

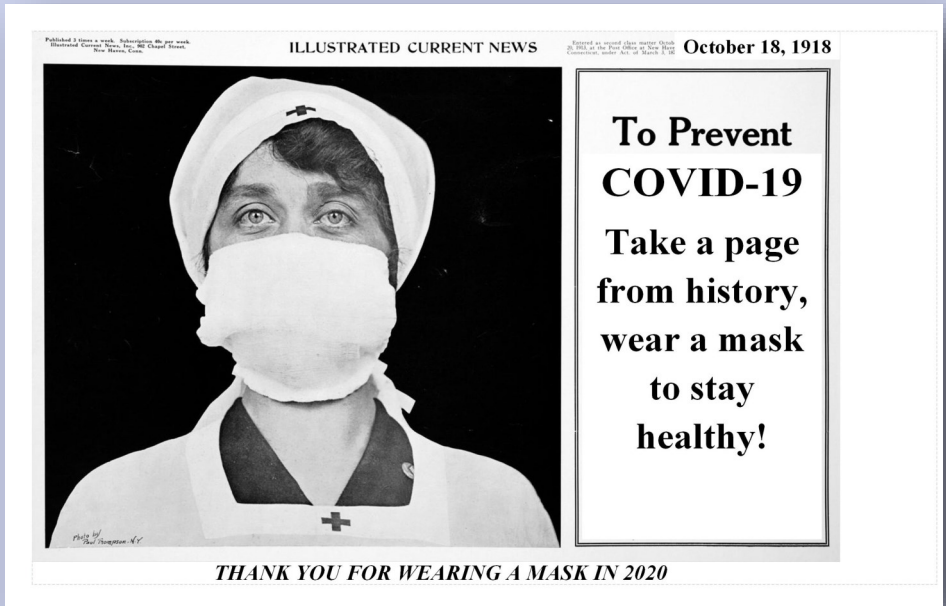
A photograph of the Howard County Courthouse, a historic building with a prominent central tower featuring a conical roof and arched windows. The building is constructed of brick and stone. A dark blue diagonal banner is overlaid on the right side of the image.

HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

2020

PREPARED BY
DR. CATHERINE HUGHES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Year that Roared Behind a Mask: 2020



The past 12 months have been full of changes for the Howard County Historical Society. The baton of leadership was passed from Dave Broman to Catherine Hughes. The mansion closed to visitors in March due to the pandemic, reopening in June with new safety protocols in place. While the work of the historical society continued, nothing was really the same. No organization was immune to challenges of a year of COVID-19 and the social unrest brought to the surface by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the ensuing protests across the nation. Everyone had to learn how to Zoom. Planning for events focused on touchless activities and remote access.



The year had begun normally, with the teardown of Christmas decorations and reset of the mansion in January. Dave Broman had announced his retirement but agreed to continue until a new executive director was hired. On March 15, the *Kokomo Black Women of the Midwest Project Revisited* was shared in the Elliott House. This historic project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, began in 1985 and was revived more recently.

Then came COVID-19 and the shutdown. Public operations ceased until June 14, when the Seiberling Mansion and Howard County History Museum reopened. While public operations were halted, behind the scenes the search for a new executive director was under way. The board hired Dr. Catherine Hughes, who began work May 13, just in time to plan for the re-opening.

The historical society – staff, board, and volunteers – was able to pivot, learn new ways of doing things, and carry on. Changes in the schedule were necessary, and these chang-

es often ended up solving other difficulties. The October Annual Meeting was moved to January, which is a great time to finalize one year and kick off the next. Hall of Legends was moved from August, a busy month with many events, to March, one of fewer obligations.



Retiring director Dave Broman received a drive-by send off!

Arts Commission helped offset maintenance costs, and a grant from Indiana Historical Society will fund an oral history/collection project. The HCHS is also beneficiary from several endowments in the Community Foundation of Howard County.

The historical society was fortunate to secure support this year from several local, state, and federal entities. Federal PPP funds assisted with salaries; funds from the Greater Kokomo Visitors Bureau provided financial relief through a forgivable loan; an Indiana Landmarks grant supported a necessary structural assessment; a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County enabled a virtual Christmas tour; CARES ACT funds through the Indiana

As the country convulsed with social unrest, museums and other organizations were confronted with growing questions about their role in relation to social justice. National networks such as the American Alliance of Museum (AAM) and the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) led by example, issuing statements of support and creating pertinent programming. For its part, HCHS expressed solidarity with the statement published by AASLH, which highlighted ways in which museums and historical societies can support their community and provide opportunities to overcome local and national division.

A new touchless and COVID-safe program, The Automotive Scavenger Hunt, was piloted in August on the Seiberling lawn. The hunt was targeted at families with children 6 to 12 years old and highlighted automotive artifacts in the HCHS collection. In the fall, *From the Dark Pages* was again brought to life. Adapting to safety rules, this promenade performance of a murder mystery was performed outside. Audiences followed the actors from



Participants work on the Automotive Scavenger Hunt on the Seiberling lawn.

IN APPRECIATION OF HCHS VOLUNTEERS

MOST MUSEUMS COULD NOT FULLY FUNCTION WITHOUT A DEVOTED CREW OF VOLUNTEERS, AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS NO DIFFERENT. THIS YEAR HAS PUT MANY HCHS VOLUNTEERS INTO A FRONT LINE POSITION, ESPECIALLY AS HOSTS AT THE SEIBERLING. THEY HAVE PUT THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF GUESTS, INVITING THEM TO VISIT WHILE ADHERING TO MASK WEARING, SOCIAL DISTANCING, SANITIZING, AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS. IT BECAME DANGEROUS WORK, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THEIR COMMITMENT TO OPENING THE MUSEUM'S DOORS TO THE PUBLIC THIS YEAR SO UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

continued from page 3

scene to scene, moving around the mansion's porch and grounds. Blood curdling screams came from the third floor rotunda. It was a hit!

Christmas is always a big deal at the Seiberling and this year was no different. It just took different forms. Decorating to a *Santa around the World* theme, volunteers created some very cheerful and fun holiday tableaux. A virtual video tour, filmed and directed by Awry Productions, premiered in tandem with opening night of Christmas at the Seiberling on Nov. 28. The video starred Santa, who flew into Kokomo at our request to keep traditions at the Seiberling alive for all those who couldn't visit in person because of the pandemic. This video was viewed more than 7,000 times. To the left is a screen shot of the video from the HCHS Facebook page. Limited timed tickets were sold for evening events, which allowed small groups of people to safely visit the decorated Seiberling in person.



The museum's curatorial staff was busy all year carefully researching and considering each item offered to the HCHS for its relevance to Howard County. They were equally busy with the deaccessioning process, by which we remove items from the collections that are not relevant to our mission (many of which were literally dropped on the back porch with no provenance or donor name). Digitizing our collection is an ongoing process. At this point, we have 30,653.

In such a year, the Publications Committee worked hard to ensure that quarterly issues of *Footprints* kept coming. From a look at the history of Grace Church, the national Histo-

ry Relevance Campaign, historic preservation, and programming news to a deep exploration of Howard County’s African American roots, *Footprints* provided news and historic research designed to open minds and expand thinking.

The board of trustees and HCHS committees were busy planning and carrying out various tasks of the historical society. Exhibit Committee planning evolved over the year as a new director joined in. The Fund Development Committee led an annual campaign in summer and a capital campaign in late fall to support repair of the Seiberling’s badly deteriorated porte cochere. This will be a major project undertaken in 2021. The Collections Committee considered artifacts for the collection and deaccessioning. The Oral History Committee contributed new interviews with its work on *Black Women in the Middle West Kokomo Project Revisited*. Event Committees were kept busy through the year.

While the pandemic took its toll on admissions to the museum, the HCHS’s online presence has grown. Between Twitter (@HCHSociety), Instagram (@hchistory), and Facebook (HCHS), the historical society has offered hundreds of historic photographs, news, and videos to thousands of online fans. In 2020 alone, we have seen enormous growth in activity and the statistics on Facebook “likes” is heartening. See below the steady increase through this year, and for that we are thankful.



Due to the generosity of its members, supporters, and sponsors, the HCHS is ending its year in the black, which is better than was realistically expected in this year of loss.

And now, onto the 2021. We kick off the year with the Annual Meeting and Remote Dinner on January 12. The tear down of Christmas decorations follows New Years. The first exhibit being planned and built for February is the *QR Tour on African-American History in Howard County*. This will highlight the centrality of African-Americans to the county’s history, from its pioneer roots to education and the military to sports and music. Awry Productions will again work with us to create an exciting and vibrant virtual Hall of Legends to premiere March 18. Mark your calendar! Check the website or social media for more information on these and other HCHS activities.

2021 Projects that need your support

- Capital Campaign: Repair to the Seiberling's Porte Cochere
- Accessibility ramp onto side of Seiberling Mansion



The mission of the Howard County Historical Society
To engage our community to know, appreciate, and actively promote the diverse history of Howard County

Digital Storytelling at the Seiberling

Tour

**QR CODES: SEIBERLING
MANSION EXHIBITS**



The HCHS has engaged Oncell, a leading digital storytelling platform for cultural destinations and other visitor attractions, to enable visitors a deeper dive at certain objects in the museum, and via the website. In the museum, visitors can scan a QR code by the object to access additional documents, videos and photographs.

Aug-Dec numbers: 485 page views



Coming Soon!

**African-American History in Howard County Exhibit
Opening in February 2021**

2020 Board of Trustees

Sharon Reed, President

Linda Clark, Vice President

Christopher Wisler, Treasurer

Linda Ferries, Secretary

Dean Despinoy, Past President

Randy Rousch, Member at Large

Dave Dubois

Teresa Fields

Tammy Greene

Mary Ellen Harnish

Larry Hayes

Peggy Hobson

Peter Inman

Dana Osburn

Marsha Santen

Anne Shaw

Lynn Smith

Josh Spencer

Staff

Catherine Hughes, Executive Director

Stew Lauterbach, Curator

Heather Fouts, Office Manager

Bill Baldwin, Maintenance

Gale Leiter, Imaging Technician

Randy Smith, Curatorial Assistant

Emily West, Publications Assistant

Jill Snyder, Volunteer and

Membership Coordinator

About the Howard County Historical Society

The society and the county museum were both born during Indiana's statewide centennial celebration of 1916. A local Chamber of Commerce exposition to celebrate the occasion included a large historical exhibit, which became one of the leading attractions at the event. At about the same time, the Kokomo Woman's Department Club, along other civic-minded residents, started the historical society and dedicated the organization to the preservation and dissemination of local history.

The county museum opened in the Carnegie Library in 1923 using many of the artifacts displayed during the 1916 exposition. The collections rapidly outgrew the library, though, with artifacts reportedly stored in several scattered locations. The construction of a new courthouse in 1937 provided an opportunity to pull all of the collections together in one location, where they could be available for public display. A Works Progress Administration project moved the museum there in 1939.

In 1964, Indiana University was preparing to vacate its classrooms in the Seiberling Mansion, which it had owned since 1946, and move to a new campus. The community began to consider what to do with the mansion and the idea of a new home for the county museum was proposed. Almost immediately, the historical society began working toward that goal. In 1971, Howard County took possession of the building in partnership with the society.

By the numbers...

- 1,524 MUSEUM VISITORS , INCLUDING FROM BRAZIL, BELGIUM AND KENYA. OHIO AND ILLINOIS PROVIDE THE MOST VISITORS FROM OUT OF STATE.
- 144 VOLUNTEERS PUT IN MORE THAN 2,588 WORK-HOURS
- 7.5K VIEWS OF THE CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL TOUR
- 308 LIKES, SHARES AND COMMENTS ON THE CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL TOUR
- 283 SANTAS DISPLAYED DURING CHRISTMAS AT THE SEIBERLING
- 4,656 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS (INCREASED FROM 3,600)
- 40,353 FACEBOOK PAGE VIEWS: (INCREASED FROM 27,959)
- 19,448 WEBSITE VISITORS (INCREASED FROM 14,325)
- UTILITY COSTS FOR FOUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS - \$38,048.69
- MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR FOUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS - \$37,905.88
- WHILE ADMISSIONS WERE SLOW TO RETURN TO NORMAL PRE-COVID numbers, rentals of Elliott House & Seiberling Mansion resumed at a decent pace —43 rentals: 16 showers, 9 weddings, 9 graduations and 9 other parties.

2020 Financial Statement

	Jan - Dec 2020	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Administrative Income			
Annual Campaign Income	24,531.02	15,000.00	9,531.02
County Income	82,956.00	82,308.00	648.00
Endowment Income	16,844.00	14,688.00	2,176.00
Interest Income	1,244.05	1,080.00	164.05
Thompson House Income	8,700.00	8,700.00	0.00
Contributions Income			
Restricted	25,391.28		
Unrestricted	2,718.31	300.00	2,418.31
Total Contributions Income	28,109.59	300.00	27,809.59
Total Administrative Income	162,384.66	122,056.00	40,328.66
Program Income			
Admissions	6,303.00	17,000.00	-10,697.00
Collection Management	2,197.65	1,200.00	997.65
County Income - EDIT	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
County Income - Payroll	41,844.00	41,868.00	-24.00
Gift Shop	167.09	440.00	-272.91
Memberships	13,958.98	14,000.00	-41.02
Rental HS	8,650.00	11,500.00	-2,850.00
Grant Income	11,140.00	0.00	11,140.00
Roof Campaign Income	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Porte Cochere Campaign	5,125.54		
Special Events	15,496.47	27,000.00	-11,503.53
Total 6000 - Program Income	159,882.73	163,008.00	-3,125.27
Total Income	322,267.39	285,064.00	37,203.39

Expense	Jan - Dec 2020	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Administrative Expense			
Annual Campaign Expense	853.40	1,000.00	-146.60
Computer Expense	3,984.83	1,200.00	2,784.83
Dues/Subscriptions	1,276.36	1,600.00	-323.64
Equipment Repairs	0.00	300.00	-300.00
D&O Insurance	0.00	1,478.00	-1,478.00
Janitorial Supplies	771.98		
Thompson House Expenses	3,763.10	5,560.00	-1,796.90
Office Supplies	3,166.19	3,000.00	166.19
Postage - Administrative	649.51	600.00	49.51
Professional Fees	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Salaries	98,953.50	95,736.00	3,217.50
Software Expense	1,573.13	1,000.00	573.13
Workshops	110.00	400.00	-290.00
Other Expenses	15.52	960.00	-944.48
Bank Service Charges	180.00	240.00	-60.00
Administrative Expense - Other	199.00		
Total Administrative Expense	116,996.52	114,674.00	2,322.52
Program Expense			
Auto/M&E	11.73	100.00	-88.27
Total Collection Management	3,199.75	1,000.00	2,199.75
Equipment Repairs	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Exhibits	1,301.47	4,000.00	-2,698.53
Gift Shop	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	1,032.48	2,500.00	-1,467.52
Maintenance HS	37,905.88	22,000.00	15,905.88
Porte Cochere Campaign	36.82		
Marketing	3,095.07	3,900.00	-804.93
Membership	98.00	0.00	98.00
Miscellaneous/Public Relations	29.99	600.00	-570.01
Postage - Programs	681.57	660.00	21.57
Publications	2,011.79	2,000.00	11.79
Salaries	67,779.35	64,716.00	3,063.35
Payroll Expenses	3,207.86	3,084.00	123.86
Sales Tax Gift Shop	38.98	50.00	-11.02
Grant Expense	72.00	0.00	72.00
Website Development	351.57	200.00	151.57
Special Events	11,216.21	12,700.00	-1,483.79
Telephone	5,633.87	6,120.00	-486.13
Utilities	38,048.69	43,000.00	-4,951.31
VISA/MC Processing	2,881.58	2,040.00	841.58
Total Program Expense	178,634.66	168,870.00	9,764.66
Total Expense	295,631.18	283,544.00	12,087.18
Net Income	26,636.21	1,520.00	25,116.21

2020 ITEMS IN COLLECTION – 54,208
OBJECTS - 11,706
PHOTOS - 30,653
ARCHIVES – 10,596
LIBRARY – 1,253

2020 NEW ITEMS – 510
OBJECTS – 61
PHOTOS – 293
ARCHIVES – 108
LIBRARY – 48

To those who supported our mission with gifts to the Annual and Capital Campaigns in 2020

Indiana Heartland FCU
 Solidarity Credit Union
 Richard and Betty Alexander
 James Allman
 John & Diane Auzins
 Ron and Pam Barsh
 Harold Beal
 Don and Gail Beaton
 Bob and Janis Bergman
 Glen Boise
 Don & Susan Bonness
 Dr. Robert and Sally Bratton Bratton
 Jan Briscoe
 Judy Brown
 Dr. Phil and Connie Burgan
 Jeremy and Teri Burke
 James and Marvel Butcher
 Margaret Butler
 H.C. and Mary Ann Byrd
 Troy Caldwell
 Bill and Sharon Carter
 Linda Clark
 Karl and Cathy Clearwaters
 Phillip and Victoria Conwell
 Weezie Cook
 General James Cox
 Colin Craig
 Steve and Cheryl Currens
 Dean Despinoy
 Dave and Shirley Dubois
 Charles and Mary Duncan
 Craig Dunham
 Barbara Dutton
 Bill and Gwenn Eldridge
 Ken and Linda Ferries
 Teresa Fields
 Harold and Joyce Fields
 Garrett and Vivian Floyd
 Tom and Lynn Folkers
 Heather Fouts
 Alissa Getts
 Kenn Freeland
 Dr. Pratap and Dr. Nirmala Gohil
 Bob and Rosalie Gollner
 Judith Graham
 Mona & Charles Graham
 Glenn and Nancy Grundmann
 Harry Hanson
 Joan Hardesty
 Mary Ellen Harnish
 Thomas and Jeanne Harrell
 Larry Hayes
 Betty Hegenbart
 Charles and Patricia Hinders
 Mark and Peggy Hobson
 Robert and Joan Hoch
 Peggy Hollingsworth
 John and Mary Ann Holmes
 Ken and Marcheta Humphrey
 Peter Inman
 Dr. David and Barbro Jarrell
 Steve Johnson
 Ed and Carolyn Kammeyer
 Kent Kaufman and Jan Halperin

Medora Kennedy
 Wayne and Jane Kincaid
 Jerry King, King's Heating and Plumbing
 Dave and Linda Kitchell
 Rebecca Lepper
 James E. Long
 Wayne and Susan Luttrell
 William Maple
 Don and Gloria Martin
 Edward and Vickie Martin
 Juanita Martin-Davis
 Phyllis Melick
 William Menges
 Ron Metz
 Thomas and Linda Miklik
 Margaret Miles
 Cindy Miller
 Tyler and Ann Moore
 Sondra Neal
 Larry Newlin
 Charles and Gloria Nipple
 Fred Odiet
 David and Lisa Olmsted
 Mary Ann Peabody
 Paul and Kathy Pfetscher
 Scott Pitcher
 Thomas and Carole Podwell
 David and Melody Rayl
 Kyle and Lisa Rayl
 Sharon Reed
 Ruth Reichard
 Thomas and Kathryn Rethlake
 Darrell and Jule Rider
 John & Marie Roberts
 Michael Rodgers
 Irene Rolland
 Robert and Diana Rostron, Jr.
 Randy and Mary Rusch
 Dr. Allen Safianow
 Anne Shaw
 Jerry and Marsha Santen
 Dr. Thomas and Carol Scherschel
 Thomas and Judy Sheehan
 Brian and Laura Sheets
 Bill Shirley
 Dr. Charles and Alice Simons
 James Simpson
 Lynn Smith
 Dorwin Starr
 Bill and Carolyn Stifle
 Linda Stout
 Marty Stout, Shirley & Stout Funeral Homes
 David and Carla Summers
 Greg and Melody Sumpter
 Matt Tate
 Edward Trobaugh, Maj. Gen. (Retired)
 Larry and Janice Waddell
 Dianne Waggaman
 Harlo and Dixie Westlin
 Michael Whiteman
 Lonita Williams
 Karen Williamson
 Dr. Don and Deborah Zent

With gratitude, we recognize the businesses who sponsored HCHS programs in 2020:

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Kokomo
Community First Bank of Indiana
Duke Energy
Financial Builders Credit Union
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Indiana University Kokomo

Ivy Tech Community College
Security Federal Savings Bank
The Wyman Group
WZVZ 92.5 FM/WMYK Rock 98.5
FM/WIOU 1350 AM

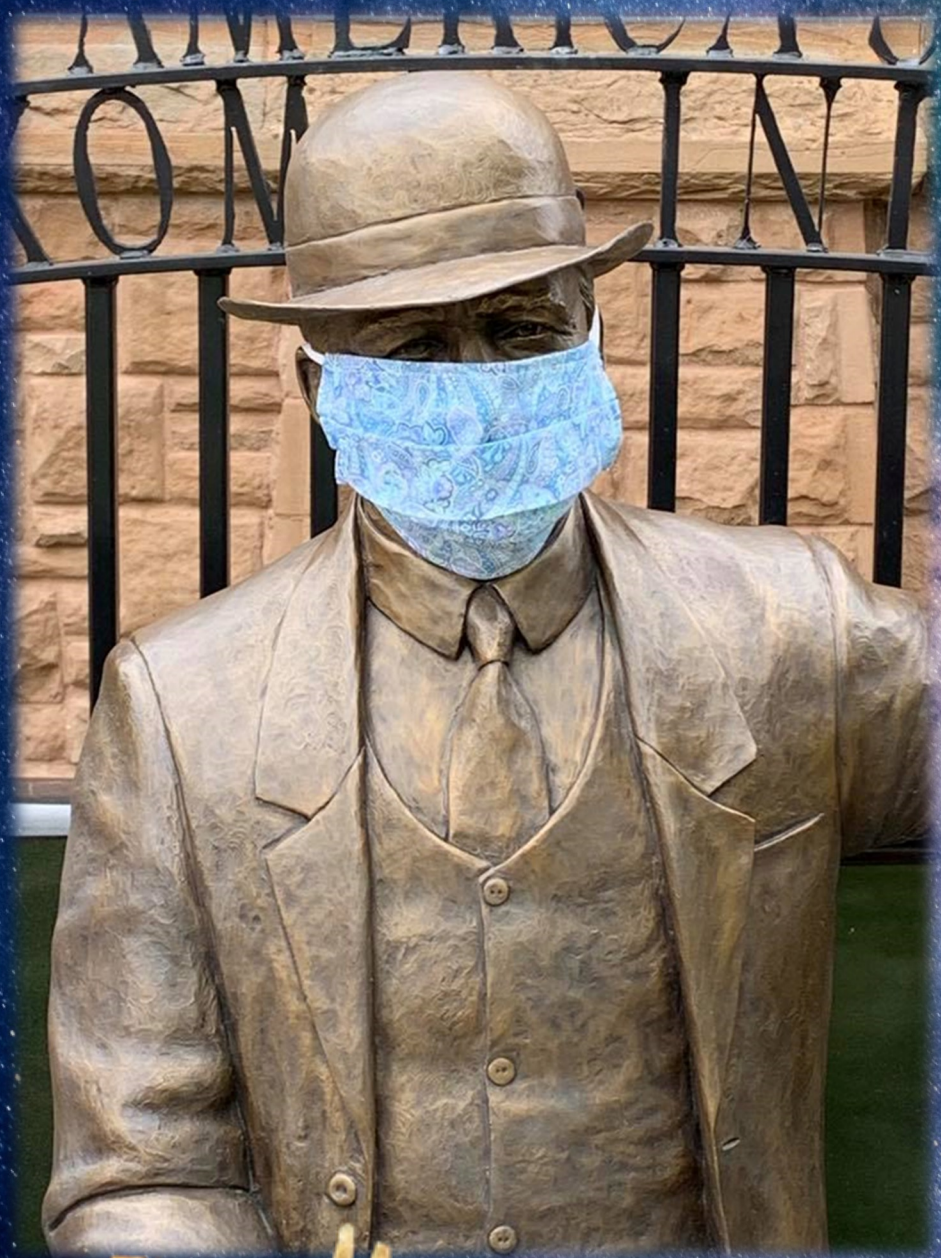
*Thank You
for your support*

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.



Goodbye 2020!

***The Kokomo Tribune named Seiberling Mansion
Best Local Landmark 2020 Best of Kokomo!***