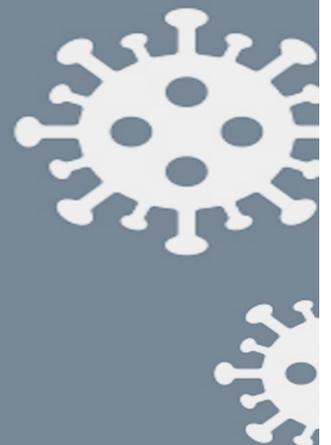




2020

CORNING-PAINTED POST  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT



### Officers

Sean Lukasik	President
Alison Merkl	Vice President
Amy Irvine	Controller
Dr. Edward Franklin	Secretary

### Trustees

Mary Bacalles
Kirsty Buchanan
Meredith Dessoye
Gautum Meda

### Staff

Soni Lacey, Office Manager	Anita Keyes, Custodian
Patrick Monahan, Education Coordinator	Anna Hoyler, Depot

### Vision

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society is a dynamic, community responsive, educational organization that inspires community memory by linking our local history and heritage to contemporary life.

### Mission

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society shall preserve and share our area's history through educational programming and exhibits, building preservation, archival collections, and experiential learning.

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## 2020 Review

Like so many other businesses and nonprofit organizations, the Corning Painted Post Historical Society had a difficult and challenging 2020. We started the year with a lean budget and ambitious fundraising goals, and our annual appeal and membership updates helped set a positive tone. However, by the end of March we were forced to cancel several fundraisers due to COVID-19, and all of our educational programs went away when schools closed. Our income had all but run dry.

The difficult state of affairs forced us to make difficult decisions, and we regretted to announce that our Executive Director Monica Nix was laid off and would not be returning to the Historical Society. Monica worked extensively throughout her tenure to create strategic relationships with area nonprofits, increased our exposure to the community, and generated funding through grants and donations. She continues to remain a member of the Society and volunteers for special projects.

Additionally, after a temporary layoff, Thomas DeWert decided to leave the organization for opportunities out of state. TJ's passion and knowledge were always appreciated by staff, volunteers, and visitors alike, and we wish him all the best in his new adventures.

Since then, the board and remaining staff have worked tirelessly to make up for lost income and set forth a new plan for the organization. In June, we held a membership drive that resulted in 35 new members and a monetary match from the Community Foundation.

In July, we were able to begin hosting tours once again in a limited capacity. Our volunteers have been instrumental in making sure we're offering as many time slots as possible for visitors.

In August, the early stages of our new plan started coming together. We received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan from the Small Business Association in the amount of \$72,000, which is interest-free for 12 months and will help us revive our investment account and fill any cash-flow gaps when necessary. And we received word from the Community Foundation that our General Operating Grant Request has been fully awarded, which will help us tremendously as we recover over the next 18-24 months.

Moving forward, we will keep an eye toward new opportunities and potential vulnerabilities as we focus on all the ways we tell our stories and share our history. We're incredibly lucky to know that our members, our volunteers, and our whole community support us generously.

## New to the Board

In 2020 we welcomed Kirsty Buchanan to our Board of Trustees. Since 2015, Kirsty has served as the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions for The Rockwell Museum. As a professional art historian, her scholarship has focused on American paintings, drawings, and sculpture from 1850 to 1945 with a focus on early Modernism and Regionalism. During her tenure at The Rockwell, she has overseen the full reinterpretation of the permanent galleries, successfully co-authored the institution's application to the Smithsonian Affiliates program, and crafted the new Collection Development Plan. As the head of the curatorial department, Buchanan has curated numerous exhibitions, edited several publications, and secured funding for various curatorial projects. She has served as a grant review panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, art advisor to the Center for Mark Twain Studies' historic house, and on the inaugural WSKG Community Advisory Board.

## Contributions and Gifts

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following for their financial contributions and gifts in 2020:

### Operating Fund

James & Mary Bacalles  
Carmella Bertron  
Patricia Beitz  
Barbara Blumer  
James Bowdy  
Megan Breslin  
Bruce & Jean Campbell  
Betsy Carisetti  
Grant Carlson  
Melissa Colacino  
Barbara Cook  
Joanne D. Coombs  
Corning Area Woman's Club  
Patricia T. Dann  
Dr. Edward & Mary Franklin  
Herb & Mary Ann Garlock  
Kathryn Gerwig  
Jerry Griffin  
Lawrence & Susan Grigsby  
Susan Gruber  
Mary Ellen Haff  
Roberta Hirliman  
Ellen Hulslander  
Mariana Huber  
Amy Irvine  
Elizabeth M. Jones  
Donna Keegan  
Sylvia Kete  
Jean Krebs  
Soni Lacey  
Mallory Lawes  
Hilda Lando  
Liz Lorenz  
Emily Lowery  
Richard & Ellen Luce  
Adam Lukasik  
Jenna Lukasik  
Sean Lukasik  
Steven Lukasik  
Ian Mackenzie  
Gautum Meda  
Alison Merkl  
Kathryn Mack  
Imogene McKendrick  
Patrick Monahan  
P.J. Monroe  
Jon-Claud Nix

Monica Phillips Nix  
Robert & Nancy O'Loughlin  
Meghan O'Toole  
Mary Passage  
Lynn Peffley  
Tom Patterson  
Theresa Person  
Lynn Peffley  
Christina Richards  
George & Doris Roy  
Anna Rice  
Lisa Rustici  
Elise Johnson Schmidt  
Frank Starr  
Beverly Stevens  
Bruce & Martha Watt  
Brian Lee Whisenhunt  
Jean Wosinski  
Virginia & Jerry Wright

### Annual Appeal

Marcia Adamy  
Jack & Rose Andrus  
Marcia J. Ashworth  
Elizabeth V. Barenthaler  
Norma Bird  
Edward & Louise Bush  
Dr. Edward & Mary Franklin  
David & Sylvia Ginnan  
James & Lynn Hatch  
Marcia A. Klokus  
Robert & Barbara McLean  
Theresa Puccio  
William & Jean Walker  
Donalyn Wexell

### Corning Incorporated Matching Donations

Marcia Ashworth  
Timothy M. Major  
John O'Hare  
Robert O'Loughlin  
David Sonnefeld  
Jill VanDewoestine

### In-Kind Donations

Leon & Sheri Golder  
Brian & Chris Hoyler  
Henry Offerman  
Tom & Barbara Rhodes  
John & Pat Starzec

### Endowment Fund

Norma Bird  
Leon & Sheri Golder  
Gary & Mary Ellen Haff  
Soni Lacey  
Fran & Connie Luckner  
John & Karen Madison  
Patrick Monahan  
Robert & Nancy O'Loughlin  
Ron & Joyce Stephens  
John & Becky Stranges  
William & Jean Walker  
Anita Woodhouse

### Browntown School

Corning Area Retired  
Teachers

*The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society has taken every measure to ensure the accuracy of our listings. We apologize if we have overlooked any person or organization.*

*Please note that there were additional donations made to the 2020 Annual Appeal that were reflected in the 20219 Annual Report.*

## Exhibits

For the last couple of years Alison Merkl, Board Vice President, has created displays at the Southeast Steuben County Library and a window on Market Street. These exhibits are a great opportunity to highlight our vintage clothing collection, artifacts, and special events offered at Heritage Village. In 2020 we did not have too much window display activity because of the pandemic. However, at the Library booth in the early spring a display with our vintage postcards showing scenes of Corning and Painted Post was installed (because of Covid this display remained in place the entire year). In December we exhibited a Victorian Christmas morning with the wicker doll carriage driven by a horse and other Victorian toys on view on Market Street (window usage provided by Bob and Loretta Ecklin).



## Collections

There were 16 items added to our collection in 2020. The PastPerfect catalog now contains 19,079 items; a mix of books, photos “paper memorabilia”, clothing and objects of all types. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in our archives. We hope to one day have information accessible to the public. With this goal in mind, Ed and Tricia Louiz worked throughout the year to continue the process of identifying and sorting photos.

Some interesting articles added in 2020 were an assortment of items that once belonged to former Corning Fire Chief Charles Houper. The collection included a ceremonial shovel that was used for the 1975 groundbreaking of the Civic Center Plaza, 1975 Corning Mews project, Dayspring II in 1979 and the Corning Senior Center in 1981.

A wonderful addition to our vintage clothing collection is this taffeta purple gown with velvet bow trim c. 1880-90 (pictured right). The dress is fully lined and would have a hoop petticoat, as the skirt is very full and trained in the back. It has covered crocheted buttons down the entire front and wide velvet bow accents on the sleeves and on the back train. This dress was one of several dresses donated by Carolyn Taylor O'Brien of Vienna, VA. We received a unique child's long dress with floral trim, a cotton print summer day dress and several accessories in this group.



## Awaken the Spirits

What began as an outside of the box idea has turned into a successful monthly event at Heritage Village. In November 2019, Bill Vrockroth, lead investigator from the Paranormal Association of the Southern Tier (P.A.S.T.), asked if he and his team could investigate to see if there were any friendly spirits at the museum. With a certain level of concern and hesitancy, we agreed to pursue the idea and are very glad that we did. We do have friendly spirits at the museum, and they enjoy communicating with our guests.

In collaboration with P.A.S.T. we launched our first ghost hunt, “Awaken the Spirits,” in August 2020 with four guests. And interest in our ghost hunts grew, despite the difficult pandemic year. We followed CDC protocols: reservations were required, groups were kept small, and health safety precautions were followed. This spring our ghost hunts, which showcase a very different aspect of our museum’s history, remain popular, with as many as 26 guests in an evening. Plans are to continue these monthly, interactive, family friendly fund raising events into the future, with additional hunts targeted towards tourists this summer.

We are happy to report that at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic presented a major financial challenge to Heritage Village, with most of our school programs, tours, and community events cancelled, we have been able to keep our doors open, and the interest in and enthusiasm for our monthly ghost hunts continue to provide important revenue for the museum.



## Special Events and Programs

2020 was a challenging year for events. With the COVID-19 restrictions, we were forced to cancel or postpone many of our planned events and programs. However, with a little creativity, we were still able to have a Fall Festival and Holiday Open House.

For our annual fall event we were unable to have our usual traditional hands-on demonstrations and activities or have people inside the buildings. We decided to focus on the fundraising pieces of the event; raffles, food and a yard sale. It was a beautiful day, with a small trickle of visitors spread throughout. We were very pleased with the outcome, we raised over \$5000!

Our Holiday Open House was spread out over the course of 3 weeks, with 2 weekends of cookie sales. Rather than doing our usual buffet style of choosing your own cookies, we prepackaged mixed assortments. We also set up a beautiful holiday gift shop in the office, an Attic Treasures sale in the exhibit room, and a fantastic holiday raffle. We brought in over \$4000.

Heritage Village also worked with a few local non profits to help give back to the community.

In October we were proud to be a part of "Warm the Cold Blanket Drive" sponsored by The Arc of Steuben, MVP Healthcare, and Five Star Bank. New and gently used blankets were dropped off on our lot at the corner of Pulteney Street and Sly Avenue (formerly the gas station lot). A Steuben Area Rides bus parked on the property and the blankets were left with them.

In December we "Filled the Foyer", with non perishable food items for the Corning and Painted Post Food Pantries.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting our events and programs. We look forward to returning to our traditional, unrestricted events in 2021!



## Buildings & Grounds

During the fall of 2020, fierce winds blew the Benjamin Patterson Inn sign off the pole in front of the Inn. With the assistance of three volunteers, the large post was lowered for repairs. As the pole was lowered, we soon realized the mortice and tenon joints had disintegrated and in need of repair; the pole was moved to the Cooley Blacksmith Shop. Over the winter months, new joints were cut and a new wind brace installed. Again, the sign proudly welcomes visitors to the Inn that was once known as the Painted Post Tavern at its beginning – 1797.

Several picnic benches were repaired that our visiting school children use throughout the year.

Repairs was made to one of the Inn's furnaces; the gas valve failed and replaced by a qualified serviceman.



### Painted Post – Erwin Museum at The Depot

The Erwin Museum was located on the third floor of the old Erwin Town Hall on W. Water St. in Painted Post for many years. They had a fairly extensive collection of objects large and small as well as photos, paper memorabilia and books. Much of the museum contents were moved to the D, L&W railroad depot in Painted Post after it was refurbished in 2000.

There were a considerable amount of artifacts left on the third floor, as the new Depot museum could not accommodate all of the objects by either displaying them or storing them in the building. They remained at the old Town Hall until late 2019 when the building was sold. During the first part of 2020 we had to move the remaining contents from the third floor. Fortunately, it had all been identified previously and the small objects packed in boxes.

We had a group of Society volunteers who moved those remains to the Depot. They are slowly being reviewed in the PastPerfect software and some deaccessioning and box renumbering performed. We hope to get the boxes moved before the Museum opens for 2021.

# Financial Report - 2020

## Income Statement

<b>ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020</b>
Income	\$87,781.15
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00
<b>Gross Profit</b> As a percentage of Total Income	<b>\$87,781.15</b> 100.00%
Operating Expenses	\$124,890.43
<b>Net Profit</b> As a percentage of Total Income	<b>-\$37,109.28</b> -42.27%

## Balance Sheet

<b>Assets</b>	
Total Cash and Bank	\$95,425.71
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Long-term Assets	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$95,425.71</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$71,900.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$71,900.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Total Other Equity	\$42,000.00
Total Retained Earnings	-\$18,474.29
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$23,525.71</b>

## Education

In 2020 Heritage Village had 14 school groups visit prior to the mandatory shut down.

Corning-Painted Post School District

Grade 2 - 1 class (20 students)

Grade 4 - 11 classes (207 students)

Holy Family 1 class (15 students)

Twin Tiers Christian Academy (15 students)



*Thank you to all of our dedicated docents and volunteers who give so much of their time, knowledge, and energy to make our programs and events possible.*

**Looking forward to the time when all of us can get together again!**

## Membership

Memberships in 2020 are as follows:

	New	Renewals	Total
Patterson	2	0	0
Benefactor	1	5	7
Corporate	0	3	3
Donor	1	7	9
Family	12	45	57
Honorary	0	11	11
Individual	9	43	52
Patron	4	43	47
Senior Citizen	16	129	145
Student	0	1	1
	45	285	330

It is vitally important for the organization's survival to increase the number of memberships.

Our event attendance was roughly 300 people. Our walk-in tour total was 130; combined with school groups we had a total of 687 visitors to our site in 2020.

