

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

TippecaNEWS

VOL 5 | ISSUE 3 | FALL 2026

TCHA MEMBERS: VISIT US AT THE FEAST!

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 be entered to win a 2026 Feast mug and magnet. Stop and visit us near the center of the Feast grounds.



IN THIS EDITION OF THE TIPPECANEWS...

Cover: TCHA Membership

Page 2: From the Director

Page 3: Programming Updates

Page 4: Feast of the Hunters' Moon

Page 5: Upcoming Programs

Page 6: Member Spotlight

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon welcomes

THE U.S. ARMY OLD GUARD FIFE & DRUM CORPS



You won't want to miss this!

OCTOBER 24-25, 2026 • W. LAFAYETTE, IN

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is thrilled to announce they will be hosting the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps at the 59th Annual Feast (October 24-25, 2026) in honor of America's 250. The Corps is scheduled to perform both Saturday and Sunday, with specific performance times to be announced.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY CLAIRE EAGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AWARDED NOW GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY OF GREATER FOUNDATION | LAFAYETTE

The Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a grant of \$7,940.50 from The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for the purchase of updated visual equipment in the History Center auditorium.

The grant will fund the purchase of new visual equipment, helping to increase capacity for presentations, create a more professional set-up for TCHA and better the History Center Auditorium as a venue designed to have mission-based educational programming. This initiative follows feedback from community members identifying a need for an educational programming space that could better accommodate audiences and provide improved accessibility and technology.

“Updating the Auditorium’s technology will allow us to better serve both the people who attend our programs in person and those who engage with local history online,” shares Tippecanoe County Historical Association’s Executive Director, Claire Eagle. “This investment will give us a more effective space for lectures, presentations, and other mission-based educational programs while expanding our ability to share Tippecanoe County’s history with an even broader audience.”

The Tippecanoe County Historical Association sincerely thanks The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for their support.

ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

We are so close to our 2026 Annual Campaign goal!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community we are almost to our goal. It's through your giving that we are able to work on projects focused on preserving Tippecanoe county's history, both big and small.

Help us meet our goal by giving today at bit.ly/TCHA2026. Prefer to send a check? You can mail yours to TCHA at 1001 South Street, Lafayette, IN 47901.

TCHA's Annual Campaign 2026

Thanks to your generosity, we're already 91% to our goal! Are you ready to give? With your help, we can...

- ✓ Preserve historic documents and artifacts
- ✓ Provide educational programming for all ages
- ✓ Keep local history alive and thriving!

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Donations can be made online or by mail | By Mail (Checks made to TCHA) 1001 South St, Lafayette, IN 47901 | Online [bit.ly/https://bit.ly/TCHA2026](https://bit.ly/TCHA2026)

TCHA PROGRAMS

BY MITCHELL CRITEL, PROGRAM MANAGER

NEW PROGRAM SERIES AT TCHA

Anyone who has been by my office has seen the whiteboard filled from edge to edge with programming. Current programs, future programs, old programs worth revisiting, big ideas, and huge ideas. All those ideas make up what could be the next twelve to eighteen months of TCHA programming. If you were one of the people in attendance at the August 14th Member's Only Night at the Battlefield Museum you saw previews of some of the very first whiteboard program ideas. The Junior Historians Academy and the Makers and Masters Workshop Series were both well represented by Cassie, Kelly, and myself.

Those who came by my corner of the museum saw what is to come for the Makers and Masters Workshop Series, an initiative focusing on preserving traditional crafts through instruction, teaching and hands-on learning. These paid workshops and experiences expand our previous traditional trades offerings and give them a home inside our greater programming calendar. The first of these launches with the November 14th Natural Ink Making workshop where participants will be guided through the process of making domestic inks from natural sources over live fires.

Also launching this fall is the Junior Historians Academy, a new educational program for homeschool students in Grades 3-8. This monthly program explores nine different topics focused on the history of Tippecanoe County and loosely following the 'National Month of' calendar. When this program began taking online registrations, the interest blew the lid off the capacity targets and I quickly began to expand the capacity for the fall sessions. This first year will be focused on the homeschool student, but this is a test-bed for programming ideas that can grow into standalone offerings for all audiences.

Falls are always busy for TCHA, but this fall with the two new initiatives we will be both busy and engaging new audiences. If you are interested in getting involved with volunteering for programming or want to explore programming topics- please reach out to me.

Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration and Veterans Ceremony

Sunday, November 8, 2026, 10AM - 5 PM

The Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum



*The Tippecanoe
Battlefield Monument*

In honor of the Battle of Tippecanoe Commemoration, enjoy free admission to the Museum and History Store, Wreath Laying Ceremony at 1pm, Guided Battlefield Tour at 2pm, and Living History Demonstrations throughout the day.

Thank you to American Legion Post 11 for their support of this program.

FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY BROOKE SAUTER, EVENT MANAGER

BUILDING THE FEAST'S FUTURE TOGETHER

As the Feast is upon us, things have been quite busy at TCHA. Everyone is working hard to make this another fantastic year, and a fruitful fundraiser for our Association. As I spend more time in town with Feast volunteers and others, I was reflecting on all of the energy that goes into this event!

The Feast has always been built by people sharing their knowledge, talents, and time. As we prepare for this year's event, I want to strengthen that tradition by creating more ways for volunteers to contribute their skills and grow their involvement.

I know there are talented people throughout our Feast community whose abilities we may not yet know about. You may be a talented photographer, a booth building engineer. Heck, maybe you secretly love to alphabetize! Or inspire others to volunteer their time to recreate history. You may also be ready to learn something new alongside an experienced volunteer.

My goal is to bring those abilities into our planning, develop hands-on coordinator roles, and give committed volunteers a meaningful voice in the work of the Steering Committee.

The Feast's future will be shaped by people who are willing to share what they know, learn from one another, and turn good ideas into action. If you have wanted to become more involved, or have a skill we should know about, I invite you to send me a message at Feast@TippecanoeHistory.org.

It is my honor to continue to steward the Feast forward, and build upon our framework in ways that keep it relevant, engaging, and inspiring. I look forward to bringing you into the fold to do that with me!

59th Annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon

Saturday, October 24, 9 AM - 5 PM

Sunday, October 25, 9 AM - 4 PM

Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park



Step back in time to the 18th century at the 59th 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 or at various outlets throughout the community.

THE 59TH FEAST WILL BE THE BEST ONE YET! PLUS, MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE TICKETS.
JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, AND MORE AT FORT OUIATENON!

PREVIEW OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS!

October-December 2026

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

Plants of the Ouiatenon World-

Rethinking the Fort Ouiatenon Garden

Through Historical Evidence

Tuesday, October 13, 6 PM

TCHA History Center

Presented by Bridget Slack,

Tippecanoe Master Gardener

and current steward of

the herb garden

Spend the evening learning about the history and legacy of the Herb Garden at Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park with TCHA Board of Governor Bridget Slack, Tippecanoe Master Gardener and current steward of the herb garden.



Taste of the Past Dinner, a Victorian Christmas

Saturday, December 12, 2026, 6 PM

TCHA's History Center

Tickets are limited, order

yours today! \$65/person,

(765) 476-8411 ext 1.



Enjoy a delicious Victorian themed dinner prepared by Chef Lauren Reed. Plus, the program: "How His Majesty Put the Star Atop Victorian Christmas Trees Across the Star City." Mitchell L Critel will present on the holiday traditions that started in Germany and England quickly spread to America in the Victorian Era and how they are still present in our celebrations today.

Menu:

- Homemade Yeast Rolls & Potato Leek Chowder
- Salad: Spinach, pumpkin seeds, apple, dried cherries, chive vinaigrette
- Crostini: Goat Cheese, Bacon Wrapped Dates

- Main Dish: Cornish Hen, Roasted Root Vegetables, Citrus Cranberry Sauce
- Dessert: Charolette Ruse
(Lady Fingers/Pastry Cream/Berry)

WATCH FOR THE FULL LIST OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS IN OUR PROGRAM GUIDE!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to all who have joined the Association since the last edition of our newsletter!

John and Mary Lynn Bullins
Brian and Paige Bullins
Katie and Joe Donahue
Dan Gross
Dave Klemme
Rachel Schoonmaker
Melissa Young Spillers and Carl Spillers
Patricia Tucker

When you renew or purchase a TCHA membership this year, you will receive details on how to purchase a 1 year individual gift membership for just \$18.26! This offer is only good in 2026, so don't miss out!



OUR NEXT MEMBERS' ONLY EXPERIENCE

Member's Only Night at the West

Lafayette Observatory

Friday, November 13, 2026, 7 PM

West Lafayette Observatory

(600 Cumberland Ave, West Lafayette, IN)

Presented by the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society



The Observatory

The Wabash Valley Astronomical Society officers will talk about the history of the West Lafayette Observatory and the Society. Weather-permitting, we will also do a celestial viewing using the observatory's telescope. Astronomical photography done by members will be on display.

This event is limited to 20 people, so you must RSVP to attend. You can send your RSVP to Kelly at memberships@tippecanoehistory.org or call 765-476-8411 ext. 3. Please RSVP by November 4th.