

December 8, 2024

Dear Friends and Members of BCHS:

We are excited to share with you our annual review for 2024. This is the time of year where we come together to celebrate the milestones, achievements, and memorable moments for the past year. Please see the message below from our president, Jane Hammock as she shares highlights of our work, recognizes the dedication of our members, volunteers, donors, and supporters.

“Our year began with the resignation from the board of member Cindy Holmes. Volunteer Cheryl Philbrick agreed to fill her position on the board. The society was in receipt of Joan Hysong’s wedding dress, which came in bad shape but Neil Hollingsworth at Royal Cleaners, did an excellent job restoring it and it will be displayed at Cragun House.

The Caring Center contacted us about a coverlet belonging to Bob Harmon (Past BCHS member and treasurer for many years). After speaking with the family, it was NOT a family heirloom. A society director purchased the coverlet. Work was done by members on the bookshelves in the research room, and work (Phone conversations) continued with LadyBug about the bats. The roof repair was completed and paid for in full. The volunteers continued to meet and do great work around the house.

Once again, this year, BCHS displayed the Cragun quilts in conjunction with the Quilt Trail, hosted by Quilts Plus locally. Several people came to the house and viewed the lovely quilts. The quilts were displayed on the ground floor receiving a good airing, then a refolding. All the coverings for the quilts were washed. Thanks to the local Boone County jail inmates for helping bring the quilts down from the bedrooms upstairs. Volunteers, residents, and visitors all got a chance to see the quilts and learn more about BCHS. \$110 was in the donation box from the event and a volunteer made a \$500 donation.

A Mothers’ Day tea was planned for May 11 with (what we thought was) intense publicity. With very few responses (#3) and reservations, the Tea was cancelled.

A garage sale has been in the works since the first of 2024. With no room to have items on display, especially in case of rain, we have mulled this over. After the receipt of LOTS of donated books from the Tanselle estate (thanks to Guy Davis), we have contacted One Stop Auction to help us photograph and sell the books, and hopefully other valuables. We would also like to let members know we can use their old books, and we can resell for profit. Guy also received the Tanselle Market sign. He restored the sign, and it was donated to Arni’s to be hung in their dining room.

Angie Moody was contacted to replace the blinds in the bathroom and upstairs ladies’ room (damaged when the window broke during a rainstorm). Angie and David Wines replaced the blinds (\$1096) in May. Guy Davis is donating an antique toilet. Shirley Wheat replaced the damaged wallpaper in the room. With the completion of the bathroom, the funds from the Sneep Fund can be used. Ms. Snepp donated the money in her father’s memory, and we used it to fix the bathroom. It is finally done!

John Redman was contracted to replace the front porch steps. Jane was able to obtain a \$2500 donation from Paul Kruse and PROM. After completing the bathroom project, Ms. Snepp was contacted about using her remaining funds to complete the steps. She agreed. The steps project was started on June 4, 2024. With lots of delays, it was paid on June 26, 2024, at a final cost of \$3868.

The America 250 Indiana committee had contacted the BCHS to help with the Boone County event. With no one willing to commit to the project, a local person was sought to take on this project. Kathy Flanary and Jane Hammock met with Casey Sampson about his cemetery project. During the meeting, Casey volunteered to take on the 250 birthday of America project. THANKS!

Cheryl attended the CFB meetings in April as a representative of BCHS. Grants may be available, and more research must be done on this.

A paranormal event was held in April. Again, this was a sold-out event! Not only do we receive the ticket price from the paying individuals, but Nicole, who leads the paranormal event, obtains for us a matching grant from Roche Diagnostics, her employer. Nicole often offers to purchase items in the house, plus she donated to the Cragun House repair. A 'paranormal researcher' from southern Indiana called about an overnight in the house. A quote of \$600 was given, but the person never returned the call. This type of event is something BCHS will need to set pricing on.

Complaints had been made to the roofer about a leak in the research room closet. The hail damage from last year harmed the roof and it was finally repaired and completed in December: \$25, 550. He did come and check and found a clog in the gutter. He took care of the issue. But the leak remained, and he was called again.

A heavy, windy rainstorm the night of May 14 forced water into the house from a clogged gutter. (It was found later to be filled with shingles). The house was awash in water. Luckily Cheryl went to the house and found the mess. After a long day of phone calls, arranging trash buckets to collect water, moving furniture and trying to save books and paper files, First OnSite was called. They have done tremendous work on water mitigation, demolition and starting now restoration. Our insurance REFUSED to cover the damage. We had to contact the roofer's insurance company and we now working with them on payment. We had to pay \$555 and \$17,000 of our own money to get the process started.

Once the walls were demolished on the west side of the dining room and research room, it was found that the outside walls were not intact. Pioneer Restoration repaired the west house wall at a cost of \$1635. This has been a long, arduous event. My heartfelt thanks to those who took care of the house in my absence, the volunteers who boxed, moved and labeled books and papers, and came to the house to meet with the insurance company. Furniture was moved. Directors met with insurance agents, adjusters, the roofer, First OnSite team; they opened the house for people and answered phone calls from individuals. So many events have been cancelled: no fall paranormal event, graduation party, BCSSI tour, potential tours in the spring. Plus, with the ceilings torn out in the west rooms, the attic is open and the bats are flying around. 2 have been caught/found dead. ASAP after the house repair, LadyBug will return. Also, the alarm has been deactivated due to bat activity, but no refund can be obtained from the company. It's been rough.

Several displays have been in the Heart of Lebanon office. The quilts and the naming of Lebanon picture by Mrs. George have been displayed. More may be in the future, but with no way to hang pictures and no display tables, it is difficult.

During the summer the HVAC was down. Cook Heating and Cooling donated their time to repair the furnace. THANK YOU!

At the BCHS initiative, the local historical non-profits meet in August. Great ideas were shared and a desire to meet again. Most groups all have the same issues: lack of funds, volunteers, and members.

Contact was made with the 4-H Fair Queen committee. This year was out, but potentially a Queen's tea can be held in 2025.

Cheryl has been working with the Master Gardeners to revamp the Cragun House yard. She has done major work but this will be a continuing project

LINCOLN: What a horrible weekend! Who expected a hurricane? Money was saved on cannons and soldiers who did not/could not attend, and the store did well on sales, but attendance was low, some of the people did NOT return on Sunday, and it was miserable. THANK YOU to the members who helped. All the soldiers who did attend expressed a desire to return. We used a new local blacksmith, and he was terrific, and wants to return! The Big 3, Lincoln, Grant and Lee also will return. We will have to do more work on food. On The Go food truck has been our food. This year Lawson Farms helped with dinner (we make \$1.30—at least not a loss) and have offered to help again. Lebanon Parks Department is great to work with, and the park is reserved again for 2025, September 27 and 28. We will need volunteers and sponsors again.

So, it's been a big, expensive year for BCHS. Like all nonprofits, we need more funding, volunteers and members. Work on the house will keep us busy, plus planning Lincoln again. Not sure the house will be ready for the QUILT show and that will lose some funding. Yard work will be a biggie when spring arrives. Once we reopen the house, we hop to plan party to announce her availability again. So hopefully people will begin to book the house for events. Events require people to open the house and attend the event as a host. We would like to have the house open several days a week. This requires docents, and do we charge admission fees, or rely on donations? Lots to discuss and decide not only for the house, but for society. Do we sponsor historical events: speakers, displays, projects. We need dedicated people on board who will work. We need event volunteers. Sponsors and donations will help our cause. Three groups have offered to have fundraisers, and we need to work with them. People need to help write grants. If we are going to survive, we must grow. And we grow with active people.”

Jane Hammock, President BCHS