

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

# Tippicanews

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## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP:

The holidays are coming up, which means TCHA will be closed to the public for our end-of-the-year maintenance and inventories. Refer below to see when you can come in and catch us before we close the doors on 2025!

[The Arganbright Genealogy Center and McCollough Research Library](#): The last day of operations for 2025 will be December 19th. The library will reopen January 8th.

[The Tippecanoe Battlefield and History Store](#): The last day of operations for the Battlefield for 2025 will be December 21st. The Battlefield will reopen February 2nd.

NOTE: While the Museum and History Store are closed, the park site itself remains open from dawn to dusk daily.

## DON'T MISS OUT: SPECIAL-EDITION LAFAYETTE BICENTENNIAL ORNAMENTS!

Have you seen our beautiful Bicentennial Ornaments? They make great gifts for those hard-to-buy-for loved ones who love history or are engaged in their community! Made of pewter and strung on a red ribbon, you can purchase your own special-edition ornament from TCHA for \$20! Stop by during open hours, or call us at [\(765\) 476-8411](#) to reserve yours today. (Yes, we can ship! But at cost to you.)



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## BY CLAIRE EAGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESEARCH LIBRARIAN, LUCY!

This fall, TCHA welcomed a new face to the team. Lucy Lugo, a Lafayette native and a graduate of both Jeff High School and Purdue University, started as the Research Library Coordinator in September. Lucy was a longtime collections volunteer at TCHA while also working as an intern with the collections department at the Eiteljorg Museum and later with the circulation department at the Frankfort Community Public Library. She is also currently pursuing her master's degree in Library and Information Sciences with a specialization in Archives Management at Indiana University – Indianapolis.

While we are excited to have Lucy on board, we're also sad to say goodbye (kind of) to Amy. Amy Harbor has been with TCHA for over 10 years, first as a library volunteer and then as the Research Library Coordinator starting in 2020. She's managed volunteers with ease, solved genealogy mysteries and led our fantastic cemetery tours. The good news is that while Amy has stepped down from her staff role, she is still volunteering in the library. Now she just has more time to work on the projects she enjoys the most! Most importantly, Amy has diligently worked to ensure her institutional knowledge is passed on to Lucy.

We're so thankful for Amy's contributions to TCHA and wish her the best. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns or just to chat. And if you have a research question, are curious about our library resources or would like to volunteer in the library, don't hesitate to reach out to Lucy at [library@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:library@tippecanoehistory.org).



Current Research Librarian, Lucy Lugo, left. Retiring Research Librarian, Amy Harbor, Right

# BICENTENNIAL ARCHIVE

BY KELLY LIPPIE, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

## NEW TO THE COLLECTION

TCHA is collecting materials produced as part of the Lafayette Bicentennial celebration. We are adding photographs and documents to our archive that capture the activities of the past year. We are also adding artifacts that were produced for the celebration.

If you have photographs of activities or artifacts from your business or organization that you would like to donation to the permanent collection, contact the TCHA Curator of Collections at [curator@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:curator@tippecanoehistory.org) or 765-476-8411 ext. 3.

### 2025 Lafayette Bicentennial pewter ornament

(Limited number still available, contact us today to own a piece of Lafayette history!)



**Assortment of 2025 Lafayette Bicentennial commemorative items, including tea from TeAqua, candle from Antique Candle Company, and more.**

# FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY BROOKE SAUTER, FEAST MANAGER

## 2025: WHAT A SUCCESS!

Another Feast is in the books—and what a year it was! We enjoyed favorable weather, wonderful crowds, and a financial outcome that helps sustain TCHA's mission in meaningful ways. Every year feels special, but 2025 had an energy that reminded us just how deeply this event resonates with our community.

One major milestone this year was the installation and first full use of our new site-wide weather alert system. After receiving the NCHS grant last year, crews installed the units this fall (right before the Feast, even!) and they proved to be a tremendous asset. Having the ability to communicate with visitors and volunteers instantly added a new level of safety and coordination across the grounds. It was reassuring to know this important upgrade was in place—and working beautifully.

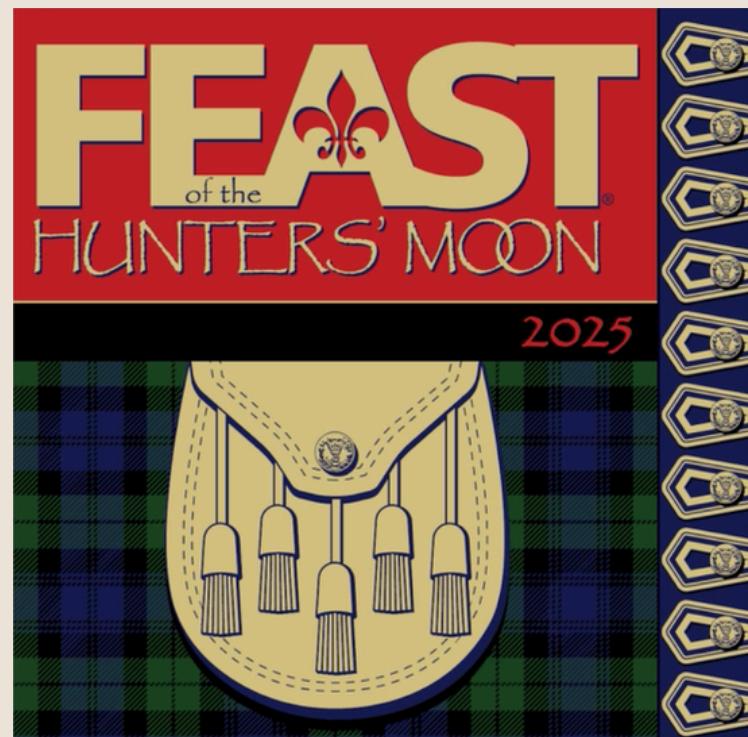
As always, the Feast exists because of people. Volunteers who give their weekend (and often much more), vendors and food booths who bring the historic marketplace to life, reenactors who share their passion, sponsors who believe in our mission, and visitors who return year after year—thank you. It truly takes a village, and we are grateful for every member of it.

And even though the campfires have gone cold for the season, planning has already begun for the 2026 Feast. We're reviewing feedback, exploring site improvements, and brainstorming new ways to deepen the historical experience and keep operations running smoothly. There is always more to learn, refine, and dream up.

Thank you for supporting TCHA and for helping keep this treasured tradition alive. Wishing you a joyful holiday season—we'll see you next year!

Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2026 Feast dates.

*thank you*



Artwork for the 2025 Feast of the Hunters' Moon

# BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM

BY TREY GORDEN, PHD, BATTLEFIELD MANAGER

## END OF YEAR PERSPECTIVE, FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

As I write this, winter has come to the Tippecanoe Battlefield. The ground is thick with white, someone's already built a snowman by the front walk, and Joe Kallok, Tippecanoe County Parks' Battlefield manager, is working hard to keep the parking lot and all the walkways clear. I know I say this every year, but if you get a chance, don't miss this place in the snow. It really is stunning: quiet, somber, and contemplative.

More good news: The fence is fixed at last after its encounter with the front of a car last summer, when a young man swerved to miss a deer. I'm told that neither he nor the deer were seriously injured.

We've been having our annual membership sale, and it was, as always, a blast. This is a time of year when I get to talk to our members, the museum's most interesting demographic. As you've all heard me say already, "Interested people are interesting people," and talking to a nearly endless parade of interesting people is one of the great joys of my job.

But the holiday season is upon us, and as always the season has its own rhythm. The crowds start to thin out as folks shift gears for Christmas.

Starting December 22, the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum will close for our annual inventory, cleaning, and maintenance. We'll open back up on February 2 with our winter hours, from noon until 5:00.

All the very best to you and yours however you celebrate the holidays.



# January-March 2026

## TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

### Annual Members Meeting

**Saturday, February 7th, 2 PM**

TCHA's History Center

522 Columbia St, Lafayette

Join us for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association membership. Conducted by the Board of Governors, 2025 reports from all departments will be shared, awards for Volunteer of the Year and the Ball-Sholty will be announced and door prizes will be given out. New and returning Board members elections will also be conducted.

### Author Talk with Tom Speaker

**Tuesday, February 10th, 6 PM**

TCHA's History Center

Tom Speaker shares the personal stories behind his book, "They Answered the Call: The Vietnam War," focusing not just on the conflict itself but on the veterans and families who lived through it—many from the greater Lafayette area. Drawing from firsthand interviews and a powerful return trip to Vietnam with veterans, Speaker offers a thoughtful look at how the country and its people have changed from wartime to today, blending history, memory, and reflection into a deeply human narrative.

### Maple Sugaring at Post Ouiatenon

**Saturday, March 7th, 10 AM - 4 PM**

**Sunday, March 8th, 10 AM - 4 PM**

Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park

Presented by Living History

Interpreters & members of

Warren-Piece

Join us at the Fort Ouiatenon blockhouse for a living history event portraying the French colonial period at Ouiatenon during the early 18th century. Living history reenactors will be on hand to talk about the French fur trade, Native American and French culture of the period, and they will be doing maple sugar production. Warren-Piece will also be on site talking about modern sugaring techniques.

*Sponsored by La Compagnie des Beaux Eaux*

### Feast Sewing Circles

**Various dates, see list**

Arganbright Genealogy Center

*Presented by Brooke Sauter*

Open to sewists of all skill levels, who sew by hand or machine. Topics range from garment construction, pattern drafting, discussions on what folks wore in the 18th century, and more. Free, open to the public!

If you'd like to teach a session, please reach out! DM us or email Brooke at [Feast@tippecanoehistory.org](mailto:Feast@tippecanoehistory.org).

**March 11, 25      All sessions:**

**April 8, 22      5:30-7:30 PM**

**May 6, 20**

*Watch for the full  
program calendar  
list in the Q1 program  
guide, coming soon!*

# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

## CALLING ALL HISTORY LOVERS: TCHA WANTS YOU ON THE BOARD!

Do you love the stories, people, and places that shaped Tippecanoe County? The Tippecanoe County Historical Association is looking for passionate, community minded individuals to join our board and help guide the future of local history.

We are especially excited to welcome people who bring:

- Commitment and excitement for TCHA
- Fundraising or grant experience
- Diverse perspectives and backgrounds
- A heart for community service
- Strong organization and task follow through
- A passion for supporting youth in our community
- Non-profit board experience
- Accounting experience
- Legal experience

Looking for other ways to help? You could also make a difference by joining one of our many TCHA committees or lend a helping hand and become a volunteer. We would love to have you involved! If you want to help preserve our past while shaping our future, we would love to hear from you.

Reach out today and join us in enriching lives through the power of local history!

Jeremy Spann, Vice President of TCHA and chair of the Nominating Committee  
Contact Jeremy if you'd like to apply to join the board: [jeremyspann247@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyspann247@gmail.com)

### Mark your calendar!

Join your friends and fellow history fans for  
the TCHA Annual Members Meeting,  
February 7th at 2 PM at the History Center.  
More details to follow.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you and Welcome to all the new members who have joined TCHA since the last edition of our newsletter!

Kelly and Brad Alge  
Josie Bolander  
Rick and Sally Brown  
Criss and Stephanie Burger  
Desiree and Mbozsqn Chuang  
Mary Daly  
Allan Ferguson  
Gene and Eileen Fitzpatrick  
Mary Flaig  
Belinda and Ed Gutwein  
David Hobbs  
Alvin and Judy Kempf  
Sharon and Henry Kraebber  
Scott L. Ksander  
Ryan Madden  
Gerard Magliocca  
Galen Martin and Marlo McCarter  
James McCarthy  
Cindy Mitchell  
Joseph Mueller  
Darrall Ostrolencki  
Rosemary Ricci and Garrett Jeong  
Vince and Ellen Sitterding  
Sam and Patti Stratton  
Teresa and Bill Walker  
Kandace Weaver

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

**ADD THE ASSOCIATION TO  
YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!**

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

