

**2018 Tippecanoe County Historical Association Annual Report**

**Part 2**

**INDEX**

<b>List of Current TCHA Staff.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2018 Board of Governors.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Letter from Board President.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Executive Overview.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Ouiatenon Preserve Report.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Treasurer’s Report.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Collections Department Report.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Research Library Report.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Part 2</b>	
<b>Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum &amp; History Store Report.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2018 Feast of the Hunters’ Moon Event Report.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Membership Report.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>History Center Facilities Report.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Programs Report.....</b>	<b>39</b>

# Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum & History Store Report

*Prepared by Rick Conwell, Museum Manager*

The Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum began the year with our usual 2-week closure for exhibit maintenance and cleaning, followed by the TCHA annual meeting at the Fowler House.

Multiple factors prevented our attendance at two events over the winter, which made a significant impact on sales to start the year. The upward trajectory of both sales and attendance seen in 2016 and 2017 leveled off in 2018; modest decreases in attendance were accompanied by somewhat lower sales figures.

Again this year, the museum hosted a traveling exhibit from Indiana Historical Society, and was able to acquire at least two new artifact pieces for permanent exhibit through donations and loans.

A new feature added this year was in-person site interpretation by John Wickett and his son Nolan. John created his 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry impression for the battle bicentennial in 2011, and is a great resource for visitors. His presentations are accurate and informative and very well received by our guests. Nolan's developing impression of James Spencer is sure to be a hit, at least until he gets too old!

Now living in the Indianapolis area, John and Nolan came up one Saturday per month for most of the summer and fall.

## **Attendance and Museum Admissions**

The Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store began its 2018 season on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and through the eleven months ended November 30<sup>th</sup>, was visited by individuals from at least 46 states other than Indiana, 18 foreign countries, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Visitors from Illinois made up the largest segment of visitors from outside of Indiana, followed by Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Total visitation by individuals through eleven months was 9,686, down from 10,282 or 6% from the same period in 2017. Museum admissions for the period were 5,424 or 56% of total attendance.

Revenue from individual admissions was \$17,296, down 9.2% from the \$19,039 during the same period in 2017.

Paid admissions by adults (\$5) were down 10%. Admissions to seniors / AAA members, the largest category (\$4) were down 1%. Other paid categories were up fractionally.

Unpaid admission categories showed substantial increases. Visits by TCHA members increased 26%, and admission under the Blue Star program more than doubled this year, from 33 visits to 76.

The Blue Star Museum program is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Department of Defense among others, which grants free museum admission to active duty personnel and their immediate families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The battlefield museum has participated for several years, and use of the program has slowly grown over that time.

The most dramatic change in attendance figures for 2018 was the decrease in group visitation. Visitors as members of tour groups declined a full 50% over the same 11 month period in 2017, from 1,421 to 705. The number includes school tours, staff rides, and groups not booking programs. The cause is uncertain, but inconsistency of both program selection and quality of delivery come to mind as possible factors in addition to price.

### **Events**

Circumstances beyond our control prevented our attendance at two of three normal winter time indoor events in early 2018. Health considerations, weather, and lack of manpower kept us from exhibiting at the Buck Creek Muzzle Loaders' Trade Fair in Linton, Indiana and the Kalamazoo Living History Show, respectively. Both of these shows are good markets for books, and the loss of income (about \$2500) is still being felt. The losses at Kalamazoo and Linton were mitigated a bit, however, by our sales at the academic conference of the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture (NCGLNAC), in Portland, Indiana, in April. We had not attended that conference in a few years, and it was good to catch up with some of our Native friends and attend the programming, which centered on significant civil chiefs of this area.

The second annual Camp Tippecanoe Civil War camp was held at the battlefield in May. The event was well attended, both by visitors and participants. Almost no one seemed to miss the extreme heat that plagued participants in the first event the previous July. This year's event focused more on the stories of the Confederate prisoners of war held at the camp, raising awareness of a little-known aspect of Tippecanoe County history.

June brought the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering. Fiddlers' weekend is always a busy one for the store, and this year was no exception. Friday and Saturday of Fiddlers' weekend are normally the only two days of the year when the museum store stays open late. We have found it worthwhile to extend our hours to 8:00 pm on those days to reach the audience as it gathers for the evening performance sessions.

With Fiddlers' weekend behind us, it was time to focus on summertime travelers and the upcoming Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The assembling of merchandise for the Feast begins early in the year. It accelerates over the summer, so that most of the ordering and purchasing are done by early August, in order that the packing, sorting, and counting of all these items can begin. The quantity of merchandise we take to the Feast increases every year, and museum store staff cannot do this work alone while running the store, waiting on customers and doing site interpretation for guests, so it is necessary to hire a temporary inventory assistant every year.

In today's extremely tight labor market, it is harder than ever to find a suitable person. The job is difficult in that it is physically strenuous, with lots of lifting, carrying, loading and unloading. It

also requires some technical skill with computers, since all the merchandise inventories are kept on spreadsheets, so proficiency with Excel is required. I was fortunate this year to find the husband and wife team of Leslie Sharp and John Huggins, who were able to fit Feast preparations into their work schedule, so that most days one or the other could be available.

The 207<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Tippecanoe fell on Wednesday this year. Wednesday is the only day of the week when the store and museum are closed, but to accommodate the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classes from Battle Ground Elementary School's traditional walking field trip, we opened especially for them, all 149 of them. This field trip has been held religiously on November 7<sup>th</sup> for many years and acquaints the students with their very own piece of Indiana history. It is as important as anything we do.

TCHA's official commemoration day was Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Featured presenters were John and Nolan Wickett, Jamie Oxendine, and Jeremy Bowles. As previously noted, John and Nolan have developed good impressions of 14-year old James Spencer, and a 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry regular. Jamie provided the Native perspective, and, in observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I, Jeremy interpreted American troops in the Great War through artifacts and his historical expertise.

## **Sales**

### *Sales at History Store and on the Road*

Taxable sales at the History Store and at living history events other than the Feast ran behind the record 2017 figures for the reasons stated previously. Our lack of attendance at two indoor events over the winter, the expected sales decrease after last year's double anniversary, and the steep decline in group tours and programs all had negative impact on sales for the year. However, taxable sales reached \$50,000 on the week of battle commemoration, indicating that sales had recovered sufficiently to be roughly equal with 2016. Since 2016 set a sales record exceeded only by the extraordinary levels of 2017, the year just ended stands as one of the top three sales years in the post-bicentennial era. Large ticket items, mainly consignment sales of flintlock firearms, are responsible for most of the late season recovery.

### *Sales at the Feast*

As expected, merchandise sales at the 2018 Feast of the Hunters' Moon were less than during the prior year's event. Severe weather on Saturday along with the lack of the incentive provided by 2017's double anniversary impacted attendance significantly.

Lower attendance and unpleasant weather conditions adversely affected sales at the center and participant gates. Aggregate sales at these locations were off by a full 65%. The drop in sales, while severe, was mostly confined to these two locations. Some locations, notably the East gate and Books tent, saw sales increases, while Children's Gifts were down only marginally.

The aggregate impact on the sales (cash and check) of TCHA merchandise at all locations was a negative 35%.

## **Summary**

TCHA's merchandising efforts at both the History Store and the Feast overcame numerous challenges in 2018, but attained respectable levels in the 11 months ended November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Gradually decreasing attendance, now in at least its third consecutive year, missed indoor event income, and especially the sharp drop-off in tours and group attendance, had negative impacts on sales at the History Store. Even so, sales recovered sufficiently by the end of the period to equal 2016 levels.

As expected, merchandise sales at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon were down from 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary levels, but were also negatively impacted by severe weather. The worst impacts were felt at the participant and center gates, while other locations saw only moderately decreased sales, or had small increases. Overall, sales by cash and check at all locations were off by 35%.

Special and heartfelt thanks to Laura, my assistant manager, without whom the History Store would probably cease to function. Thanks also to Kathy Atwell and Amy Harbor for their help in the store, and Jerry and Jean Barnett and crew, as well as Leslie Sharp and John Huggins for the invaluable help at the Feast.

## **The Year Ahead**

We look forward to a busy and exciting 2019 with the return of John and Nolan, a newly designed brochure, and such new features as an audio tour of the battlefield.

The addition of new artifacts gives us more stories to tell and enhances our constantly shifting perception of frontier Indiana.

## 2018 Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report

*Prepared by Leslie Martin Conwell, Feast Event Manager*

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is a re-creation of the annual fall gathering of the French and Native Americans which took place at Fort Ouiatenon, a fur-trading outpost in the mid - 1700s. It is held annually in early autumn on the banks of the Wabash River, four miles southwest of West Lafayette, Indiana. The "Feast" derives its name from the moon cycles of the Miami Indian calendar. The event represents the time of homecoming, feasting, dancing and celebrating from the earliest days of historic Fort Ouiatenon. Eighteenth century music, crafts, dance and culture of the outpost's original inhabitants are recreated as the fort comes alive once again.



How do you follow up on the 2017 Feast, which is considered one of TCHA's most successful Feasts of all time? You take the enthusiasm and momentum gained from the 2017 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Feast/300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon milestone event, get inspired and refreshed by it, and prepare enthusiastically for the next 50 years! With warm and happy memories of the glories and beautiful weather of the 2017 Feast, we started planning for the 2018 event.

The Feast Steering Committee began meeting in January on a monthly basis. The prior year was discussed, evaluations of what worked well/what didn't work as well as intended were done, and new ideas were put forth. The Feast is constantly evolving, and input from the committee is vital as we take the event into the future.

As the Event Manger, my task is to keep the compass focused on the educational mission of the Feast, insure that the budget is adhered to, make all programming contacts, logistical arrangements and service contracts, and assist the TCHA Executive Director, Feast Chairman, and Feast Steering Committee in their efforts to insure a successful, profitable event TCHA can be proud of.

The 2018 Feast was October 6-7. Spring and summer months were spent processing participant applications and preparing the grounds map, working with the food booths, arranging advance ticket sales outlets, volunteer recruitment, and planning public relations and advertising. Over 6,000 participants registered in advance for this year's Feast!



The Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department very graciously lets us use the grounds of Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park, and Allen Nail and Nathan Murphy of the TCPD are invaluable partners.

Grounds set-up began about a month before the Feast. The event grounds cover 30 acres, and getting them ready involves a huge amount of time and volunteer effort. Special thanks go to our wonderful set-up crew, capably led by Barbara Deaton.

One of the most wonderful things about the Feast is the opportunity it provides for education and mentorship. I was approached this year by Mary Bush of the Gun Lake Tribe of Potawatomi, a federally recognized tribe. She is a junior in high school and is interested in a career similar to mine, in historical or tribal education. Mary job shadowed me for the weekend, and it was an honor to be with a young woman of her poise and character. She is pictured here walking behind me in Opening Ceremonies. Mary has won many pageants, including Miss Potawatomi Nation, Miss Allegan County's Outstanding Teen, Miss Michigan Jr. Teen, and Miss Michigan Teen. She will make a wonderful Feast Event Manager someday!



The weeks leading up to the Feast were dry and hot. As the Feast got closer, concern began to grow about the rainy forecast predicted for the weekend. Possible contingency plans were put in place and the event's emergency action plan was carefully reviewed with Tippecanoe County Emergency Management and other community safety partners.

The 2017 Feast enjoyed the best weather in the Feast's history, but the 2018 Feast had, in my 45 years of "Feasting," the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst weather in the history of the event (hopefully nothing will ever be able to beat the nightmare of 2001)! Let's just say the weather pendulum swung the OTHER way in 2018...can you say MUD?



The Thursday and Friday before the Feast, TCHA sponsors two education days- Feast Thursday is "Special Kids Day" for area special needs students, and Feast Thursday is "School Fun Day" for area elementary age students. Despite episodes of very heavy rain, the school days went on as planned and teachers, students, and chaperones (and bus drivers!) were patient about all the deep mud that was subsequently generated. Feast participants volunteer for these educational days, and the Feast is most

appreciative of their willingness to help, even in bad weather.

Thanks to Jim's Garage and several Feast participants who got into the spirit of helping others by towing vehicles out of the mud, everyone got set up on the grounds safely. The scout troops, volunteers, and park department staff worked tirelessly to get the grounds in the best shape as possible for the opening of the event Saturday.

Saturday's weather was sunny until mid-afternoon, when Feast personnel were notified by emergency officials of a fast moving storm with severe potential. TEMA instituted a color coded



alert system, and within minutes a red alert was called- the event was being temporarily closed for the safety of the participants and public before the storm came in. Our emergency action team had rehearsed for just such an event, and spread across the grounds beginning notification. Severe weather hit within minutes with high winds and extremely heavy rains. Thankfully, everyone remained safe. However, the heavy rains made the already soaked grounds even more challenging. Large areas of standing water were on the event grounds, and the parking lots were in very poor shape. The outlook for Sunday's Feast events looked daunting.

Feast staff met with TEMA and community safety officials first thing Sunday morning, and assessed the situation. The determination was mutually made that since the grounds and parking lots were in such challenging condition, closing the Feast early was in the best interest of public and participant safety. The Feast would go on as usual for most of the day, but by closing an hour earlier than normal the grounds could be vacated safely by the public and the participants before darkness came.



A press release announcing the early closure went to local media and the Feast emergency action plan team went to work notifying the gate staff and participants. To insure safe participant vehicle traffic on the grounds once the gates closed, TEMA instituted a one way traffic plan. Fortunately everyone was able to leave safely.

The 2018 Feast- one for the mud record books- was over. Final attendance was 35,502.

While I am always grateful to the many people who help with the Feast, in rough years I am even more so for their dedication and perseverance in challenging circumstances. With an event as large as the Feast and with its importance to TCHA's bottom line, much work goes into the planning. It can be heartbreaking to put so much work into an event that then gets hit with bad weather. The can-do attitude of Feast staff, volunteers and participants helps us make it through and look forward to another year of "Feasting."



Jeff Schwab, TCHA board member and Feast Chairman, is an invaluable partner in the event planning. Jeff handles the database and the grounds lay-out, amongst a myriad of other things. He has devoted over 30 years of volunteerism to the Feast. I'd like to thank Jeff for his dedication, wisdom, and his sense of humor that keeps me going. It is an honor to work with him.

Thank you to TCHA's Board of Directors, many of whom volunteer in some capacity before, during and after the Feast! Their service to the organization and to the event is appreciated.

I am deeply indebted to my fellow TCHA staff members for their assistance with the event. They have other non-Feast related responsibilities at TCHA, but are willing to assist with anything needed for our biggest fundraiser. Kelly Lippie, our Curator of Collections helps with School Days, set-up and clean-up, and assists in the Feast information booth and membership tent; Executive Director, Craig Hadley, who juggles so many duties and responsibilities with TCHA, including the Feast; Kristin Krzic, TCHA Programs Director who handles our school days; Rick Conwell, the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager who runs the TCHA merchandise booths; TCHA Librarian L.A. Clugh, who helps assist visitors to TCHA who have Feast questions, want to drop off applications, or buy Feast tickets; Megan Lee, TCHA Membership and Facilities Director who ran the membership tent; and Laura Smyser, Museum Assistant of the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum.



The Feast Steering Committee is composed almost entirely of volunteers, and committee members devote countless hours to the event. They are responsible for implementing the vision and mission of the Feast. 2018 Feast Steering Committee members included Sara Bartlett, Di Begley, Pete Bill, Mac Bellner, Jerry Brickley, Terry Clark, David Connor, Barbara Deaton, Mary Fisher, Mike Geyer, Craig Hadley, Erin Hicks, Roger Hooper, Kristin Krzic, Erika Kvam, Bob Leavitt, Nathan Murphy, Allen Nail, Tara Raber, Jeff Schwab, Preston Smith, Sheri Sondgerath, Jason Stanfield, Scott Stambaugh, Linda Swihart, Scott Walsh, Jeni Watkins, Rick Westerman, Joyce Wiegand, Bill Young, and Jan Young. Each individual has their area of expertise with the Feast and all are responsible in large part for the event's success. The Feast Steering Committee works very hard throughout the year, 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. They understand that a successful Feast is crucial to the financial wellbeing of TCHA.

The partnership of board, staff, participants and volunteers ensures the Feast's survival as a major contributor to TCHA's bottom line, as well as its role as an important part of the area's cultural fabric. Over 50 non-profits, including TCHA, raise funds at the Feast for the betterment of the community. I am proud of what we do. I hope you are, too.

## Membership Report

*Prepared by Megan Lee, Membership Director*

With the resignation of our Programs and Membership Director DJ Tucker in May of 2018, we re-evaluated positions and split this up into two separate positions, one being a Membership Director and the other Programs Director. Megan Lee came on board as our new Membership Director in May. Her report reflects all that transpired from her time in the position. There was very little to report prior to her taking over so this report reflects only the last 8 months of the year.

### **May:**

May started with the arrival of the new Membership Director Megan Lee. Megan began by working at the Arganbright Genealogy Center with Kelly Lippie. Kelly showed her the ins and outs of Past Perfect and the memberships. Training continued on for about a week in this department. Huge thanks to Kelly for her assistance in the training process!

### **June:**

June started with the Membership Committee meeting to bring Megan up to speed. During this meeting it was decided that a new way to reach our members as well as manage memberships was needed. The remainder of the month was used for researching possible programs by both Megan and Erika Kvam (the Membership Committee Chair) and what direction was most cost effective. After several meetings they came to the conclusion of MemberPlanet having the most to offer. A vote was held at the month end board meeting to purchase a year membership to MemberPlanet. All the while new and renewed memberships continued to arrive by mail and were input into the Past Perfect system. The month closed out with July renewals being sent out.

### **July:**

July brought the purchase of MemberPlanet. Over the next 3 weeks Megan worked closely with the onboarding team to ensure all members were transferred over, with the help of Kelly. During this process Megan worked closely with Kristin Krzic and the Farm at Prophetstown's Education and Events Coordinator Lauren Reed to partner together for a membership appreciation dinner. The dinner was held at the History Center on July 14<sup>th</sup>. During the event Megan renewed several memberships as well as talked with many TCHA and Farm at Prophetstown members while giving tours of the new History Center. The dinner went very well, and many complements were given on not only the food but also on the renovation of the History Center. The end of July was busy with renewal notices being sent and the steady stream of renewals coming in and being uploaded, along with learning all the new aspects to MemberPlanet.

### **August:**

Yet again it was a very busy few weeks in the department as we continued to tackle the membership renewals that arrive on a daily basis. The second weekend of August brought the Mosey Down Main Street, and Kristin and Megan attended this with boxes of Feast, membership, and program flyers. They stayed at this event until 9 pm giving away every flyer they had with them. The following week they attended the Boiler Bridge Bash with Feast and

membership flyers as well as TCHA stress balls. By the end of the event all their flyers and stress balls had been given out. In addition, several history majors signed up for our mailing list and inquired about volunteer opportunities. Megan and Kristin attended several Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette events in an attempt to keep TCHA in the front of peoples' minds. August closed with membership renewals and past due reminders being mailed to those members in the July-September renewal time frame.

### **September:**

September began with 19 renewals and 8 new members. Of these new members we sold the first 2 Treasurer memberships. Treasurer memberships are the highest membership we offer at the cost of \$1,000. During the month the Membership Committee met to go over the new MemberPlanet program and look into other possible uses of the data base. During this meeting it was decided that Megan would upload the 10k email addresses that were purchased in 2017 by Craig and the previous Membership Director. Megan uploaded the list and created a new profile for these non-members as a new mailing list along with the additional email addresses we received at the Mosey and Bridge Bash. These people were targeted with emails to become members as well as receiving promotional events and programs materials TCHA has created.

As September wore on the Feast grew closer and set up began. Membership renewals went out 2 weeks early to accommodate those wanting their Feast tickets. Membership Feast tickets went out to the membership with the assistance of Kelly. September drew to an end with Feast set up weekends and shopping for the membership tent snacks.

### **October:**

No memberships were added the first part of October as the Feast had #1 priority. Days were spent setting up for the Feast, the membership tent was up and ready for use along with its new awning. Membership Director Megan assisted with the Feast Special Kids School Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> by helping with bus parking and serving lunch to the kids. During the second School Fun Day Megan, her husband, and Lauren (from The Farm at Prophetstown) cooked and sold beef burgers, chips, soda, and water to the school goers and re-enactors. The rain that day put a damper on the sale of the burgers. It was discussed by Megan and Lauren that next year the lunch time should be adjusted to allow more re-enactors to purchase the burgers after the kids leave for the day. The membership tent was utilized during the Feast but only renewed 4 memberships and added 2 new members. The tent made a great meeting space for the zone captains during the emergency announcements. After the Feast our time was spent cleaning up the site.

We attended Bravo for the Arts the second week of October, again making sure TCHA was at the forefront of people's minds. The following 2 weeks were spent catching up on office work and an interview with WLFI in regards to the new History Center. October closed with 26 renewals and 6 new members along with renewal notices being sent out for November.

### **November:**

With renewals coming in and being entered, November's focus was set on the fall newsletter. The articles came in from each department and were organized with photos. The second week of

November brought the commemoration ceremony at the Battlefield Museum. Megan attended this event taking photos of the event for social media and advertisement purposes. During the compilation of the newsletter we launched the “Your Story Matters” campaign. This campaign allows our members to see other members who are influential in the county and read their story. This campaign was in the fall newsletter and then followed on Facebook in December. The campaign will continue on like this, with each story showing first in the quarterly newsletter followed by the same image and story on Facebook. This allows our existing members to view the stories first then showing to the potential members on Facebook why they should join TCHA. This campaign also allows us to create an email to be sent to the 10k email list of possible members via MemberPlanet which is scheduled to begin in January or 2 months after each newsletter. This will ensure those that have shown interest in TCHA will see our campaign via Facebook and email keeping TCHA fresh in their mind.

### **December:**

December membership renewals are low with a total of 9 renewals and 3 new memberships. The month started with TCHA celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The following week we spent cleaning up after the event and setting up for the Feast Thank You dinner. December is an uneventful month in memberships as everyone is geared towards the holidays. Membership renewals were sent early this month due to holiday vacation the last 2 weeks of December.

Overall membership numbers are hovering between the 400-450 mark through the past 6 months. However, an average of 3 renewals per month have chosen to up their membership from a basic membership to a Donor level membership. We continue to push those higher membership types when signing up new members and target possible members with social media and email campaigns.

## **The History Center Facilities Report**

*Prepared by Megan Lee, Facilities Manager*

Another new position was needed to oversee the new History Center in regards to rentals and leases as well as overall event and program preparations. However, to save money, we added this responsibility to Megan Lee, who now acts as the Facilities Manager for the History Center and Membership Director.

### **May:**

May started with the arrival of the new Facilities Director Megan Lee. Megan began by working at the Arganbright Genealogy Center with Kelly Lippie. Kelly showed her the ins and outs of Past Perfect. Training continued with Craig bringing her up to speed on the continued work at the History Center. At the beginning of May the new camera system was installed into the building and camera access was granted to Craig, Megan, and Kelly. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May the Building Committee met to go over upcoming projects and expectations of the new Facilities Director. In addition the History Center was rented to The Gathering for Sunday morning use. They signed a long-term lease allowing them access without supervisions. However, Megan assisted them every Sunday for 6 weeks until the expectations of the facility use were well established. Also, in May the History Center saw its first Membership Show and Tell program, which continues monthly. A huge thanks to Kelly for her assistance in the training process!

### **June:**

June started with the new phone systems being installed at the History Center and Arganbright. This made it possible for both buildings to be on the same phone system. During this time a meeting was held to go over price points for the rental of the History Center. Megan brought in her research on the price points of neighboring event centers and what they had to offer.

Also, during the month of June, a seminar was held on the new phone and camera systems and how to best utilize them. Megan gave several walk throughs of the facility to possible renters and obtained quotes for the cleaning of the industrial kitchen. During the month Megan spoke with several websites and resources to get the History Center listed as a rentable venue for events. Marty Kimpel was hired to assist in the cleaning and upkeep of the History Center. As the month drew to an end the price points for the rentals were voted on and adopted as Megan proposed. ServePro was hired for the complete cleaning of the History Center kitchen.

### **July:**

July started with the cleaning of the kitchen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by a visit for Geek Squad to get the camera, TV, and mic system up and running. With the system up and running the guests in the Banquet Hall will never miss what's happening in the Auditorium. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July a vendor meeting was held to go over expectations in regards to a photoshoot Megan and Kristin had scheduled. This photoshoot would provide TCHA with marketing materials for print, web, and social media use. All vendors donated their time and resources to assist with the project and in return would have full access to the photos for their use. Megan also met with Duke Energy that same week to go over the possibility of changing the lights in the History Center to LED reducing the cost of electric use. Duke scheduled their assessor to come

view the facility and give more insights and an estimate, but the work wouldn't be able to be completed until March 2019 if TCHA chose to move forward with the change.

At 6 pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the photo shoot took place. It took all day to set up and shoot. Once the shoot was completed, we had beautiful photos for our use and could begin creating a rack card with the assistance of our graphic designer, Angela Bruntlett.

### **August:**

The first day of August began with a bang. The Facilities Committee met and the Masons held a meeting in the Banquet Hall that evening. During the committee meeting a vote was held to determine paint color of the exterior of the History Center. A decision was made and the color selection was passed on to the contractor. The following day the doors at the History Center were measured and new ones were ordered soon after. The Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette team came to view the changes made at the History Center and were caught up on the continuing changes to come.

During August the History Center was utilized for Feast meetings, staff meetings, and Membership Show and Tell. Megan and Kristin attended Mosey Down Main Street and the Boiler Bridge Bash. Megan handed out the new rack cards at the Mosey and took them around to local businesses and information postings.

### **September:**

Megan continued to give walk throughs of the facility, and received the final drafts of the proposed contracts for the History Center. The space was utilized for programs such as Jefferson Speaks, Show and Tell, and several meetings. SpeedPro came in to view a wall in which we wanted a large photo mural. The following week Kelly had pulled some possible photos for the mural. A short notice meeting was held to go over the images and determine their use.

The paint selections made in August were now set on the exterior wall of the History Center on the Columbia Street side. The Facilities Committee met to go over all the final details and schedule of the exterior renovations as well as view the work that had already been completed. It was determined that another coat of paint would need to be applied to the wall but all were very pleased with the color palette that had been chosen.

During this time Megan and Kelly met with a film crew who utilized the Blockhouse in the filming of a movie for their film class. Megan and Kelly each took a 2 hour shift with the crew on the 27<sup>th</sup> to ensure they did not damage or misuse the property during their allotted 4 hours.

In addition to the regular use of the facility another long-term renter began their facility use from September 30<sup>th</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>. As September wore on the Feast grew closer and set up began. September drew to an end with Feast set up weekends and shopping for the membership tent snacks.

### **October:**

The Feast had #1 priority at the first of October. Days were spent setting up for the Feast. While Megan and Kristin were out of their office for the Feast the renovations at the History Center

began. New windows and doors were being installed. A few snags were hit while the installation process was taking place pushing the renovations out another week. During this time the grass was removed, the ground graded, the new emergency egress poured and bricks were laid on the patio.

Once the majority of the work was completed the new lamp poles and railing arrived and were installed. During these installations the new signage was hung as well as the logos were placed on the doors and the egress above the Columbia Street entrance.

With all the change to the building and the use of historic bricks on the patio WLF I wanted to cover the use of the bricks and the reasons for the changes to the building. Megan spoke with them and gave them a tour of the facility for their story.

We attended Bravo for the Arts the second week of October again making sure TCHA was at the forefront of people's minds. Megan continued to give walk throughs of the facility and securing the rental for the Democratic Election Party in November. She met with the party coordinators and the bar staff to go over the rules and regulations that are outlined within their contract.

With the new doors installed Megan coordinated with the locksmith to get the building re-keyed, as well as coordinated the installation and purchase of the new wall lights for the patio off of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The Board meeting was held at the History Center in October which gave everyone a chance to see all the changes that had happened over the month. The month closed with clearance shopping for next year's Halloween program.

#### **November:**

With most of the outdoor renovations complete we opted to add 2 outdoor cameras to the security system. The History Center was utilized by the Democratic Election Party; their event went very well and Megan gave a lot of tours of the History Center during this event. During November Megan attended several VIP tours of other event centers in the area. Megan and Pete Bill remodeled the bar in anticipation of its future use, giving it a more modern look and useful black board front.

After Thanksgiving Megan, Kelly, and Kristin began decorating the History Center for Christmas and the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

#### **December:**

The month started with TCHA celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the History Center. The following week we spent cleaning up after the event and setting up for the Feast Thank You dinner that also took place at the History Center. This was followed by several walk throughs of the facility and 3 bookings for facility use in the spring of 2019. New photos of the History Center have been taken and will be utilized in a new rack card. Also, a new photo shoot for the facility has been scheduled in January and the photos will be made available for our use as well.

The following images illustrate some of the major changes and renovations to transform the old Masonic Lodge into the new TCHA History Center.







## Programs Report

*Prepared by Kristin Krzic, Programs Director*

This report highlights the activities of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Programs Department for the period from July through December, 2018. Each section follows a chronological approach beginning with the arrival of the new Programs Director, Kristin Krzic, at the beginning of June, 2018.

### Programs

**June:** Executive Director Craig Hadley and Curator Kelly Lippie worked with the new Program Director to get her up to speed regarding already planned TCHA programs and things that needed to be done in anticipation of the Feast School Days. Kristin sent out reminders to schools to turn in their Feast School Days forms. A TCHA Members Show & Tell event was held in June where we had ten members who came to share some of their most precious items.

**July:** At the beginning of July, we had our monthly TCHA Members Show & Tell event where members come to listen and share artifacts they have collected. We added a technological innovation to this month's event by streaming these Show & Tell meetings on Facebook Live to provide members who are not able to attend in-person an opportunity to watch the meetings.

On the July 14<sup>th</sup>, we had our membership appreciation dinner in collaboration with The Farm at Prophetstown at the new TCHA History Center. It was a complimentary dinner to all of our attending members and all the members of the Farm at Prophetstown. The meat for the dinner was provided by The Farm and prepared by The Farm's Education and Events Coordinator and Super Bowl Chef Lauren Reed. There were three unique features of the event: A group puzzle board, a flower arranging workshop and a jazz ensemble. Everyone signed a puzzle piece then each puzzle piece was then put together to create a bigger puzzle board to reinforce the idea that we are a community of members. Also, we had a flower arranging workshop conducted by the Wright Flower Shop where attendees were able to create their own flower arrangements to take home. Jazz performer Jim VanSlambrook entertained attendees in the auditorium. Overall, the dinner seemed to be a success and we look forward to hosting another next year.

For July's school programs at the Tippecanoe Battlefield, Kristin, assisted by TCHA Curator Kelly Lippie, conducted a tour for a group of high school students.

**August:** In August, we collaborated once again with The Farm at Prophetstown on our first ever 1920s car camping event. Members of the Book, Logsdon, and Mittler family brought history to life through their antique cars and rustic camping demonstrations. The grounds at The Farm at Prophetstown were bustling with visitors who viewed Model A and Model T vehicles while learning about traditional camping techniques in canvas tents. Later in the evening, the grounds were transformed into a classic barn dance with exciting music by the Bum Ditty Barn Dance Band. The visitors danced as a beautiful sunset glowed over the grounds. We are starting to plan the event for next year and we hope to see everyone there.

We had another exciting Members Show & Tell event this month and many responded positively to the live streaming on Facebook so we will continue to do that for each month. Quentin Robinson led the talk for this month's Show & Tell by describing the value of family photographs in telling the tales of one's family tree.

In August a special program was conducted at the battlefield for wives from the Subaru Company. This group requested a talk on the Battle of Tippecanoe. To provide a realistic experience, two reenactors, John Wickett and Native American Jamie Oxendine, described the battle from both a Native American perspective and from a soldier in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

**September:** For September, TCHA had a presentation of "Jefferson Lives!" Living history scholar Tom Pitz brought Thomas Jefferson to life through a presentation of Jefferson's interactions with his fellow founding fathers, his experiences as president, and his founding of the University of Virginia in 1819. The session was very interactive and Tom answered many questions from the audience.

The September Members Show & Tell presentation featured Van Sherry detailing the many house fires in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Lafayette. A highlight of his talk was showing the audience past and present locations of the firehouses in the community.

For September's school programs at the battlefield, Kristin led a tour from the Lafayette Christian School and KLASS (homeschool group). The Lafayette Christian School had requested a tour and talk about the Battle of Tippecanoe and the students seemed very engaged and asked a variety of questions about the battle.

KLASS had requested a talk on the Battle of Tippecanoe as well as another program called Covered Wagons, an activity where students learn about pioneers and their reasons for moving to Indiana. It was a very interactive program where students were divided into small groups and engaged in a hands-on activity that featured planning a trip to Indiana using only a toy covered wagon and some items from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**October:** October was one of the busiest months for programs in 2018. The Feast School Days was held at Fort Ouiatenon on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a great turnout of students despite the rainy weather. On October 4<sup>th</sup> for Special Kids Day, we had 331 students attend and on October 5<sup>th</sup> we had 1,994 students attend. All the participants seemed to enjoy the event, particularly when they visited the booths of vendors who had prepared activities such as creating bead necklaces.

For October's Members Show & Tell event, Lou Ann ("LA") Clugh, TCHA's Librarian, led a talk on genealogy and TCHA resources. This was a timely presentation as some people were unaware of the variety of resources that the Arganbright Genealogy Center has available. By the end of the presentation, many of the attendees indicated that they will would tell their friends about what they had learned and would visit the Arganbright Genealogy Center more often.

For October's school programs at the battlefield, Kristin conducted a tour for students from Warsaw Christian School, Manson Northwest Webster FFA and T.C. Harris. Warsaw Christian School requested four different programs (e.g., Conflict of Cultures, Search the Museum,

Woodland Indian Ways, and Indian Craft). For the Indian Craft program, one of our volunteers, Kathy Atwell, led an activity of beadmaking through storytelling. Manson Webster FFA requested a tour and talk of the Battle of Tippecanoe. We would like to note that this group, consisting of 50 high school students, was one of the largest groups this year. T.C. Harris also requested a tour and talk of the Battle of Tippecanoe as well as the Blockhouse. One of the TCHA Board of Directors members, David Hovde, wore an 18<sup>th</sup> century outfit to demonstrate what fashion was like in that time period and to explain the history of the Blockhouse.

**November:** November featured two major events: The Annual Commemoration at the Tippecanoe Battlefield on November 10<sup>th</sup> and a book talk and signing featuring author Dr. Michael Townsley.

The Annual Commemoration of The Battle of Tippecanoe honored the men who gave their lives on both sides of the battle as well as honoring the men of Tippecanoe County who gave their lives in World War I. The event began at 11:00 am with a World War I wreath laying ceremony in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice signed to end The Great War. During the ceremony, two trumpeters from Harrison High School played taps. Following this was a ceremony remembering the Native Americans who lost their lives during the Battle of Tippecanoe. In addition to the ceremonies, the day's events included three different lectures: The Native Americans at the Battle of Tippecanoe; 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry at the Battle of Tippecanoe; and the WWI Doughboys. Special mention should go to the WWI Doughboy lecturer Jeremy Bowles from Ohio, who brought a large quantity of items from his collection to show the audience.

For our book talk and signing, Dr. Michael Townsley led a presentation on his book "Prince of the Press Agents and Titan of Modern Public Relations" that discusses the life of Steve Hannagan, former city and sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier. Dr. Townsley included a power point presentation of Mr. Hannagan's post-Lafayette life, which included an outstanding career as a public relations professional for the Indianapolis 500; Miami Beach; Sun Valley, Las Vegas; the 1940 Presidential Campaign; and Coca Cola.

For November's Members Show & Tell, TCHA Executive Director, Craig Hadley, discussed the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WWI armistice and various famous WWI films. One of the films he discussed was "They Shall Not Grow Old" directed by Peter Jackson. The film is a WWI documentary that remastered actual black-and-white WWI motion picture film footage into a more realistic frame speed-adjusted color film production complete with voice and sound overlay so as to provide the viewer with a more accurate representation of life in the trenches and in battle. Craig recommended the film to anyone interested in history.

For November's school programs at the Tippecanoe Battlefield, Kristin conducted a tour for West Lafayette Intermediate School and the Montessori School of Westfield. The intermediate school requested a tour and talk on the Battle of Tippecanoe and was conducted for different classes over a four day period. The Montessori School of Westfield also requested a talk on the Battle of Tippecanoe and a program describing the culture of Woodland Indians.

**December:** In December TCHA had its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party & Celebration at the History Center. The birthday celebration was an open house with delicious hors d'oeuvres and cake from

Juniper Spoon. Musical entertainment was provided by the Bum Ditty Barn Dance Band. Local and State government officials in attendance included Mayor Tony Roswarski, Mayor John Dennis, State Representative Sheila Klinker, and Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court Loretta Rush. Each of the government officials spoke for a few minutes and the event ended with a large group rendition of “Happy Birthday.” We couldn’t have asked for a better event to celebrate 90 years of TCHA history.

## **CONCLUSION**

We had a very productive 2018. We improved our infrastructure, preserved the Blockhouse, unveiled a very successful pilot diversity and education program for the county and created a new programming and event space in the epicenter of downtown Lafayette with the new History Center. We have positioned ourselves for success as we move into a very busy and productive 2019 season that will take full advantage of our new facilities, programs and infrastructure.

We hope that you will join us in taking full advantage of all the new programs and events that TCHA will have to offer this season.