

Tippecanoe County
Historical Association's

TippecaNEWS

ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2022

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL APPEAL

It's time again for the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Annual Appeal. The Association serves as custodian for Tippecanoe County's history and safely preserves these fragile artifacts for future generations. We strive to enlighten and educate residents and visitors of Tippecanoe County's rich history through presentations, historical re-enactments, exhibits, published information, research, and social media. In addition to this work, the Association also operates five sites to fulfill its mission that offer these unique educational opportunities.

You can help! You will soon receive our appeal letter in the mail, but you don't have to wait for this letter to make your contribution. By attending programs and events, being a member, and volunteering - you support local history and its preservation. You can also go directly to our online donation site to donate funds that support projects such as educational programming for students and adults, exhibits, and curation supplies.

Support TCHA by giving at the following link:

<https://square.link/u/eHkad2Ad>

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FROM THE VAULT

COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

BY KELLY LIPPIE, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

TCHA recently added Montmorenci High School class portraits to the permanent collection. These class portraits show the senior class of Montmorenci High School from 1914 through 1966 and were a gift from the Montmorenci Alumni Association, care of Carolyn Bennett. Staff and volunteers are working to remove each portrait from its frame, photograph each year and catalog the names of each student. The portraits will then be stored in acid-free folders, safe from harmful light and temperature changes. The portraits will be available to researchers, use in exhibits and TCHA will also have the ability to produce high-resolution scans of any of the portraits for future generations. Each portrait will also be available on the online database as soon as the cataloging is complete.

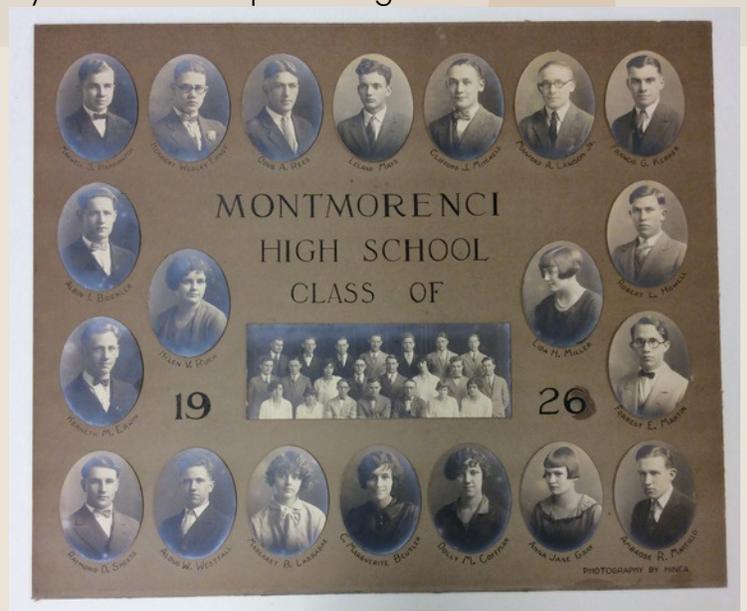
TCHA is also the home for Dayton High School class portraits and many other historic school and education materials from the county. If you have county school materials from any era that you would like to donate - including high school yearbooks - please get in touch with us! curator@tippecanoehistory.org

MEMBER FEEDBACK WANTED

Help us to better serve you and the community by filling out a short survey. Tell us what you think about the newsletter and programs offered at TCHA by clicking this link.

<https://bit.ly/TCHAMembershipSurvey>

You can also share your ideas and feedback by email to memberships@tippecanoehistory.org



FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY LESLIE MARTIN CONWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Archaeology at Ouiatenon - TCHA Partners with Purdue University and the University of Southern Indiana to Learn More about Fort Ouiatenon

An archaeological field school was recently completed at the original site of Fort Ouiatenon! It took place during Purdue University's "Maymester" (May 16-June 10) at the Ouiatenon Preserve. The field school was co-directed by Dr. Michael Strezewski (University of Southern Indiana, World Languages and Cultures) and Dr. H. Kory Cooper (Purdue University, Department of Anthropology). Dr. Cooper currently serves on TCHA's Board of Governors.

The course, "Anthropology 428 - Field Methods in Archaeology," provided students with hands-on training in archaeological fieldwork important for careers in Cultural Resources Management. The Ouiatenon Preserve, which is the site of the fur trade post of Fort Ouiatenon (1717-1791) and numerous other historic and Indigenous sites, is co-managed by the Roy Whistler Foundation, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Ouiatenon Preserve, Inc. and the Archaeological Conservancy. The project sought to better understand historic and ancient land use within the preserve.



Dr. H. Kory Cooper (left), and Dr. Michael Strezewski (right), co-directors of the field school



A stone pipe bowl, found during the archaeological field work

Many interesting artifacts were found, ranging from archaic, pre-French occupation items from a midden that was unearthed (a bone awl, projectile point, mussel shells, fire-cracked rock, etc.) to artifacts dating to the French occupation time period (gun side plate, bottle glass, metal cones for adornment, etc.). Several interesting educational programs were offered on Ouiatenon and the results of this year's excavations and recordings of these presentations can be found on TCHA's YouTube channel (Tippecanoe County Historical Association).

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Strezewski and Dr. Cooper. These two provided the students an outstanding learning opportunity that will benefit the students' careers. The field school also benefited TCHA and the Ouiatenon Preserve, as the archaeological work will contribute to our knowledge of Ouiatenon. Dr. Strezewski and Dr. Cooper are an incredible example of academia working in tandem with students and the community to provide a great learning experience for all and giving us more knowledge about the history of the area.

FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY LESLIE MARTIN CONWELL, COORDINATOR

Feast of the Hunters' Moon Scheduled for October 1-2

The 55th Annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon will be held October 1 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and October 2 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. EST! The Feast is a re-enactment of 18th century life at Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park on the banks of the Wabash River just southwest of current day West Lafayette. The event's time period depicts the heyday of Fort Ouiatenon, 1717-1791. The first European settlement in Indiana, Fort Ouiatenon was a witness to many different cultural communities.

Several exciting new educational programs are scheduled for this year, including the federally recognized Miami Nation of Oklahoma, who will be present teaching wigwam building and cattail mat weaving.

The Feast is the main fundraising event for TCHA and supports all aspects of the operation including curation of the unique and valuable artifacts in the TCHA collection, the broad expanse of community programming to educate about our diverse local history, and preservation efforts to maintain important historical sites such as the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum, the Fort Ouiatenon Blockhouse, the Arganbright Genealogy Center and Library, the History Center, and the Ouiatenon Preserve.

The Feast also helps raise funds for more than 50 other area not-for-profits. The event brings in over 2 million dollars to the local tourism economy.

Tickets can be purchased online by going to feastofthehuntersmoon.org beginning July 15 or at one of many participating outlets after Labor Day. The complete listing of these outlets as well as a listing of all activities, food vendors and entertainment will be available on the event website. Come Feast with us and support TCHA and the community!



Drummers of the Tippecanoe Ancient Fife & Drum Corps performing at the Feast

Learn more online at FeastoftheHuntersMoon.org



PROGRAMMING UPDATES

BY LESLIE MARTIN CONWELL, COORDINATOR

TCHA's programming outreach is in full swing! Be sure to join us at the History Center, Fort Ouiatenon, Tippecanoe Battlefield, community events around town, or on Zoom for educational and fun programs! Here are scheduled programs from late June through August. View the entire list of 2022 programs at <https://bit.ly/2022TCHAPrograms>

JUNE PROGRAMS

"The Top Ten Severe Weather Events Prior to 1965"

Presenter Chad Evans, Tuesday, June 22 at 7 PM, at the History Center.

Join Chad Evans, WFLI Meteorologist, for this special weather-focused program at the TCHA History Center! We have been shaped and molded by historic, generational severe weather events in our area. For example, the 1965 Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak and 1974 Super Outbreak leave lasting impressions and scars today. Chad will focus on the pre-1965 period to the earliest records of severe weather in our area. He will examine the processes of what was behind these defining situations, why they were so bad, and how the impacts of them shaped generations to come from a ranking of #10 to #1. Please note that if severe weather is predicted that evening, the program will be rescheduled at a later date. This program will be hybrid — in-person at the History Center and also via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted the morning of the program at www.tippecanoehistory.org. Sponsored by the National Group.

"Show & Tell — War and the Flu: The Homefront of World War I in Tippecanoe County"

Presenter Pete Bill, Tuesday, June 28 at 11:30 AM, at the History Center.

With the US officially entering the Great War in April 1917, life in Tippecanoe County Changed significantly. Coupled with this entrance into the war was the "Spanish Flu" that swept across the world in 1918-1919. Hear how citizens in the county engaged in two simultaneous battles on the home front. This program will be hybrid — in-person at the History Center and also via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted the morning of the program at www.tippecanoehistory.org. Sponsored by the National Group.

JULY PROGRAMS

"Walking in Their Footsteps — Educational On-Site Tour of the Tippecanoe Battlefield"

Presenter Rick Conwell, Saturday, July 9 at 1 PM at the Tippecanoe Battlefield.

An informal, educational tour of the Tippecanoe battlefield led by retired Battlefield Museum Manager Rick Conwell. Meet at the monument at 1 PM. Visitors will have the opportunity to stand in the footprints of the original battle participants as we explore troop deployments, tactical decisions, and the course of the November, 1811 conflict, which was a foundational event in the formation of the State of Indiana. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

"Show & Tell — Truths and Myths of Tippecanoe County History"

Presenter Pete Bill, Tuesday, July 26, 11:30 AM, at the History Center.

There are many odd truths and common myths about Tippecanoe County. Join us for a quiz presentation to see what you think are "truths" or "untrue" myths. This program will be hybrid — in-person at the History Center and also via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted the morning of the program at www.tippecanoehistory.org. Sponsored by the National Group.

AUGUST PROGRAMS

"Show & Tell — Celebrating 100 Years of the West Lafayette Public Library"

Presenter Nick Schenkel, Tuesday, August 23, 11:30 AM, at the History Center.

Nick Schenkel, West Lafayette Public Library Director, will share 100 years of West Lafayette Public Library history. This program will be hybrid — in-person at the History Center and also via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted the morning of the program at www.tippecanoehistory.org. Sponsored by the National Group.

"55 Years of Feasting — History of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon"

Presenters Leslie Martin Conwell and David Hovde, Tuesday, August 30, 6 PM, at the History Center.

Learn why the Feast was created by TCHA, look at old photos, and hear fun stories from 55 years of Feasting! This program will be hybrid — in-person at the History Center and also via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted the morning of the program at www.tippecanoehistory.org. Sponsored by the National Group.

BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM UPDATES

BY TREY GORDEN, TIPPECANOE BATTLEFIELD
MUSEUM MANAGER

Summer has once again graced the Tippecanoe Battlefield. Tippecanoe Battlefield Park Manager Robbie Alford's flowers reflect the sunlight in vivid colors. High on the hill across the prairie to the southeast, the red, 19th-century barn at the Farm at Prophetstown is framed by the greenery. From the viewpoint of visitors at the Farm, the tip of our 1908 Battlefield Monument is sailing on a thick sea of foliage. Children, in the meantime, are playing at the foot of that obelisk and careening across the neatly trimmed grass.

The Battleground is starting to see visitors from farther afield at this time of year. Lots of folks say that they spot our sign from the highway and have to drop in to see for themselves. Some have wanted to see it for years, others know the history but didn't realize it was a place they could visit, and others just know Tippecanoe as a funny word they heard in school. All of them leave here having discovered something unexpected. Most are hearing this story for the first time. If you're reading these words, you probably already know the story of the two brothers who tried to forge an alliance to secure their people's place in a dawning century that threatened to leave them rootless. You know the story of the early-morning battle when victory for either side hung on a knife-edge, and the stakes were higher than any single fighter could have fully understood.

But there are questions that are probably unanswerable. Was The Prophet the craven ne'er-do-well that legend makes him out to be? Did he defy his brother's wishes and lead an ill-fated attack out of a desire to prove himself? Did he stand on Prophet's Rock singing vain spells of protection?

Other questions are open to discussion. Was the Battle of Tippecanoe really a victory for Harrison's forces? Did the outcome of this battle spell the end for Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa's confederation?

Come on out and look around for yourself. When you've had enough sun, come into the museum for a break from the heat. While you're here, have a look at some fascinating books, grab a gift for someone on your list, chat with other history enthusiasts, and grab a cool drink before heading back out. If the sunshine seems a bit much, then just remember: it won't be long before we miss it.

ALAMEDA MCCOLLOUGH RESEARCH LIBRARY

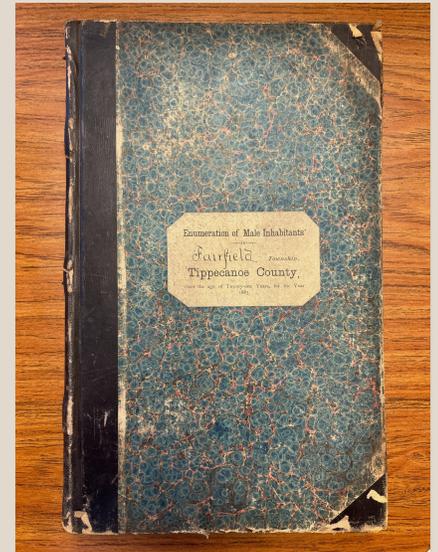
RESEARCH LIBRARY NEWS

BY AMY HARBOR, RESEARCH LIBRARY COORDINATOR

Even after more than 12 years in the Research Library, I continue to find wonderful things in our collection that I didn't know about. Recently I became aware of our collection of enumeration books which count all males over the age of 21 living in Tippecanoe County by township.

In November of 1865, Indiana governor Oliver Morton called a special session of the legislature to address issues that had come up since the end of the Civil War. As he noted in his remarks to the gathered representatives, the Indiana Constitution of 1851 called for an enumeration of white male inhabitants every 6 years and the reapportionment of Senators and Representatives based on this count. This had not taken place in the 14 years since the constitution was enacted. Consequently, an act was passed which mandated an enumeration in 1866, and then again in 1871 and every 6 years following.

Township Trustees were responsible for enumerating their townships and reporting to the County Auditor, who in turn delivered the numbers to the state. A supplement to this act, approved in 1877, added the enumeration of colored males over 21. We are fortunate to have a small collection of these enumeration books which list every male by township starting in 1877. This is a great resource for genealogy and family history researchers, as the 1890 Federal Census was lost in a fire, leaving a huge 20 year gap.



An Enumeration Book in the TCHA Research Library, from Fairfield Township

Although not 100% complete, our collection includes enumerations from 1877, 1883 1889, 1895, 1901, 1907, 1913, 1919, 1925, and 1931. This is one of the next collections that will be indexed and added to our website.



Enumeration Papers in the TCHA Collection

MISSION STATEMENT CHANGES

TCHA is debuting a revised Mission Statement!

The American Alliance for Museums describes a mission statement as this:

“Museums are expected to have a formally stated and approved mission that states what the museum does, for whom, and why. A Museum’s mission statement is the primary benchmark against which to evaluate the museum’s performance. It defines the museum’s unique identity and purpose and provides a distinct focus for the institution. A mission statement articulates the museum’s understanding of its role and responsibility to the public and its collections, and reflects the environment in which it exists.”

The TCHA Board of Governors recently spent several months considering changes to the organization’s mission statement that would more clearly describe our goals and purpose. With just a few small word changes, the new mission statement was approved by the Board and will begin appearing on future publications and plans.

The Mission of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association is to enrich the lives of Tippecanoe County residents by collecting, preserving, researching and sharing our unique and diverse history.



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



On Facebook:

Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Feast of the Hunters’ Moon, and Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum



On Instagram:

@TippecanoeHistory



On Twitter:

@TippeHistory
@FeastoftheHuntersMoon



On YouTube:

Tippecanoe County Historical Association



And on our website at:
TippecanoeCounty.org

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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

AMAZON SMILE

Shop Amazon and select TCHA as your charity on Amazon Smile. It's easy to set up, especially if you already have an Amazon account. Learn more and select your charity at smile.amazon.com

Check out TCHA's Amazon wish list to help out by buying supplies to help with maintenance and artifact preservation:

<https://amzn.to/3MODfuo>

LEGACY BRICKS

Leave a lasting mark on Lafayette by ordering a Legacy Brick to be placed at the TCHA History Center on Columbia Street. Your brick will appear for everyone to see right on the patio of the building, across the street from City Hall. To order your Legacy Brick, download the order form and return it the address included.

Download the form now on our website at bit.ly/TCHALegacyBrick

ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

The TCHA Membership newsletter is now entirely digital. This e-newsletter reaches an average of 300 people, 4 times per year. Advertisements and announcements should be family friendly. TCHA reserves the right to decline ad or announcement designs due to content. Ads can include a color photograph or graphic and text and should be submitted in a JPEG or Word document.

\$50.00 for a ½ page in one newsletter appearance.

\$25.00 for a ¼ page in one newsletter appearance.

For more info or to purchase ad space, Contact: memberships@tippecanoehistory.org or by phone at 765-476-8411 extension 3.

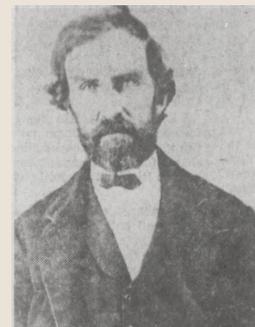
GUEST AUTHOR COLUMN

BY BROOKE SAUTER, THE OTTERBEIN 150 PROJECT

Hello, TCHA Membership audience! My name is Brooke Sauter - you may know me as the Feast of the Hunters' Moon photographer and a lover of history at large. I live in the town of Otterbein, IN which resides in the northwest corner of Tippecanoe County, as well as southeast Benton County. The town of Otterbein was founded in 1872 and named for land donor William Otterbein Brown, who was also a school teacher, stock dealer, and the town's first postmaster - until his death in 1879. The town is currently home to a bit over 900 people, and a lot of history!

In honor of the town's sesquicentennial (150th anniversary of its founding) - The Otterbein 150 Project was formed in partnership with the Otterbein Public Library. Our goal is to preserve Otterbein's history, and share its story in honor of this

momentous occasion. Otterbein residents are encouraged to share stories of their experiences and participate in our forthcoming historical exhibit. Those with questions can reach the project by email at Otterbein150@gmail.com. All who appreciate history are invited to visit the Otterbein for the historical exhibit, which will open on August 4th at the Otterbein Public Library (23 E 1st Street, Otterbein, IN 47970 - just 20 minutes from downtown Lafayette!) and run through the end of 2022. We are excited to showcase various pieces of town history on loan from town members, as well as Tippecanoe County Historical Association's archives. Join us, August 4-December 31 in Otterbein!



William Otterbein Brown, 1827-1879