



2021 Annual Report

*Tippecanoe County
Historical
Association*

Letter from the President of the TCHA Board of Governors

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

Greetings members of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association

“A Journey of One Thousand Miles Begins With a Single Step” (Lao Tzu)

This ancient quotation is especially appropriate for your Historical Association during 2021. This has been a challenging year for all of us as we begin the great reset from the disruption that was 2020. Although we may never return to the way we operated prior to the pandemic, TCHA has made great strides in resuming its operations and working to fulfill its mission to the community.

Our sites, including the THCA History Center, the Arganbright Genealogy Center, the Battlefield Museum, the Ouiatenon Blockhouse, and the Ouiatenon Preserve have reopened and are again functioning in support of our research and programming missions. Although some changes have been made in the way these facilities operate to protect the health and safety of our staff and the public at large, we are excited to welcome back visitors again.

Researchers are again able to access our extensive genealogical and other historical resources at Arganbright and volunteers have resumed work on organizing, cataloging, and digitizing parts of our extensive collection.

One of the most visible changes to TCHA operations has been with the use of the history center for programming in 2021. Previously, we had relied on in-person attendance at our program events. Now we are extensively using video conferencing technologies to present our programs to both in-person and remote virtual audiences. This has extended the reach of our program presentations and we expect that this model will become the new standard for our program delivery.

Visitors returned to the Battlefield Museum and our store saw a return to near normal business levels. We welcomed Trey Gorden as the new Battlefield Manager, replacing the retiring Rick Conwell.

And once again, we welcomed the return of the annual Feast of the Hunters’ Moon celebration. This event is not only the primary fundraiser for the Association, but also raises money for approximately 50 other community organizations. We had warm, but dry weather and welcomed back an above average crowd of folks anxious to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the Feast once again.

None of this could have been possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers. They excelled in adapting to the evolving public health environment during 2021, and with the assistance of our Treasurer, Lorita Bill, have maintained a careful eye on the fiscal controls established in the last year. Leslie, Kelly, Trey, Amy, Laura, and Rick have been the backbone of our Association this last year and deserve our thanks. In addition, we humbly thank the thousands of volunteer hours that community members like you worked in support of the collections, the library, our programs, and the Feast during 2021.

Finally, I have appreciated all the support that I have received from you in my first year as president of your Association. Please feel free to reach out to me with any comments, suggestions, or concerns that you may have during the coming year.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schwab

Jeff Schwab (jrs@purdue.edu)

Minutes for TCHA Annual Membership Meeting

6:00 PM, January 26, 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

**FOR
APPROVAL**

Attendees were welcomed by Pete Bill, TCHA Board President

Pete Bill, TCHA Board President, called the business meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Minutes for the February 8, 2020, Membership Meeting were distributed by mail and on-line. A motion was made from the floor to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded. Hearing no amendments or corrections, a vote was called. The minutes were accepted.

Pete Bill made the President's report reviewing the challenges that the Association faced due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The response to these events included the implementation of strict budget controls and the reduction of TCHA staff positions not directly linked to the core missions on the Association. Cash flow was closely monitored by the Treasurer and volunteer Lorita Bill. The Payroll Protection Program and other grants helped the Association retain sufficient projected cash flow to make it through 2021 until the Feast of the Hunters' Moon can be held. Pete warmly thanked the membership for their support with both money and volunteer efforts during the last year that also contributed to carrying TCHA through the last year.

Pete Bill also noted that planning for the 200th anniversaries of the founding of the city of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County has begun, headed by David Hovde

Jeff Schwab, the TCHA Board Treasurer, provided a brief report on the financial status of the Association. Even with the cutbacks due to the cancellation of the Feast and other fund-raising events, we remain financially viable. Some comparisons to the previous year show the impact on both revenues and expenses for 2020.

Leslie Martin Conwell presented the Operations Manager's report. Many of the steps to reduce expenses during 2020 were detailed. The Association received grants and other support totaling over \$130,000 to help keep the Association going during the COVID-19 challenge.

The emergence of COVID-19 led to significant changes in the public engagement activities of the Association. Social media such as Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram became the new standards for communicating with our members and with the public. The member newsletter changed to online distribution in the second half of 2020.

Grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette and North Central Health Services helped support several maintenance projects in our facilities. At Arganbright, we replaced a failed air conditioning unit, an ADA compliant restroom was completed, the parking lot was repaired and resurfaced, and safety updates to the railings, sidewalks, and signage were made. We were also able to perform necessary repairs and restoration at the Fort Ouiatenon blockhouse to reduce damage caused by insects, rodents, and weather. Wintek and Wyatt Communications helped us upgrade Internet support at the Battlefield.

Several collection areas were focused on in 2020, including political buttons, the quilt collection, and Fort Ouiatenon records. New exhibits were developed for display at TCHA sites and the West Lafayette Public Library. Loans of items to seven other museums were initiated or extended.

COVID-19 forced the cancellation of approximately half of the scheduled programs that TCHA had planned for 2020. The programs that were held were primarily outdoors or presented via a virtual platform.

COVID-19 kept the library closed to the public through much of 2020, Many patrons were helped via email and phone during this period. Organizing and digitizing our records and indexes of records were a priority during 2020.

Battlefield attendance and sales also suffered due to COVID-19. Efforts were made to increase our on-line sales presence which helped offset the loss of in person sales. Rick Conwell announced his retirement effective at the end of 2020.

As COVID-19 continued into the summer of 2020, the difficult decision was made to cancel the Feast of the Hunters' Moon for 2020. Although nothing could replace the contribution that the Feast makes to the TCHA budget, we were able to sell approximately \$5,000 in COVID-19 logoed Feast merchandise and we received a grant from Duke Energy for the first ever virtual Feast of the Hunters' Moon Tunes concert.

Pete Bill introduced Quentin Robinson, the chair of the nominating committee. The current board of governors was introduced. Thanks were given to retiring board members Amy Harbor and Craig Graham.

Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, nominations from the floor for board governors were solicited in advance via mail and ballots for the board were mailed to each member. Colby Bartlett (renewal of term), Lorita Bill (new), Jeff Burnworth (new), Kevin Cullen (new), Erika Kvam (renewal of term), Dale Krynak (new), and Dave Sattler (new) were elected to the board.

Pete Bill announced that the 2020 Mrs. Evelyn Ball-and Dr. William Sholty award was presented to the Roy Whistler Foundation. This award is given annually to recognize significant contributions to the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. Attending for the Roy Whistler Foundation were board members Mike Reckowsky, Kurt Wilson, Angie Miller, Art Grisez, and Tom Turpin.

Leslie Martin Conwell announced that the winner of the 2020 volunteer of the year award was Lorita Bill.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was entertained, seconded, and approved.

TCHA Treasurer's Report
Lorita Bill, TCHA Treasurer

TCHA started out this year with the goal of making it to the 2021 Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The cash flow projections at the beginning of 2021 indicated that with a starting balance in our operating checking account of about \$90,000 that we would need to tap into the Feast Rainy Day Fund and borrow from the line of credit in September. Thanks to a team effort to cut costs and the help of another grant from the Federal Government, we made it to the Feast without having to rely on additional funds.

During 2021, TCHA exceeded the operating budget by close to \$180,000. This was achieved partially by a better than average Feast. In addition, grants, contributions and holding expenses in line contributed to the effort.

As TCHA looks forward to 2022, it starts the year with an operating checking account balance of over \$300,000. The healthy cash balance will give us the opportunity to make some decisions to ensure TCHA's financial stability for the future.

Notes on the 2021 Preliminary Financial Statements

The statements presented are preliminary. The financial statements do not include the fourth quarter results of TCHA's investment accounts. In addition, the merchandise inventory at the Battlefield Museum Store has not been verified.

Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Balance Sheet

As of December 31,

				Preliminary
		2019	2020	2021
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts	\$	218,829	\$ 236,080	\$ 475,011
Accounts Receivable		10,578	-	1,117
Other Current Assets		6,628	1,343	278
Due from OPI		18,676	-	-
Prepaid Expenses		5,016	4,084	3,661
Inventory		50,870	47,298	42,761
Total Current Assets		310,597	288,805	522,828
Fixed Assets				
Buildings		606,440	681,440	681,440
Buildings - Improvements		531,020	566,091	566,091
Equipment		236,334	245,311	233,424
Exhibits - Museum		56,729	56,729	57,923
Land		1,260,930	1,391,691	1,391,691
Total Fixed Assets		2,691,453	2,941,262	2,930,569
Total Accumulated Depreciation		(607,218)	(674,028)	(731,310)
Total Fixed Assets less depreciation		2,084,235	2,267,234	2,199,259
Other Assets				
Investments		1,586,145	1,682,486	1,800,918
Total Assets	\$	<u>3,980,977</u>	\$ <u>4,238,525</u>	\$ <u>4,523,005</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$	17,490	\$ 18,370	\$ 11,243
Other Current Liabilities		10,233	9,323	18,277
Total Liabilities		27,723	27,693	29,520
Equity		3,953,254	4,210,832	4,493,485
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$	<u>3,980,977</u>	\$ <u>4,238,525</u>	\$ <u>4,523,005</u>

Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Income Statement

For the years ended,

	2019	2020	Preliminary 2021
Income			
Grants	\$ 46,808	\$ 140,212	\$ 51,079
Contributions	138,103	246,143	83,933
Fundraising	21,754	4,437	-
Museum Store Sales	66,630	37,889	71,059
Library Revenue	3,611	4,611	2,432
Membership Dues	25,095	21,745	25,970
Programs & Education	121,661	96,558	48,541
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	598,120	5,181	539,690
Total Income	1,021,781	556,775	822,703
Cost of Goods Sold	42,325	18,363	34,183
Gross Profit	979,456	538,412	788,520
Expenses			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	288,706	248,264	192,740
Administrative Expenses	15,740	12,445	9,190
Contract Services Administrative	21,032	19,179	13,806
Equipment & Supplies	6,084	2,295	4,264
Collections, Exhibits & Library	3,179	3,164	4,300
Museum Store Expenses	703	1,000	1,645
Insurance and Taxes	14,790	16,404	17,329
Repairs & Maintenance	35,722	15,217	12,741
Contractual Services - Facilities	10,384	14,240	5,061
Utilities	50,180	38,557	40,788
Membership Expenses	5,241	3,576	457
Fundraising Event Expenses	21,267	1,007	-
Feast Expenses	377,766	6,658	329,636
Programs & Education Expense	39,624	11,772	2,304
Miscellaneous (Income)/Expense	(1,528)	(1)	-
Total Expenses	888,890	393,776	634,261
Net Operating Income	90,567	144,636	154,259
Other Income			
Other Income	13,565	8,065	5,692
Investment Income	274,938	171,687	192,887
Total Other Income	288,504	179,751	198,579
Other Expenses			
Depreciation Expense	56,983	66,810	70,183
Net Income	\$ 322,088	\$ 257,577	\$ 282,655

TCHA Operations Annual Report 2021

I tip my hat to all of you!

TCHA's Board of Governors, staff, committees, volunteers, membership, sponsors, donors, and community partners stepped up in a big way to make 2021 a successful year for TCHA. Thanks to your support, TCHA was able to survive the very serious financial hit from the cancellation of the 2020 Feast of the Hunters' Moon and make it all the way to the 2021 Feast without having to tap into our line of credit or withdraw money from the Feast's "rainy day" fund. The last two years have indeed shown that TCHA is resilient, strong, and dedicated to its mission: *to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, and interpreting our unique and diverse history.* Thank you thank you! Let's take a look at some of 2021's highlights and successes.



Leslie Martin Conwell
Operations Manager

Administration:

- We received a second loan of \$49,962.00 from the Payroll Protection Plan, and the loan has subsequently been forgiven.
- History Center rentals increased in number, and included rentals for weddings, girl scout meetings, community service organizations, the Civil War Roundtable, church groups, educational institutions, and for food service providers.
- To better serve TCHA's membership, we switched to a different membership records and communication system, ConstantContact.
- Staff and volunteers successfully implemented the "Square" sales platform to be used for retail sales. It is user friendly and better serves members who are now able to renew memberships or make donations through the website. It enables TCHA to sell online or off-site at community events.
- Sales of History Store merchandise through Ebay contributed significantly to income.
- Faster, less expensive internet was installed at the battlefield.

Grants and Donations:

- Donors and sponsors are listed in a separate area in the Annual Report. Please take a moment to read through the list to see what an incredible impact these people, businesses and organizations have had on the bottom line at TCHA. Their support was vital to the continuing advancement of TCHA's mission in 2021. We can't do it without them!
- A grant of \$15,000 through the American Rescue Plan, administered by Indiana Humanities, was received that will pay for a professional cleaning crew to clean several times a month for the History Center, Arganbright Genealogy Center, and the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum & History Store. Clean facilities are crucial to the responsible care of collections and to make sites more welcoming to the public.
- The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette supported the collections and archives through a NOW grant of \$1463.35. This grant covered the cost of some much-needed curation and exhibit supplies.
- Tippecanoe County provided PPE for use at TCHA facilities.
- Tippecanoe County Commissioners gave a grant of \$5000.00 for programming.

Facilities:

- Our facilities- Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse, Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum & History Store, Arganbright Genealogy Center, the History Center, and the Ouiatenon Preserve- are the face of TCHA. The buildings are the first impression that visitors have of the Association when they come to visit, and as such they need to be well-

maintained. Buildings in good repair are essential for the storage of the collections and archives, and for educational programs and exhibits. Some of the work that's been done includes:

- Volunteers did snow removal, gardening, landscape work and beautification, cleaning, mechanical repair, ceiling work, kitchen equipment repair, exhibit installation, and assisted with mowing.
- A smoke alarm system was installed in the History Center.
- A small leak in the roof of the History Center was repaired.
- Flooding damage caused by failure of a recirculation pump in the basement of the History Center caused carpet damage. Thanks to the quick action of volunteers and staff, collection items were spared damage. The pump has been replaced.

Public Engagement:

- 2021 was a very active year in expanding TCHA outreach and reaching new audiences. A major goal was to make cultural communities aware of resources available in TCHA's collection, and to solicit resources that would enhance our collections.
- I represented TCHA on the board of the first "Juneteenth- A Celebration of Freedom" festival. This celebration commemorated the end of enslavement and was a community-wide gathering of organizations and individuals. Staff and volunteers interacted with many community members about the African American cultural historic reference material available in the collections and archives.
- TCHA had displays and informational resources at the Tippecanoe Latino Festival.
- TCHA attended a Women's Suffrage concert, "We've Come a Long Way, Ladies" at the Wells Center. The concert was performed by Audrey Johnson, "Of Thee I Sing." TCHA had a table there with exhibits about women's suffrage in Tippecanoe County.
- TCHA partnered with Ball State's Department of History on several social studies projects.
- Numerous posts were made to various social media, showcasing TCHA's programs and collections.
- Tours by public schools, homeschools, special interest groups, military, and senior groups began to pick back up again in 2021. They are not back to pre-COVID levels but were above 2020's numbers.
- The Bicentennial events committee and the Bicentennial publications committee have been actively getting organized and generating ideas for the coming celebration of the City of Lafayette's Bicentennial (2025) and the Tippecanoe County Bicentennial (2026).
- Scan-a-thons are being organized to capture the rich historical resources and photos that community members are willing to share with TCHA.
- Congratulations to the Ouiatenon Preserve for securing National Historic Landmark recognition and for facilitating visits from the Ambassador of France, the Consul General and Honorary Consul.

In closing, TCHA recognizes the key players in TCHA's successes- *and in our future:*

- **Volunteers-** In 2021 library volunteers put in 2457 hours of work, Feast volunteers racked up many thousands of hours helping with TCHA's biggest fundraiser, 160 program volunteer presenters gave of their time to teach and share, 22 members of the Board of Governors spent hours at board meetings and committee meetings as they worked to guide TCHA into the future, and many other volunteers donated their expertise and talents in myriad ways at all of TCHA's sites.
- **Community Partners-** Government officials, community organizations, area businesses, schools, educators, donors, sponsors, granting organizations, TCHA members, researchers, patrons, and visitors all recognized the value of TCHA to the community and provided support.
- **TCHA staff-** Curator Kelly Lippie, Research Librarian Amy Harbor, Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum & History Store Manager Trey Gorden, Assistant Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum & History Store Manager Laura Smyser, and TCHA Battlefield Museum & History Store Assistant Rick Conwell are all dedicated professionals who are mission focused and highly qualified.

Thank you all!

TCHA Collections Annual Report 2021

Prepared by Kelly Lippie

- Videos created for TCHA's YouTube channel, to highlight different areas of the collection including the Wills and Estates photographs and textiles.
- Several interns worked in the collection in 2021 writing blogs and social media posts; cataloging photographs, clothing, and artifacts; indexing and storing Fort Ouiatenon archaeological material; indexing historic architectural drawings and processing archival collections.
- Worked with Michigan State University to clarify TCHA archaeological material ownership and NAGPRA registration on human remains. The Fort Ouiatenon artifacts and remains that were still in storage at Michigan State University were returned to TCHA in December.
- Small edits for clarifications were made to text in the TCHA Collections Policy and approved by the Board in April.
- Presentations were made to the Lafayette Rotary and Lafayette Kiwanis about TCHA collection.
- A large water leak in the History Center necessitated the move of many collection items in the interim storage in the basement. Work to re-box and restore the room shelving is ongoing.
- Worked with several local groups to assist with their organization's research including the Parlor Club, Noon Optimists, DAR, the City of Lafayette.



Kelly Lippie
Curator of Collections

Exhibits

- A new exhibit space was designed to house the eagle statue at the Tippecanoe Battlefield. Donations from the Tippecanoe County Park Foundation Board and Henry Poor Lumber supported the construction and materials of the exhibit case, which was constructed by volunteers.
- Traveling exhibit loaned by the Indiana Historical Society to the Tippecanoe Battlefield titled, "Securing the Vote: Women's Suffrage in Indiana" from June 4- July 11.
- Created special displays to be used at the Juneteenth Celebration and Latino Fest that would highlight those cultural histories in the county.
- George Winter water color paintings were installed for a short-term exhibit at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and for a 1-day display at the History Center to enhance a program on the Miami presented by Diane Hunter.
- New exhibits displayed at the History Center and Arganbright Center of historic plates, tea pots and a kimono.

Loans

- Incoming Loans: TCHA has three artifacts on exhibit at the Tippecanoe Battlefield that are on long-term loan by their owners and have been renewed for another year. There is a collection of artifacts on loan to the TCHA that are displayed in the masonic lodge display case at the History Center.
- Outgoing Loans: TCHA had artifacts on loan to five other institutions in 2021. Four of these loans are long-term and have been renewed for at least another year.

New Collections

- In 2021, TCHA created 95 new accession records of donations to the permanent collection and 7 expendable accessions.

Donors to the Permanent and Expendable Collection

The 1852 Foundation	Dianna Fred	Mackenzie Schmid
Larry Anderson	Friends of the Library	Brenda Schroeder
Anonymous	Good Will Store	Jeffrey and Ronda Schwab
Mary Anthrop	Anthony Goonen	Marsha Selmer
Kathy Atwell	Nancy Greenwood	Van and Lynne Sherry
Ryan Baker	David and Marjorie Rush Hovde	Forrest Shigley
Sharon Baker	Van Kauffman	C. Wesley Shook
Colby Bartlett	Jack Kelley	Ruth Shook
Estate of William Baugh	John Knoll	Carol Smith
Carolyn Bedrosian	Jack Korty	Patricia Smith
Robert and Lorita Bill	Ramona Kuhns	Mary Springer
David Blickenstaff	Chris Ladisch	R. Bruce Stewart
Carolyn Bowra	Phyllis Lane	Jack Streicher
Sandra Briggs	Rita Lane	Linda Sutter
Joseph and Constance Bumbleburg	La Porte County Historical Society Museum	Cynthia Swope
Heather Bungard- Janney	Legal Aid Corporation of Tippecanoe County	John Thomas
Dale and Toni Butcher	Donna Marvel	Tippecanoe Arts Federation
Stephen Clawson	Betsy McKean	Robert and Patricia Truitt
Linda Conner	Polson Museum	Unknown
Leslie and Rick Conwell	Clark Rafferty	Eleanor Wang
Jan Davis	Jerry Reynolds	Stan Wanner
Peter and Georgia Dunn	Quentin and Camilla Robinson	Steve Wendt
Susan Elrich	Larry and Marianne Rose	Linda Wood
Sallie Fahey	Mike Roush	Wyoming State Archives

TCHA Membership Annual Report 2021

Prepared by Kelly Lippie

- TCHA conducted the first ever all-remote Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting was conducted over Zoom, with ballots and voting being done through the mail ahead of the meeting.
- After a software study, TCHA discontinued use of Member Planet and began using Constant Contact for membership communications. Database information was reverted to the Past Perfect software previously in use. Online sales were taken over by the newly acquired Square payment system. This change went into effect in July.
- TCHA began offering the purchase of advertising or announcement space in the membership newsletter.
- New membership perks were introduced including R.O.A.M. and 10% discounts at the Columbian Park Zoo gift shop.
- New name was introduced for the TCHA Membership Newsletter- TippecaNEWS. There were 4 newsletters sent out in 2021, all were digital and sent to members via email links and available on the TCHA website.
- The TCHA membership brochure and other marketing materials updated with QR code.
- TCHA hosted a membership tent at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon. Local potter and TCHA Board member, David Hovde, donated a custom piece of Fort Ouiatenon-inspired pottery for auction to new or renewing members.
- New library and membership brochures in Spanish language were developed and debuted at Latino Fest in September.
- Coming in 2022 to TCHA Membership: new perks will include free admission to the Columbian Park Zoo, 10% for remote/off-site research requests and Feast tickets for Life Members; four new editions of the newsletter will be available to members.



Kelly Lippie
Membership Director

TCHA Alameda McCollough Research Library Annual Report 2021
Prepared by Amy Harbor

Human activity returned to the library in 2021 as the availability of Covid-19 vaccinations increased. Volunteers began to return as they were vaccinated and were assured that TCHA was taking every precaution to protect staff and volunteers. Within a couple of months, almost all our regular volunteers had returned, and we added two new ones. By mid-year, we were even able to do some outreach during a covid lull, in the form of a presentation at a Kiwanis luncheon. Camaraderie has made the library a very happy place to work, as we brainstorm research questions while continuing to work on individual projects.



Amy Harbor
Library Coordinator

In February we welcomed back our first in-person visitors by appointment only. We ask all visitors to wear masks, and we have not had any issues with compliance. We monitored Covid rates in Tippecanoe County, hoping for a return to set public hours, but that has not been possible as rates have risen and fallen through the year. Patrons have been understanding, and we haven't had complaints. We are always careful not to have too many people in the library at any given time so that we're able to keep space between people. We had 50 non-member visitors this year during the three days a week that we take appointments. The number of member visits was nearly twice that number.

The library continued to provide a lot of long-distance research for patrons who are unable to visit our site in person, and we earned \$1500 in funds for research hours and scanning/photocopying fees for 30 off-site researchers. An overhead scanner, donated by a member, has made this task much easier. We can now copy pages from heavy but fragile court ledgers without having to try to get them onto a copy machine.

Currently there are 12 regularly scheduled volunteers working on library projects. Most of our efforts are focused on indexing collections of our materials and adding them to our website so that researchers have access to them. A sampling of the collections we've worked on in 2021 includes:

- Coffin maker and undertaker records
- Marriage records 1826-1924
- Children's home records
- Court case loose papers
- Mortgage records 1855
- Estate files 1826-1990
- Deeds dating back to 1826
- Civil War service and pension records
- Pre-1850 school censuses
- Circuit Court books

Several volunteers have continued to ask for projects they can work on at home, even though they've returned to in-person volunteering. Through everyone's efforts, dozens of new indexes were added to the genealogy research page of our website.

TCHA Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store Annual Report 2021

Prepared by Trey Gorden

The museum resumed regular hours March 5, 2021. Our policy has remained one of caution, with a strictly enforced mask requirement. While this requirement has resulted in a handful of lost visitors and a fair deal of grumbling, people have overwhelmingly reacted positively or at least been willing to comply. Our policy of supplying masks for those without them has gone a long way toward mitigating the impact.

Attendance was down a bit from 2019, but not as badly as I had feared. Having reported falling numbers in so many of my monthly reports, I feared things would look bleak. We had a global pandemic working to depress visitor numbers at venues worldwide, but the pandemic didn't just reduce numbers for individual visitors. It also severely curtailed school tours and other group events, traditionally a big source of attendance for us. But when I ran the annual numbers, I was pleasantly surprised. Attendance was only down from 2019 by 1.69%. I've included my Excel table at the end of this report for those interested in a breakdown.

Even with the pandemic, we managed to host several programs and appearances. John and Nolan Wickett taught our visitors about the daily life, equipment, and dress of the members of the Regular Army present at the Battle of Tippecanoe. Their weekend living-history presentations continue to be popular and well-attended, and I hope to continue them into 2022.

The members of Toussaint DuBois' Company of Spies and Guides joined John Wickett, along with many other reenactors, for our yearly commemoration event. Jeff Jaeger, author of *Indiana Gunmakers and their Muzzle-Loading Rifles 1778–1900*, showcased and interpreted firearms and signed his new book in the Gun Room. Sharing the space with him was a new George Winter display curated by Kelly Lippe.

Our newly upgraded internet service has enabled us to retire our old credit-card and point-of-sale systems for a new, integrated, Square-based system. It took some work to get our inventory data moved over and playing nicely with our Quickbooks accounting system, but thanks to the vital assistance and guidance of Lorita Bill, the system is fully functional. Now that we've been using the system for several months, our procedures have evolved to take advantage of the new, streamlined system.

Our partnership with Battle Ground potter Diana May, graphic artist Angela Bruntlett, and IT professional Adam Lawson to create a new mug design for Feast was a great success. The mugs sold out so quickly that we may increase our order next year.

The 1874 eagle from above the battlefield entrance gate has at long last returned to the battlefield! The old bird is in a beautiful new display case designed and built by woodworker and 2021 volunteer-of-the-year James Hiter. The eagle has finally retired from active duty after many distinguished years of service, and is relieved by his sturdy, aluminum replica.

This has been an incredible first year for me at the Tippecanoe Battlefield. I would like to thank Leslie Martin Conwell for her patient direction, Rick Conwell for his generous mentorship, and Laura Smyser for her tireless assistance above and beyond the call of duty. The TCHA staff, board, and membership have made my first year with the Association educational, revelatory, and fun. I can't wait to see what we do next year and beyond!



Trey Gorden
Tippecanoe Battlefield
Museum & History
Store Manager

2021 Tippecanoe Battlefield Attendance Numbers

Duration	2019 attendance	2021 attendance	Change in Attendance	
			Numerical	Percentage
March 5 - 20	189	369	180	95.24%
March 21 - April 20	876	1051	175	19.98%
April 21 - May 20	753	842	89	11.82%
May 21 - June 20	1247	1351	104	8.34%
June 21 - July 20	1476	1423	-53	-3.59%
July 21 - August 20	1423	1332	-91	-6.39%
August 21 - September 20	1057	746	-311	-29.42%
September 21 - October 20	1370	1097	-273	-19.93%
October 21 - November 9	842	809	-33	-3.92%
November 10 - December 21	368	419	51	13.86%
2021 Totals	9601	9439	-162	-1.69%

TCHA Programming Annual Report 2021
Prepared by Leslie Martin Conwell

TCHA programming racked up some impressive numbers this year! Here are some fun facts from social media-

165,220- Number of people who viewed TCHA's event postings on Facebook in 2021



Early West Lafayette- TCHA Collections, program by Nick Schenkel

48,082- Number of people who have visited TCHA's Facebook page in 2021

57,217- Number of people who have visited the Feast of the Hunters' Moon Facebook group page- *in just the last 60 days!*

Egypt, Argentina, Nigeria, Philippines, Germany, Italy, China, England, Canada, United States- Countries that have had people viewing the Feast's Facebook group page *in just the last 28 days!*

The interest in TCHA programming is growing world-wide!

TCHA's program committee put on 28 programs this year in several formats to accommodate COVID concerns and be more accessible to the community:

- In-person/hybrid programming- 25 held with social distancing indoors and hybrid via Zoom, or held outdoors
- Virtual programs through Zoom- 3
- Programs rescheduled to 2022- 2
- Programs cancelled due to COVID concerns- 4
- Several programs were recorded and posted to YouTube, and reached over 500 people
- In-person and hybrid presentations on local history and TCHA's role serving as Tippecanoe County's "history keeper" were given to community and service organizations, tourism groups, and schools.



Stewart Schrekengast presenting on early aviation

We thank the program presenters for doing all of these programs! Their research, knowledge, dedication to volunteering, and their gift of time are very much appreciated.

Including the Feast, TCHA's main fundraiser, TCHA virtual/hybrid/in-person programs were enjoyed by over 47,000 people in 2021. TCHA's social media saw huge growth in 2021 and helped advance our mission- to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, and interpreting our unique and *diverse* history. Special thanks to TCHA's program committee for facilitating programming outreach and education- Pete Bill, Annie Hatke Schap, Zula Kress, David Hovde, Walt Griffin, David Hovde, and Quentin Robinson.

We invite you to join us for 2022 programming! Watch the TCHA website at www.tippecanoehistory.org, TCHA's Facebook pages, and your email for notifications about all of the programs planned. Are you interested in serving on the program committee? We'd love to have you join us! Contact programs@tippecanoehistory.org, or call 765.426.2128.



Leslie Martin Conwell
Program Director



Lizzie Shoemaker- TCHA Collections, program by Pete Bill



Sterling McElwaine- TCHA Collections, program by Jos Holman

The following sponsors made programming possible for 2021- The National Group, La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux, and the American Legion Post 11. Thank you to our sponsors!



Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report 2021

Prepared by Leslie Martin Conwell

2021 Feast of the Hunters' Moon
October 9-10, 2021

THE FEAST IS BACK!

After a year's COVID "vacation" in 2020, TCHA was able to "Feast" again in 2021! Thanks to the availability of vaccines and boosters, vital support from community health and safety partners, the hard work of Feast volunteers, participants, generous donors and sponsors, and the support of TCHA's membership, the 2021 Feast enjoyed an above average crowd of **43,759** happy Feast-goers!



Leslie Martin Conwell
Feast Event Manager

As the Event Manger, I'm the Feast "wrangler" - responsible for keeping the event focused on the educational mission of the Feast, ensure that the budget is adhered to, and make all programming contacts, logistical arrangements and service contracts. I assist the TCHA board, Feast chairman, and Feast Steering Committee in their efforts to insure a successful, profitable event TCHA can be proud of.



News of a possible vaccine on the horizon spurred the Feast committee onward with hopes that the Feast could indeed be held. Feast staff and volunteers cautiously moved forward, keeping expenses in check, and strategizing how the event might need to adapt to whatever scenarios might happen. Feast organizers knew that we couldn't do things the way we "always do." The committee had to be flexible, innovative, forward thinking, and cognizant that things could change on a daily basis- which indeed, they did! The first thing the committee did was to identify any potential challenges and work on ways to address them.

Some of the most significant challenges posed by the pandemic for TCHA and many of the non-profit food booths and community groups that provide services for the Feast were supply chain issues- think food, paper products and setup supplies- and the challenge of finding enough volunteers to assist in all areas. The Feast's strong relationships with food and paper product suppliers were integral in making sure the food booths had what they needed to be able to serve the public. Recruiting volunteers will be a for TCHA and food booths for 2022.



Another priority of the committee was making sure that the Feast could be held as safely as possible in light of the pandemic. Special thanks to the Tippecanoe Health Department, the Indiana Board of Health, and Tippecanoe Emergency Management for their guidance.

The Feast had hot and dry weather this year, which allowed visitors to "Feast" their way around all the food booths, enjoy the performances and cultural presentations in the arenas and on the stages, learn from the traditional artisans, and shop 18th century-style wares. The Feast is indebted to our volunteers, visitors and participants, who hung in with us through the cancellation of the 2020 Feast and then came to the 2021 event enthused to "Feast" again!

The Feast committee works hard every year and provides much needed encouragement and support. The determination and resilience I saw on the part of the committee as they prepared for the 2021 has been nothing short of phenomenal. We thank these folks for serving TCHA and the Feast- Committee members for 2021 included: Sarah Bartlett, Di Begley, Pete Bill, Mac Bellner, Debra Brown, Terry Clark, Barbara Deaton, Mary Fisher, Brian Hawn, Erin Hicks, Roger Hooper, Erika Kvam, Bob



Leavitt, Matt Riebsomer, Jeff Schwab, Preston Smith, Sheri Sondgerath, Jason Stanfield, Scott Stambaugh, Linda Swihart, Brian Wagner, Jeni Watkins, Joyce Wiegand, Bill Young, and Jan Young. Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department Director Randy Lower as well as Fort Ouiatenon Site Manager Andy Wall complete the Feast team. TCHA's partnership with the parks department is critical to the success of the Feast. 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 the Feast is held on.



The 2021 Feast will go in the books as a very successful one! Thank you to our participants, community partners, sponsors, Feast goers, and the thousands of volunteers that make the Feast a tradition in Tippecanoe County.



Besides TCHA, over 50 area not-for-profits benefit from the Feast. The event infuses over 2 million dollars into the local tourism economy, *thus making the Feast- and TCHA- vital to the quality of life in the community at large.*

This year's Feast provided over \$200,000.00 in operating funds for TCHA. These funds help us operate our sites and meet TCHA's mission- to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by **collecting, preserving, and interpreting** our unique and diverse history.

The 2022 Feast is scheduled for October 1-2. Do you have an interest in Fort Ouiatenon, traditional crafts, or a love of history? Would you like to get involved with the Feast, and volunteer in some capacity? We'd love to have you join the Feast family! Contact me at feast@tippecanoehistory.org, and we'll get you started on a journey to the 18th century in Tippecanoe County. You'll be supporting TCHA and your community!

Thank you to this year's Feast sponsors!

We thank the following sponsors!

Subaru of Indiana
 Thieme & Adair CPAs
 First Merchants Bank
 Keystone Architects
 T.L. Kincaid Contractors
 The National Group
 Underwood Insurance Agency
 Thieme & Adair CPAs
 Blue Fox Heating and Cooling
 WIntek Powered by Tipmont
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 The City of Lafayette
 The City of West Lafayette
 Pay Less Supermarkets
 Wolfe's Leisure Time Campground
 The Fountain Trust Company
 Purdue Federal Credit Union
 Huffman & Hawbaker Farms
 Brubaker Farms
 Seafoam Corporation
 The City of Lafayette
 The City of West Lafayette
 The Tippecanoe County Commissioners



Photos by Brooke Sauter and Angela Bruntlett

In-kind sponsors:
 Blue Fence Long Electric Haley's Lock, Safe, and Key
 Lafayette Travel Trailer Vester and Assoc. Jim's Garage

TCHA Board Committees Reports 2021

Facilities Committee

In 2022, the committee will work on a five-year plan aimed at the creation of a county historical museum. Planning and fundraising should coincide with the bicentennial of the founding of Lafayette in 2025.

In 2022, the committee and board will explore building options and costs. Is an all-new building required? If so, where should it be built? Could the History Center be expanded to the north? Would the History Center's structure support the addition of a second story? What are possible funding sources for construction, maintenance, and staffing? If a new building were built, or another building were obtained, what should be done with the Arganbright building and/or the History Center?

The committee also discussed:

+ Seeking partial Community Foundation funding for replacement of the History Center roof, estimated to cost \$70,000-\$80,000. Feast proceeds also could be used for partial funding.

+ Seeking estimates, in late 2022, for replacement of the History Center boiler. It has passed safety inspections, but replacement of the boiler, estimated to cost \$40,000, with a hot-air system, estimated to cost \$55,000, could reduce operating costs.

+ The Feast storage barn is in poor repair, with animal infestation and flooding. Feast tents are now stored in a rented storage building to prevent damage. Other storage and construction options will be explored.

Membership and Development Committee

Three new members joined the Committee and a change in the Chairperson position occurred in early 2021. As the Committee was initially unable to have in-person meetings due to the Covid pandemic in early 2021, it was initially difficult to create a common direction and sense of purpose. A significant amount of discussion occurred about topics such as Vision versus Mission, trying to identify the "pillars" upon which TCHA was built, meeting key community stakeholders and influencers, and grant writing – all in the vein of identifying direction and purpose.

Some of these issues were addressed and better understood among Committee members as the summer began and the August Board Retreat approached. There was attendance at on-line conferences which coincidentally addressed many of the issues on members' minds. Reliable and strong ideas were brought to the Committee. Still, challenges remained to create a unified approach to developing the resources which can help TCHA become less dependent upon the Feast. The idea of doing a direct mail annual appeal picked up traction, and as the year was ending, a plan was made to construct an appeal in February/March, 2022.

The following thoughts will provide guidance in 2022, in addition to the efforts to be made regarding the annual appeal:

- 1) specifically defining the role of the Development Committee within TCHA with greater emphasis placed on the role of long-range donor development;
- 2) identifying the logistics for, and procuring budget funding for, an Annual Appeal to be conducted in February/March;
- 3) continuing to explore other avenues for Development including defining the means by which planned giving can be offered to TCHA membership or interested parties;
- 4) reinforcing the idea that TCHA's future fiscal viability depends upon increasing the endowments so as to reduce dependence upon the Feast to a less than 60% percent (versus approximately 66%) of the budgeted support for TCHA's operations;
- 5) seek professional assistance in design and copywriting;

- 6) recruiting new members;
- 7) including Committee members' involvement in looking at best practices by other successful organizations;
- 8) re-defining the TCHA committee structure to facilitate action versus discussion, and "passing things back and forth" with no accountability;
- 9) developing relationships and partnerships in the community through outreach, meetings.

Grants, donations, and sponsorships for 2021 are listed below

Grant Income

Indiana Humanities - American Rescue Plan	\$15,000.00
Payroll Protection Plan – Cares Act	\$49,962.00

Sponsorships

Duke Energy	\$ 1,000.00
David Hovde	\$ 150.00
First Farmers	\$ 2,500.00
SIA	\$ 3,500.00
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette	\$ 5,000.00

Sponsorships made in 2020 for Programs cancelled – moved to 2021 Programs

Blue Fox	\$ 1,000.00
Keystone Architects	\$ 2,000.00
T.L. Kincaid	\$ 2,000.00
Underwood Insurance	\$ 1,000.00

Contributions or donations \$1 – \$100

Tom Allen
John Androski
Mary Anthrop
Anonymous
Arganbright Library Donation Box
Kathy Atwell
Karen Banks
Joseph and Carla Bartlett
Jeffrey Bolin
Spencer Bower and Sandy Schelle
David and Rita Buckles
Paul Carlsen
Richard and Doayne Carson
Tammy Carty
Central Indiana Community Foundation
Gale Charlotte
Barbara Cohee
Mary Collins
Mary Ann Combs
Rick Conwell
Harlan and Heather Day
Brent Dickson and Jan Aikman
Leon Dickson
Peter and Georgia Dunn
Jeanne Dutton
Michael Gery
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Jeffrey and Jean Hecker
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Blake Kaldahl

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William Larson
Lilly Foundation
Donna Marvel
Bev Melichar
Sybil Mervis
Ben and Maxine Miller
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Network for Good
Marianne Mitten Owen
Amy Perry
Jean and Reuben Peterson
Linda Prather
Mary Pugh
Colleen Reader
Joseph Rees
Helen Roberts
James & Marilyn Ross
Marsha Selmer
Forrest and Dana Shigley
Margaret Smith
Pauletta Smith
Mary and Ted Springer
John Stanton
Arlan Stavnheim and Kristen Crawford
Terry Taylor
Susanne Tisdall
Dorothy Van Cleef
Lorraine Van Meter
Peter Waser

Contributions or donations \$101 - \$250

Amazon Smile*

* You can designate TCHA as a recipient for 0.5% of any Amazon purchase you make! Just sign up at [Amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile) and use [Amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile) as your portal for access to Amazon shopping

American Legion Post 11
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Gary Brouillard
Barrett Caldwell

James and Marilyn Dammon
Milton and Marilyn Dehne
Michael Hall
Michael and Phyllis Hunt
Harry Martin
James Risk III
David and Dorothy Taylor
Robert and Patricia Truitt

Contribution or donations \$251 - \$500

Battlefield Museum Donations
Mac Bellner
Caterpillar Foundation Match
Deb Catron
Connie Davis

Walt and Eileen Griffin
Mitchell Agency
Charles Schollosser
Suzanne and John Swick
Tippecanoe County Parks Foundation

Contributions or donations \$501 - \$1,000

Steve Belter
D.C. and K.P. Blickenstaff
Patricia Sullivan and Peter Fadde

Thomas and Dianna Velten
Joyce Wiegand
Tom Wojcinski

Contributions or donations \$1,001 - \$5,000

Ned Derhammer
Facebook Donations

Sea Foam
Tippecanoe County Commissioners

Contributions or donations \$5,001 - \$10,000

Anonymous

Amy and Jon Harbor

Contributions in Kind

Lorita Bill
Pete Bill
Kory Cooper
Walt and Eileen Griffin
Henry Poor Lumber

The National Group
Carolyn O'Connell
Tippecanoe County Health Department
Mary and Ted Springer
Wintek Corporation

Ouiatenon Preserve- Committee

Despite the second year of the global COVID pandemic, 2021 was a remarkable year for the Ouiatenon Preserve. After a multi-year process, in January the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service conferred National Historic Landmark status on a majority of the Ouiatenon Preserve as an archaeological district. This is the highest designation given to historic sites by the Federal government. This reaffirms Ouiatenon's significance importance in both the history of North America and as an archaeological resource.

In early May, a meeting coordinated by the French Heritage Society resulted in the creation of the French Heritage Corridor initiative. Comprised of seven midwestern states, its goal is to develop synergy, promote the development of and tourism for French heritage sites in the Midwest. OPI Director Colby Bartlett was asked to serve as the Ambassador for Indiana to the FHC and is coordinating with other stakeholders in Indiana.

In May, we were honored with a visit from the Ambassador of France to the United States, H. E. Philippe Etienne, to tour the Preserve. During his visit to Indiana, he also met with Gov. Holcomb and discussed the newly launched French Heritage Corridor initiative.

In early June, we discovered that over the Memorial Day holiday weekend members and or guests of the Ouiatenon Sportsman's Club had constructed an off-road ATV/ motorcycle course into the southern area of the Preserve and impacted an area that is believed to be the 18th century riverbank and a feature believed to be the primary canoe cut/ dock of Fort Ouiatenon. The Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, the National Park Service National Historic Landmarks Program, and The Archaeological Conservancy were all notified, and the Department of Natural Resources law enforcement investigated. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted in order help ensure this does not happen again. We also learned that the official site boundaries do not extend to the area(s) believed to have been the canoe cut (dock) for Ouiatenon and the 18th century riverbank. It is recommended that those areas be surveyed, mapped, and archaeologically tested. The National Park Service National Historic Landmarks Program has offered funding to assist with that, but logistics have not yet allowed that to happen. It is hoped this might be combined with a 2022 field school.

Ouiatenon Preserve Incorporated worked extensively in 2021 to develop plans, matching support, and a grant application for the development of a trail system at the Preserve. Unfortunately, due to an application also being submitted by the Tippecanoe County Parks Department, we deferred for this year.

Due to the pandemic, for a second-year plans for a joint University of Southern Indiana, Purdue University archaeological field school have been put on hold. Currently there is a plan for the summer of 2022 for Purdue University to hold a field school at the Preserve.

Lafayette Bicentennial Events Committee:

The current focus of the committee is the development of a book celebrating the two hundred year histories of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County. It will consist of two hundred stories that illuminate the development of the city and county to what they are today. Also, a number of programs are being developed in conjunction with the TCHA Program Committee for 2022.

Publications Committee

A multi-authored scholarly work on the history and archaeology of Fort Ouiatenon is in its final stages of development. The various chapters include the analysis of various classes of artifacts, histories of the archaeological work on the site, and how the Fort is commemorated in modern times.

**TCHA Membership Roll
As of January 13, 2022**

Individual Membership

Christine Biang	Ron Halsema	Joseph E. Rees
Peggy Bryant	Seth Harden	Ruth Rhymer
David M. Buck	Annalise Hartley	Cindy Salazar
James A. Buckhorn	Scott Jung	Andrew Sebastian
Nancy Carney	Bernard Kazwick	Marsha L. Selmer
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Phillip Crousore	Yan Meng	David Thomas
Kari Ekenstedt	Angelia Mercer	Diana L. Vice
Carol Frantz	Barbara Nolan	Scott Vines
Joseph Freeman	Rick Oliver	Jared G West
Leonard Halascsak	Forest Pettet III	Wabash Weavers

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Kent & Suzy Schuette
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