

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

## TippecaNEWS

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### IN THIS EDITION OF THE TIPPECANEWS...

- Page 2: Founder of Lafayette: William Digby
- Page 3: Be a Part of TCHA's Committees
- Page 4: An Update from the Library Volunteers
- Page 6: Feast of the Hunters' Moon
- Pages 7: September Program Calendar
- Page 8-End: Membership Perks and Spotlight



**THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO  
ALL NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
JOINED TCHA SINCE THE LAST  
EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER!**

- *Jason Anderson*
- *Valerie and David Bahr*
- *Mary and Keith Dahl*
- *Rebecca Fassnacht*
- *Skylar Finch*
- *Faye Gibson and Fred Cottrell*
- *David and Karen Hockstra*
- *Erica and Rob Howard*
- *Bernie Kendall*
- *Charity Munro*
- *Anita and Joyce Sanford*
- *Michael Santini*
- *Norma Jean Singley*
- *Michelle Wood- Voglund*



# FROM THE VAULT

## WILLIAM DIGBY, BY GEORGE WINTER

### BY KELLY LIPPIE, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

As we celebrate and recognize the bicentennial of the founding of the City of Lafayette, the founder William Digby is also getting a lot of attention this year. One of the most significant paintings in the collection of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association is a portrait of William Digby done by another notable Lafayette resident, George Winter. Only two portraits of Digby are known to exist (and one daguerreotype photograph); both painted by Winter. One painting, done around 1856, shows Digby sitting on a log in the forest with the Wabash River in the background. This painting is in the collection of the Tippecanoe County Public Library. A second painting, a bust portrait, was painted around 1858 and hung in Lafayette City Hall for many years. In 1931, the bust portrait was donated to TCHA for safekeeping; where it remains to this day.

In 1906, A.O. Reser collected a description from Mark Jenners, an early resident of Lafayette:

“I knew William Digby very well. He was a big man in every way. He was six feet tall and weighed 200 pounds. He never married. He lived in Lafayette with the family of W. H. Watson. He was a great man to play cards. Seven-up was his favorite game. He used to go on flat boats to New Orleans. He was captain of these boats and would play cards all the way down on the flat boats and then he would come back on steamers and play cards all the way back. He was an all ‘round old fellow and was liked by all classes of people. He was inclined to be light complexioned and had light hair. I don’t believe he was much of a hunter but he liked to fish. He was a regular frontier all-around man. He was always ready to fight or do anything in support of what he believed to be right”.

His obituary in the Lafayette Courier described him, “He was generous to a fault, credulous, confiding and was oftener sinned against than sinning. Whatever of human frailty there might have been that marred his early manhood, it should be all forgotten in the blameless character of his riper years.”

In 1988, the painting underwent restoration to help conserve the frame and supports. Digby died in 1864, just six years after the completion of his second portrait. He was buried at Greenbush Cemetery, near his mother and sister.

*Bust Portrait of William Digby, Painted by George Winter, est. 1858*



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY CLAIRE EAGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## TCHA COMMITTEES

**Did you know that you don't have to be on TCHA's Board of Governors to serve on our committees?** Any TCHA member can participate on the very committees that keep the Association running smoothly. Have an interest in planning programs, a love of numbers or handyman skills? Then we might have a committee for you! Read more about some of our committees that are looking for new members. If one of them strikes your fancy, feel free to reach out to me at [director@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:director@tippecanoehistory.org) and I will get you to the right committee chair.

The **Facilities Committee** (formerly the Buildings & Grounds Committee) is a standing committee per our bylaws that functions to oversee maintenance, major improvements or construction of TCHA properties.

**Finance, Budget, and Risk Management** is also a standing committee per TCHA's bylaws. This committee is responsible for the creation of Budget proposal for December meeting and oversight of spending to ensure the financial stability of our Association.

**Membership and Development** was created as an ad hoc committee to maintain and recruit membership for TCHA as well as support in fundraising efforts.

**TCHA's Program Committee** works with the Executive Director on topics, presentations or other education and engaging activities related to TCHA's mission. They are responsible for setting the quarterly program schedule that includes things like cemetery tours, lecture programs and Taste of the Past dinners.

Our **Historic Markers Committee** has been recently revitalized and oversees and manages the TCHA owned historic markers in Tippecanoe County.

Finally, our **Publications Committee** works to plan and review TCHA's publications regarding local history. Some current projects include working on a reprint of our self-published *The Battle of Tippecanoe: November 7, 1811* and creating standards for reviewing current publications and other documents that TCHA owns the rights to evaluate what may fit our mission to review, revise or republish.

### **WHAT ARE THE LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS UP TO?**

One of our volunteers has been indexing an amazing book entitled “Personal War Sketches” which was produced in 1900 by the Women’s Relief Corps of the Marsh B. Taylor Post, No. 475 Grand Army of the Republic. The Women’s Relief Corps of this post was instituted on November 28, 1893, the first patriotic organization of women in Tippecanoe County. The object of the order was “to assist the Grand Army of the Republic and to perpetuate the memory of their Heroic Dead; to assist such union veterans as need our help and protection, to assist widows and orphans, to find them homes and employment, assure them sympathy and friends, to maintain true allegiance to the United States, to inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country among our children and in the community in which we live and to encourage the spread of universal liberty and equal rights to all.”

This large ledger contains transcriptions of stories told by 191 Civil War soldiers who were members of the veterans’ fraternal organization organized in West Lafayette in 1886. The sketches contain a wealth of information including biographical data, enlistment details, illness and hospitalization, battles, captures and prison experiences and names of their best friends. It makes for fascinating reading, and it is no wonder our volunteers are enticed into reading the soldiers’ stories.

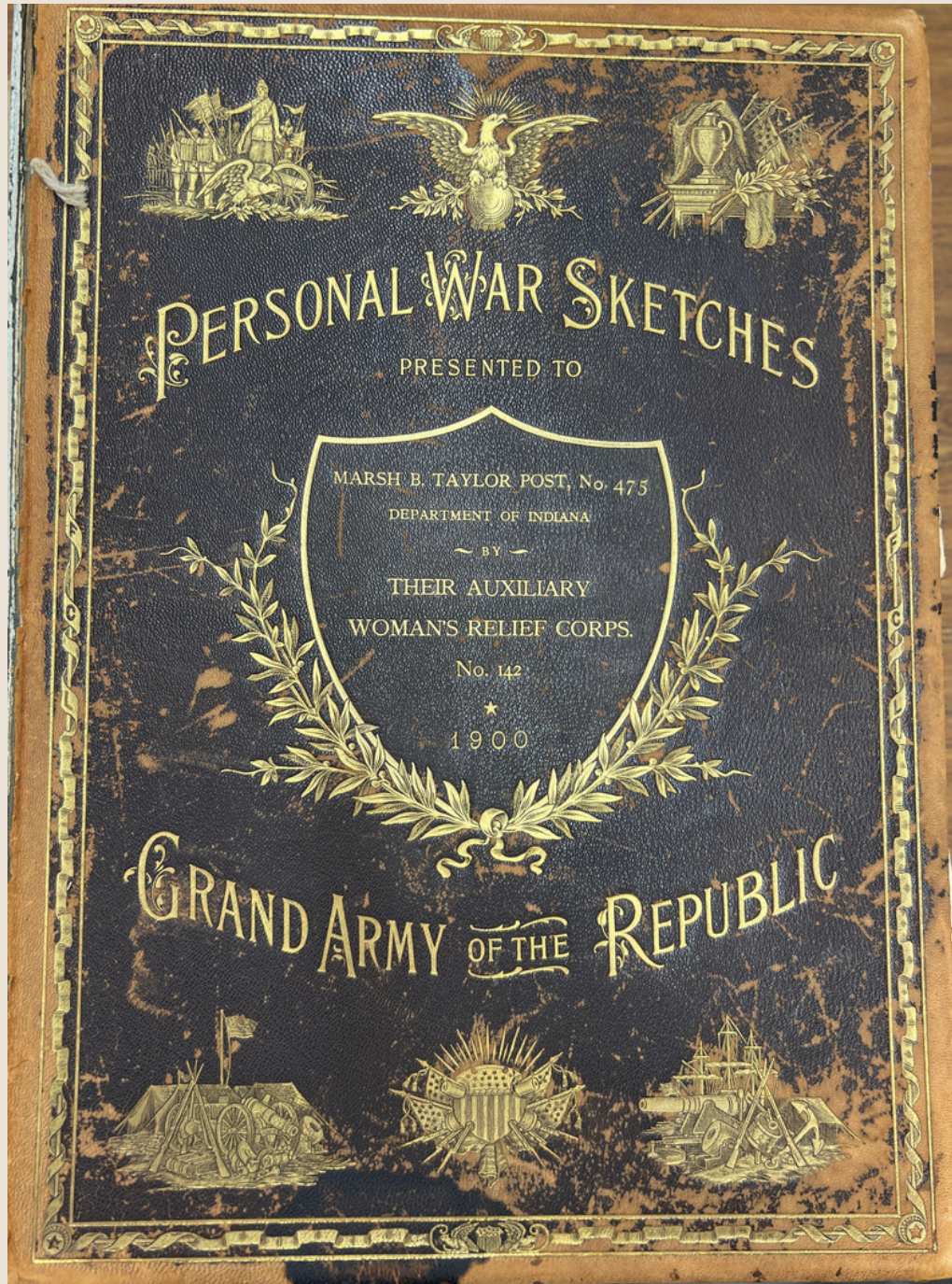
Alfred Vance described waking up on the Battlefield at Selma, Alabama the morning after the battle surrounded by dead and wounded rebels. He offered water from his canteen to a wounded rebel colonel who gave him his sword in return. Vance refused at first but ended up accepting the sword which he says is still owned by his brother Capt. [Robert] Vance. Alfred Vance died in 1911 and is buried at Hebron Cemetery in Wabash Township.

One of the longest entries is that of Albert A. Jones of Battle Ground, which spans fourteen pages. He tells his whole life story, including going to California where his father had gone during the gold rush, returning to Indiana where he helped carry bricks to build the Battle Ground Institute, a long, detailed description of his Civil War service, his career as a railroader and time as a trustee at the Veterans Home. These sketches are a goldmine of information for family history researchers as well as fascinating reading for lovers of Civil War history and local history. We have such interesting things in our collection!



# ALAMEDA MCCOLLOUGH RESEARCH LIBRARY

BY AMY HARBOR, LIBRARY COORDINATOR



*"Personal War Sketches"*

*Women's Relief Corps of the Marsh B. Taylor Post, No. 475 Grand Army of the Republic, 1900*

# FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY BROOKE SAUTER, EVENT MANAGER

## IT'S ALMOST HERE!

By the time we send out the next newsletter, it will be Feast time! So as my last update before the festivities begin, I'll share that we are receiving Feast applications from vendors and participants new and old, as well as Food booth paperwork, and more! On paper, it's shaping up to be a great event.

We are excited to welcome partnerships with area businesses and organizations who have chosen to financially support the Feast. We share our thanks with Duke Energy Foundation, Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette, Caterpillar, Civic Theater, SIA, First Farmers Bank and Trust, Indiana Humanities, WoofBoom Radio, Comcast, Mr Fence It, Hanna Center, Bauer Subway, CityBus, Lafayette Travel Trailer, Spann Group Realty, and many other sponsors. If you or your business are interested in supporting the Feast and hearing about our great sponsor benefits, please reach out to Brooke at [Feast@Tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:Feast@Tippecanoehistory.org)

There are a few other exciting new things coming for 2025 that need to be kept under wraps just a bit longer, but it's really looking like 2025 will be a great year full of what everyone has come to love about the Feast, and so much more!

For those who want to participate in set up of the Feast, be sure to get the dates in your calendar for September 27-28, and October 4-5. (If you are wanting to dip your toe into something new and try Crew set up for the first time, send Brooke an email at [Feast@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:Feast@tippecanoehistory.org) so we can know to expect you!)

Merchandise is also available for online preorder! Get yours today and see this year's themed designs at [unitedstateofindiana.com/tcha](https://unitedstateofindiana.com/tcha)

## 2025 FEAST MEMBERSHIP TENT

Don't forget to visit us at the TCHA Membership tent at this year's Feast of the Hunters' Moon. This retreat is a special spot for TCHA members only! You can take a quiet break, chat with TCHA staff and Board Members and have a snack. You can even renew your membership and get a special surprise! Stop and visit us near the center of the Feast grounds.





# October 2025 Programs

## TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

### 58th Annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon

Saturday, October 11, 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, October 12, 9 AM - 4 PM

Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park



Step back in time to the 18th century at the 58th Annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. Immerse yourself in colonial life with delicious food, live music, educational demonstrations, and fun activities for all ages. Explore the historic grounds of Fort Ouiatenon, located along the banks of the Wabash River. Don't miss this unforgettable experience! Tickets are on sale now at [feastofthehuntersmoon.org](http://feastofthehuntersmoon.org) or at various outlets throughout the community.

### Spring Vale Cemetery Tour

Sunday, October 26, 2-4 p.m.

Spring Vale Cemetery

2580 Schuyler Avenue, Lafayette, IN

Register today at

[bit.ly/TCHABicentennialTours25](http://bit.ly/TCHABicentennialTours25)



Spring Vale Cemetery, From the TCHA Archives

In December 1868, the Spring Vale Cemetery Association was organized, and a 150 acre tract two miles northeast of the city in the Longlois Reserve was purchased. It was laid out into 35 sections, in the rural cemetery style. Hear all about ghosts, murders, accidental deaths, and more. This walking tour is self guided, and a map will be provided. Docents will be stationed around the cemetery to talk about various burials.

Parking will be indicated inside the cemetery, to the left after entering the grounds. This event is FREE! Registration is suggested but not required. Register today at [bit.ly/TCHABicentennialTours25](http://bit.ly/TCHABicentennialTours25)

*...Plus other great programs coming up! Stay tuned for the program guide and visit our website for more.*

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## MEMBERS: CONTINUED SUPPORT

Lafayette Bicentennial Christmas ornaments are here! Decorate your tree this year with the last 200 years of our past. Each ornament is \$20 available for purchase at the Arganbright Genealogy Center.

All proceeds benefit the continuation of TCHA events and programs .



*Lafayette Bicentennial Christmas Ornament Featuring Bicentennial Logo*

## DID YOU MISS A PROGRAM? STREAM IT!

TCHA offers history related programs on afternoons and evenings throughout the year. For the past four years, many of these programs have been recorded and made available on YouTube.

If you missed a specific presentation or just want to catch up on the many topics that we have presented, we invite you to fire up your favorite browser and go to:

**<https://www.youtube.com/@tippecanoeountyhistorical8148>**

From the recent presentation on Jack Lillard and the Informer, the continued history of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the lives of William Digby and Evaleen Stein, and so much more, you can catch up on many of our past programs. Take a look and see what you have missed!



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# 200

## MEMBERS: GREAT PERKS AS OUR THANKS!

A special Bicentennial-year perk, we are partnering with Flora Candle! They're offering a 25% off discount on bicentennial candles, just for being a member of TCHA!

Enjoy the perfectly-curated scents that celebrate our wonderful city and thriving community.



### REMEMBERING HERITAGE

Notes of vanilla, musk, and denim, paying homage to the city's lasting industry, grit, and the strength of the Wabash River.



### CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

Flora Candle Company is honored to celebrate the Lafayette Bicentennial by offering signature fragrances.



### EMBRACING LEGACY

Notes of peony, blackberry, and vanilla, capturing the city's festivals and events, beauty, and elegance of our home.

## MEMBER DISCOUNT

All TCHA members receive 25% off bicentennial candles when presenting membership card for the entire bicentennial event celebration at Flora Candle Company!

609 Main Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901

(765) 767-4819  
floracandlecompany.com

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## MEMBERS: GREAT PERKS AS OUR THANKS!

We are excited to once again partner with Wolf Park to offer the following perks, JUST for being a member! Our great thanks to our friends at Wolf Park.

	<p><i>Adventure</i> AWAITS</p> <p>Explore the wild like never before at Wolf Park! From guided tours uncovering the secrets of ecosystems and conservation efforts to up-close experiences like feeding demonstrations, bison encounters, and crafting enrichment for our animals, there's something for every wildlife enthusiast.</p>
	<div data-bbox="787 1123 998 1333"></div> <div data-bbox="1015 1123 1388 1333"><p><b>Book Now</b></p><p>Use Code: TCHA25</p></div>
<p><b>TCHA Member Exclusive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>25% Off - History Tour</li><li>10% Off - Daily Tours</li><li>10% Off - Howl Nights</li></ul>	

*What's another way you can support our work?*

**HELP PROVIDE SUPPLIES WE NEED TO  
CONTINUE TO PRESERVE HISTORY.**

**SHOP TCHA'S AMAZON WISHLIST AT  
[HTTPS://A.CO/E4NKPXK](https://a.co/e4nkpkk)**