

2018 TIPPECANOE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT PART 1



Tippecanoe County Historical Association
1001 SOUTH STREET, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA 47901

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TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION STAFF

Craig Hadley
Executive Director

Kelly Lippie
Curator of Collections

Megan Lee
Membership & Facilities Director

Kristin Krzic
Director of Programs

Leslie Martin Conwell
Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager

Rick Conwell
Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

Laura Smyser
Tippecanoe Battlefield Assistant Manager

L.A. Clugh
Volunteer Librarian

Andrea Kane
Accountant

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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

Greetings members of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association

I am pleased to report that 2018 has brought great changes for your Association. The opening of the TCHA History Center has firmly established a highly visible footprint in downtown Lafayette. We look forward to using the History Center as a platform to launch our greatly expanded history-centered programs and extend our reach into the Tippecanoe County community. Our dedication of the Ouiatenon Preserve helps not only to continue to preserve the original Ouiatenon site, but to make it more accessible to the public so they can learn about Ouiatenon beyond the Blockhouse.

Financially we increased the endowment funds that provide a permanent core of untouchable principle that will generate annual dollars that will be used to support TCHA operations. This, and a stronger recruitment of grants and external funding for specific projects and infrastructure development, has put TCHA in a continually stronger financial state. Fiscal oversight remains the foremost priority for the TCHA Board going forward.

This evening you'll hear about the progress our Executive Director and the excellent TCHA staff have made in pushing the Association forward, as well as the exciting plans for 2019. As always, we invite you, our valuable members, to participate to help on committees, attend Board meetings if you wish, volunteer for projects, and provide input and constructive suggestions on how we can best 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, appearing to read "Pete Bill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pete Bill

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Prepared by Craig Hadley, Executive Director

2018 was an eventful year filled with progress and challenges. Here are some of the major highlights and challenges we faced in 2018.

The History Center

The complete renovation of the 51 year-old Masonic Lodge building into the new History Center took place in earnest for most of 2018. The structure is 90% completed, but fully operational for the busy 2019 season with dozens of new programs and events to take place within it. A complete and separate extensive report on the History Center project will be completed and made available for review once the final stages of the project are completed. The majority of the remaining work is confined to the auditorium, though a total roof replacement is also needed within the next year.

However, here is a list of some of the renovations that took place in 2018:

- Complete gutting and replacement of three bathrooms with all new fixtures, floor plans, flooring and paint to make them ADA accessible.
- Dry-walling and paint over the concrete block walls in the main foyer and banquet room.
- Complete floor replacement in the banquet room and the auditorium foyer.
- Kitchen overhaul that included a new hood and fire-suppression system, new commercial refrigerator, new commercial freezer, and complete cleaning and maintenance to all existing ovens, stoves and griddle.
- All new interior and exterior doors.
- All new windows on the Columbia and 6th Street sides of the building.
- Jack-hammering of concrete removal of step and lowering and replacement of auditorium exit door to make it ADA accessible.
- Replacement of all chandeliers in the auditorium.
- Replacement of all ceiling fans in auditorium.
- Installation of a digital camera system for the auditorium.
- Installation of a large film screen in auditorium.
- Removal of 50 theater chairs in auditorium.
- The re-upholstering of remaining 50 auditorium chairs.
- Carpeting of the vinyl riser on both side-walls for the auditorium chairs.
- Complete lowering of elevation and removal of grass at 6th Street entrance and replacement with a brick patio and rail system making that area ADA accessible.
- New exterior signage.
- Installation of two faux historic looking street lamps on the new patio on 6th Street.
- Up-grading and replacement of electrical fuse boxes and up-grading of some electrical systems.
- Installation of a large wall mural on three walls in the foyer.

- Installation of dark fiber-optic cable for high speed internet and direct connection to the Arganbright Library and the TCHA network.
- Installation of commercial Wi-Fi nodules throughout the building.
- Installation of an alarm system.
- Installation of an interior and exterior security camera system.
- Installation of new phone system.
- Outfitting a complete office for the Programs Director and the Membership/Facilities Director.

We anticipate completing the remaining work at the History Center in 2019 if we can find enough sponsorships and grants to cover the costs.

Tippecanoe Arts Federation Offices

At the beginning of the year TCHA made available to the Tippecanoe Arts Foundation (TAF) a small office space with complete internet access to act as temporary offices for TAF while their building is being renovated. Being good neighbors and considering the generosity TAF has shown TCHA over the years, we are only charging them a token \$100 a month. They are also using the History Center for programming space and meetings while their building is under construction. We have a joint calendar with TAF so there are no conflicts and it is understood that TCHA programs and events take priority. TAF will continue to use this space until they move back into their newly renovated building sometime in May or June of this year.

The Blockhouse

The Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse was in terrible need of examination and repair. To better assess the stability of the 88-year-old structure, TCHA, in partnership with the Tippecanoe County Park & Recreation Department, commissioned a preservation report and survey of the structure from Ratio Design Company out of Indianapolis. Their extensive report concluded that while the overall structure was sound, there were certainly urgent needs and repairs that needed to be done in order to ensure the long-term stability and preservation of the Blockhouse.

The most immediate needs were a complete roof replacement, repair of the firebox, and re-pointing of the chimney and chinking. On the roof replacement, a decision needed to be made as to the materials we should use for it. Instead of trying to replace the roof with another cedar shake roof, it was decided that the roof should reflect historically what was originally put on the roof in 1930 when it was constructed. Based on photographs we decided to copy the original roof with a type of modern roofing tile that was colored to reflect a wood appearance.



We received a generous \$17,222 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette to cover the complete costs of the roof replacement, the firebox repairs and the re-pointing of the chimney and chinking. The work was completed in May of 2018 by T.L. Kincaid Construction.

Chemical analysis showed that the logs the cabin is constructed out of are white cedar, which is a very resilient wood. This would explain how the wood logs have withstood the test of time so well. However, there is still evidence of carpenter ant damage and it was recommended that a type of chemical preservative coating be applied to the logs to help them maintain integrity. We are currently exploring what options we have available for this stage of the project as well as cost. The Blockhouse has become a cultural icon in the community after so many decades and the centerpiece for the 52 year-old *Feast of the Hunters' Moon* festival. It is a historic landmark in itself, even if it is not an 18th century structure or even a proper representation of what Fort Ouiaatenon would have looked like. We anticipate with proper maintenance the building will continue to be enjoyed by the community for decades to come.

Arganbright Library

In 2018 we continued our progress of up-grading our infrastructure there. This included the following:

- Replacement of internet systems and poor Wi-Fi service with Wintek's dark fiber-optic cable and installation of a state-of-the-art commercial Wi-Fi system with high-performance nodes throughout the building. This included both a fire-walled Wi-Fi system for access to our servers and a free guest Wi-Fi service that was insulated from our servers.
- Replacement of some older computers.
- Replacement of our aging copier and printer machine.

In July our roof-top air conditioning system completely failed. This controlled the environment on the second floor and the hot and humid temperatures threatened the stability of our collections and ephemera stored on that floor. Through a generous grant that was rapidly approved by the

Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette we were able to replace this roof-top system quickly. This was not an inexpensive fix as it took a crane to remove the old system and install the new one.

We will continue to work on the infrastructure system at Arganbright as we continue to up-grade our computers and other vital systems there.

4th Grade Diversity Pilot Program

In February of 2018 we tested a new pilot program on African-American history in Tippecanoe County entitled: “*Fighting for Freedom – African-Americans in Tippecanoe County and the Civil War.*” The program was sponsored by the City of Lafayette. Working with the Long Center and the Tippecanoe School Corporation we brought in four of the best historical interpretive educators in the country to present this program to 456 4th grade students.

The students arrived in smaller groups for four programs over two days. They all received as a single group a basic orientation on the Underground Railroad in Tippecanoe County. They were then broken up into four smaller groups where they rotated to each of the four stations over the course of 90 minutes. These stations were:

1. An escaped enslaved woman working her way to the Underground Railroad haven.
2. A young African-American man representing one of the 7 African-Americans from Tippecanoe County that enlisted in the United States Colored Troops and fought at the Battle of the Crater in Virginia.
3. A white Indiana Abolitionist and what did that mean and what risks did that entail?
4. An African-American musician (4-time Grammy nominee Cedric Watson) illustrating with his primitive banjo the influence of African and African-American music on the American songbook.

Lesson plan materials were hand delivered to each of the participating classrooms with the Tippecanoe School Corporation and an extensive survey and post-event meeting with the teachers took place to evaluate the success of the program.



Comments were overwhelmingly positive and based on the amazing feedback and the press coverage of the event, it was decided to move forward with a full-scale program in February of 2019.

We have already booked approximately 2,000 4th grade students from around Tippecanoe County for this program and we are bringing back the same interpreters from last year. The program is free to all 4th graders and as sponsors for the 2019 program we have the City of Lafayette, the City of West Lafayette, and the Tippecanoe County Commissioners.

The program this year will take place entirely at the Long Center on Tuesday, February 19th and Wednesday, February 20th with a public version of the program the night of Tuesday the 19th and a special fundraising concert with Cedric Watson at the Long Center on Wednesday, February 20th. We hope that this exciting and innovative program on local county history and diversity will become a yearly event.

Swingtime: World War II Big Band Swing Dance Gala

In April of 2018 TCHA held its second annual Spring Gala. The theme for 2018 was a World War II Big Band Swing Dance. It was held in the History Center, which was still under extensive renovation, but we wanted to show the building off to our members. The event sold out and for entertainment we had the Lafayette Swing Band as well as the Victory Belles, an Andrews Sisters group that is the official ambassador for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Food and drink were provided by Outpost Catering.





A great time was had by all and the event was a big success.

Fundraising

Here is a brief breakdown of the fundraising efforts as it relates to both grants and sponsorships in 2018;

GRANT INCOME FOR 2018 = \$78,141.75

- North Central Health Services = \$30,919.75 = History Center ADA compliance work.
- Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette = \$17,222 = Blockhouse roof replacement & chimney repairs.
- Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette = \$12,500 for History Center renovation.
- Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette = \$10,000 for Feast of the Hunters' Moon marketing.
- Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette = \$7,500 = Arganbright roof air conditioning unit replacement.

PROJECT SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2018 = \$32,500

- City of Lafayette = \$32,500 for the History Center renovations

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2018 = \$37,623.41

- City of Lafayette = \$13,123.41.
- City of West Lafayette = \$10,000.
- Seafoam Sales Company = \$3,500.
- Wabash National = \$3500.
- Theime & Adair Accounting = \$2,000.
- National Group = \$2,000.
- T.L. Kincaid Construction = \$2,000.
- Underwood Insurance Agency = \$1,000.
- Tucker Insurance = \$500.

GOODS & SERVICES DONATED FOR 2018 = \$42,000

- Wintek, Inc. = \$40,000: Installation of dark fiber-optic cable between the Arganbright Library and the History Center, installation of commercial Wi-Fi systems in both buildings and free internet service.
- \$2,000: For free gala event promotional web site.

TOTAL MONIES RAISED FROM GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS & IN-KIND DONATIONS = \$190,265.16

The following chapters in this report will outline in more detail each department's accomplishments in 2018.

Ouiatenon Preserve Report

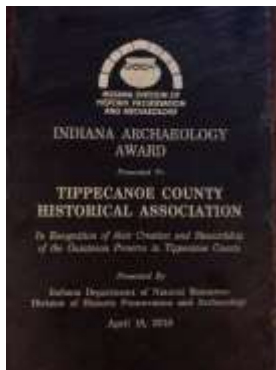
Prepared by Colby Bartlett

Chair of the Ouiatenon Preserve Committee, Board of Governors

The Ouiatenon Preserve- A Roy Whistler Foundation Project is jointly owned by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and The Archaeological Conservancy. It is both an archaeological preserve and nature preserve and was established in 2016. It comprises approximately 225 acres along the Wabash River and contains the site of Fort Ouiatenon along with over 20 other sites related to the Fort and the Native American villages near it. The creation of the Preserve was funded by The Roy Whistler Foundation, the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust, and the Indiana Heritage Trust. It is a designated Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project and received the Indiana DNR Archaeology Award in 2018.

The early part of 2018 was occupied with punch list items from the late 2017 development of the “Overlook” property. This area serves as the public entrance for the Preserve. This included the cultivation of many acres of newly planted grass. Fortunately it was a wet spring.

In the early spring, we contracted to have a row of trees planted along the east and west boundaries of the Overlook, which will aid in screening the adjacent houses. In addition, a large landscaped planting bed was also created that will serve as the location for an entrance sign. Currently we are soliciting quotes for this sign and plan to have it installed at the earliest opportunity this spring. Selected trees were also removed from an area in the Preserve, below the Overlook, to allow for line of sight between the Overlook and the site of the Fort.



In February, TCHA was notified by the Indiana State Archaeologist that TCHA, along with TAC and RWF, would receive the 2018 Indiana Archaeology Award for our work in creating the Ouiatenon Preserve. In April, Colby Bartlett accepted this award for TCHA at the annual Indiana Statewide Historic Preservation Conference which was held in Columbus, Indiana. Representatives from RWF and TAC also attended to receive this award for their organizations.

While the Preserve was officially created and announced to the public in 2016, we had yet to hold a formal dedication ceremony, as we were waiting until the Overlook property had been developed. On May 19th over 100 guests gathered to hold this dedication, which was hosted by TCHA.

Honored guests and speakers included representatives from the Archaeological Conservancy, Roy Whistler Foundation, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana’s State Legislature, Tippecanoe County, the City of Lafayette and the City of West Lafayette. Performances were conducted by the Tippecanoe Ancient Fife and Drum Corps and the 42nd Royal Highlanders Band of Music. Consul General Lacroix of France sent a special letter of congratulations which was read. A plaque was presented by TCHA to the family of Larry Chowning, in honor of his early work and contributions to Ouiatenon research. Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski presented TCHA Governor and past President, Joseph “Del” Bartlett,

with the city's highest honor, the Marquis de Lafayette Award, for his over 50 years of work and efforts to locate, research and preserve the site of Ouiatenon. Diane Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, performed the official ribbon cutting which was followed by a volley of musket fire and additional music performances. This event marked the culmination of a 5 year effort which raised over \$1.2 million to preserve over 200 acres that includes among the most important archaeological resources in the State of Indiana, while also restoring critical environmental habitat along the Wabash River.



Weekly mowing and landscaping maintenance was conducted at the Overlook throughout the spring, summer and fall.

In order to address the needs and goals of restoring the over 180 acres of agricultural fields within the Preserve, and protect the archaeological resources, TCHA and The Archaeological Conservancy enrolled 100 acres into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the fall of 2018. This is a program under the USDA's Federal CRP program that with additional State support, strategically targets environmentally critical areas for conservation and restoration.

As a part of this process, TCHA and TAC agreed that it would be beneficial to create a new and independent 501c3 organization that will be the operating entity for the Preserve that is responsible for installing the CREP practice, and the development, maintenance and operation of the Preserve. This new entity is named Ouiatenon Preserve Inc. (OPI) and its Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from TCHA, TAC, and the Roy Whistler Foundation.

OPI has developed a strategic plan for 2019 which includes the CREP installation of approx. 100 acres to create a managed lowland grass prairie, development and installation of interpretive signage, and the installation of a camera system that will protect and allow for monitoring of activity at the Preserve.

Anticipated plans for 2020-21 include restoration of the remaining agricultural field and the development of a pedestrian trail through the Preserve along with additional interpretation.

There are discussions ongoing with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to explore the coordinated development of a NAGPRA repatriation and reburial area. There is currently a need for such in this part of our State and many remains have been found over the years in the area of Ouiatenon. We are exploring the possibility of including an area for this at the Overlook.

There are discussions with the University of Southern Indiana and Purdue University that may lead to a joint archaeology project in the summer of 2020, that would explore some very interesting archaeological features discovered in 2017 during the remote sensing survey that was funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by John Theime, Treasurer – Board of Governors

This is a summary of the financial health of the association.

Major financial highlights for 2018:

- Revenues and investment income of \$ 905,589
- Expenses and investment fees of \$ 869,049
- Net Surplus of \$ 36,540

Building improvements to the following facilities:

- History Center renovations \$ 377,490.92
- Building improvements at the Blockhouse \$ 17,222.00
- Feast barn improvements \$ 7,920.00
- Frank Arganbright Library improvements \$ 9,828.00

The major financial challenge of 2018 was surviving the financial impact of a Feast with the worst weather in recent times. Total Feast revenue declined \$ 115,548.90.

Fortunately 2017 was a record Feast and the board set aside \$ 80,000.00 for a rainy day Feast fund. We would have liked to hold on to those monies for several more years.

As of December 31, 2018:

- Total assets were \$ 3,800,789 This includes investments of \$ 1,487,981
- Total liabilities were \$7,638
- Total fund balances \$ 3,793,151

Investments of \$ 1,487,981 are as follows:

- TCHA Trust \$ 1,103,812
- Community Foundation Trust \$ 28,268
- Wetherill Trust \$ 355,901

Collections Department Report

Prepared by Kelly Lippie, Curator of Collections

In early 2018, TCHA launched the new Past Perfect Online module in which the Association can post cataloged collection material to the website. This allows researchers to find photographs, archival records, books and artifacts in the TCHA collection from the website or when doing a Google search. Throughout the year, more and more records were added to the online catalog and will continue to be added as more data is entered.

An updated Collections Policy was drafted and approved by the Board of Governors in 2018.



Dr. William Sholty's medical case

The new policy included a revision to the research policy and fees, which went into effect over the summer. This amended policy clarifies the process by which new materials are accepted into the permanent collection and the procedures for donations and deaccessions.

In 2018, 116 new accessions were created. The donated materials ranged from archival collections to photographs to clothing to historic weapons. Additions were also made to the TCHA digital archive, which stores digital scans of original material. In the spring, TCHA partnered with the Tippecanoe County Area Genealogy Society to visit Buck Creek for a community scanning night. The scans created at the event were added to the TCHA digital archive.

2018 Donors to the TCHA Permanent Collection:

Rebecca Acree	Frankfort Community Public Library	Quentin and Camilla Robinson
Michael Anderson	Jeffery Gentry	Joseph Rees
Mary Anthrop	Walter & Eileen Griffin	Gregory Seiters
Debbie Babcock	Mark Griffith	Alvin Schaut
Sharon Baker	Charles Gullion	Van and Lynne Sherry
Peter Barr	Linda Harrell	Chad Sidesinger
Esther Best	John Henk	Jeffry Smith
Robert and Lorita Bill	Randall Hess	Kathie Stevens
Edward Bogan	Katherine and Keith Hiser	Lavonne Summers
Dave Broshears	David and Marjorie Hovde	Suzanne Swick
Toni and Dale Butcher	Huntington Bank	Tippecanoe County Commissioners
Cherrie Butz	James Kite	Tippecanoe County Public Library
Sue Caldwell	Michael Lehmann	Tipton County Historical Society
Georgann Carpenter	Jean Macy	Patricia and Robert Truitt
Randy Cohee	Marion Public Library and Museum	James Turley
H. Kory Cooper	Donna Marvel	James Werner

Lois Curtis- Bamberga	Robert and Jill May	Joyce and Richard Wiegand
Douglas Davis	McFaddin- Ward Historic House Museum	David Wilensky
Joyce Davis	Rabindra Mukerjea	Edward Woerner
Nancy Doyle	Margo O'Dell	Carole Wolever
Betsy Lee Duncan	Ohio History Connection	Patricia Wood
Peggy Eckhart	Sharron Parker	Linda Yost
Alan Felix	Rose Mary and Evan Patrick	Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette
David Ferguson	Kyle Puetz	
C. P. Fleener	Larry Rose	

In accordance with the revised collections policy, TCHA renewed several outstanding loans of artifacts to other institutions. Out-going loans currently include material to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Five Points Fire Station Museum, Duncan Hall, and The Museum of the Soldier. A loan of quilts was made to the Haan Mansion Museum of Indiana Art and returned at the end of the exhibition. A loan made to the 1852 Foundation was also returned in 2018. There were two new incoming loans to the Association including that of Masonic Lodge No. 123 material currently on exhibit at the History Center and an historic firearm on long-term loan to the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum.

Several exhibits were created in 2018 to showcase the TCHA permanent collection. The temporary exhibit cases at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum were changed to exhibit powder horns, uniform hats and helmets, and World War I artifacts. A free traveling exhibit loaned from the Indiana Historical Society was installed for five weeks at the Tippecanoe Battlefield called *Freedom: A History of Us*. A musket is currently on long-term loan for exhibit at the Battlefield museum, which helps illustrate the weaponry available to the U.S. forces during the battle.

Planning continues for an exhibit space at the new TCHA History Center, which will include images and artifacts from the permanent collection. Until the exhibit can be installed, smaller exhibit experiences are being offered at the History Center. Items on loan from the Masonic



TCHA History display at The History Center

Lodge are currently on loan to be exhibited in a wall display case. This exhibit will continue as long as the loan is renewed. Display cases were purchased from a local retailer and refurbished. These cases were installed at the History Center and are exhibiting material from the history of the Association in honor of the 90th anniversary. To compliment the exhibit cases, photographs were selected from the permanent collection and scanned to create a mural. This mural, designed by Speed Pro Imaging, was installed in the entrance lobby. Exhibit panels used in the Century on the Wabash exhibit and more recently on display at the Tippecanoe County Mall were returned to TCHA in early 2018. These panels will be displayed, when possible, at the History Center. Special exhibits were also set up at the History Center for the Swingtime Gala in the spring and a photographic

slideshow was created of historic TCHA images for the 90th anniversary event.

To help the West Lafayette Public Library illustrate the theme for this fall's "One Great Read," TCHA installed a display of French cultural artifacts from Fort Ouiatenon. This exhibit was on display for one month.

To increase communication between volunteers and staff within the collections department, a new monthly department meeting was instituted. This offers all volunteers the opportunity to meet and discuss projects and plans for the collections of TCHA. A 2- year strategic plan has also been developed to help focus project work for the collections staff and volunteers. This plan lists goals that should be completed from 2019 to 2021 and actions that can be taken to achieve these goals. This will help to identify projects for new volunteers and interns.



Wabash Valley Trust's
Highland Park tour



Wabash Weavers Guild
Retreat

In 2018, TCHA's Collections Department participated in outreach activities that promoted and educated about the permanent collection. The Curator of Collections and Library Coordinator visited the Trinity United Methodist Church archives to offer advice and to gain knowledge of the resources available at the church. A meeting was held with faculty from the Purdue Anthropology Department to discuss ways students can work with TCHA in the future to complete internship projects, primarily with the Fort Ouiatenon archaeology collection. A group re-tracing the Potawatomi Trail of Death made a special visit to the Arganbright Center to view a selection of George Winter watercolors depicting the Potawatomi people of Indiana. The Curator also did a presentation for the Daughters of the American Revolution, General Lafayette Chapter about the George Winter collection of art at TCHA. A visit was made to the Wabash Weavers Guild retreat to talk about coverlet weavers in Tippecanoe County and to show some examples from the TCHA collection. The Curator also met with several other organizations in the community to discuss the Wabash Avenue Mural Project and to supply oral history interviews to the artists for inspiration. Over the summer, TCHA displayed an historic bicycle from the collection at the Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation's bike tour of Highland Park.

Collection volunteers continue to be an important force in caring for the collection and in helping researchers. In 2018, the Purdue Women's Club visited on several occasions to assist in cleaning historic documents that had been covered with coal dust. Internships were completed in the archives, making more archival collections available for researchers. Hundreds of photographs have been cataloged and scanned to the Past Perfect database, which also adds them to the online module available to anyone to research. Cataloging projects were begun in the shoes, hats and porcelain artifact collections. A greater effort has been



Margaret J. Erisman's
A.A.O. medal

made to include archival collections in searches when genealogy or local history researchers visit the library. The number of archival collections pulled for researchers has increased.

Social media has been utilized by the Collections Department to increase the awareness of the collection. Posts are regularly made to Twitter and Instagram that showcase items in the collection or commemorate events or anniversaries with photographs or artifacts from the collection. The number of followers on both of these platforms has increased in 2018. The program, Members Show & Tell, has also been used to introduce members to artifacts from the TCHA permanent collection.

For 2019 plans are in place through the new strategic plan to evaluate the storage areas of the Arganbright Center and find ways to better utilize the spaces and maximize the storage capacity. This will improve the storage conditions for the artifacts as well as improve the workspaces available to volunteers and researchers. Projects will focus on the continuing effort to process archival collections and to catalog artifacts to the Past Perfect database, making them available online to research queries. We also plan to seek out collections that will better represent the minority and underserved areas of the community. This will involve building new relationships with community organizations and improving outreach opportunities.



Last Northbound
Monon Train at
Lafayette. Photograph
by Randall Hess, 1967

Alameda McCollough Research Library Report

Prepared by L.A. Clugh -Librarian

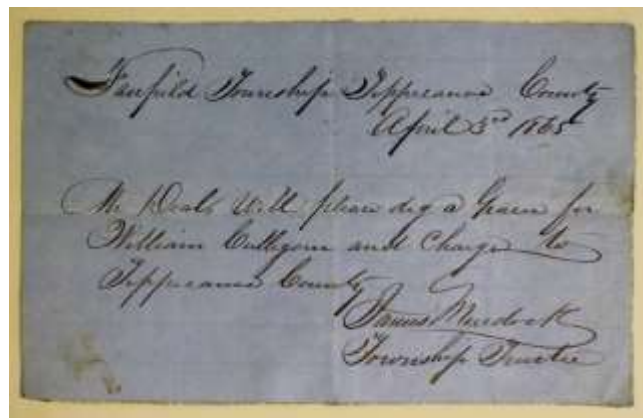
One of the wonderful donations this year in the library was the Tippecanoe County Commissioners books. They are a wealth of information for us. From our 1826 beginning, they show our county's development, starting with the people that were appointed to survey and make new development decisions.



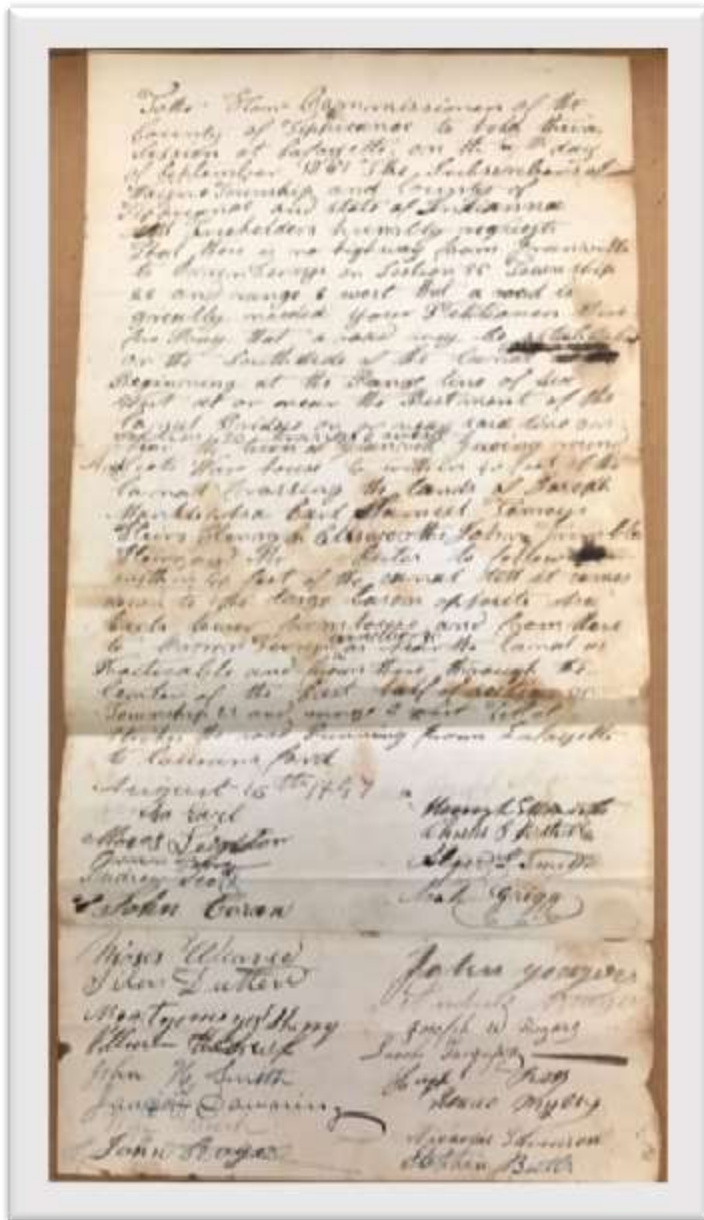
*County Commissioners Books
starting in 1826*

Now we have more to match the original loose papers we hold in our collections. These originals include election tallies, request for road improvements, estray slips showing lost property and tax slips showing land locations. There are many receipts being submitted for reimbursement of services from the early doctors caring for people around the county before our Poor Farm was created. Overseers and Trustees are appointed and they submit receipts, as well for taking care of people in their part of the county.

Other little receipts will give clues to what happened to the early pioneers who were brave enough to migrate westward. This image below is a Trustee receipt. It is important to family researchers as they were created before the Indiana Death Records began in 1882. We also find receipts for the undertakers who are submitting their slips for services. Volunteers are also indexing receipts for early Coroner's inquests.



*Burial slip submitted by Trustee James Murdock to
bury William Culligan, April 1865*



We have petitions showing where early people are asking for road improvements. In my own family I have found an original signature from 1841, which is a great bonus for me. It also shows others that have moved in the township and are supporting change. We love these petitions naming early transportation needs. There are requests for licenses of ferry boats and other operations beginning. Sometimes we find hand drawn maps that show the early mills. We've even found names of early lodges or hotels not listed in our files before. There is much more to share.

We continue to process new originals, and these along with the newspapers online are making it easier to find more about an early community. Come visit and bring your laptop. Whether your question is on your Tippecanoe County family, the old house you just bought, or early business research, we can help. If you cannot make it here, we can help you online. Our research form is online to help start that process. Watch for new indexes to be added to our Genealogy & Local History page as well.

A petition from 1846 requesting road improvement from the Granville area in Wayne Township