



**2024
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, researching, and sharing our unique and diverse history

Once again, your Tippecanoe County Historical Association has completed another successful year. As we head into 2025, we are again well positioned to continue serving our local community and focus on telling everyone about our fascinating local history.

2025 will be a watershed year for the Tippecanoe County Historical Association as we work with the City of Lafayette to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the city. Our program series will be stronger than ever and will focus on events and personalities that shaped the City of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County into what we know today. In addition to new programs, we will be offering returning favorites such as the historical Maple Sugaring event staged by Les Garnison du Pays d'en Haut and the Greenbush Cemetery tour.

Of course, the highlight of our year is always the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. We welcomed Brooke Sauter as our new Feast Manager this year and she stepped into the role with an incredibly smooth transition. Although it was a warm and breezy year for the Feast, we were able to raise funds for TCHA and approximately 50 other community organizations. Make sure you mark your calendars for next year's 58th Feast of the Hunters' Moon on October 11th and 12th.

Although I say this every year, our Association is strengthened by the tireless efforts of our fabulous staff and scores of volunteers. Claire, Kelly, Trey, Amy, Brooke, and Laura continue to work countless hours to deliver an outstanding level of service. Our volunteer base remains strong and committed and is a key component in preserving and cataloging our historical collections.

I also want to recognize the hours put in by our board and committee members who work all year to ensure that your Association remains strong and active. These people are the lifeblood of our organization. We could not continue to offer our high levels of service and events without them. I want to pause here to encourage everyone to become involved with Association activities. We can use YOU to work with us by contributing your time and expertise to our committees and events.

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Lafayette in 2025 will give us a unique opportunity to showcase our collections and the importance of preserving local history. Towards the end of the year, we will release a book of 200 stories written by local community members to celebrate this event as well as the 200th anniversary of the founding of Tippecanoe County in 2026. For all of us who enjoy and treasure local history, this will be a great time to explore the past and present of the community in which we live.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schwab

Jeff Schwab (jrs@purdue.edu)

Minutes for TCHA Annual Membership Meeting
2:00 PM, February 3, 2024
Meeting at the History Center

**FOR
APPROVAL**

Board President Jeffrey Schwab welcomed TCHA members and guests to the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting held at the History Center. The meeting opened at 2:12 pm.

The Minutes of the January 21, 2023, Annual Meeting were presented and approved as written by voice vote after a motion and second from the membership.

Board President Jeff Schwab thanked Teays River for catering the meeting.

He then presented the President's Report.

He introduced Executive Director Claire Eagle as the new leader of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

President Schwab noted that TCHA offered over thirty (30) public programs in 2023 with good attendance.

He called attention to a successful, robust Feast of the Hunter's Moon in October 2023.

He praised the Board's focus on growing the Association's Endowment during 2023 noting the Endowment's goal is to support the Association in the years to come.

President Schwab took a moment to thank the Association's staff for their dedication and hard work on behalf of TCHA.

And President Schwab thanked the Association's many volunteers who keep TCHA open and active in the community. He encouraged all TCHA members to join committees to support and move the Association's mission forward.

The President's Report was followed by the Treasurer's Report and the Association's financial report both presented as a slide show by Treasurer Lorita Bill. (see attached).

Governor Bill reported that TCHA enjoyed a cash balance of \$108,000 (one hundred eight thousand dollars) more than at the beginning of 2023 which puts the organization in a secure financial position for the coming year.

The Feast's income was good, Treasurer Bill reported, but profitability was down this year past year because of increases in a number of expenses. It is likely the Treasurer will recommend that ticket and booth prices be increased again in 2025 (this requires a Board of Governor's vote).

There were no questions from the membership about her report which was approved by voice vote.

Claire Eagle presented the Executive Director's Report, summing up the Association's work and initiatives during 2023.

She has engaged in a "deep dive" into the last couple of years' Annual Reports to better understand the organization and its work.

ED Eagle thanked the many volunteers who work with TCHA's staff at TCHA's service locations (including the Battlefield and the McCullough Library).

She noted the work of staff and volunteers to secure grants and sponsorships for TCHA maintenance, operations, and programs. Particular thanks were extended to Kirby Risk and the City of Lafayette for their support of the upcoming Bicentennial Book.

Ms. Eagle continued to bring attention to the two-hundred-year Anniversary/Bicentennial book celebrating both Lafayette and Tippecanoe County history, scheduled to be published by Purdue Press in 2025. She thanked those who have written articles for the book and invited more TCHA members to choose a topic(s) and write articles.

She followed the Treasurer's Report in heralding the success of 2023's annual fundraising campaign.

Ms. Eagle noted that engaging about local history with our local community is a key part of TCHA's mission and activities. TCHA's social media outreach continues to reach more people and the library's offerings, Feast of the Hunters' Moon applications and support from the Board of Governors are all indications that public engagement is working.

Kelly Lippie reported on TCHA collections; Collections Committee members were thanked for their ongoing and thoughtful work.

Reporting about membership, Ms. Lippie encouraged all of us to bring new, additional members to TCHA; 2023 saw an increase in membership.

Volunteers at the McCullough Library recorded hundreds of hours of service in 2023. Librarian Amy Harbor highlighted successful cemetery tours, announced the return of genealogy classes in Spring 2025 and brought attention to the McCullough Library's new access to the Family Search digital collections not usually available to the public.

Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager Trey Gorden reported on the Tippecanoe Battlefield, "an amazing place!" The people who visit the Battlefield bring interesting stories and questions.

Dr. Gorden thanked former bookstore manager Rick Conwell for his many years of work with the bookstore and is seeking a part-time staff person to succeed Mr. Conwell, from June until the conclusion of the 2024 Feast of the Hunters' Moon. Please see Dr. Gordon if you have an interest in learning more about this position.

ED Eagle spoke to the many TCHA programs offered in 2023 which brought over one thousand (1,000+) attendees.

She thanked the program committee and the many TCHA volunteers and staff for their work and reminded us that programs will be planned and publicized quarterly in 2024. She also noted TCHA's YouTube channel programs and the Facebook page which continues its popularity. She invited TCHA members to join the program committee to bring new ideas and events.

Feast Coordinator Brooke Sauter presented the Feast of the Hunters' Moon report to the membership. She began her work as Feast Coordinator on January 1, 2024, succeeding the retired Leslie Martin Conwell.

Ms. Sauter thanked Ms. Conwell for her many years of service with the Feast (and with TCHA) and noted that she, Ms. Sauter, has been a re-enactor for ten years and so has a good base of understanding about the Feast, its volunteers, its purpose, and its attendees. She noted her interest in emphasizing the educational nature of the Feast and the ongoing need for volunteers.

Highlights planned for the 2024 Feast include increased efforts to Digitize Feast historical documents and the continuation of Leslie Martin Conwell's programs featuring artifacts from the Fort area. There will also be increased effort to find sponsorships and fundraising and scheduling new sewing circle meetings.

Brief Committee Reports were presented. President Schwab reported for the Facilities Committee. Trey Gorden presented the Historical Markers Committee and Ms. Eagle spoke about the Bicentennial Publication Committee work (noting articles for the book are due no later than September 2024 with publication set for Labor Day 2025).

ED Eagle spoke to the work of the Membership Committee and the Development Committee.

The Ouiatenon Preserve Committee, headed by Governor Dr. Kory Cooper reported good work had been accomplished in 2023. Together with Committee member Colby Bartlett he responded to a TCHA member's question about possible guided tours of the Preserve in 2024; the Committee has taken the idea into consideration.

President Schwab and ED Eagle thanked significant donors and donations to TCHA over the past year.

President Schwab asked all Board of Governors present to stand and be recognized.

Governor Quentin Robinson presented the nominating committee's slate of returning Governors and new nominees for the Board of Governors. He noted that all nominees, those seeking return to the Board and new Board members, have provided written biographies and reasons for serving that are available on each table for members to read.

The slate was moved and seconded by the membership as presented. Governor Robinson then invited all members of TCHA to vote for their choice to fill out the Board of Governors for the coming year. The vote was by a secret, paper ballot which were collected by the nominating committee and taken for counting.

President Schwab called our attention to the Ball-Sholty Award for 2024. He announced retired Executive Director Leslie Conwell received the Ball Shorty Award in recognition of her many years of service with TCHA for her long involvement with and leadership of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon.

During her gracious acceptance speech, Ms. Conwell thanked the Board for the award and then thanked all our TCHA members and staff. She noted that TCHA has been an important part of her life since her youth and concluded by bringing our attention to the exemplary work the TCHA staff took on during and after the COVID epidemic.

Executive Director Claire Eagle announced the Volunteer of the Year Award which is chosen by the TCHA staff. This year's Volunteer Award was presented to Carolyn O'Connell for her strong work with so many TCHA operations – the Feast, work with the landscaping at the McCullough Library, and her recent completion of indexing the large collection of photos donated to TCHA by the Journal and Courier.

The official count of the secret ballots for the Board of Governors was announced by Nominating Chair Quentin Robinson; all nominees for the Board of Governors were approved by the voting membership.

Door prizes were awarded to six lucky members attending the Annual meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Annual Membership Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

The annual meeting's business meeting concluded with a program featuring the history of Tippecanoe County's Wolf Park, located near Battle Ground.

Long time Wolf Park employee Patricia Goodman shared a series of slides and commentary about the Park that opened, with the leadership of Purdue faculty member Dr. Eric Klinkhammer, in 1972.

In the decades since, Wolf Park has focused on research, education and conservation for Park staff, the Purdue campus, and the larger community.

Ms. Goodman spoke of the importance of reflecting Konrad Lorenz' work with animal behavior as the Park and its researchers explore the wolves and other wild animals that thrive at the Park.

The program concluded at 4:30 pm. Thank you, Claire Eagle, for arranging this year's Annual Meeting program!

TCHA Treasurer's Report 2024
Lorita Bill, TCHA Treasurer

TCHA had another successful year with an operating profit of just over \$15,000. However, this operating profit was less than last year by about \$38,000. While revenue increased by over \$15,000 from 2023, expenses increased by around \$52,500. This increase in expenses is primarily attributable to an increase in salaries and wages and Feast expenses.

Salaries and wages increased because it was the first full calendar year paying an executive director as well as inflation-based wage increases for staff. Feast expenses continue to increase with few alternatives for the necessary services needed to hold a quality event in Tippecanoe County.

Feast admission prices remained the same for the Feast in 2024. It is the intent for admission prices to be reviewed at a minimum of every three years. This means that they will be up for review prior to the 2026 Feast.

Investment returns were favorable in 2024 with over \$250,000 in gains. This number includes nearly \$24,000 in interest income from money market accounts at First Merchants.

Overall, TCHA is in a secure financial position for the coming year.

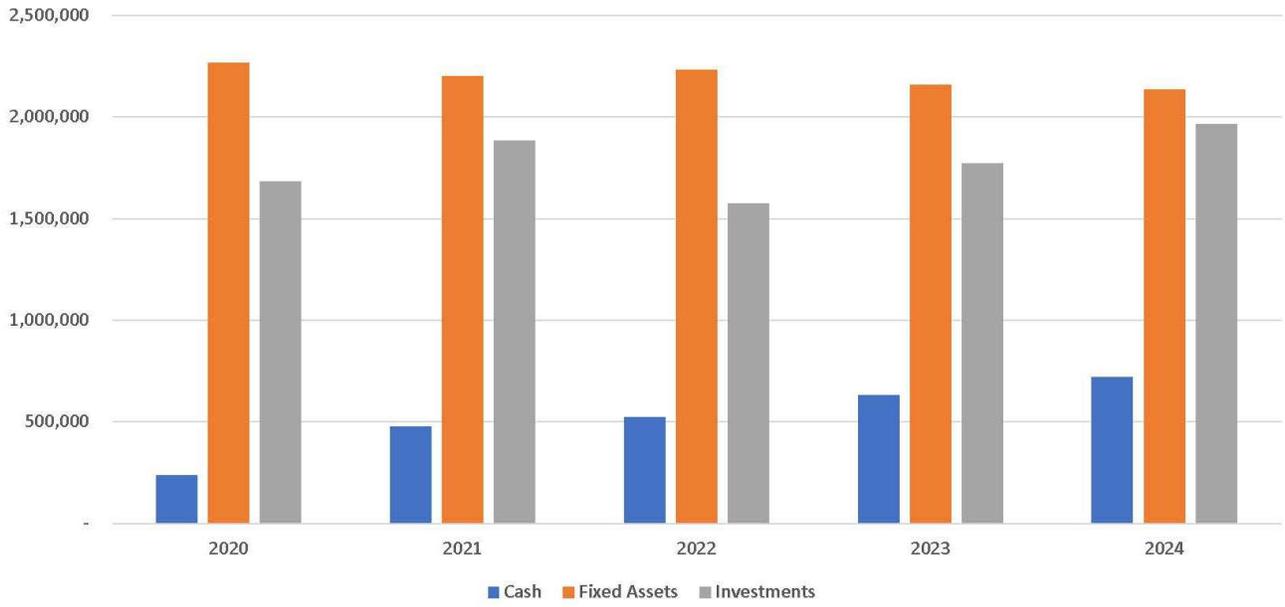
Notes on the 2024 Preliminary Financial Statements

The statements presented are preliminary. The merchandise inventory at the Battlefield Museum Store has not been verified. Various other adjustments may be required before the statements are finalized.

Tippecanoe County Historical Association
Balance Sheet
As of December 31,

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Preliminary 2024
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash	\$ 236,080	\$ 475,012	\$ 521,679	\$ 631,041	\$ 719,275
Grants Receivable	-	444	14,636	-	43,640
Other Current Assets	1,343	185	1,348	643	1,818
Prepaid Expenses	4,084	3,661	3,988	2,595	6,722
Inventory	47,298	38,701	38,202	42,315	46,457
Total Current Assets	<u>288,805</u>	<u>518,003</u>	<u>579,853</u>	<u>676,594</u>	<u>817,912</u>
Fixed Assets					
Buildings	681,440	681,440	761,440	761,440	765,545
Buildings - Improvements	566,091	566,091	570,636	568,772	612,827
Equipment	245,311	233,424	252,911	218,464	218,464
Exhibits - Museum	56,729	57,923	57,923	57,923	57,923
Land	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691	1,391,691
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,941,262</u>	<u>2,930,569</u>	<u>3,034,601</u>	<u>2,998,290</u>	<u>3,046,450</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(674,028)</u>	<u>(731,310)</u>	<u>(802,984)</u>	<u>(839,974)</u>	<u>(911,370)</u>
Total Fixed Assets less depreciation	<u>2,267,234</u>	<u>2,199,259</u>	<u>2,231,617</u>	<u>2,158,316</u>	<u>2,135,080</u>
Other Assets					
Investments	<u>1,682,486</u>	<u>1,882,845</u>	<u>1,573,415</u>	<u>1,772,952</u>	<u>1,964,570</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,238,525</u>	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,607,862</u>	<u>\$ 4,917,562</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 18,370	\$ 9,821	\$ 37,529	\$ 10,279	\$ 10,846
Other Current Liabilities	9,323	18,277	20,210	36,184	96,380
Total Liabilities	<u>27,693</u>	<u>28,098</u>	<u>57,739</u>	<u>46,463</u>	<u>107,226</u>
Equity	<u>4,210,832</u>	<u>4,572,009</u>	<u>4,327,146</u>	<u>4,561,399</u>	<u>4,810,336</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 4,238,525</u>	<u>\$ 4,600,107</u>	<u>\$ 4,384,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,607,862</u>	<u>\$ 4,917,562</u>

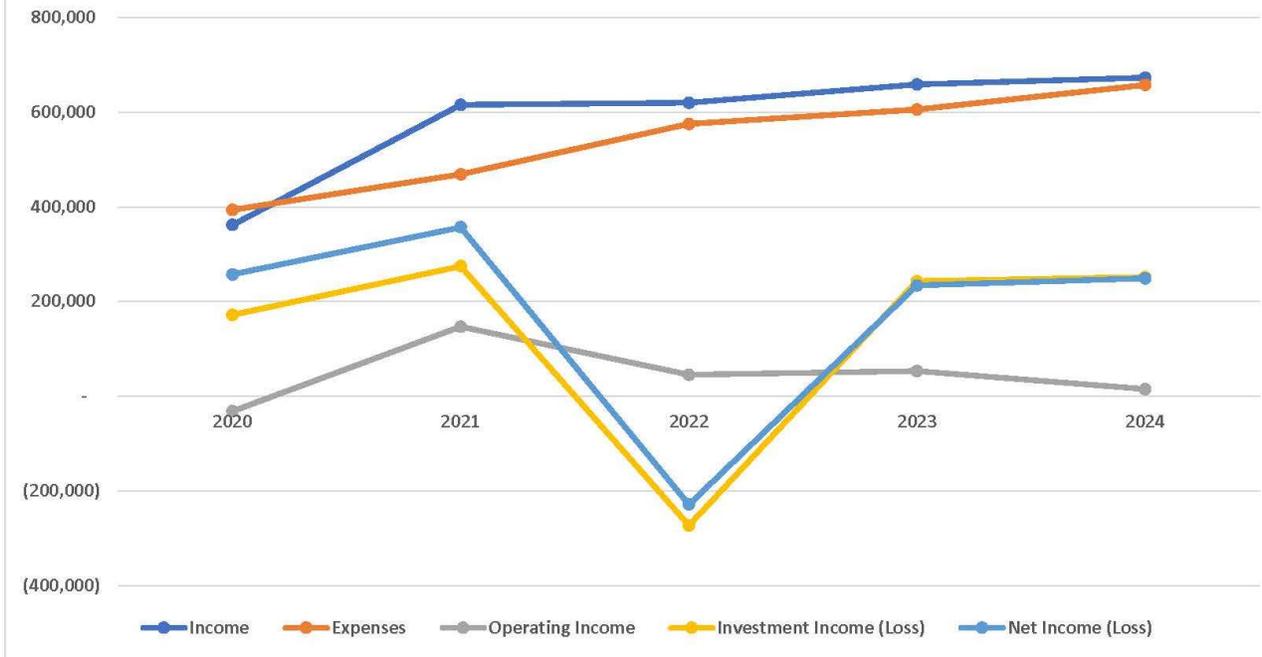
TCHA Assets



Tippecanoe County Historical Association
Income Statement
For the Years Ended,

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Preliminary 2024
Income					
Grants - operating	\$ 106,511	\$ 50,406	\$ 15,888	\$ 2,678	\$ 500
Contributions	101,316	83,533	80,776	97,638	81,919
Annual Appeal & Fundraising	6,764	-	2,175	5,875	7,150
Museum Store Sales	37,889	71,058	79,967	66,128	74,215
Library Revenue	4,611	2,432	1,871	2,074	2,578
Membership Dues	21,745	22,307	21,670	26,379	28,285
Programs & Education	96,558	48,691	46,978	43,739	66,623
Feast Of The Hunters Moon	5,181	375,720	408,401	447,301	445,592
Total Income	380,574	654,147	657,726	691,812	706,862
Cost of Goods Sold	18,363	38,223	37,401	33,148	33,585
Gross Profit	362,211	615,924	620,325	658,664	673,277
Expenses					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	248,264	192,740	214,759	213,289	243,354
Administrative Expenses	12,445	9,055	8,553	9,917	12,298
Contract Services Administrative	19,179	13,806	19,516	22,391	24,614
Equipment & Supplies	2,294	4,377	5,123	2,751	2,950
Collections, Exhibits & Library	3,164	3,627	5,136	3,633	5,998
Museum Store Expenses	1,000	1,959	3,340	2,265	1,811
Insurance and Taxes	16,404	17,329	19,669	20,857	19,884
Repairs & Maintenance	15,217	12,982	39,587	25,450	28,719
Contractual Services - Facilities	14,240	5,061	4,859	3,259	2,968
Utilities	38,557	40,788	46,276	40,952	39,752
Membership Expenses	3,576	457	688	1,085	1,936
Fundraising Event Expenses	1,007	-	2,875	1,301	1,248
Feast Expenses	6,658	164,497	199,152	251,973	264,158
Programs & Education Expense	11,771	2,304	5,672	6,506	8,429
Total Expenses	393,776	468,982	575,205	605,629	658,119
Net Operating Income	(31,565)	146,942	45,120	53,035	15,158
Other Income					
Grants - non-operating	33,701	-	62,300	6,400	43,640
Contributions-Roy Whisler Foundation	142,500	-	-	-	-
Other Income	8,065	5,692	8,749	11,500	9,600
Investment Income (Loss)	171,687	274,814	(273,034)	243,018	251,935
Total Other Income	355,952	280,506	(201,985)	260,918	305,175
Other Expenses					
Loss on disposal of assets	-	-	-	5,737	-
Depreciation Expense	66,810	70,183	71,674	73,963	71,396
Total Other Expenses	66,810	70,183	71,674	79,700	71,396
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 257,577	\$ 357,265	\$ (228,539)	\$ 234,253	\$ 248,937

Income Statement



TCHA Executive Director Annual Report 2024
Prepared by Claire Eagle, Executive Director

It's true what they say, time flies when you're having fun! 2024 was an incredibly busy year for TCHA. We prepared for the bicentennial of Lafayette, introduced new programming and continued to increase our fundraising efforts. As you'll see, TCHA had another very successful year. Here are some highlights:



Claire Eagle

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations:

All donors and sponsors are listed in a separate area of this Annual Report. TCHA would not have had the successful year we did without each and every one of them. Please take some time to read through the list. Maybe we'll see your name on it next year!

- The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette awarded TCHA a grant of \$43,640 to assist in an exterior refresh of the Frank C. Arganbright Genealogy Center.
- North Central Health Services awarded TCHA a grant of \$57,084.75 for the installation of a weather warning system on the Feast of the Hunters' Moon grounds.
- A \$2,793 grant from Indiana Humanities supported the participation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the Feast.
- Lafayette Life Foundation awarded TCHA a grant of \$5,000 in support of Feast School Days.
- A \$500 grant from Lafayette Daybreak Rotary also supported Feast School Days.
- TCHA received a \$500 grant from Community Foundation for our completion of the Needs Assessment Survey and participation in Town Halls.
- The City of West Lafayette gave \$3,000 in support of TCHA.
- Tippecanoe County gave \$5,000 in support of TCHA.
- Subaru of Indiana provided a \$3,500 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- First Farmer's Bank and Trust provided a \$4,500 sponsorship for one of the Feast performance stages.
- A \$500 sponsorship from Old National Bank supported Feast expenses.
- Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette provided a \$10,000 sponsorship in support of the Feast and \$10,000 in support of the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and History Store for a total of \$20,000.
- American Legion Post provided a \$300 sponsorship for the Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration event.
- Historic Five Points Fire Station provided TCHA with a \$100 sponsorship in support of the Bicentennial pop-up exhibit on the history of the Lafayette Fire Department.
- La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux provided \$200 in support of living history events at the Blockhouse.
- We increased funds raised from our Annual Campaign by 25%, raising a total of \$6,451.80.
- Through community support we raised \$1,280 in restricted funds to repair the Reifers neon rocking chair.

Public Engagement and Partnerships

- Kelly, Mary Anthrop and I manned a TCHA booth at the 2024 Juneteenth Celebration at Memorial Island in Columbia Park, bringing exhibit boards and interactive activities for attendees to enjoy.
- Kelly and I attended the Greater Lafayette Commerce Business Expo, joining the City of Lafayette in promotion of the bicentennial.

- In August, Shadeland celebrated the 40th anniversary of their founding. Kelly attended, bringing along a few artifacts from our collection showcasing the community's history.
- Trey represented TCHA at Family Day at the Farm at Prophetstown and Canal Days at the Wabash and Erie Canal Park in Delphi, IN, interacting with visitors using the very popular pioneer wagon activity.
- TCHA social media pages continue to be a great way to interact with the community and foster interest in our history. Facebook had a 31% increase in followers. Instagram had an 8% increase in followers. Total individuals reached by Facebook and Instagram was 933,400. That's an 80% increase from 2023! While posting on social media may seem like an easy task, content creation takes research, time and dedication. Thanks go to Kelly, Amy and Brooke for helping to create content and manage our pages.
- Kelly, Brooke and I served on a dedication planning committee for the Evaleen Stein historic marker.
- Brooke presented to a special needs reading comprehension class at Wainwright Elementary School on early American life as it related to their reading of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.
- The Bicentennial Book Committee was hard at work, compiling 200 articles for 200 Years of Tippecanoe County: A Community Tells its Stories and everything that entailed. This included author recruitment, editing, paperwork and photo gathering. The books will be published later this year with support from Kirby Risk Corporation and the City of Lafayette, as a part of the Lafayette (2025) and Tippecanoe County (2026) bicentennials.
- We once again partnered with Purdue University's Department of Anthropology to celebrate Indiana Archeology Month at the Battlefield. The program included activities for all ages including artifact show-and-tell, identification, mini excavations and atlatl throwing. Thanks to Dr. Kory Kooper, Cassie Apuzzo, Professor Buzon and several other archeology students from Purdue!
- TCHA began a program partnership with the West Lafayette Public Library, allowing us to create new opportunities to engage with their members. Throughout the year we co-hosted five programs and an exhibit.



Evaleen Stein historic marker dedication planning committee

Facilities

With no maintenance person on staff, our Facilities Committee and other volunteers do so much to keep our properties and building in tiptop shape. From large projects to small repairs and the preventative maintenance in between, we are so thankful to the entire Facilities Committee for all their hard work keeping our facilities in great condition in 2024.

- After a leak was discovered in early January, a repair was made to the History Center roof over the Columbia Street lobby.
- After the floor in my office was replaced in 2023, a private donor covered the cost of a new coat of paint on the walls in early 2024.

- Thanks to the work and donations of some very generous volunteers, all of the weeds in the small garden plot in front of the Arganbright were removed and replaced with weed barrier cloth and some new mulch. Some of our outdoor collection items will be moved to the space for exhibition in 2025.
- Unfortunately, the rooftop AC unit above the Banquet Hall at the History Center went down in early fall. The Facilities committee is working on a long-term plan to repair and potentially replace the entire HVAC system.
- Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, the Arganbright received an exterior refresh. Countless wood repairs, the installation of a new window in the clothing collection room and a fresh coat of paint have been completed. A front window replacement will take place in early spring to complete the project.



The crew from Gibson Painting working on painting prep at the Arganbright

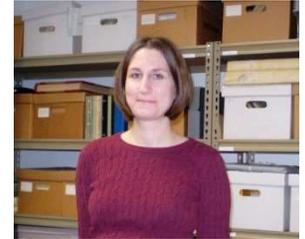
Everything you just read about would also not have been possible without all of you! Our members believe in TCHA and its mission and are crucial to our success. Library volunteers completed 2,920.25 hours of work in addition to the enormous number of volunteer hours that go into the Feast. It's easy to say that volunteers spent at least 5,000 hours helping TCHA fulfill its mission in 2024. Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to the entire Board of Governors. They have the responsibility of guiding the Association in all our endeavors and do it with care. As volunteers, their dedication to TCHA is astounding. As we look forward to the bicentennials of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County (and even TCHA's centennial in 2028), I look forward to continuing to work together to fulfill our mission.

TCHA Collections Annual Report 2024

Prepared by Kelly Lippie, Curator of Collections

Donations and Administration

The Collections Committee held monthly meetings to consider all potential donations or purchases for the permanent collection, materials found in the collection but not documented and deaccessions. This committee is made up of 11 members who are staff members, Board governors or members of the association and it is chaired by the Curator of Collections. In 2024, the committee created 91 new accessions (donations) to the permanent collection. The committee created 7 expendable collections, which are intended for use in programs or for other hands-on opportunities. One of these accessions and expendable collections was a purchase.



Kelly Lippie

Repairs were needed early in the year to restore the working neon components of the Reifers red rocking chair sign. A small fund-raising campaign was able to generate the necessary funds for the work and repairs were made by Huston Electric.



Rocking Chair Repair

Consultations are ongoing with the Miami and Peoria tribes regarding the future of human remains in the Ouiatenon archaeological collection. These discussions follow procedures outlined in the national NAGPRA program.

For window replacement in the hanging clothing storage room, many racks of historic clothing had to be moved out of the way and wrapped in plastic to protect the materials from construction debris.

A significant donation was received from a long time TCHA supporter, Mary Anthrop, of her research files, artifacts, hands-on games and exhibit panels, as well as the publication rights to her articles.

Outreach & research

Throughout the year, the curator has worked to promote TCHA resources and collections by making presentations to other local organizations and helping with research projects that utilize the collection.

For Lafayette's bicentennial celebration, much time has been spent gathering images and articles for a book to be published in 2025. This book will include nearly 200 images; most of which come from the TCHA permanent collection. Authors for the articles came to TCHA to research their materials, which required assistance from the curator and library coordinator. Images were also gathered for a video produced by the city to promote the bicentennial and events. The curator and director attended the Lafayette business expo to promote TCHA's bicentennial programs and exhibits.



Juneteenth 2024

Several Purdue groups and students visited in 2024 to get a tour of the resources at TCHA including music history and local African American sites.

The curator served on a committee for the placement of the Evaleen Stein historic marker by the Indiana Historical Bureau and the celebration dinner. This included providing images from the collection and displaying books from the library collection.

TCHA also provided displays for local events such as Juneteenth and Shadeland's 40th anniversary event. The Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminar visited on their Pottawatomi trail of death caravan, to view George Winter artwork. Special research projects included a Salvation Army summer camp group for children, St. James Church's upcoming anniversary, TCHA's cemetery tours, the Tippecanoe County School Corp. new administration lobby exhibit and helping Purdue Anthropology faculty to design education kit with deer bones.

Continuing outreach work includes “This Day in History” and “Born on this Day” social media posts and bicentennial efforts for 2025 and 2026. We will also be hosting a genealogy class collaboration with WALLA in the spring of 2025.

Projects

In addition to regular collections administration and research, volunteers assisted with projects to make the permanent collection more accessible and to improve storage. Students from Purdue’s Anthropology Department worked on materials from the Ouiatenon archaeology collection; including icon rings and bale seals.

Scanning and cataloging artifacts in the collection is an ongoing project for volunteers and interns. Most of the historic photograph collection has now been cataloged and scanned to our Past Perfect software system. Volunteers have completed a multi-year project to index the Journal and Courier negatives collection.

In collaboration with TIPOA (Tippecanoe County Area Genealogy Society) we have been able to make more progress in cleaning and indexing a collection of county records related to the poor relief efforts in Tippecanoe County. This is an ongoing project that will continue through 2025.

Exhibits

To share TCHA’s collection and interpret local history, exhibits are regularly changed out at several of the buildings. At the Arganbright Genealogy Center in 2024, displays of historic baseball uniforms and local advertising yard sticks greeted visitors to the research library.

At the History Center, a display of local law enforcement artifacts and photographs was installed early in the year. The show exhibit was removed in December to make way for a bottle exhibit designed by one of the student volunteers.

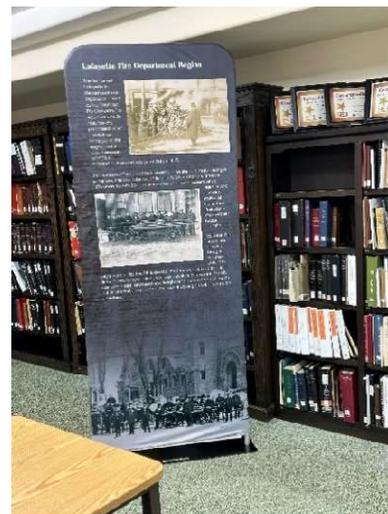
At the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, several exhibit refurbishments were conducted and new, temporary displays were set up. To coordinate with an exhibit loan from the Indiana Historical Society, a display of local maps and survey equipment was installed. The free exhibit loan occurred for 5 weeks in the summer and was themed “Indiana Through the Mapmaker’s Eye”.

As part of TCHA year-long partnership with the West Lafayette Public Library, several exhibit collaborations occurred. An historic toy exhibit was removed from display at the library early in the year, Ouiatenon artifacts were loaned for the summer to the caretaker’s cottage and cameras were loaned for a short photography exhibit in the fall. For the Lafayette Bicentennial, a series of 10 pop-up exhibits were designed that will be available for local schools, libraries and businesses to display in 2025 and beyond.

Short term displays were set up to enhance experiences for the Ouiatenon book release, Evaleen Stein lecture, Eras dinners and the Halloween story telling program.

Current loans

Loans are made to share the TCHA permanent collection with other historical groups or to enhance the exhibits of TCHA. There were three incoming loans made or renewed in 2024; use for exhibits at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum and The History Center. Four outgoing loans to local historic sites were renewed for another years’ duration.



Fire Department Bicentennial Pop-up Exhibit, in partnership with Fire Points Fire Station Museum

Training

The curator completed professional development training by attending two different webinars in 2024. These were: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act webinar series Book enclosure making webinar.

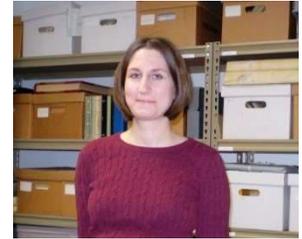
Donors to the permanent and Expendable Collection and Digital Archive in 2024

Ross Aiken	Robert Leavitt
Lorie Amick	John MacDonald
Fran Andrews	Ted Markley
Anonymous	Olynn O. McInerney
Mary Anthrop	Elizabeth McLean
Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County	Lenard Miller
Kaley Barry	Donald L. Nead and Caryl Matthews
Battle Ground Lions Club	Walter Poppinga
Eleanor Bailey	Douglas Paprocki
Jennifer Bay	Rick Pettry
James Beauchamp Jr.	Linda Pierret
Robert Bill	Mary Pugh
Peggy Bryant	Patrice Rabalais
Fox Cameron	William Radell
Sarah Carlson	Marianne Rose
Susan Carr	Julia Sandberg
Sally Jean Carter	Sean Sasser
City Bus	David and Nancy Sattler
Rosalee Clawson	Alvin Schault
Kevin Cullen	Jeffrey Schwab
Jan Aikman Dickson	Terry Shanks
Linda Emberton	Mark Sharff
Epsilon Tri Kappa	Peter Sherry
Fairfield Township Trustee	Van and Lynne Sherry
Kathleen Fedrow	Barbara Siebeneick
Five Points Fire Station Museum	Society of Indiana Pioneers
Mike and Carolyn Gery	Elizabeth Solberg
Michael and Cynthia Godwin	Mary Springer
The Haan Museum of Indiana Art	James Stalker
Amy Harbor	Arnold Sweet
Seth Harden	Mary Elise Thoennes
Hendricks County Museum	William Tilford
Kevin Herron	Valley Oaks Health
David Hovde	Samantha Wechter
Juliet Keers	Dana White
Angie and Steve Klink	R. Todd White
Lowell Korschot	Linda Yoki
Jack Korty	

TCHA Membership Annual Report 2024
Prepared by Kelly Lippie, Membership Coordinator

2024 ended with a total of 438 members of the Association: an increase of 14 members from the same time in 2023.

The Annual meeting of the membership of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association was held on February 3rd, 2024. New and returning Board of Governors were voted on by the membership. The Awards for Volunteer of the Year (Carolyn O'Connell) and Ball-Sholty (Leslie Martin Conwell) were announced. A guest speaker from Wolf Park gave a presentation.



Kelly Lippie



TCHA Members Ice Cream Social

A new "TCHA Supporter" sticker was introduced and given to all members upon their membership renewal.

The membership coordinator wrote the Annual appeal letter; which was sent out mid-year.

In July, TCHA hosted a Member's Ice Cream social. The TippecaNotes Barbershop Chorus performed and membership could enjoy an ice cream bar provided by Teays River Brewing and Public House.

At Feast's TCHA membership tent, 11 memberships were sold. Many members visited the tent to talk to TCHA staff and board members and to enjoy snacks.

A Members-only sale was held at the History Store at the Battlefield and in the

Arganbright Center in December.

Three electronic newsletters were produced in 2024. These are written by staff and volunteers and compiled into a digital format by a contractor.



Feast Membership Tent

TCHA Alameda McCollough Research Library Annual Report 2024
Prepared by Amy Harbor, Research Library Coordinator

In support of our mission to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, researching, and sharing our unique and diverse history, the research library is open ten hours a week for walk-in visitors who come in to research their families and other topics of Tippecanoe County history. We also have visitors by appointment on other days, as needed. In 2024, we had 189 walk-in researchers. This tally was boosted by the dozens of people we helped research articles they were writing for the bicentennial book, as well as a group of Purdue students working on a local history project.



Amy Harbor

I spend another eight hours a week working on requests that come in by telephone and email. Scanning and sending document images also takes up a good amount of time. In 2024 I had 198 email threads with patrons who were researching from a distance.

I also supervise eight volunteers who provide a huge amount of support in the library. In addition to helping with patron research, these volunteers are indexing our huge collection of documents in an ongoing effort to convert everything to digital. Our goal is to make all our indices available on our website. This year we added funeral home records to our webpage. At the moment, several volunteers are working hard to finish indexing our marriage records. Our library is starting to look different as we dispose of thousands of 3x5 cards. Volunteers (including the Collections Department) logged over 2900 hours of time on these projects!

In 2024 volunteers and staff researched people buried in Spring Vale Cemetery and Grand View Cemetery for cemetery walks in May and October respectively. Once again, the tours had good weather and attendance. Presenters enjoyed learning and sharing stories, and visitors were very engaged, making it a good experience for all. We are already working on preparing a bicentennial tour of Greenbush Cemetery for this May in conjunction with the city's bicentennial. We'll be presenting some of Lafayette's earliest citizens who are buried in Greenbush.



Cemetery Tour

In February we were happy to receive the Greenbush Cemetery burial records and other record books which had been in the possession of the Fairfield Township trustee since the cemetery association folded several years ago. A volunteer scanned these books for the Township, and they will be made available for researchers.

In March two different women's groups were given tours of the Genealogy Library, resulting in small donations and a couple of memberships.

In July we were asked to judge Genealogy projects for the County 4-H fair. One of our knowledgeable volunteers answered the call, and we received a small stipend for her work. The same volunteer created family trees for two patrons, earning us several hundred dollars.

Once again, the research library enjoyed a good year with some positive publicity, a lot of contact with the public and members, and many mysteries solved. We are looking forward to more of the same in 2025.

TCHA Tippecanoe Battlefield Interpretive Center and History Store Annual Report 2024
Prepared by Trey Gorden, Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum Manager

This has been a busy year for us at the Battlefield.

After we stopped charging sales tax at the History Store, we completed the process of adjusting our prices to round numbers by the end of April. This has not only made things more efficient at the register, but it's also made pricing for Feast easier and facilitated moving all Feast sales to tablets.

In July, construction on 9th Street finally ended the road closures. *Huzzah!* This has been a great relief for both staff and visitors, as you can imagine.

The History and Archaeology of Ft. Ouiatenon: 300 Years in the Making sold very well. Sales did eventually level off by the end of May, as one would expect, but keeping them in stock was touch-and-go for a while.

Stephanie Elliot was our Feast Assistant this year, and she did a great job. We're still waiting to hear whether her schedule will allow her to join us again this year. Fingers crossed.

Having sales go through tablets at Feast this year was successful beyond my most optimistic expectations! Many thanks to Laura Smyser for entering all those price changes, to Stephanie Elliot for learning quickly and providing patient tech support onsite, to the Bartlett family for jumping in with both feet and being open to change, to Erika Kvam for taking charge of the hardware, to Claire for moving the project forward, and to Jeff Schwab and his whole networking team for making it happen.

This was Brooke's first time on the Feast mugs team (with everything else she had to do), and her design was wonderful! The mugs were another unqualified success this year. Many thanks to her, to Adam Lawson who creates the logo stamp, and to potter Diana Couk May who actually crafts the mugs themselves. Those folks are a splendid team.



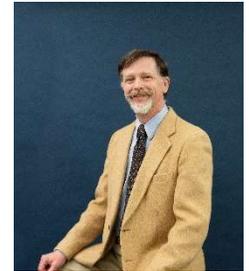
Battlefield Monument

The Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum hosted the IHS travelling exhibit "Indiana Through the Mapmaker's Eye" from July 2nd through August 1. To accompany the IHS panels, Kelly curated engaging displays of TCHA's surveying equipment and historical maps. Thanks, as always, to Kelly for all her hard work in arranging this exhibition.

Commemoration was even better than last year. Visitors were estimated at 217, over double last year's estimate. Don Hickey's keynote speech, "Forgotten Conflict: Why the War of 1812 Matters Today," was fascinating and very well attended.

Logan York, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, represented his people at Commemoration this year. He very much enjoyed the experience, and so did our visitors. The event was a productive part of our ongoing relationship with the Miami and we're looking forward to many similar collaborations in the future.

We had great weather for Commemoration, which encouraged lots of participation from reenactors, including DuBoise's Company of Spies and Guides and John Wickett & the 4th U.S. Infantry. Many of the reenactors spent two nights at the battlefield using period-appropriate camping gear, which they discussed with many fascinated visitors.



Trey Gorden

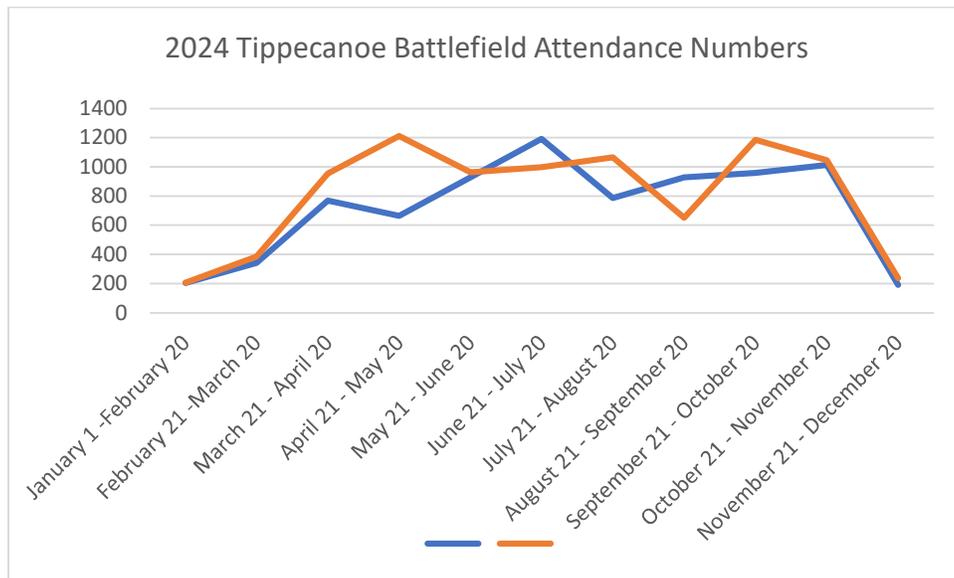


Laura Smyser

John's son, Nolan, who has been accompanying his father as a militia reenactor for years, has grown up and gone away to college and wasn't able to attend this year. Some of us have known Nolan since he was in his early teens, so this is a bitter-sweet development. All the best to Nolan in this next chapter of his life, and we look forward to seeing him again soon.

I took to the road earlier in the year with a game designed to teach children about American settlement in the Indiana Territory. It was very well received, and I was able to make changes to the game as I went along to improve gameplay and historical applicability. Changes to federal overtime laws temporarily necessitated a halt to these outreach programs, but now that those changes have been rolled back, I hope to continue these offerings in 2025.

2024 Tippecanoe Battlefield Attendance Numbers					
Duration	2023 attendance	2024 attendance	Change in Attendance		
			Numerical	Percentage	
January 1 -February 20	205	208	3	1.46%	
February 21 -March 20	342	385	43	12.57%	
March 21 - April 20	768	955	187	24.35%	
April 21 - May 20	665	1212	547	82.26%	
May 21 - June 20	927	963	36	3.88%	
June 21 - July 20	1193	997	-196	-16.43%	
July 21 - August 20	786	1065	279	35.50%	
August 21 - September 20	928	651	-277	-29.85%	
September 21 - October 20	959	1185	226	23.57%	
October 21 - November 20	1013	1046	33	3.26%	
November 21 - December 20	193	236	43	22.28%	
2022 Totals	7979	8903	924	11.58%	



Blue line represents 2023, red line represents 2024

Feast of the Hunters' Moon Report 2024
Prepared by Brooke Sauter, Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is TCHA's largest fundraiser of the year, annually generating over 60% of the operating income of the Association. The funds raised at this historical reenactment of life at Fort Ouiatenon (1717-1791) help us meet our mission on a daily basis through the work of staff and volunteers at the five sites TCHA operates: Frank C. Arganbright Genealogy Center, the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, the Ouiatenon Preserve, the History Center, and the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse.

The 2024 Feast will provide over \$181,000.00 in operating funds for TCHA in 2024. These funds help us meet our promise to the community as Tippecanoe County's "history keeper" - to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving, and sharing our unique and diverse history.



Brooke Sauter

The Feast can be greatly impacted by weather. The Feast has seen everything from rain, sunshine, and even snow. However, I'm happy to report the weather was beautiful albeit a bit warm (A high of 81 on Saturday and 76 on Sunday!) and an audience of 41,203 enthusiastic Feast goers showed up to celebrate the 57th annual event in the gorgeous fall weather on the banks of the Wabash.



Feast Set Up

This warm but clear (and dry!) weather 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.

Food Booths: Lauren was phenomenal in her first year as Food Booth Chair. Leading up to the event, she worked closely with our GFS Rep Craig to ensure all orders were in and accounted for. This of course was based on what the food booths had requested/self-reported, so there were a few last-minute needs and trips to GFS during the weekend itself to compensate for things not "ordered"/requested. She also managed the crew of workers who kept track of the items loading in and out of the GFS trucks. She and I have since met to work on detangling the order information to ensure each group or troop is billed accordingly for their commissary items, and we

are already making notes on how to simplify and correct some things for next year.

We had FOUR new Food Booths this year, and I have since talked to each of them. One is an outlier who will return based on their calendar availability (We gained them because Mississinewa canceled their 2024 event, which is closer to them geographically), but the other three were "organic" new additions who intend to return. One of the booths, turkey legs, sold out of his product early Sunday morning. Knowing this would be the case late Saturday, we worked with them to come up with an additional product, chicken kebabs, to supplement with after they ran out of the original product on Sunday.

Transportation: We lost use of the R Lot at Ross-Ade Stadium about a month in advance of the event. That being said, we worked with TEMA, City Bus, and Purdue Parking to come to the solution of using the Discovery Lot, which is near 231/Airport Road. We had additional signage printed to ensure attendees taking the bus knew how to access the lot, as well as provide additional signage at Ross-Ade Stadium with a map to point drivers to the new location should they arrive at Ross-Ade. After talking with Purdue Parking, this will likely be the new parking location for the Bus to and from the Feast for future years.



Blockhouse Visitors

Wifi: Kudos to Jeff Schwab and Scott Ksander for their hard work on the wireless system at the grounds! As some may remember, last year we had some issues with the wireless, between human intervention and tech failure. After

reworking the entire Wifi design for 2024, it was a vast improvement and I was personally hearing comments from vendors all across the grounds on how fast, steady, and reliable the wireless was for this year. Jeff and Scott's new system, which had various zones, was a huge success as on Sunday, one zone went down but did not take the entire system with it. This led to vendors who were none the wiser, and gates that were able to continue to take payment and process tickets through the gate with no issue.

Advertisement: Advertising was a big success in 2024. In addition to TV and radio interviews, we also had a heavy presence on social media, with daily posts the two weeks leading up to the Feast, and hourly posts scheduled during the event itself. We also purchased City Bus ads in 2024 (Three exterior ads and "cards" in every City Bus in Lafayette), a billboard on I-65 near Hwy 26, and distributed trifolds to area partners, as well as coasters to area restaurants. Of the 15 restaurants I personally delivered to, it was fun to see the joy on the person's face when they realized I was bringing coasters. These are apparently a hot commodity to bartenders and restauranters alike! We are currently seeking sponsors for the 2025 Feast. Please send me an email at Feast@tippecanaoehistory.org to see our 2025 Sponsorship Menu!



Claire and Brooke

Attendance: Another excellent year! We had over 41,000 people visit the Feast in 2024, which shows that good advertisement, great weather, and the enticement of good food paid off. We generally hope to see over 40,000 people each year, which is what has traditionally been considered the mark of a "good" Feast. (We have had Feasts with attendance higher than 40,000 from 2019-2024.)

This year, we sold an additional \$20,000 worth of tickets online than in 2023. Buying early not only saves attendees some money, but also ensures we get the cost of the ticket regardless of whether they attend. This increase in online pre-sales does mean our cash at the gate was down, but I feel this is a good direction to be trending. I am also eager to dive into the data garnered by Ticketspice, our vendor. We are able to

see geographic and demographic data based on ticket buyers.

Registration is something that also saw an overhaul in 2024. We now have Mary Fisher running the Registration tent. She brings with her a lot of organizational skills, Feast experience, and "customer service" attitude. Using notes given to me by Linda Swihart, the previous Registration Tent coordinator, Mary, Jeff Schwab and I met in advance of the event to prepare Mary for this task. This briefing along with Mary's personal experience as a participant allowed the registration process to run normally. We are already working on ways to improve the process and continue to make it a smooth experience when participants "check in" at the event.

A Few other Highlights: We worked with the Pioneer Junior/Senior High School Swim Team to facilitate setting up marquee tents and final set up on the Sunday before the Feast. This was a change from 2023, where Purdue Crew traditionally helped with this as part of their fundraising. Purdue Crew facilitated tear down on the Monday after the Feast. This was a vast improvement from 2023's tear down. The park, Feast staff, and Crew all walked away very happy with this year's clean up.

The Miami of Oklahoma joined us again, thanks to a grant provided by Indiana Humanities. Humanities staff also visited the Feast on Sunday, and sent a very kind thank you note talking about their experience and enjoyment of the Feast.

We also hosted a behind-the-scenes tour Thursday of Feast week to tourism partners through Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette. We had 20-some attendees from area hotels, tourism attractions, and businesses. This was a unique opportunity to showcase the variety that the Feast brings, and let tourism partners talk directly to the people who make it happen. (Thanks to Spring Valley Lodges, the NMLRA, Jeremy Spann/Blockhouse volunteers, and the Ouiatenon Voyageurs for talking to these partners.)

Merch designed and sold through United State of Indiana was a HUGE hit. We sold out of shirts, magnets, bandanas, and the custom mugs created by Mud Dog Pottery in Battleground. We still have leather coasters left, as well as stickers. I

am eager to continue to work with USI to design future years' merch and rely on their expertise. They obviously have the right idea!

We thank these folks for serving TCHA and the Feast-Committee members for 2024 included: Andy Wall, Barbara Deaton, Bill Young, Bob Leavitt, Brian Hawn, Dave Conner, Erika Kvam, Erin Hicks, Jan Young, Jared Nolly, Jeff Burnworth, Jeff Hockstra, Jeff Schwab, Jeni Watkins, Jeremy Spann, Josh Adamson, Joyce Weigand, Lauren Reed, Logan York, Mac Bellner, Mary Fisher, Matt Reibsomer, Melissa O'Farrell, Michael Elliot, Pete Bill, Preston Smith, Randy Lower, Sara Bartlett, Scott Stambaugh, Sheri Sondgerath.

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.



Voyageur Landing

Some significant challenges that affected the Feast in 2024: The continuance of inflation and its impact on the bottom line for the Association, supply chain issues, food sourcing difficulties, and shortages of booth workers and volunteers, as well as a few things that were lost in the transition of new leadership. All of these items are actively being addressed by the Feast Steering Committee, TCHA staff, and the Board of Governors.

Thanks to the participants, community partners, sponsors, Feast goers, and the thousands of volunteers that make the Feast a treasured tradition in Tippecanoe County, the 2024 Feast will go in the books as a very successful one! We hope to see YOU at the 2025 Feast, scheduled for October 11-12!

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.

TCHA Board Committees Reports 2024

Facilities Committee

Received a significant grant from the Community Foundation to help cover the repainting, exterior repair and window replacement at the Arganbright Library. Painting completed in November, but the window is waiting on weather so the adhesive will set correctly.

We are still assessing the HVAC system at the History Center. Money has been set aside in the emergency maintenance fund.

The 2023 roof at the History Center developed leaks and was repaired by Thayer's. It has had no issues since.

The History Center was used as a voting center for both the primary and general elections and worked out very well. Many people looking at the collections displayed on the way in and out.

The fort grounds have received a grant in 2024 for the Emergency Alert system to be installed weather permitting in 2025.

A new Conex storage unit that is water and wind resistant has been purchased for the storage of Feast materials on site near the barn.

Historical Markers Committee:

The Historical Markers Committee has been preparing to do a survey of existing Tippecanoe County markers in 2025. To that end, we have taken the old, existing database and crosschecked it with the Historical Marker Database at hmdb.org. We intend to devote a significant amount of time in 2025 to verifying the existence and state of repair of each marker in the database, along with what organization has responsibility for each one.

We are also working on two other projects:

1. A marker commemorating Lafayette native Edna Browning Ruby, the remarkable early twentieth-century artist whose work in stained glass appeared in more than one church in Lafayette. Many thanks to committee member Sally Carter for taking charge of this project.
2. The City of Lafayette and Fairfield Township have asked us to design a marker commemorating William Digby, to be erected at Greenbush Cemetery. Our final meeting of 2024 was at Greenbush Cemetery with John Collier, Assistant Director of Economic Development for the city, to see the site and discuss parameters for the project.

Lafayette Bicentennial Publications Committee:

The committee had a busy year recruiting authors and getting articles for the book submitted. Over 200 potential articles were submitted by the time we wrapped up submissions this fall.

Throughout the year, the majority of the committee's time was spent reviewing, reference checking, and editing the submitted articles. We can not thank enough the volunteers that spent hours and hours of their time helping with this monumental task.

The final articles were selected and formatted into a standard format for submission to Purdue Press. Photographs from the collection and other sources have been selected and finalized. The entire manuscript has been forwarded to Purdue Press for final editing and formatting and eventual publication.

Membership and Development Committee

Members: Brooke Sauter (Chairwoman), Del Bartlett, Jeff Burnworth, Kelly Lippie, Tara Raber, Dave Sattler, Ronda Schwab, Jeff Schwab (Board President), Claire Eagle (Executive Director)

The Membership and Development Committee is a Standing Board Committee charged with advising the Board of Governors and the Executive Director on matters relating to membership, or efforts to engage the community for purposes of development (donor cultivation, procurement of grants, external fundraising, sponsoring partnership formation, etc.).

Membership: As a Board Committee, the Membership and Development Committee works with membership staff (Kelly Lippie) to be a sounding board for feedback or ideas, or as an additional conduit between membership staff and the Board. Discussions include changes in membership benefits and services, methods for membership recruitment, and membership outreach projects.

Membership staff reports at each meeting on the status of membership numbers, trends, and ideas for reaching out to members and increasing the perceived value of their membership. The status of the TippecaNEWS newsletter is discussed (the newsletter sent out electronically 4 times a year) and any results from membership surveys. Plans for covering the TCHA Membership Tent at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon are also discussed during this time.

Membership numbers for the year and more details about projects completed for the membership are reported in Kelly Lippie's Membership Report section of this Annual Report.

Development: The Executive Director (Claire Eagle) is typically the chief development officer for TCHA. The Executive Director works closely with the Committee to plan development events (e.g., fundraising and programming), ongoing donation programs (e.g., Legacy Brick), the Annual Appeal, and relationship-building events. The Executive Director takes the lead in writing and submitting grants, as well as completing grant reports, and the Committee acts as a support group for the Executive Director by helping to suggest potential granting opportunities or donor opportunities, providing identifying documentation for targeted equipment costs for grants, helping to proof grant applications or reports, and acting as a sounding board for pursuing certain grants.

During the Committee meetings the Executive Director reports on all grants in development, grants procured, and grants concluded (required reports submitted to granting agencies). In this past year the Committee and the Executive Director formulated a Development Strategic Plan for 2024 along with setting specific target goals for the coming year.

In 2024, we had a total of 108 individual donors. Including in-kind donors, this brings our total for 2024 to 125 donors. We are fortunate to have the support of so many both in and beyond our community.

Grants, sponsorships and donations for 2024 are presented in the Executive Director's section of this Annual Report.

Development and Membership Committee Projects for 2025

- Review and modification (as needed) for Annual Appeal 2025 – timing, goals, tracking goal progress, reporting of goal progress to membership, additional communication during the appeal period
- Continued expansion on planned giving opportunities for TCHA: estate planning, monthly giving, donations from IRA required minimum distributions (RMD)
- Continue efforts to attract new support for increasing the endowments whose interest would be used to support TCHA operations and increase the Association's fiscal stability by reducing dependence upon the weather-dependent Feast for so much of the Association's yearly operational budget
- Fundraising to support the Feast, as it is currently a significant source of revenue for the Association
- Continue to discuss and create effective methods to foster development relationships with individuals, businesses, and community leaders

Thanks to the Committee volunteers and staff for helping this Committee fulfill its function and obligation to the Board of Governors.

WE WANT YOU: The Committee is seeking TCHA members with experience, or ideas, on how to better engage the community in practical methods of donor partnership development, personal engagement with the Association, cost effective uses of social media for outreach and communication with the community, and other means by which TCHA can attract non-TCHA-members into the TCHA orbit.

Please contact Jeff Schwab, Board President, at: jrs@purdue.edu

Ouiatenon Preserve Committee

Committee Members: H. Kory Cooper (Chair), Phyllis Dotson, Jeremy Spann, David Hovde, Leslie Martin-Conwell, Del Bartlett, Colby Bartlett

Ouiatenon Artifacts at IU Museum

The TCHA board has decided to investigate what legal options we have regarding ownership of the Ouiatenon artifacts excavated by Dr. Kellar (IU) in 1968 and 1969. TCHA contends it is the owner of that collection of material, but IU has expressed their opinion that the collection belongs to them. The material has been housed at IU since excavation but no report was ever provided to TCHA.

Overlook

1) Plans are in motion to replace the handicap parking signs at the Ouiatenon Preserve overlook with something more aesthetically pleasing and less obstructive of the view. Currently, there are signs on metal rods at eye-level. We have discussed replacing the posts with shorter wooden posts that would still be compliant with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act but more attractive.

2) In July someone dumped a truckload of construction debris (dirt, sod, bricks) at the overlook. Colby reported it to the sheriff's office and encouraged them to visit the overlook regularly if possible. Kohler's was hired to remove dump truck pile, which cost ~\$500 and was covered by OPI. As a result of this and previous incidents, Colby plans to install some sort of video surveillance of the overlook.

OP Field Activities

1) OPI was awarded (with Purdue University and University of Southern Indiana as co-applicants) a Wabash River Cultural Heritage Fund grant in the amount of \$99,000 for archaeological field work at the preserve. This work will take place in May-June 2025 and will help the preserve in identifying and preserving its archaeological sites.

2) Dr. Terry Cruz, a Post-Doc scholar at Purdue in Agriculture, has been collecting rusts and midge larvae from goldenrods as part of their research.

3) OPI was awarded a USDA NRCS grant in the amount of ~\$8,000.00 for use in dealing with invasive species. These funds will be used to get rid of honeysuckle on the northern margins of the preserve.

Interpretation

Moving forward the OP Committee has agreed to prioritize developing and installing interpretive signage at the preserve, specifically the overlook. Additionally, we will continue to work closely with OPI in developing a plan for the use of the Fix property at the preserve.

Program Committee

2024's successful programming season would not have been possible without our sponsors, volunteer presenters and committee. Educational programming is a BIG part of our mission, and their support and time allow us to continue to fulfill our mission, enriching the lives of Tippecanoe County residents and visitors by collecting, preserving and sharing our unique and diverse history. Support for this year's programs included The National Group, La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux, Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette and the American Legion Post 11. With their support and the help of over 100 volunteers, 2024 programs (exclusive of the Feast) had 1,565 attendees.

The addition of our quarterly program brochure was a hit, with many members appreciating the format for better calendar planning. In addition, this change in format allowed the committee to plan programs on a rolling basis, making changes as needed and leading to far less cancelled programs due to scheduling changes.

2024 also brought a new program series to the History Center. Working with Chef Lauren Reed and her assistant Rose, we hosted four Taste of the Past dinners throughout the summer. Three of the four dinners sold out, bringing in just under \$5,000 in revenue. We've expanded the number of dinners to five this year, including a special Valentine's Day edition. Tickets are on sale now!



A set table from the Taste of the Archives dinner with Chef Lauren Reed



Pete Bill presenting "Tippecanoe County and the 1913 Flood" at the West Lafayette Public Library

Committee as we continue to plan 2025 programs and beyond.

Finally, special thanks go to our entire committee for working hard to put on an interesting and balanced slate of programs. 2024 committee members were Cassie Apuzzo, Leslie Martin Conwell, Kory Kooper, Amy Harbor, David Hovde, Walt Griffin, Quentin Robinson, Brooke Sauter, Bridget Slack, Whitney Walton and Jan Young. If program planning interests you, please contact me at director@tippecanoehistory.org. Any TCHA member can be on the committee!

Program partnerships continued throughout the year. Working with Tom Wojcinski and Les Garrison du Pays d'en Haut four living history events were held at the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse, with maple sugaring in March having an attendance of 400 visitors. In addition, we began a partnership with the West Lafayette Library, hosting five programs and an exhibit together.

In late 2024, the Programming Committee developed a short survey designed to help us better understand the quality of our programs and what the community wants to see from us. Survey results will be analyzed in February and used to guide the Program

Grants, donations, and sponsorships for 2024 are listed below

Grant Income

Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette	\$43,640.00
North Central Health Services	\$57,084.75
Lafayette Life Foundation	\$ 5,000.00
Indiana Humanities	\$ 2,793.00
Lafayette Daybreak Rotary	\$ 500.00

Sponsorships

American Legion Post 11	\$ 300.00
Historic Five Points Fire Station	\$ 100.00
Old National Bank	\$ 500.00
First Farmer's Bank and Trust	\$ 4,500.00
La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux	\$ 200.00
Subaru of Indiana	\$ 3,500.00
Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette	\$20,000.00

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