

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

## TippecaNEWS

VOL 3 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2024

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

Page 2: From the Executive Director

Page 3: Volunteer of the Year

Page 4: Ball-Sholty Award

Page 5: From the Vault

Page 5-6: Feast of the Hunters' Moon

Page 7: Research Library

Page 8: Programming Calendar

Page 9-11: Special Initiatives

Page 12: Partner Organizations

Page 13: Member Spotlight

## 2024 TCHA BOARD OF GOVERNORS LINE UP

Meet the 2024 TCHA Board of Governors! The Board is the driving force of the organization, and meets monthly to make decisions and updates for the organization as a whole. It's never too early to think about joining the board, as we will be taking applications for board members in the fall.

Want to try out a TCHA Board meeting before you commit?

Join us on the fourth Tuesday at the TCHA History Center, at 5:15 PM.

#### PRESIDENT

JEFF SCHWAB

#### SECRETARY

NICK SCHENKEL

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

DAVE SATTLER

#### TREASURER

LORITA BILL

#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Roseann Alstatt ° Cassie Apuzzo ° Colby Bartlett ° Del Bartlett ° Lorita Bill  
Pete Bill ° Jeff Burnworth ° H. Kory Cooper ° Walt Griffin ° David Hovde °  
Tara Raber ° Quentin Robinson ° Dave Sattler ° Nick Schenkel  
Jeff Schwab ° Bridget Slack ° Jeremy Spann ° Marsha Selmer  
John Thieme ° Whitney Walton ° Todd White

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY CLAIRE EAGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## THE REIFERS CHAIR IS FIXED! OUR SINCERE THANKS.



# YOU DID IT!

Thank you to everyone who gave in support of repairing the Reifers Rocking Chair! We could not have done it without YOU!

**Our goal: \$1,000** ✓ ✓ ✓



The bright red neon rocking chair began advertising Reifers Furniture at 9th and Main Streets in 1914. Local legend says it was the first moving neon sign in Indiana! It topped a three-story tall sign for the furniture store until the location closed in 1981. The sign was then put in storage. Sixteen years later, Dick Mansfield became sole owner of Reifers Furniture and relocated the sign to the store's new location on North 36th Street. It continued to rock until the store was closed for good after Mansfield's death in 2003.

Donated in 2004 by the Richard and Jayne Mansfield family, TCHA worked with Huston Electric in 2010 to repair the broken neon wiring so that one side of the sign would light up again. A base was custom built for it by Stephan Schanke and it was placed in the second-floor window of TCHA's Frank C. Arganbright Genealogy Center. You might have seen it shining brightly a time or two as you passed us on South Street.

When it was discovered that one of the neon bulbs was broken, the TCHA Community was quick to act. Thanks to your generous giving, the light is once again lighting up once it's dark every night.

*Thank you to our friends at Huston Electric (pictured left) for the speedy repair work!*



# HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, CAROLYN O'CONNELL

Each year, a volunteer of the year is selected by TCHA staff, to be awarded at the the TCHA Annual Meeting. Our dear friend Carolyn O'Connell was not able to join us for the meeting, and so was presented with her award during one of her weekly volunteer sessions at the Arganbright!

A volunteer since 2013, Carolyn has always gone above and beyond expectations when supporting TCHA. In the past year, she offered her family's barn as a temporary storage site when our "History on Tour" trailer needed repairs. She always works on the landscaping at the Arganbright Center - helping other volunteers plant flowers, sweep sidewalks and trim bushes. She has made it her personal mission to kill all of the weeds at the Arganbright.

Carolyn is in regularly to work on library or collection indexes which help researchers find materials. This year, she finished an index of the Journal and Courier portrait collection, helped sort and file new articles to the library's vertical files, typed an index of the 1868 county map, finished transcribing the first couple of mortgage books, and assorted other short projects for the library. She always volunteers to run errands, like taking the recycling materials to the drop-off station and has helped the Feast by delivering tickets and pizza. She is also always ready to volunteer to help out with anything- like painting office spaces or tracking down someone to mow the lawn.

To top it off, she volunteers on the Collections Committee and helps to make important decisions regarding the Association's permanent collection.

*Carolyn being presented with her award*



*Carolyn with Executive Director, Claire Eagle*



# HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS

## BALL-SHOLTY AWARD, LESLIE MARTIN CONWELL

The Evelyn Ball/William Sholty Award was established in 2006 by the Board of Governors. This award was created and initially given in memory and recognition of Mrs. Evelyn Ball and Dr. William Sholty for their significant contributions to the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. The annual honoree is selected by the governors and announced at the annual meeting.

The award is presented to individuals who enriched TCHA and who are instrumental in the preservation of Tippecanoe County history. The names of the recipients are engraved on a plaque that is displayed in the Alameda McCollough Research Library. This year's winner was Leslie Martin Conwell.

Leslie has been involved with Tippecanoe County Historical Association for most of her life. She has served the organization and the community by being the Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager for 15 years. Leslie working with the performers, vendors, and volunteers made the Feast come alive.

In addition, Leslie became Operations Manager and Program Director of Tippecanoe County Historical Association in 2020 and then Executive Director in 2022. She was instrumental in steering the Association through the pandemic leaving the Association stronger and more agile by the time she resigned as Executive Director at the end of 2022.

Leslie has also been dedicated to preserving Tippecanoe County history though her time spent as Executive Director of The Farm at Prophetstown from 2015 to 2019. She has been involved in preserving history at the National level with her affiliation with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association.

*Leslie's award, with the "Leslie water"*

*Leslie, center, with Executive Director Claire Eagle and Board President, Jeff Schwab*



# FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY BROOKE SAUTER, FEAST MANAGER

## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX: APPS COMING SOON!

It's that time already, Feast fans! The participant application should be hitting your mailbox in the coming weeks. Be sure to fill it out and send back ASAP to join in the fun at Lafayette's favorite historical event!

We are also looking for nonprofits and area organizations to participate with a food booth. Returning food booths must commit by April 24th. But we are always looking for new groups to join us! Send an email to [feast@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:feast@tippecanoehistory.org) for this year's Food booth application and letter of intent.

**NEW FOR 2024:** We are offering a semi-digital option. What do you mean, semi?

In addition to the paper copy you may snail mail back, we are now offering a fillable PDF version, available soon at [FeastoftheHuntersMoon.org](http://FeastoftheHuntersMoon.org). By opting in to emails from the Feast, and sending yours back digitally, you will now receive communication from the Feast as well as acceptance letters, future applications, and other paperwork more promptly.

We are also now offering digital payment for applications! When sending in the app, simply select "invoice" on the payment portion, to be sent an invoice for your fees. Let's work together for a smooth 2024 application season!

## FROM THE VAULT

COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

BY KELLY LIPPIE, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

## LAW ENFORCEMENT EXHIBIT AT THE HISTORY CENTER

To celebrate our new neighbors in the Public Safety building, there is a local law enforcement display currently showing at the History Center. This exhibit will be available to view during programs and meetings at the History Center this year. It includes artifacts from the early years of TCHA's collection, as well as some newly donated materials and a loan from one of our members.

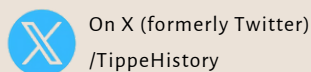
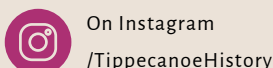
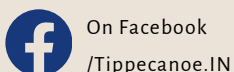
*Preview of the law enforcement exhibit*

**WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION? FOLLOW US ONLINE.**

**TIPPECANOEHistory.ORG**

**FEASTOFTHEHUNTERSMOON.ORG**

**LET'S GET SOCIAL, TOO!**



# FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

## FOOD BOOTH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### WHY HAVE A FOOD BOOTH AT THE FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON?

If your organization needs a means by which to raise money for your organization's activities, participating as a Food Booth at The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is a way to raise money and increase the public profile of your organization. It can also be a great team building experience for participants.

### WHO CAN HAVE A FOOD BOOTH?

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon provides opportunities for organizations such as scout troops, church groups, social or community service clubs, and other not-for-profit organizations to raise money by operating a Food Booth at the Feast. TCHA currently shares profits from the Feast of the Hunters' Moon with approximately 50 community organizations who participate in a variety of capacities.

### WHAT IS A FOOD BOOTH?

A food booth run by an area organization prepares food on site and then sells these items to visitors at the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The Feast regularly hosts over 40,000 attendees during its two day run. The Feast committee works with organizations to find foods that match with the size of their volunteer base. Profits and expenses from food sales are shared between your organization and TCHA. Checks are usually issued to all food booths between 60 and 90 days after the event. TCHA pays for all the costs of hosting the event, entertainment, advertising, and attracting the attendees.

### WHEN DOES A FOOD BOOTH NEED TO GET INVOLVED?

There is an organizational meeting for food booths on April 24, 2024 (but organizations may apply after that date). The 57th Feast of the Hunters' Moon will be held October 5-6, 2024.

### WHERE IS THE FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON HELD?

The event is held annually at Fort Ouicatenon Park, 3129 South River Rd, West Lafayette.

### HOW MUCH CAN A GROUP MAKE RUNNING A FOOD BOOTH?

Since the Feast is an outdoor event, attendance and sales can be weather dependent. In a regular year, a food vendor can earn around \$2,000 or higher, depending on the size of their operation and their food selection. A large food vendor can earn \$15,000 or more during the Feast weekend.

### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Interested organizations can contact the Feast coordinator, Brooke Sauter via email at [feast@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:feast@tippecanoehistory.org) or at 765-426-2128.
- The Feast committee will work with you to identify appropriate food items and walk you through the ordering process with our food suppliers to avoid any up-front costs to your organization.
- We will also help you with determining an appropriate setup for your sales area and optional items such as primitive shelters, tables, chairs.
- All volunteers must be in historical dress appropriate to the Feast. TCHA has many suggestions for economical ways to properly outfit your crew.



*Delicious hickory chicken at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon, one of the many great foods and food booths throughout the grounds!*



# PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

## APRIL - JUNE PROGRAMS

### Back for 2024: Beginner's Genealogy

Wednesdays, April 3-May 8, 6:30-8:30 PM

Arganbright Genealogy Center

*Paid program, call TCHA to reserve a seat.*

### Show & Tell: William Digby

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 11:30 AM

TCHA's History Center

Presented by Pete Bill

### History of Tippecanoe County Libraries

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6 PM

WLPL Upstairs Meeting Room

Presented by Nick Schenkel (WLPL),

Mayy Meyer (Tippecanoe PL), and

Brooke Sauter (Otterbein PL)

### School of the Artifact: Ceramics

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 6 PM

TCHA's History Center

Presented by Leslie Martin Conwell

and David Hovde

### Back for 2024: Feast Sewing Circle

Thursdays, May 2, 16, 30, June 13, 27, 5-7 PM

The Arganbright Genealogy Center

Taught by Brooke Sauter

### A Taste of the Past with Chef Lauren Reed:

#### A Taste of the Feast

Friday, May 17, 2024, 6 PM - 8 PM

TCHA's History Center

*Chef Lauren Reed is an accomplished local chef who is passionate about preserving history through culinary experiences.*

*Paid program, call TCHA to reserve a seat.*

### Spring Vale Cemetary: Part Two

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 1 PM

Spring Vale Cemetery (2580 State Road 25 N)

Presented by staff and volunteers

of TCHA, telling the stories of

citizens of the cemetery

### Walking Tour of State Street, West Lafayette

Friday, May 24, 2024, 4 PM - 6 PM

Starts at West Lafayette Public Library

Presented by Devon Roddel, WLPL History Librarian

### On-Site Tour of the Tippecanoe Battlefield

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 2 PM

Tippecanoe Battlefield Park & Museum

Presented by Dr. Trey Gorden, PhD

### A Taste of the Past with Chef Lauren Reed:

#### From the Archives

Friday, June 21, 2024, 6 PM - 8 PM

TCHA's History Center

*Chef Lauren Reed is an accomplished local chef who is passionate about preserving history through culinary experiences.*

*Paid program, call TCHA to reserve a seat.*

### Fête de St Jean le Baptiste

Saturday, June 22, 2024, 10 AM - 4 PM

Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park

Presented by Living History Interpreters

### History of Happy Hollow Park

June 29, 2024

Time and location TBA

Presented by Devon Roddel, WLPL History Librarian



# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

## JOIN THE BICENTENNIAL BOOK PROJECT: WE'RE GETTING CLOSER, BUT WE'RE NOT THERE YET!



In honor of the Bicentennial of the founding of Lafayette (2025) and Tippecanoe County (2026) the Tippecanoe County Historical Association is working on a book about the history and development of Tippecanoe County from 1825 to present. This publication will consist of two hundred stories of individuals, institutions, businesses, and events that shaped the county to what it is today.

NO PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! We are looking for historians, writers, and amateur sleuths to document the history of Lafayette and Tippecanoe County for this forthcoming book. You will be a credited author in this publication! You do NOT need to have prior experience writing or publishing to participate. Nor do you have to live in Tippecanoe County! We are looking for talent and passion, regardless of residence,

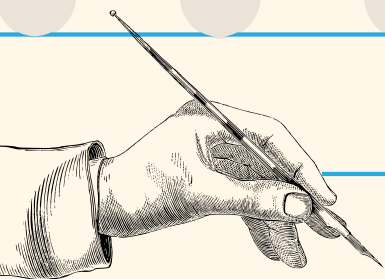
*From the TCHA Archives:  
A photo of the 1936 St. Francis High School yearbook staff*

A list of topics has already been established by the TCHA Bicentennial Events Committee. Many topics are still available and need an author like yourself! Each article has a 600-word limit. (This is about a page and a half.) Plus — the staff of the Association and Bicentennial Committee are available to assist you with research, archive searches, and access to artifacts pertaining to your topic. We also have a group of volunteers available to help with the writing of this article, if you are a history whiz but not as confident in your writing abilities.

View the list of suggested article topics: [bit.ly/Book200Topics](https://bit.ly/Book200Topics)

View the updated author's guide: [bit.ly/Book200AuthorGuide](https://bit.ly/Book200AuthorGuide)

Ready to get started? Send an email to [book200@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:book200@tippecanoehistory.org) to claim a topic and get involved!





# EXPERIENCE A *Taste* OF THE PAST

WITH RENOWNED CHEF LAUREN REED

Enjoy a taste of the past while supporting Tippecanoe County's future.



Chef Lauren Reed



**\$60 PER PERSON**  
Open to attendees age 16 and up

► **A Taste of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon**

Enjoy a recreation of fan-favorite Feast foods you would normally only be able to find in the fall at Greater Lafayette's favorite historical event!

May 17, 6 PM

► **From the Archives**

Experience foods created from recipes and cook books in the TCHA Archives, including those of Lafayette's founding families.

June 21, 6 PM

► **Indiana Summer**

Refreshing, delicious foods that harken memories of warm summer days in Indiana's farm country, some you may even find in your own garden!

July 27, 6 PM

► **A Meal from Eras Past**

Featuring flavors from the last 100 years, with a medley of iconic foods highlighting decades of our past with flavorful modern twists.

August 8, 6 PM

Experience meals from Tippecanoe County's past! All event proceeds benefit continued programming by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

Reserve your seat today!  
(765) 476-8411

📍 TCHA's History Center  
522 Columbia St, Lafayette

🏠 [TippecanoeHistory.org](http://TippecanoeHistory.org)

Due to the nature of the event, we are unable to accommodate substitutions. Please be aware that foods will be cooked in a kitchen where allergens may be present. Thank you for understanding!



# HISTORY OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY LIBRARIES



*The Albert S. White home*



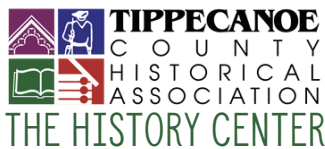
*West Lafayette Public Library, 1931*



*Otterbein Public Library, 1970s*

**APRIL  
17**

**6 - 8 PM**  
TCHA's History Center



522 Columbia Street,  
Lafayette, IN

or join the program via Zoom


Learn about the history of the libraries in Tippecanoe County! Current and former staff will chronicle their respective library's past and present.

Featuring the history of:

- Tippecanoe County Public Library
- West Lafayette Public Library
- Otterbein Public Library

Historic photos and artifacts will also be on display, as well as time for Q&A.

Questions?

 (765) 476-8411

 [www.tippecanoehistory.org](http://www.tippecanoehistory.org)

This program is part of an ongoing series with the Tippecanoe County Historical Association and the West Lafayette Public Library. We are pleased to have the TCPL join us for this program. Learn more about the series at [tippecanoehistory.org](http://tippecanoehistory.org) or [wlaf.lib.in.us](http://wlaf.lib.in.us)



# HEAR FROM OUR PARTNERS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT WALLA

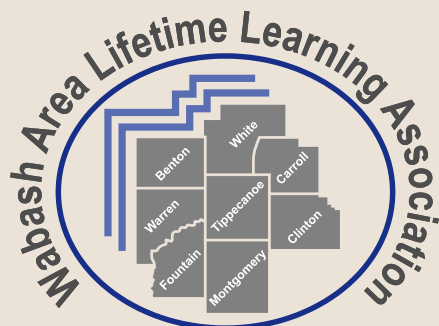
February is Brochure Blitz month for the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association as members deliver information about our Spring Session of lifelong learning classes.

WALLA's mission is to offer educational, cultural, and social opportunities for adults in Tippecanoe and the surrounding counties. The majority of our members are seniors, but classes are open to all adult community members.

The Spring Session includes classes on literature, Purdue's Big Read, religion, physics, film studies, handicrafts, healthcare, history, and world politics, for a total of 36 classes offered in classrooms at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in West Lafayette from March 18—April 11.

Presenters include retired teachers, Purdue professors and graduate students, members of The Civil War Roundtable, Tippecanoe County staff, Purdue Extension experts, and community members with an amazing range of experience and talent. Paper copies of the course brochure are available at the WALLA office located in Room 142 at Margerum City Hall in West Lafayette. The brochure is also available on our website at [www.wallaonline.org](http://www.wallaonline.org)

WALLA also offers trips, lunch lectures, social events, and film festivals and Monthly Movies in cooperation with the West Lafayette Library. Follow us on Facebook to keep up with what's new.



## THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Band Stand, Columbian Park, I-a Fayette, Ind.

*Band Stand, Columbian Park, Lafayette, 1890s (Indiana Historical Society, P0391)*

REGIONAL MEETING IN TIPPECANOE CO – THE U.S. 250th  
March 13 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (EST)  
TCHA History Center (522 Columbia Street, Lafayette)

Join the Indiana Historical Society's Local History Services Department and Indiana Humanities for a free in-person regional meeting on the topic of the upcoming U.S. Semiquincentennial. We'll discuss news about planning at the state and national level and brainstorm local ideas.

TCHA is excited to take part in this exciting meeting, and serve as the host site. We hope to see MANY TCHA members present at this free meeting.

Free to attend; please RSVP to [localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org](mailto:localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org).

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to our new members who have joined the Association in the last quarter:

Rosanne Alstatt- Family  
Eileen and Bill Arthur- Senior Couple  
Frank Butwin- Senior Individual  
Mark and Karen Freeman- Senior Couple  
Ronald Hession- Individual  
Sandra Hirzel- Senior Couple  
Kerry Karner- Patron  
Katharine and Neil Mascarenhas- Family  
Kathy Matter- Senior Individual  
Tara and Cameron Raber- Family  
Sara Slaven- Senior Individual  
William Tilford- Senior Individual

Thanks to our returning members who have renewed their membership in the last quarter of 2023:

Bernadette Aliprantis and Gene Terril- Patron  
Steve and Kris Ames- Sustaining  
Carol Andrew- Senior Individual  
David Azpell- Individual  
Judy Bauman- Senior Individual  
Robert and Lorita Bill- Sustaining  
Vicki Bower- Senior Individual  
John and Carol Brown- Family  
Angela and Craig Bruntlett- Senior Couple  
Drew Casani- Sustaining  
Kathleen Clark- Senior Individual  
Susan Y. Clawson- Senior Individual  
Stephen J. Clevenger- Patron  
Kay Connor and Dick Walton- Patron  
Rick and Leslie Martin Conwell- Senior Couple  
Harlan and Heather Day- Senior Couple  
Leon and Kay Dickson- Sustaining  
Peter and Georgia Dunn- Senior Couple  
Kari Ekenstedt- Individual  
LaVaughan and Richard Evans- Senior Couple  
Edward Geswein- Patron  
Walt and Eileen Griffin- Patron  
Charles Gullion- Patron  
Mark and Pamela Howells- Senior Couple  
Stewart and Janet Kellerman- Patron  
Jane Kinyon and Mike Brown- Senior Couple  
Steve and Mary Martinez- Patron

Sheila and Bob McCreary- Senior Couple  
Dennis and Lindsey Minchella- Family  
John and Jeanne Norberg- Patron  
Walter Poppinga- Senior Individual  
Mary Pugh- Senior Individual  
Joseph E. Rees- Senior Individual  
James Ross and Marilyn Howland- Senior Couple  
Cindy Salazar- Individual  
Dave and Nancy Sattler- Patron  
Connie and John Schmidt- Senior Couple  
Michael and Juliann Seikel- Senior Couple  
Gregory G. Seiters- Senior Individual  
Van and Lynne Sherry- Sustaining  
Harold and Deanna Sloan- Senior Couple  
James and Elizabeth Solberg- Patron  
Mary M. Springer- Senior Individual  
James and Fara Stalker- Senior Couple  
Elizabeth Stoddart- Senior Individual  
Melinda Stolz- Benefactor  
John and Debbie Thieme- Treasure  
Jo Wade- Patron  
Randy and Joyce Young- Family  
Bill and Pam Young- Senior Couple

**We are grateful for our dedicated members. The historical association thrives thanks to you!**

*thank you*