



*2016 Annual Report
of the*

Howard County Historical Society

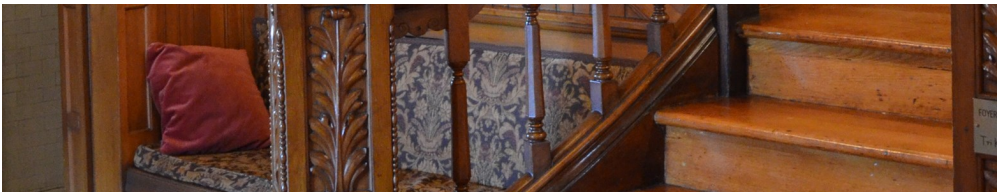


Moving into its second century, the historical society is focused on the future. Preservation, sustainability, and interpretation are priorities, with the “Save Our Seiberling” campaign at the top of the list.

Preparations for the campaign had been underway since 2014, when it became apparent that the deterioration of the mansion’s roof was getting worse. In 2016, we commissioned a preservation assessment of the mansion, organized the campaign committee, and began raising funds. We received a matching grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County, a grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation’s Efroymson Family Fund, and a Heritage Preservation Grant from the Indiana Historical Society (part of an initiative funded by the Lilly Foundation). Many individual gifts helped us meet and exceed the matching grant requirement, and we’re grateful for every one of them, large and small.

The society’s new interpretation plan has begun to find its way into exhibits and tours. When the museum reopened after the January hiatus, we introduced a new video which will be the centerpiece of an exhibit on the Indiana Gas Boom and its role in building the Seiberling Mansion and the birth of Howard County’s industrial economy. Six new exhibits were completed in 2016, among which are stories of the founding of Howard County and our role in the Civil War. A new image of the legendary Chief Kokomo was added to the exhibits. Commissioned by David Foster, a descendent of the county’s founding father, the image is a more accurate and less stereotypical representation of a man whose actual appearance is unknown.

Exhibit work is one example of our community partnerships, with student interns from Indiana University Kokomo intimately involved in research, design, and fabrication. We also assisted students in the hospitality degree program at IUK as they learned about hosting and guiding tour groups. We were pleased to work with Leadership Kokomo again, providing some historical background for their training



and benefitting from an LK team project that decorated the mansion exterior and flower beds in red, white and blue for July Fourth and the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration. Our partnership with the Greater Kokomo Visitors Bureau remains an important relationship as we work together to provide great experiences to visitors and promote Howard County. We continue to work with the Indiana Historical Society, Kokomo Howard County Public Library, Automotive Heritage Museum, Automotive Heritage Hall of Fame, Haynes Museum, Greentown Historical Society, Russiaville Historical Society, Kokomo Historic Review Board, and the East Region Tourism Marketing Co-op to advance our common interests.



Education is an important aspect of the society's mission and goes well beyond the IUK partnerships. Hundreds of elementary school students toured the mansion again in 2016, including public school classes, home school groups, and Aca-cia Academy students. Several of the museum's volunteers are retired teachers who have a special gift for working with children. High school students from the Kokomo School District's CEO program also came to the museum to learn about our remarkable history of entrepreneurship.

One of the more visible changes at the museum was the addition of a statue of Elwood Haynes to the grounds just west of the porte-cochere. The statue was a project of the Howard County Automotive Heritage Hall of Fame and recognizes the contributions of an inventor and entrepreneur who played a key role in county and state history.

Our major events in 2016 were the Howard County Hall of Legends and Christmas at the Seiberling. We inducted six new Legends in August and all 41 are now featured on our website. Christmas at the Seiberling brought more than 4000 visitors to Seiberling Mansion, thanks to a series of free admission evenings made possible by community sponsors. We also participated in the annual Koh-koh-mah and David Foster Living History Encampment, providing a historical candle-dipping experience for young people.

2016 by the numbers

- **18,616** historic images viewable online at hchistory.org
- **32,890** items in the collections
- **242** artifacts added to the collection
- **6** new exhibits
- **270** members
- **2,200** volunteer hours worked (not including Christmas)
- **4,000** visitors during Christmas At The Seiberling
- **34 states and 6 countries** - represented in the guest registers
- **27** groups toured the museum
- **69** parties in Elliott House, including 4 weddings, 24 showers, 4 anniversaries, 1 wedding proposal, and 6 graduation open houses.
- **2,400** Facebook followers
- **569** photos posted to Facebook
- **6** new members inducted in the Hall of Legends (total of 43)
- **7** history articles published in **4** quarterly issues of Footprints
- **13** free email updates sent (sign up at howardcountymuseum.org)



Museum Day Live! - March 2016

2016 Board of Trustees



**Pres. Judy Brown at
the Hall of Legends**

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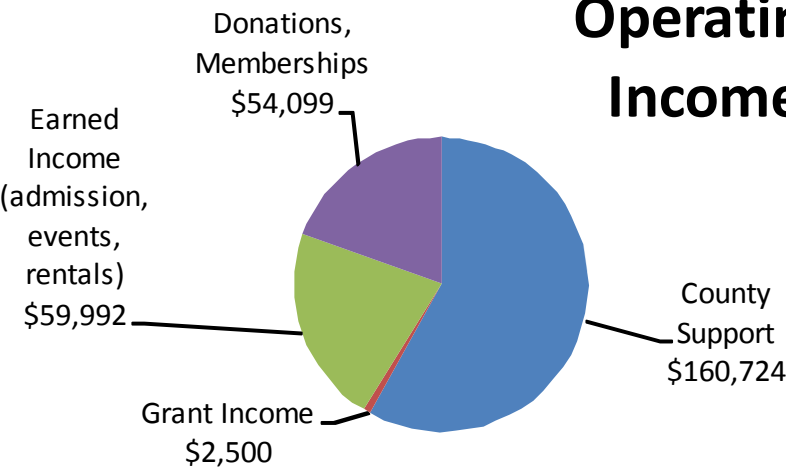
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With gratitude, we recognize the businesses who sponsored HCHS programs in 2016 ...

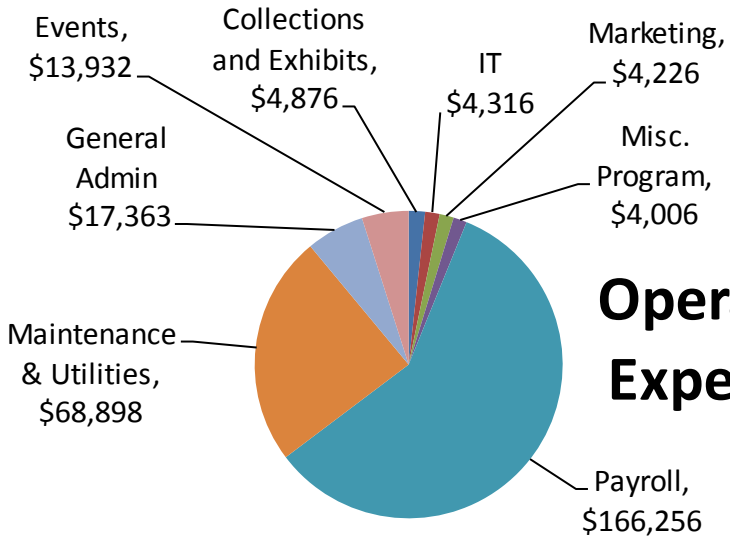
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The Wyman Group

Operating Income



Operating Expenses



We seek to remember as we seek to be remembered. History isn't all just dates and names nor is it all wars and migrations. Preserving and sharing our history is how we respect our forebears and keep their memory alive. It's also how we tell the stories of our own lives to future generations.

Community Foundation: 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 through the Community Foundation endowments 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.

Seiberling Mansion: Ensuring Its Future

The historical society celebrated its 100th year in 2016 and has grown stronger with each year. But, after more than 125 years, Kokomo's grand Seiberling Mansion is showing its age. The slate roof is failing and endangering the house it should be protecting.

The Seiberling is an icon of the Indiana Gas Boom, representing a burst of innovation that altered the future of Howard County. The mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its historical and architectural importance.

The campaign to "Save Our Seiberling" will replace the roof and protect the mansion for another century. It is co-chaired by Steve Daily, retired chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College and former mayor of Kokomo, and Diana Tenbrook, Vice President for Marketing at Solidarity Community Federal Credit Union. Daily said, "I've had a chance to see the Seiberling mansion from the point of view of education, government, and economic development. I know how important it is to the community, not just as a piece of our special history but as a point of community pride.



The following supporters made grants, gifts or pledges to the “Save Our Seiberling” campaign during 2016.

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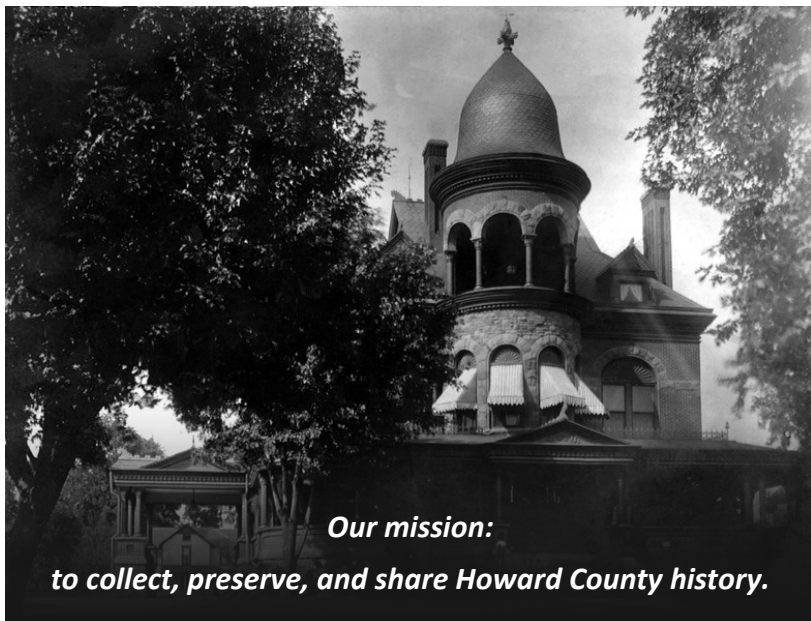
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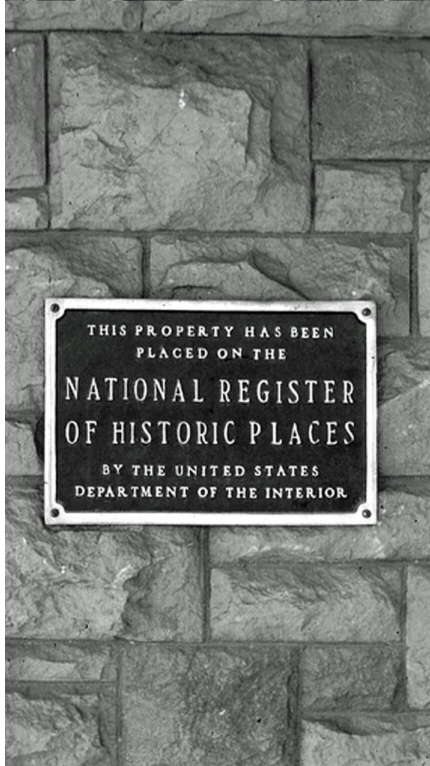
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Ronald Sieber
Phyllis Stucker
Marjorie Herr Swing



Our mission:

to collect, preserve, and share Howard County history.



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

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