McAdams was the Programs and Membership Director from January to May of 2017 when she resigned in order to join her fiancée. During her brief tenure she did a wonderful job helping with crafting strategies and the planning of the Great Gatsby Gala in April of 2017. D.J. Tucker joined the TCHA team in July of 2017 has been moving forward with full steam with lots of new programs planned for 2018.

PROGRAMS

July:2017

DJ began with this: "Well, thanks for having me, I am honestly very much delighted to identify as a member of the TCHA family and am grateful for this professional opportunity you have generously afforded."

Kelly and Craig got DJ off to a good start showing him the essentials of TCHA program offerings and the work being done to develop new exhibits as it relates to the acquisition of the former Masonic Lodge downtown. DJ joined Craig, Kelly and Pete Bill on a trip to Taylor Studios in Illinois where they pulled some fantastic ideas together in anticipation of what is hoped to be a worthy permanent exhibit at the new History Center.

We held our first public program the weekend of July 22-23. Well, at least it was the first in which DJ was present as a member of the interpretive team. Notwithstanding the oppressive heat and a few rain sprinkles, things went extremely well. We had almost 20 living historian volunteers and over 200 public visitors. Our museum and History Store were well attended and the store till saw many greenbacks flood in. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and we had a number of staff and board folk drop by throughout the day Saturday. Many thanks to those able to grace us with their presence; we appreciate greatly your support. Please take a look at our Facebook page for pics and other nods from the peeps in attendance. We laughed, we cried, we ate, we interacted with the public. That's what it's all about, right? Thanks for letting us put this one on, as it were.

August 2017:

As for events, we met with Mr. Mike Dotson the first week of the month to go over plans for the November 11th program out at the Tippecanoe Battlefield. Mike is an enthusiastic fellow to say

the least and we feel confident that things are off in the right direction. We'll have more meetings with Mike and updates to come.

On August 6th we staffed our blockhouse and decided to test the hearth there with an impromptu "pop-up" foodways program. Although we had just a dozen or so come by that afternoon, folks seemed delighted to know the fireplace and chimney still work and that the art of cooking over a fire was something that TCHA was looking to demonstrate on a semi-regular basis. Certainly the Feast serves as ample reminder that TCHA "gets it" when it comes to the marriage of food and history and the appeal this pairing has to many folks that otherwise might not think themselves much interested in the things old-timey. Funny how food can change that relationship and thus the inspiration for our successful attempt to roast ears of sweet corn over a glowing bed of coals, and the frying of some smoked pork belly in the hot iron pan of a faithful TCHA interpreter of the day. Food, cooking and the blockhouse make wonderful bedfellows!

Continuing to outreach with our friendly community, we attended the downtown Mosey on August 12th and made more connections that should prove useful to TCHA's program plans. Earlier that day, we went to the farmers market where we did the same kind of drumming up of support for our educational vision and cause. The program department has made the farmers market and Mosey top priorities in terms of spreading the word regarding our hopes and dreams of making TCHA a leader in heritage education, not just regionally, but nationwide. At the very least we want to be known for offering some of the best public programs available in Indiana.

These last couple of weeks we met with Dr. Kory Cooper to hash-out final plans for the archaeological conference the TCHA funded in part in October. We made an early morning trip to see our friends at the Visit Lafayette West Lafayette visitors' center. With the gracious assistance of Jeff Schwab we made some decisions regarding the placement of the membership tent and VIP lounge at the Feast. We also met with our living history liaison, Mr. Ron Wilkins of the Journal and Courier, to discuss prospective dates for next year's Civil War encampment and education weekend to be held in early May, 2018.

On Saturday, August 19th we hosted the last installment of the 50/300 program series. Our *Walking Tour of the Ouiatenon Archaeological Preserve* was a smashing success which saw over 75 in attendance, 5 patron level memberships sold, and over \$700.00 in total sales for the day. We set up a shade awning for the comfort of our folk and had a cooler of chilled water bottles to offer free for our guests. Lots of great feedback emanated from professional colleagues present and they were in fact quite jealous of our ability to attract such a large response from the community.

The program department attended the *Celebration of Pork* the evening of Saturday, August 19th hosted by our friends, the staff of the Farm at Prophetstown. It's very educational to see what other sites in the area are doing with their program offerings. Likewise, it never hurts to support

the events our community partners are hard at work producing—kudos to Leslie and Lauren for putting on such a marvelous affair!

During the month we got a lot done in preparation for the Feast, as we sent many postcards to teachers in the area as a reminder it's time again to register for our *Special Kids Day* and the *School Fun Day*. We also got Feast tickets out to our membership which, for those that have done this in the past, requires a small assembly line to sort, fold and load up the dozens of envelopes that carry this small token of appreciation to our loyal base of members we are so very privileged to have.

September 2017

The month began with DJ making a trip to the tailor's and a final meeting to solidify costuming for the Feast and colonial era programs the department has in the works. We think it's important to note that the procurement of these items will facilitate the implementation of hands-on programming in 2018 dedicated to costumed interpretation of the lifeways of the French habitants of Fort Ouiatenon and the surrounding region.

The first weekend of September also saw our team set-up at the downtown Mosey for our annual effort to promote the Feast. A hearty thanks to those staff and board members that made it out. Cheers to you for exhausting yourselves singing the praises of TCHA, the Feast and our upcoming program ambitions.

September 5th marked the first public program delivered by our new programs director, and according to the 300+ students/chaperones present over three days at Ft. Ouiatenon's riverside picnic shelter, things went very well indeed. Our students were part of an annual outdoor program, *Wonders on the Wabash*, and were excited to learn more about the grand history of the river they had just rafted for some four miles. Treated to an animated talk about area Natives and newcomers, we capped off with a lively musket firing demonstration. Needless to say, the folks that contracted our services are most keen to partner with TCHA in all future *Wonders* programs.

This month we also met with our website redesign team and are very pleased with the results so far. We were happy to put this to bed and were most proud of the product they hammered out.

In September we also met with representatives of the local DAR as they prepare to mark the chapter's big anniversary next year. The focus of their work has been to shed light on little-known aspects of Tippecanoe County Black history. They have impressive ambitions and are hopeful TCHA might provide guidance and support.

Weekends were particularly busy this month with a battlefield program for an attentive bunch of Boy Scouts from Indianapolis, TCHA Archaeology Day activities (also at the battlefield and drew some 40-50 visitors) and another installment of Feast promotion at Purdue's Global Fest.

We gave out dozens of Feast brochures at these events and hopefully made a modest contribution to getting the word out regarding our iconic annual festival.

Toward the later part of the month we continued to engage in outreach and program delivery with groups of local high school and elementary pupils. Carolyn O'Connell secured a speaking engagement with a group of seniors connected with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and DJ met with members of a local community group interested in our program initiatives. This specific group was hoping to book DJ as a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting of their organization so this looked quite promising.

The rest of our time was filled to capacity with the work of registering groups for Feast School Days and all the usual rituals of Feast preparation. Since we added the Membership and VIP Marquee we have been busy making arrangements for this as well. Let us just acknowledge how remarkable the work of producing the Feast truly is. Of course you know this, but those new to the experience now see first-hand just how big a task of weaving all this together can be. We sure have new found respect for all the members of TCHA and the legion of volunteers that make this spectacular festival a reality. Please give yourselves a giant pat on the back folks. See you at the FEAST!

October 2017:

The Feast kicked off with two outreach days TCHA offers each year. *Special Kids Day* hosted just over 600 special needs pupils and our *Feast School Day* program attracted many buses and cars bringing just about 3200 kids onto the Feast grounds. Hats off to all those that made this possible and to those that personally manned the registration tent, parked cars, delivered lunch and calmed frayed nerves. It was remarkable just how seamlessly all this came together under the guiding hand of those with a heart for young people and a calling to service.

The weekend after the Feast TCHA hosted a blacksmithing workshop at Fort Ouiatenon Park. Thanks to Kelly and Craig for organizing yet another successful day at the forge. No one died and the blacksmithing guild seemed to enjoy another chance the spread the gospel of the bellows to a new crop of wannabe smithies.

The second week of the month the team attended a DAR event where we connected with some very important programming contacts. We delivered a special battlefield interpretive program for Superintendent Dr. Scott Hanback of the Tippecanoe School Corporation and his distinguished guests--a VIP group of visiting district superintendents. Dr. Hanback sent a most generous thank you letter that left the impression our sessions were the highlight of their day they spent touring cultural sites in the area. The week wrapped up with the Midwest Historical Archeology Conference and reception at the TCHA history center. Again, many thanks to those board members and TCHA colleagues that attended and benefitted from the very informative lectures and sessions the conference sponsored. The Ouiatenon site is a treasure and this event did the

utmost to highlight just how lucky we are to have this remarkable origin story in this part of the state.

November 2017:

November was a busy month for the department. A respectable number of school groups and education programs at the battlefield kept us jumping. What a wonderful thing it is to have these folks at the battlefield during the time of year when those hostilities of long ago actually occurred. We even had a class of students from Warsaw Christian School visit on the anniversary date proper. We are sure the lads on both sides were looking down and pleased to know they have not been forgotten and that there are young people still touring the grounds of their youthful exploits. If there is one thing we as an organization can be proud, it's the continued reverence we have for the sacrifices made of both soldier and warrior brave at Tippecanoe and the dedication we have shown to keeping their memory alive. And speaking of that...

TCHA once again hosted a commemoration affair at the battlefield to mark the November anniversary of the clash. Much thanks to Craig Hadley and Mr. Mike Dotson for handling the details and coordinating volunteers, etc. And, speaking of volunteers, we are grateful for the participation of our living history friend John Wickett. John is simply one of the best living historians in the nation and we are so lucky to have him at the Tippecanoe event a few weeks ago. While many other participants shied from the public and sought the warmth of the indoors, John delivered hourly outdoor demonstrations and engaged our visitors without complaint. That alone makes him a hero, but if you were present that day you would have also been amazed at this man's incredible costumed impression. Good living historians of this time period are hard to come by and John is one of the best. Again, TCHA is very lucky indeed to have someone of his caliber in the local area and more than willing to assist with our mission to educate and commemorate the actions of our noble ancestors of 1811 and beyond.

November the department represented TCHA at the MOMCC (Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council) Fall Conference at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. MOMCC is the regional affiliate of the nationally respected professional museum association ALHFAM (Association of Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums) of which we are a member. The conference ran the gamut of topics relating to museum management and interpretation and was a gathering place for many like-minded folk working to do the same kind of stuff TCHA has been doing for the past nine decades. Of particular interest was the number of sessions or workshops dedicated to foodways study and the implementation of such innovative program initiatives. In 2018 we sincerely hope to delve deeper ourselves into this fascinating realm of museum education. Meeting with others undertaking this work, and inspired by the leadership of such pioneers in the field as Ms. Sandra L. Oliver, we came back to Lafayette even further convinced that our dream of developing an ample foodways curriculum is not only doable but imperative.

December 2017:

December was a short month; nevertheless, we had a few important items to document. The first week we met with a Purdue undergraduate student, Natalie Young, to discuss 2018 programs and volunteer opportunities. The department is working to develop more ties with the university student population and bring in a younger asset team to support programs and events in the coming year. Our recruit is very sharp and we anticipate this connection proves most valuable.

The beginning of the month also found us getting out in the community and serving as a guest speaker for a downtown civic organization. There were a number of undergraduate Purdue students in attendance and at least one, Gytis Kriauciunas, has followed up since to indicate interest in volunteering with the program department this year.

Later in the week we met with members of the local chapter of the NSDAR to follow through on a promise to assist with the association's application to replace a historical marker relating to local Underground Railroad activities. We also met with another stellar volunteer prospect, this time meeting with living historian extraordinaire and the subject of a few lines in last month's report. John Wickett is about as good a program volunteer as the TCHA might ever hope to conscript. Folks need to get to know this incredibly talented young family man. We just cannot say enough about this fine gent.

In the middle of the month the department was asked to speak at the NSDAR annual Christmas gathering. We talked about the historic relationship between our two decades old organizations and the programs that TCHA is expecting to offer next year. The folks there seemed quite receptive to our appeal for support. We also attended a pottery studio opening of TCHA board member, David Hovde. The department is very enthusiastic of his efforts and appreciates his vital work to reproduce colonial era French ceramics. Having David as a local resource and expert cannot be esteemed enough.

MEMBERSHIP

July 2017:

The month began with a membership briefing from our Curator of Collections, Kelly Lippie. Thanks to Kelly for taking DJ under her wing and showing him the ropes. She's had her work cut out and is the model of patience as she helped our "newb" negotiate the varied and challenging path set forth by predecessors, including her. We know DJ had big shoes to fill and worked diligently to cotton on to the process of registering our members both old and new. DJ slowly worked to get the hang of our Past Perfect algorithms and had some success, with Kelly's expert guidance, tackling the numerous membership renewals that flood into TCHA offices that time of year. Kelly coached DJ on all facets of the membership related end of the job and the help was most appreciated.

August 2017:

August was a busy one for the department. We continued to tackle the steady stream of membership renewals that arrive at our offices almost daily. We managed to keep fairly current with the process and kept up with the task at hand. Thanks again to Kelly for her support and guiding hand.

Regarding memberships, the TCHA membership committee chair/ board member Craig Graham and I met to discuss the future of our efforts. Craig is a wonderful sounding board and cheerleader to our crew. We discussed the big plans TCHA had in the 2017 membership drive that began with the Feast. We then brought the full committee together and established a plan to address the anticipated challenges wrought by what was hoped would be a marked increase in membership through the end of the year and into 2018.

Since the membership campaign hinged on an engaging mailer, we worked to assist the Executive Director to put the finishing touches on a brochure we truly hoped all at TCHA would be very proud of. We put images in their proper place, updated verbiage regarding the benefits of becoming a member and came up with supporting elements in design and layout that are, in our humble estimation, most agreeable.

September 2017:

Yet again it's been a very busy few weeks in the department as we continue to tackle the trickle of membership renewals that arrive at our HQ. We are mostly current in the process and keeping up well with the task at hand. Thanks again and again to Kelly for her support and guiding hand.

October 2017:

The month began with the Feast and the implementation of an official TCHA membership and VIP lounge/marquee. I hope the board would agree that our efforts were not without reward and

that this idea was at least modestly successful. As many as 33 memberships of various levels were sold over two days and a fair number of reproduction pewter spoons and challenge coins were sold. Our revenue was over \$2000.00. Much sincere thanks to those board members that volunteered to man the tent and to our colleagues Kelly and Craig for taking a turn at managing the space. Thanks to board president Pete Bill for doing the same. Members and VIPs alike seemed to really appreciate this amenity and we can truly count the tent as official VIP turf since the Consul General and his entourage spent some time relaxing on our luxurious straw bales Saturday afternoon.

Most recently we continued to process membership sales, hone program delivery skills and did some of the last bits of Feast site clean-up to cap this uber-Feast once and for all. We recruited a new blockhouse herb garden volunteer and some of the membership committee met to discuss the subject of the last portion of this report. The following is an outline of the membership campaign you may have heard was coming. The plan is to roll this out in the very near future as you will see below.

Membership Campaign 2017

Our goal is to double our membership by the end of the year. This can only be accomplished with an aggressive multiphase campaign. Here is what we propose:

Phase 1 - Mail Campaign

12,500 mailers to targeted demographics within Tippecanoe County.

- Ages 25 to 75
- College education
- Income of more than 45,000
- With children or grandchildren

Implementation: First week of November

TCHA has never done a comprehensive membership campaign like this before. We do not know the return this will bring; however, we will only know if we try and we need to be aggressive in our membership campaign in order to find out. A side benefit of this mailer campaign is that it will heighten the awareness that TCHA is here and going strong. We strongly recommend that we give this campaign a try in order to gauge its success.

Phase 2 – Facebook Campaign

This will be a broad reaching campaign to not only our more than 3,000 followers on Facebook, but their friends as well. We shall have a banner campaign that will comprise our Facebook outreach with the tagline “At TCHA YOUR Story Matters!” Photographs were taken by Angela

Bruntlett and we will release a new banner each week for 6 weeks. Below is an example of just two of these banners that will include the personal stories of those in the photos.



Implementation: First week of February, 2018

Phase 3 – Digital Marketing Campaign

We have a digital email list of more than 10,000 people within a 100 mile radius of Lafayette that we obtained with our Media Prowler campaign for the Feast this year. That campaign involved sending a newsletter-style email to more than 10,000 individuals. These 10,000 are people who actually clicked and checked out our web site. This phase would entail another professional newsletter-style email sent to these individuals, with a membership pitch as well as a prompt to visit and like our Facebook page.

Implementation – February 2018

We felt that a three-phase multi-pronged approach to the membership campaign was indeed comprehensive and sustainable. We hoped to have a solid idea of how well this campaign did by the end of December. Our next step was to develop an attractive line-up of activities in 2018 in the hopes that it might encourage retention of these new members. We also decided to take a more proactive approach to recruitment by having a membership table at every official TCHA event in 2018.

November 2017:

In November we prepped and then executed the phase one roll-out of the new membership campaign. Thousands of mailers went to targeted individuals and then we held our breath in anticipation. Within a short period we began to see the fruits of our labor and investment. Genuine appraisal would come the following month.

December 2017:

Approximately midway through the month of December we determined enough time had transpired and begin evaluating the outcome of our dedicated membership campaign. By Friday Dec. 15 we had received: 3 individual, 8 senior individual, 0 couple, 12 senior couple, 5 families, and 4 patron level remittance envelopes in the mail. The total came to 32 TCHA annual memberships at various levels. Since then we have seen more envelopes trickle in. As of now we have received a total of 61 new membership applications.

We anticipate a number of new memberships to be purchased once the Facebook and digital campaign phases of the membership drive to begin in February of 2018.

COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT

By Kelly Lippie, Curator of Collections

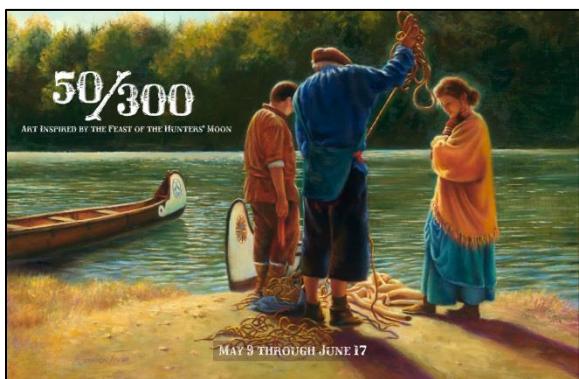
In 2017, TCHA completed one of the largest moves in the organization's history. Over several days during the spring, movers from Herren's Twin City Moving and Storage helped to relocate artifacts that had been stored in the Fowler House for decades. This move included removing artifacts that were still being stored in the Fowler House, as well as material kept in several other off-site locations. The ultimate destination was the new History Center, which will serve as the interim storage location for these artifacts until TCHA constructs a permanent county history museum. These artifacts included everything from doll shoes to a grandfather clock and passenger pigeon bones to cast iron stoves. Once the items were moved to interim storage, they were arranged for maximum efficiency in the space and covered to protect them from dust.



For April, we worked with the Program and Membership Director to set up for the Great Gatsby Gala by preparing exhibits of 1920s artifacts from the TCHA permanent collection and coordinating with other collectors to showcase their material.



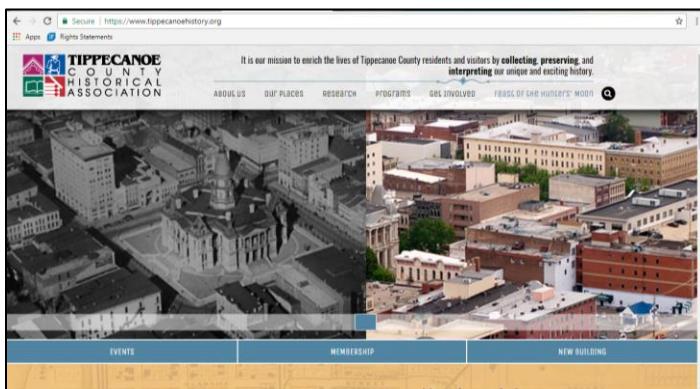
Early in the year, we began collaborating with the staff of the Fountain Gallery, a part of the Purdue Galleries, to host the juried art show 50 / 300: Art Inspired by the Feast of the Hunters' Moon. This show ran from May 9 to June 17 and was one of the most attended shows in the Fountain Gallery's history. This juried art show featured works of art by local artists that captured the spirit and inspiration of the Feast. TCHA also included Feast memorabilia and artifacts from excavations at Fort Ouiatenon to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Feast and the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon.



"Tangled Lines" by Kimlien Tran

At the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, a major cleaning project was undertaken during the winter to clean the firearm display, as well as the other display cases in the museum. New exhibits were installed in the rotating exhibit cases in the museum. For 5 weeks during the summer, we borrowed the Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit "Indiana Through the Mapmakers Eye."

During 2017, both the Program and Membership Director and the Curator of Collections worked together to design and revise the TCHA website, located at www.tippecanoehistory.org. This new revision allows visitors to read a monthly blog post, view highlights from the collection, buy a membership and search our library and archives. Content is still being added, so visit often to see how it develops.



During the summer, TCHA hosted two interns in the Collections Department. Purdue student Mackenzie Glenn and recent Purdue graduate, Kathryn Math, worked on projects in the archives and with artifacts that gave them a wide range of experiences working in a museum collection. They cataloged works of art and processed archival collections. Thanks to their help, we have many more resources available in our computer database system.



Mackenzie Glenn



Kathryn Math

The Collections Department collaborated with other non-profit organizations in 2017 to meet our mission and to make our collection available to a wider audience. In the spring, TCHA loaned several artifacts and posters for a World War I exhibit at the Ohio History Center. The curator and several collections volunteers visited the J. H. Rathbone Museum and Resource Center in Lafayette to learn about their mission, collection and resources. The education/ program committee for the Morris School House in West Lafayette has met at the Arganbright Genealogy Center to discuss topics and plans for interpretation of the recently moved historic building. A college group studying the Potawatomi Trail of Death was in during September to view selections from the George Winter collection.

TCHA also hosted a behind-the-scenes tour for Tippecanoe Township Trustees . We invited all trustees to come learn about TCHA resources and encourage them to share their resources with us. This is the first in a series of such events we plan to have in order to build relationships with government agencies.

In the fall of 2017, the Haan Mansion Museum of Indiana Art visited the Arganbright Genealogy Center to view quilts in the collection and arrange for a loan of 10 quilts for an exhibit in the spring of 2018. TCHA is also coordinating with Masonic Lodge 123 for the loan of several items to display in the new History Center, telling the story of the building's history as a home for the local Freemasons.

In the spring, the TCHA curator attended a textile workshop held by AASLH (American Assoc. for State and Local History) at the Indiana Historical Society. The workshop included training in textile storage methods, mannequin dressing, fiber identification methods, wet cleaning techniques and a visit to the Indiana State Museum's textile storage and conservation lab. In the

fall, the curator attended a copyright basics workshop at the Indiana State Library to better understand copyright and public domain material in historical collections.

Several Purdue classes utilized the library and archives in the fall of 2017. To prepare for their research, the classes were given behind-the-scenes tours of the collections and introduced to research procedures by TCHA. One class was visited by the curator, to hear a presentation about TCHA resources available to them. These students were also given coupons good for one free library visit, to help encourage their research now or in the near future.

A large amount of the permanent collection is still stored at the Arganbright Genealogy Center. In 2017, work was continued to improve the storage environment and to address issues inherent in an aging building. Reliable Exterminators gave an assessment of Arganbright Genealogy Center and helped to troubleshoot potential rodent and pest issues. A leaky window in the library was finally closed up to prevent further leaks and potential water damage. Work to the exterior to improve the roof condition and to remove tree branches will also ensure the security of the building and decrease the potential for damage. A generous donation in 2017 allowed for the purchase of new tables and chairs in the research library. This new furniture increased the flexibility and use of the space. Old tables were donated to Durgan Elementary School. Old, unused book carts were donated to the Book Cycle program.

Volunteers continue to be the driving force for work in the collections department. Their work to process archives, catalog artifacts, scan images and create inventories greatly increases the accessibility of the collections. The Collections Committee, a group of volunteers, reviews all potential donations to the collections and considers the materials' relevance, condition and importance before deciding to keep it for TCHA.

Sometimes, groups approach TCHA looking for a group service project that will help the community. The Purdue Women's Club-Genealogy worked in January for their annual service project. They were given a tour and overview of the resources and mission of TCHA. Then they assisted in filling out catalog worksheets for shoes in the collection.

The Collections Department also spearheads exhibits for TCHA. In 2017, we created three new exhibits in the temporary display cases at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum. These cases helped to expand the story of the battlefield and military history. TCHA also maintains exhibit cases at the Arganbright Genealogy Center. This year we continued to exhibit World War I material, medical equipment, Feast of the Hunters' Moon artifacts, and toys.

Exhibit planning continues for the History Center. TCHA is working with Taylor Studios to create a small exhibit experience for the History Center that will highlight important eras in Tippecanoe County history and give TCHA the chance to showcase some of its photograph and artifact collection. The Curator of Collections traveled with the other exhibit team members to Taylor Studios' headquarters in Illinois for an in-depth planning session and visit to their

fabrication studio. Much of the latter part of 2017 was devoted to writing text and selecting images and artifacts to use in the exhibit.

For 2018, the Collections Department will continue to work on current projects that catalog and process the backlog of accessioned material. This will utilize the skills of volunteers and interns throughout the year. Special focus will be placed on the backlog of material in the “vault” of the Arganbright Genealogy Center and on the textile collections.

The Collections Committee began reviewing the TCHA Collections Policy. Revisions have been made and will be reviewed again before Board of Governor approval in 2018. TCHA has also been exploring the potential of Past Perfect Online, which would take the current database system and make much of it available to researchers via the TCHA website. This project’s budget has been approved and the program should be implemented by the summer.

2017 Year-end Statistics

81 new Accessions in 2017 (401 “Found in Collections” items added to catalog records)

2,375 items cataloged in Past Perfect database system in 2017

- 537 Objects, 689 Photographs, 126 Archive items, 1,023 library books

Donors to the Permanent Collection; Accessedion in 2017

Wayne Applegate	Margo Finney	James O’Neil II
Kathy Atwell	Sheila Garrett	Mariellen Neudeck
Anonymous	Craig Graham	Pat Pedigo
Colby Bartlett	Jackie Griffin	RamZs Emporium
Joseph Bartlett	Charles Gullion	Gregory Ray
Martha Bell	William Hanger	Quentin & Camilla Robinson
Shirley & Michael Benham	William Hazelbaker	Marsha Selmer
Robert & Lorita Bill	Keith & Katherine Hiser	Van & Lynne Sherry
Linda Bradley	The History Museum, South Bend	Mary Springer
Garrett Bridge	Giselle Hornsby	Ron Strausbaugh
Dale and Toni Butcher	C.A. “Doc” Johnson	Cynthia Stiehl
Susan Clawson	The Journal and Courier	Cynthia Sweet
Lou Ann Clugh	Melissa Keller	Norman Swift
Kenneth & Mary Lou Curtis	Jack Korty	Cynthia Swope
Brent Dickson & Jan Aikman	Harry and Charlotte Martin	TIPCOA
Malcolm & Deidra Duncan	Terry Masterson	Robert & Patricia Tuitt
Ed and Sue Eiler	George McMurtry	Joyce & Richard Wiegand
Nancy Eldridge	Ron Needham	Kathryn Wilson

GENEALOGY AND LIBRARY REPORT

By L.A. Clugh, Librarian

In the Alameda McCollough Research Library, we have wonderful volunteers working on projects as well as helping anyone who comes in to research. Be it house research, business, or families, our volunteers bring their dedicated work experience with them. Several volunteers who grew up here in the Lafayette area know most areas of Tippecanoe County pretty well. Below is some of what we have finished this year or are very close to finishing.

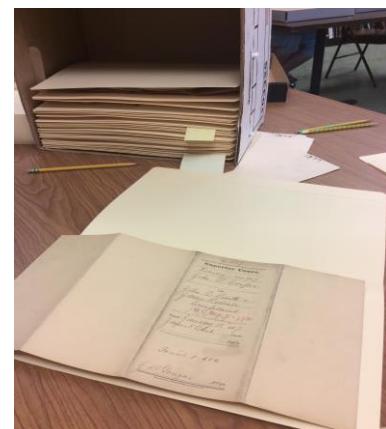
Our complete books inventory is almost finished being entered into Past Perfect

- More original court cases
- 1880 Plat books indexed and digitized
- Twelve boxes of original deeds indexed
- Estate and guardianship from 1825 to 1960 are being re-indexed
- Re-indexing the Declarations & Naturalization books and papers have turned up many corrections

We are almost done sorting the loose papers from the Courthouse attic

Members of the Tippecanoe County Genealogy Society are finishing their project of early Poor Relief with dates from 1820 to 1860. This database brings us many new names of people who died before birth and death records were available in the state. This will provide answers for many still looking for their lost family members.

Another project we've started to index is the early Coroner's inquest receipts beginning in the 1830s. Each box we clean brings together pieces of events through payments of our county treasurers' checks, jurors' receipts and other payments to vendors invoices, such as coffin receipts and more. As we sort each box, we are finding multiple sources for the same person or event. Each piece brings new information to someone's story. Each finished index helps us too.



Cleaning and processing TCHA records from the Tippecanoe County Courthouse attic.

New subscriptions in our library last fall were purchased by the Tippecanoe County Genealogy Society. Findmypast.com & Newspapers.com are wonderful additions for newspaper research. Newspapers.com's digital newspapers have Lafayette newspapers beginning in 1920 to the present. We are also experienced with Ancestry.com and others. Come in and let us show you how we can help your research.

We've helped many Purdue students using our library this fall. They bring us new challenges to research, and we have enjoyed that. The Archives and Library staff held our first open house for the Tippecanoe County Township trustees this year. Hopefully we will continue this again. I look forward to holding a few other open houses this year too. We will place them on our new website as well as our Facebook pages. Come in and join us and let us show you our collections.

We thank all our volunteers and patrons for supporting TCHA through giving of your time, history donations and your memberships.

OUIATENON PRESERVE REPORT

By Colby Bartlett, Committee Chair

On the occasion of the 300th anniversary year of the establishment of Fort Ouiatenon and the 50th Feast of the Hunters Moon as a public event, I am proud to report that great progress has been made in the creation and development of the Ouiatenon Preserve- a Roy Whistler Foundation Project and an Archaeological Conservancy research preserve. Over the last 5 years we have raised over \$1.2 million to protect approximately 210 acres that includes the site of the original fort and over a dozen related sites that surrounded it, including what is thought to be the remain of the Kickapoo and Mascoutan villages. In terms of the number of sites eligible for the National Registry, it is believed to be the largest archeological preserve east of the Mississippi River.

- Thanks to funding from the Roy Whistler Foundation, the development of the overlook has largely been completed. Landscaping and signage will be installed this Spring. The overlook will serve as a parking area, overlook and interpretive area for visitors to the Preserve. Eventually it will also serve as the entrance to the pedestrian trail that will allow visitors to access the preserve and visit the site of the Fort.
- The first two public tours of the Preserve were offered this year. The first, in September, was a part of our 50/300th series of programs. This tour was free and open to both TCHA members and the general public. Approximately 70 attended this event, some traveling from as far as Chicago and Indianapolis. The tour was led by TCHA VP and Ouiatenon Preserve Chair-Colby Bartlett ,TCHA Board Member Del Bartlett and archeologist Prof. Michael Strezewski also provided talks on aspects of the Fort and its archaeology. The second tour was a part of the 2017 annual Midwest Historic Archaeology Conference that was held at Purdue University and co-hosted by Purdue and TCHA. The focus of the conference was Fort Ouiatenon. This was the first time an archaeology conference has been hosted at Purdue and the first time Ouiatenon was the focus of a conference.
- Consul General of France, Guillaume Lacroix, who attended the 50th Feast as the guest of honor, was briefed during his visit on the development of the Ouiatenon Preserve and the Purdue Capstone projects to digitally recreate the Fort for interpretation. He was very impressed with both and is planning a trip in the Spring to visit the Preserve. Discussion are also continuing that may lead to collaborations between the Ministry of Culture of France and Universities in France that may result in future collaborations in research.
- Through the generosity of the Roy Whistler Foundation, we were able add a 3.14 acre tract to the Preserve. This tract which bordered the Preserve and South River Road was an important acquisition and will help to maintain the wooded buffer zone between the road and the Preserve.
- Prof. Michael Strezewski -University of Southern Indiana, with funding from the National Park Service's- American Battlefield Protection Program, completed additional

collection and analysis using remote sensing technology using Protonmagnetometry and soil resistivity. The results were very encouraging and indicate the presence of significant features in areas now included in the Preserve. We are currently working with Prof. Strezeweski to put together a project for this year (2018) that would involve limited test excavations to further identify and date these features.

- While we had hoped to begin the process of restoring some of the agricultural fields to a bottomland prairie this year. Uncertainties on the availability if funding from the Federal CRP program have delayed this. We are now looking at plans for early 2019 to begin this work.
- For 2018, we are finally at a point that we will be holding a formal dedication ceremony for the Preserve. This will take place on Saturday, May 19th at 11:00 AM.