



Howard County Historical Society

2018 Annual Report



2018 Retrospective

The year of 2018 began with an ending. The roofing crews fought through some challenging weather to finish installing the mansion’s new slate and gutters. The scaffolding contractors had to beat the frozen struts apart with hammers, but when they finished, the mansion’s beauty was again in open display. On April 19, we hosted a reception to celebrate the project and recognize all those who made it possible. In May, we were honored with the Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Restoration presented by Indiana Landmarks. For a look back, we’ve posted a time-lapse video of the roof work on our Facebook and YouTube pages (see pg. 5).

With the roof work complete, we had the mansion’s windows and trim painted and repaired the interior plaster that was damaged by years of roof leaks. The east tower room on second floor was closed for a time to allow for extensive plaster repairs. We also did some exterior tuck-pointing to replace mortar damaged by gutter leaks.

Maintaining four historic buildings isn’t a “one and done” responsibility, and the age of the buildings adds to the need. The Seiberling Carriage House, which was heavily modified during the IUK years, had some serious roof leaks. Because it houses much of the historical collection, we chose to have the old brick chimney removed rather than repaired, in order to provide better protection for the artifacts.



Painters from Royal Custom put on the final touches

The historical society was fortunate to engage in several partnerships in 2018. We worked with the Kokomo Howard County Public Library under an Indiana Memory Digitization Grant to scan and make accessible a significant collection of Civil War documents. The results can be seen on-line at howardcountymemory.net and indianamemory.net. We served as fiscal agent for a grant to the City of Kokomo from the Central Indiana Community Foundation’s Efroymsen Family Fund that is helping to renovate the historic railroad house on North Buckeye Street. When the Kokomo Downtown Farmers Market asked to hold their October Farm-to-Fork Dinner at the history campus, we were happy to oblige. We assisted The Automotive Heritage Hall of Fame as they prepared to induct Spencer Huffman, a past president of the historical society and long-time historian of the local auto industry. The Hall of Fame also added a historical marker to its Elwood Haynes statue on the Seiberling Mansion grounds.



(l-r): County Commissioner Paul Wyman, Deputy Mayor David Tharp, Community Foundation President Greg Aaron, Automotive Heritage Hall of Fame President Vernon Graves.

HCHS was part of a local consortium initiated by the Indiana World War One Centennial Commission. Together with local veterans’ organizations and the Greater Kokomo Visitors Bureau, we organized an August ceremony to observe the anniversary of the enlistment of America’s first female Marine, Opha May Johnson, who was born in Howard County.



(right: Lt. Gen. Carol Mutter, USMC-Ret., the first female 3-star General in the American military, at the recognition ceremony).

We continued to work with the Greater Kokomo Visitors Bureau to offer great experiences to visitors and promote Howard County. HCHS is part of the East Region Tourism Marketing Cooperative for the same reasons. Other important relationships include those with the Greentown Historical Society, Russiaville Historical Society, Automotive Heritage Museum, Haynes Museum, Howard County Genealogical Society, Kokomo Historic Review Board, the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Landmarks, and the Early History Learning Center.

The museum's curatorial staff added more than 600 items to the collection after carefully researching each one. About two-thirds of them are photographs, including a large collection of postcards and a group of photos from the Palm Sunday Tornado disaster. They received a grant from the Indiana Historical Society to expedite our deaccessioning process, by which we remove items from the collections that are not relevant to our mission. There was also a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County to purchase scanning equipment for digitizing the museum archives.

The society hosted a series of successful events during 2018, not the least of which was the annual Christmas at the Seiberling. It was a "Seiberling Snowman Spectacular" and the decorators pulled out all the stops to fill the mansion with a spectacular collection of snowmen seen by more than 5,000 visitors.

The Hall of Legends induction banquet in August put a spotlight on six new members, including educator and community leader Steve Daily; U.S. Marine Opha May Johnson; engineer and business leader Brian Harlow; Gilead House founder Reba Harris; banker Donald Smith Sr.; and the Kokomo Park Band.



The 2018 class of the Howard County Hall of Legends (l-to-r): Steve Daily, Reba Harris, Don Smith (representing his grandfather, Donald Smith Sr.), Jay Gephart (representing the Kokomo Park Band), and Brian Harlow. Learn more about all of the Howard County Legends at hchistory.org.

We participated in the Koh-koh-mah and David Foster Reenactment, with candle-dipping for the kids and sweet corn for the hungry. As previously noted, we played a key role in the ceremony honoring Opha May Johnson's enlistment in the US Marines and the many women who followed her into military service.

At the annual meeting in October, Mark Dollase of Indiana Landmarks announced the addition of the Masonic Temple and the Tate House in Kokomo to the National Register of Historic Places and presented a program on Indiana's National Register sites. In December, at the annual volunteer recognition luncheon, the society presented Jule Rider with the Mary Ellen Harnish Distinguished Service Award. She is the third person to be so honored.

Also in October, a collection of spine-tingling Victorian monsters and murderers entertained our guests as "From the Dark Pages" haunted the mansion for the second year.



Sharing Howard County's history

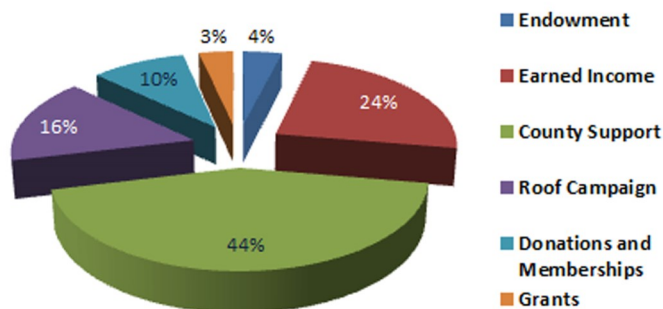
Of the three pillars of the HCHS mission, sharing is the most visible, most fun, and perhaps the most important. It gives purpose to the work of collecting and preserving.

We host hundreds of students each year in class tours, visit schools and organizations, participate in the Koh-koh-mah reenactment, and invite the public to special programs like our observance of the World War I Centennial in October, the World War II program in June, or the Hall of Legends induction ceremony. Our archival collections are an important resource for local media as well as academic researchers, providing historical background for understanding contemporary issues.

Our website provides access to thousands of historic images, articles, and biographies, as well as information about trip planning, membership and events, at hchistory.org. You can also sign up there for monthly email updates on activities at the Seiberling Mansion.

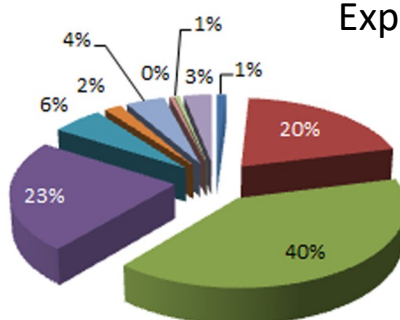
At Facebook.com/hchistory and Twitter.com/HCHSociety, we offer historic and recent images, interesting trivia, and updates on news and events. You'll find a variety of recent photographs at Pinterest.com/hchistory, and we can also be found on YouTube.com, TripAdvisor.com, Instagram.com, Foursquare.com, and VolunteerMatch.org.

Income



- Collections and Exhibits
- Maintenance and Utilities
- Payroll
- Roof Project
- General Administrative
- Marketing
- Events
- IT
- Fund-raising
- Grants

Expenses



The Community Foundation of Howard County: Ensuring Our Future

HCHS is the beneficiary of these endowment funds in the Community Foundation of Howard County:

John Murray Thompson Memorial Fund
 Madge Morrison Long and Maxine Morrison Memorial Fund
 Ruth S. Hotchkiss Memorial Fund
 Sesquicentennial Celebration Fund
 Howard County Historical Society Endowment Fund
 Beulah Marner Cobb Endowment Fund
 Bette Bannon Endowment

Your gift to a Community Foundation endowment will provide financial resources for the society's mission in perpetuity. To learn more, contact the Community Foundation of Howard County at 765-454-7298.

By the numbers....

- Visitors to the museum came from 34 states and 11 countries
- 2,377 work-hours reported by more than 100 volunteers
- Total 52,216 Items preserved in the collections, including:
 - ⇒ 28,574 photographs
 - ⇒ 11,231 objects
 - ⇒ 10,550 archival documents and 1,309 library books
- 616 items were added to the collections in 2018, including:
 - ⇒ 406 photos
 - ⇒ 120 objects
 - ⇒ 74 archival documents and 16 library books
- 1,580 snowmen displayed during Christmas at the Seiberling
- 3,600 Facebook followers
- 14,325 website visitors with 27,959 page views (top page – “Plan Your Visit)
- Utility costs for four historic buildings - \$43,107
- Regular maintenance costs for four historic buildings - \$26,220

Losing the past would be catastrophic. We'd face the future with no guide: no experience, to ability to understand or predict, no social values or cultural standards.

The historical society relies on your financial support to ensure that we don't lose our community's past.



Please take a few minutes to learn more about our work, enroll or renew your membership, and make a contribution by visiting howardcountymuseum.org

Our mission:

*"To collect, preserve and share the
diverse history of all the
peoples of Howard County."*

Guiding Principles:

To provide an atmosphere that stimulates and encourages an understanding of our past and how it affects our present and our future.

To provide educational opportunities.

To provide the resources necessary to fulfill our Mission.

To embrace partnerships that enhance our mission and vision.

To create an atmosphere that welcomes everyone as a partner in our mission.

To provide outstanding programming worthy of recognition.

To anticipate change and position ourselves to take advantage of it.

To be continually open to the needs and desires of the community and receptive to its ideas and suggestions.

To maintain a diverse board of committed, active trustees, whose skills, interests and attitudes help fulfill our mission.

To maintain an environment that encourages, empowers and motivates our staff and volunteers to fulfill the mission.

2018 Board of Trustees

Judy Brown, President
Dean Despinoy, President-Elect
Sharon Reed, Vice President
Linda Clark, Treasurer
Linda Ferries, Secretary
Cathy Stover, Past President

Nita Campbell	Peggy Hobson	Randy Rusch
Dave Dubois	Wayne Luttrell	Marsha Santen
Heather Fouts	Dana Osburn	Dr. Charles Simons
Mary Ellen Harnish	Clinton Paul	Chris Wisler
Larry Hayes	Sherry Rahl	Shelly Wyman

Staff

Dave Broman, Executive Director	Randy Smith, Assistant Curator
Stew Lauterbach, Curator	Emily West, Curatorial Assistant
Sharon Carter, Office Manager	Jill Snyder, Volunteer and
Bill Baldwin, Maintenance	Membership Coordinator
Gale Leiter, Imaging Technician	

With gratitude, we recognize the businesses who sponsored HCHS programs in 2018 ...

Mid-America Beverage	Heartland Dental
Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Kokomo	Indiana University Kokomo
Community First Bank	Ivy Tech Community College
Duke Energy	Kokomo Tribune
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles	Kroger (Dixon Road)
Financial Builders Credit Union	NIPSCO
First Farmers Bank and Trust	Salin Bank
Greater Kokomo Convention	Shearer Printing and Office Solutions
and Visitors Bureau	St. Vincent Kokomo
Haynes International	The Wyman Group



About the Howard County Historical Society

The society was born during Indiana's statewide centennial celebration of 1916. The Chamber of Commerce in Kokomo observed the occasion with an exposition and the historical artifacts collected were the leading attractions. At the same time, the Kokomo Women's Department Club started the historical society and dedicated it to the preservation and dissemination of local history.

The county museum was established by the society in 1923 in the Carnegie Library using artifacts collected during the centennial exposition. From 1937 to 1971, it was located in the basement of the courthouse.

In 1957, as the Wildcat Reservoir was created, the historic Vermont covered bridge was marked for demolition. The society raised enough money to move it to Highland Park.

In 1972, the museum moved to Seiberling Mansion following its initial restoration. Hoosier Celebration '88 continued the work with a major campaign to paint, repair masonry, and beautify the grounds.

In 1994, the Seiberling Carriage House was renovated in order to provide a secure, climate-controlled environment for display of the original Haynes "Pioneer" car, on loan to the society from the Smithsonian. That same summer, the organization played a central role in the Howard County Sesquicentennial celebration.

In 1997, the society renovated the Elliott House as the 1998 Designer Show Home. Since then, it has seen use as a rental facility for weddings, parties and showers, rental space for offices, and meeting space for community organizations.

Climate control was installed in 2002 in order to stabilize the environment of the mansion for artifacts and exhibits. In 2003, a major renovation furthered the preservation of the mansion, expanded exhibit space, and created a beautiful backdrop for exhibits and programs.

In 2008, the society was named Outstanding Local History Organization by the Indiana Historical Society. In 2012, it was recognized again with the IHS Outstanding History Project award for the Ryan White Oral Histories. Both are directly attributable to the work of the staff and volunteers, and the leadership of the Board of Trustees. The board's leadership has provided purpose and focus, and the community has provided the support, resources and volunteers to make the museum and the mansion a centerpiece of community pride.

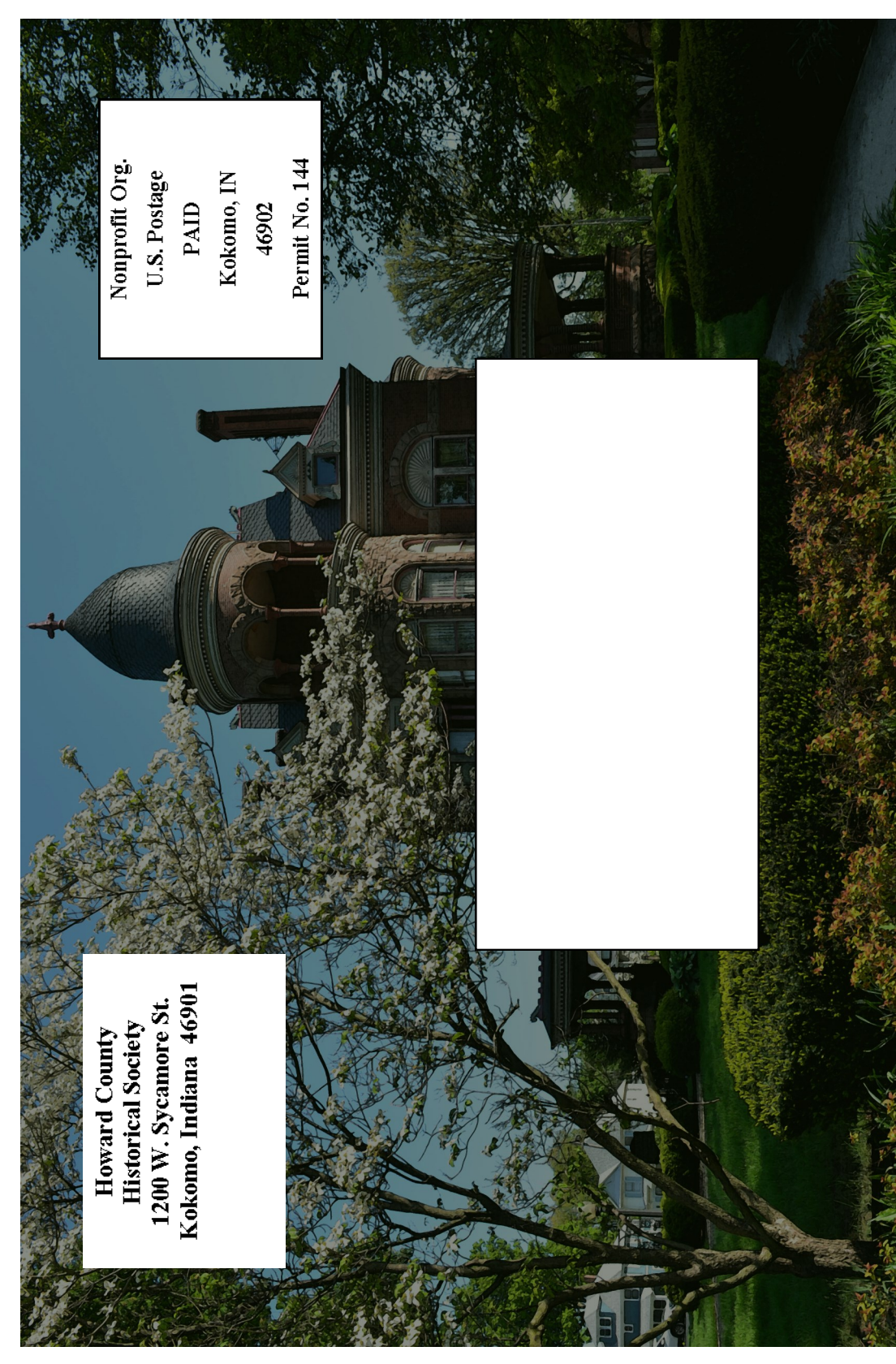
Top - Seiberling Mansion and carriage House, Bottom - Elliott House and carriage house

***To those who supported our mission with gifts to the
“Flamekeepers” Annual Campaign in 2018 — THANK YOU!***

Richard and Betty Alexander	Thomas and Marsha Maple
James Allman	Margaret Butler Endowment Fund
Ron and Pam Barsh	Marshall and Donna McCay
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Jerry and Connie Basham	Bill and Marty Menges
Milton Beach	Margaret Miles
Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc Beta Lambda Chapter	Katherine Morrison
Ed and Judy Brown	Jerry and Marcia Nelson
James and Marvel Butcher	Larry Newlin
Karl and Cathy Clearwaters	Barbara Nichols
Phillip and Victoria Conwell	Nancy Obermeyer
Weezie Cook	Fred Odiet
Omar England	Thomas and Carole Podwell
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Harold and Joyce Fields	Gilbert Porter
Teresa Fields	Kyle and Lisa Rayl
Don Fields	David and Melody Rayl
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Shirley Lee	Dr. Bradley Vossberg
James E. Long	Karen Williamson
Wayne and Susan Luttrell	Dr. Don and Deborah Zent
Mark and Jennifer Lyons	

The vision of the Howard County Historical Society:

“To engage our community to know, appreciate, and actively promote the diverse history of Howard County.”



**Howard County
Historical Society
1200 W. Sycamore St.
Kokomo, Indiana 46901**

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