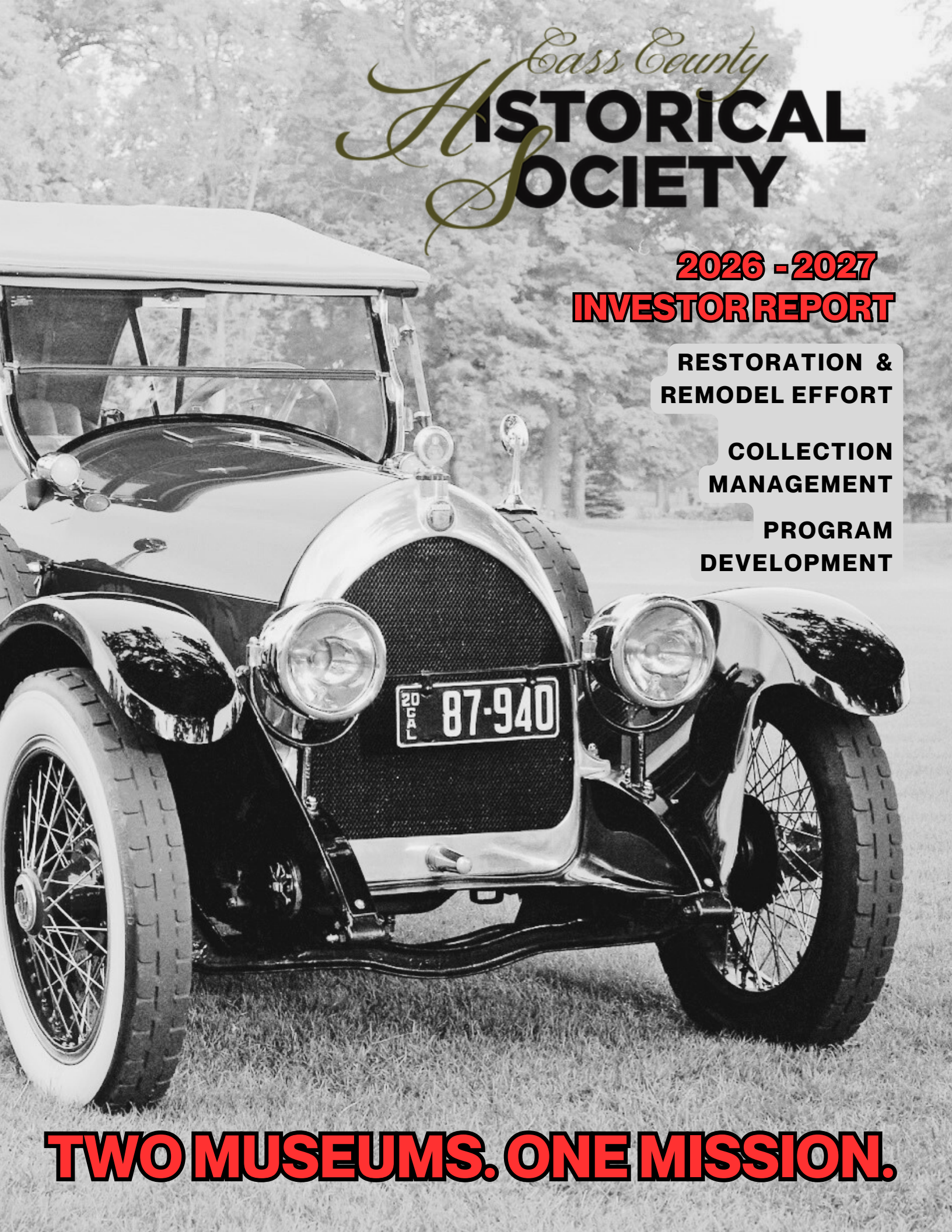




Cass County **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**2026 - 2027
INVESTOR REPORT**

**RESTORATION &
REMODEL EFFORT**

**COLLECTION
MANAGEMENT**

**PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT**

TWO MUSEUMS. ONE MISSION.



The mission of the Cass County Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share Cass County Indiana history.

The Cass County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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Cass County **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

STAFF

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Hello, I'm Heather

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



I was hired by the Cass County Historical Society in late 2022, during a period when the organization was thoughtfully reassessing plans developed prior to the pandemic. I brought to this role more than two decades of experience as an arts and museum educator in the State of Indiana, along with a Master's Degree in Arts Education from Indiana University. My background includes working as a licensed educator, teaching K-12 visual art, leading arts programming at a community nonprofit, and extensive work alongside museums in Indianapolis and Kokomo in areas of board service, display creation, office management, interpretation, and visitor experience.

Since joining the Society, I have worked closely with our board and stakeholders to refine long-range plans, aligning our vision with organizational capacity and ensuring our goals are realistic, responsible, and achievable. This work has been grounded in both sound museum practice and educational strategy, while remaining deeply committed to the Society's ongoing mission to collect, preserve, and share Cass County, Indiana history.

This publication is intended to share our progress with potential investors and our community, highlighting the meaningful steps we have taken and outlining what we aim to accomplish in 2026-2027 with continued financial support. Through careful planning, educational insight, and responsible stewardship, we are building a sustainable path forward that strengthens our museums and enhances the quality, accessibility, and impact of the visitor experience.

With your support, we can continue to collect, preserve, and share the remarkable stories and artifacts that define Cass County's history. Two Museums. One Mission. Together, the Long Home Museum and the Cass County Museum provide the space, presence, and opportunity to connect our community to its past by offering an engaging educational experience for all who visit.

Heather Fouts

Creating a Sustainable Experience



Since acquiring and expanding into the historic Cass County Museum building in 2019, the Cass County Historical Society has been intentionally growing its footprint and capacity to serve the community while building a sustainable future. We currently have an annual operational budget of \$150,000. This strategic expansion has allowed the organization to diversify exhibit and artifact storage space, improve accessibility, and centralize key resources such as offices, classrooms, and the Castaldi Family History Center—all essential steps toward long-term operational resilience.

The Society also continues to steward the Long Home Museum site with a commitment to preservation and thoughtful restoration. Recent work with the Indiana Historical Society and professional architectural analysis supports responsible, phased improvements that protect these irreplaceable historic assets while balancing resource constraints and future needs.

In addition to physical sustainability, CCHS actively nurtures community engagement and diversified support through programming, membership benefits, and fundraising efforts. Program events such as First Saturdays, Legacy Speakers, and Home for the Holidays help build broader community involvement, support volunteer recruitment, and strengthen public connection to the Society's mission.

Finally, targeted initiatives like digitizing collection records and responsibly managing surplus materials (e.g., deaccessioned book sales with proceeds directed back into collections care) reflect a professional, ethical approach to collections stewardship that enhances institutional capacity, sustainability and ease of information access for future generations.

Preserving Our Past by Investing in Our Future

Over the past three years, a significant portion of the Cass County Historical Society's financial investment in both Long Home Museum and the Cass County Museum has been dedicated to addressing deferred maintenance and property needs. As outlined on our website, these efforts have focused on stabilizing and improving essential systems and structures to ensure both museums remain environmentally safe, functional, and welcoming for the community. While these projects may be less visible than new exhibits, they are critical to protecting the organization's long-term viability.

Moving forward, the Society is placing a stronger emphasis on proactive care of its physical assets. Experience has made clear that repairs become far more costly once systems and structures fail, making ongoing maintenance a responsible and necessary priority. This shift allows us to better steward our historic properties and artifacts while avoiding emergency repairs that threaten historic artifact collection safety or strain limited resources.

Your financial support plays a direct and meaningful role in this work. While much progress has been made, there are still numerous structural repairs and building modifications ahead. The good news is that many of the major improvements completed in recent years are warranted and designed to last well into the future, especially with proper, consistent maintenance now in place.

With continued support from the Cass County Council—providing \$50,000 annually in 2024 and 2025—and the City of Logansport's \$20,000 annual contribution toward utility expenses, we are able to operate and maintain both museum locations. Completing restoration work at Long Home and remodel plans at CCM will require a significant influx of additional funding to achieve. We are writing grants for what we can, but continued investment from our community and supporters is essential to fully realize the long-term vision for our museums.

See breakdown of completed projects on page 8.

JILL SNYDER - PROGRAM MANAGER AND SUPER-SLEUTH

Jill joined our staff in October 2023. A Logansport native, she provides research and genealogy services for a current average of 20 guests each month via the Castaldi Family History Center resources located inside the Cass County Museum.



*Guests are warmly invited to explore the **Castaldi Family History Center**, located inside the Cass County Museum, for all their local history and family research needs. Serving as the museum's library and archive, the center houses thousands of books, documents, photographs, and family histories that help tell the story of Cass County and its people. Access to the History Center is free to the public, with generous support provided by the Castaldi Family Trust. Knowledgeable assistance is available to help researchers make meaningful discoveries.*

Cass County Museum
421 East Broadway Street
Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

Long Home Museum
1004 East Market Street
Thursday - Friday and First
Saturday of each Month 1 - 4 PM

Museums are closed in January for annual cleaning and maintenance. Offices and library are still open at CCM in January for research and genealogy services.

Digitization of the Collection

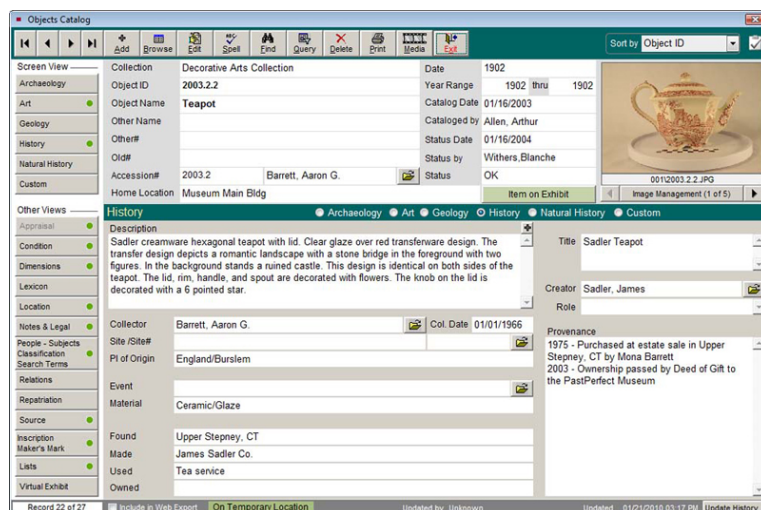
Online accessibility is essential to the future of history education, and the Cass County Historical Society has made it a priority to build a foundation that allows our collections to reach far beyond museum walls. As outlined in our long-term goals, improving digital access ensures students, researchers, and community members can engage with Cass County history regardless of location, while also protecting original materials from unnecessary handling. This work supports a more inclusive, flexible, and modern approach to learning from the past.

Before meaningful digitization can occur, however, there is an intense and necessary first step: organization. We had piles of unsorted materials - closets, drawers, boxes, and shelves filled with papers, photographs, artifacts, and documents mixed together with office supplies, seasonal décor, and even trash. Addressing this reality has required patience, persistence, and countless hours of hands-on sorting to separate historically significant materials from items with little or no long-term value.

The process involves consolidating like-themed items, assessing their condition and safe handling needs, and assigning proper archival storage locations. Each object must be carefully documented with item numbers, physical locations, donor information, known history, and contextual notes - an enormous task when working within a sea of thousands of individual items. Only after this detailed work is completed can materials responsibly move forward into digitization. In the future, we hope to hire an Archivist and Technology Manager to help expedite and improve the curation of our collection and experience.

Adding to the complexity, existing collection records were found across many outdated and varied formats, including handwritten journals, microfilm reels, cassette tapes, VHS and Beta tapes, CDs, DVDs, and flash drives. All of this information must be meticulously reviewed and transcribed into PastPerfect, the Society's cloud-based museum collections management software, ensuring long-term access, consistency, and preservation across platforms.

With assistance from the City of Logansport and dedicated volunteer Lloyd Knight, the Society has successfully entered just over 1,000 items into PastPerfect to date - primarily focused on railroad history and library materials. This milestone represents a critical step forward, laying the groundwork for expanded online access, stronger educational programming, better exhibits, and a future where Cass County's history is both preserved and readily available for future museum staff, educators and generations of students and visitors to come.



2021-2025 Completed

- Relocated artifacts and belongings in 11th Street office and Long Home Carriage Barn to Cass County Museum downtown. Sold the 11th Street office.
- Began organization of library, archive and collection - work is ongoing.
- Established First Saturdays, Cass County Legacy Speakers and Home for the Holidays programs, providing free access to our museums and free history education opportunities.
- Multiple restorative repairs at Long Home Museum - professional structural analysis performed, sidewalk and step repairs made, new water heater and sewer line installed, new HVAC system installed in carriage barn, new roof on Long Home.
- Agreed on realistic floor plans and initial exhibit plans for Cass County Museum.
- Paid architect expenses for floor plan concept designs at Cass County Museum.
- Funded first floor construction plans for the transportation / ReVeré exhibit.
- Purchased a museum grade document scanner. Digitized over 1000 artifact and library items into Past Perfect museum cloud software.
- Replaced multiple HVAC systems at Cass County Museum, made repairs working toward alignment of existing system to suit museum standards and new floor plan.
- Installed new artwork signage on Cass County Museum exterior windows.
- Made electrical improvements and reorganized storage at both museum locations to safely comply with fire code.

2026-2027 Goals

- Completion of first floor remodel at Cass County Museum: \$75,000 +
- Provision of new first floor exhibits at Cass County Museum.
- Continuing organization and digitization of the collection.
- Replacement of HVAC unit #3 at Cass County Museum: \$16,500
- Replacement of HVAC on Long Home Museum: quote pending.
- Hire architects to design and create construction plans for adding ADA accessibility measures to Long Home Museum site: \$20,500
- Hire architects to draft construction plans needed for Cass County Museum second floor remodel: \$171,000
- Debut *From Dark Pages* theatric mystery tours at Long Home Museum in October.
- Address restoration needs of the William Chick Family Log Cabin so we can safely reopen that experience.
- Increase membership and involvement - Please join us! All are welcome!

Making the Museums: Redefining Traditional Experiences

Cass County Museum Exhibits

First Floor:

- Cass County Introduction
- Natural History - Rivers, Fossils - Flora & Fauna
- American Mastodons, Farm History
- Our Building - Bank History
- Transportation History - ReVere Automobile

Second Floor:

- Railroad History
- Historic Clothing
- County & City Government, Political History
- Military History
- Castaldi Grocery Store
- County Schools & Felix the Cat
- Historic Businesses - Streetscape Experience

The planned exhibits at the Cass County Museum represent a major investment in downtown Logansport while preserving and sharing our local history. Achieving this vision will require strong investor and community support. Across two floors, visitors will experience a wide range of exhibits. These experiences are designed to create a cohesive and engaging story of how Cass County has developed over time.

The second floor will focus on the people, institutions, and everyday life that shaped our communities. During construction at the Cass County Museum, the Castaldi Grocery and Military exhibits will remain available on display at the Long Home Museum, ensuring continued access to these important collections until it is time to move them.

Making this transition possible involves significant physical work behind the scenes. Every artifact must be carefully sorted, cleaned, documented, and properly stored or displayed to ensure its long-term preservation. This process is time-intensive and requires appropriate materials, skilled handling, and dedicated support from both investors and volunteers.

We are committed to providing more complete and informative exhibit labeling as part of our new experience, so guests better understand what they are viewing and its historical significance. Looking ahead, we plan to introduce QR code-based smartphone tours that will offer audio narration, language translation, and improved accessibility. These enhancements will allow our exhibits to educate more effectively, reach broader audiences, and create a richer, more inclusive museum experience for the community and all who visit.

Two Museums. One Mission.

Restoring, adding accessibility, and continuing operation of the Long Home Museum is essential to preserving the full, lived history of Cass County, Indiana. The home itself is a primary artifact, showcasing stained glass windows, fine woodwork, original wrought iron and brass chandeliers, historic fireplaces and tile. These architectural elements, combined with historic family furniture, dishes, housewares, textiles, clothing, and artwork by county artists, allow visitors to experience history in context rather than in isolation. This immersive setting cannot be replicated elsewhere and is central to understanding daily life in Cass County's past.

Our collection is so large and diverse that we require every inch of space provided by the two museum locations we currently own to properly display and store artifacts. The Long Home is uniquely suited for our extensive collection of housewares, quilts, and antique furniture, which look and make the most sense in a historic home museum rather than in a traditional gallery setting like the Cass County Museum. Losing either museum location would result in a significant loss of visitor experience and would force us to edit exhibits, deaccession artifacts we have no place to store, and severely limit what we can responsibly accept in the future due to lack of storage space.

The Long Home is also entering an exciting new phase with the debut of theatrical events and live interpretation. Beginning this October with our *From Dark Pages* mystery tour production, the site provides the perfect backdrop for interpretation by talented actors and re-enactors. These programs bring history to life in ways that static exhibits cannot, deepening public engagement and broadening our audience.

Ultimately, restoring and sustaining the Long Home Museum ensures that Cass County's history is preserved, interpreted, and experienced in its proper setting. The space provided by our museums allows us better ability to tell the county's stories with depth, authenticity, and creativity.

Long Home Museum Exhibits

Throughout:

- Stained glass windows and fine woodwork
- Original wrought iron and brass chandeliers
- Original fireplaces and tile
- Historic family furniture, dishes and housewares
- Historic textiles and clothing
- Artwork by county artists

First Floor:

- Artists George Winter and Wils Berry
- General John Tipton
- Flood & Canal History
- Home & Cabin History

Second Floor:

- Native Americans
- Settlers & Immigrants
- Antique Toys and Dolls
- Quilt Collection
- Early Medicine & Hygiene

Basement:

- Churches
- Entertainment

Ready for the ReVere: Supporting Cass County Museum



For a closer look at the Cass County Museum space and plans, we offer in-person Progress Tours, bookable online via our website under “Services” or by phone.

The concept above illustrates an exciting vision for showcasing one of Cass County’s most extraordinary historic treasures. The centerpiece of the new exhibit is our rare 1920 ReVere tourer, acquired for the Cass County Historical Society by this community in 1998. For decades, this remarkable vehicle has represented local innovation, craftsmanship, and ambition. It will be especially meaningful to finally provide it with a permanent exhibit home worthy of its legacy.

While the ReVere is the star of the show, the new gallery will also explore the broader and more diverse transportation history of Cass County. After the remodel, visitors can expect to learn about the many ways people and goods moved through the county over time, from rivers and canals to rails and roads, transportation undeniably shaped the daily life and economic growth of our county. Together, these stories will place the ReVere in a richer context, helping visitors understand how one exceptional automobile fits into a much larger narrative of movement, progress, and community development.

It’s important to note that the image provided is concept art created by our architects. It offers a helpful sense of scale, layout, and atmosphere, but it is not an exact representation of the final exhibit. We have far more artifacts, stories, and interpretive

elements to share in the space than are shown in the rendering. You may also notice the striking “surfboard” lighting design featured in the concept. While we love its dramatic look, it will likely not be included in the initial construction due to its approximately \$25,000 price tag. Our ceilings will likely remain as they are, with additional track lighting added as needed to properly illuminate the exhibits.

Our primary goal is to get the space remodeled and the exhibits installed so the public can begin enjoying these experiences as soon as possible. Once the core stories are in place and accessible, we can always consider adding higher-cost aesthetic enhancements in the future. For now, the focus is on creating an accessible, engaging home for the ReVeré and our other large collections, items that do not fit well or at all in our limited space at Long Home Museum. Cass County Museum ensures that our large collections and artifacts sharing local histories are preserved, interpreted, and shared in a suitable space, to be enjoyed for generations.

MOVING MOUNTAINS? NO...JUST A MUSEUM

Thank you to the following people for helping us fund and achieve physical relocation of heavy artifacts, shelving, display cases, book collections, gift shop merchandise and furniture in 2025:

*The Castaldi Family Trust
United Way of Cass County
The Gray Mill
Ivy Tech Logansport
CCHS Trustees & Volunteers*



FIRST FLOOR



CCM second floor plan image and more is available at casscountyhistory.org/ourmuseums

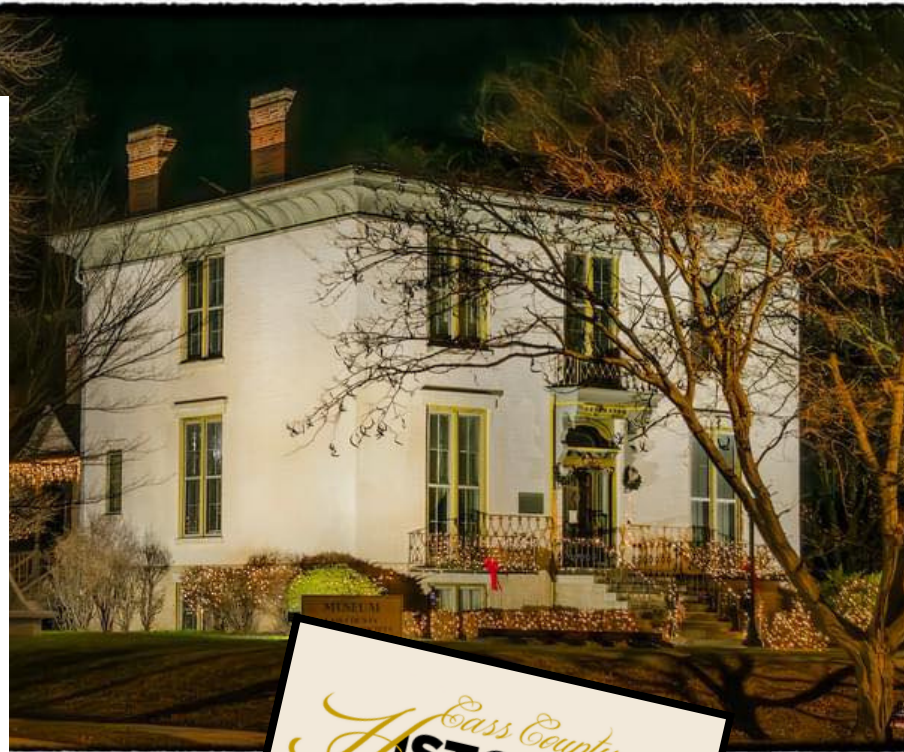
Join Us on this Meaningful Journey

Membership in the Cass County Historical Society is an important way to support the preservation, interpretation, and sharing of Cass County's rich and diverse history. Member support helps care for historic buildings, collections, and exhibits while allowing us to offer engaging programs and welcoming museum experiences for visitors of all ages.

By becoming a member, you help ensure that the stories of our community continue to be preserved and shared for generations to come. Your membership purchase also helps us provide admission and services to all students free of charge. Memberships may be purchased online, by phone or in person.

Visitors who join or renew a membership in-person while visiting one of our museums will receive a free gift from our museum shop, with their choice of:

- ***2002 Cass County History (book)***
- ***Where Two Rivers Meet (book)***
- ***Birth of a City (DVD)***



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Thank you for considering membership to our organization. Your annual paid membership helps us provide museum admission and services to all students free of charge.

\$25 **The Confluence Subscription** - Includes one year of the CCHS quarterly newsletter mailing featuring the latest information on program offerings, museum development and local history stories of interest.

\$50 **Individual**- Includes one year of benefits for one person. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 10% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

\$100 **Household**- Includes one year of benefits for two adults and all children under age 18 in the household. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 10% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

\$100 **Sustaining Member** - Includes one year of benefits for one person. Benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 20% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

\$500 **Benefactor** - Includes up to 5 Household or Sustaining Member Level Memberships, assigned to intended recipients at time of purchase. Annual benefits include admission to both museums, subscription to CCHS quarterly newsletter *The Confluence*, 20% discount on museum gift shop merchandise, invitation to members only events and discounted or free admission to select special events.

**ALL NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS ARE SPECIALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE CONFLUENCE**

~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ~

*Tax deductible donations may be made
directly to Cass County Historical Society or to our established
endowments at Cass County Community Foundation.*

*Please encourage our local county and city leaders to continue
their invaluable support of our worthy effort.*

Cass County Historical Society

→ 2026 Event Calendar ←

Annual Programs & Events

→ Recurring Events ←

First Saturdays at Long Home Museum – Free Admission & Activities

Cass County Legacy Speakers at Cass County Museum – Free public history lessons.
Follow our Facebook page or website for announcements.

Special Events by Date

February 5: Long Home Museum reopens regular hours

March 7, 1:00–2:30 PM: Musician Nick Carter, Long Home Museum Parlor

April 4, 1:00–4:00 PM: Easter Bunny Meet & Greet, Long Home Museum Parlor

April 30, 4:00–6:00 PM: CCHS Volunteer Recruitment & Appreciation Event, Cass County Museum

June 5: CCHS Golf Outing – Details Coming Soon

June 19: Free Admission at Long Home Museum Celebrating Juneteenth

July 4: America 250 Celebration – Watch for Event Announcements

October 3, 4, 10, 11: “From Dark Pages” Mystery Tours Debut at Long Home Museum

November 27, 2:00–5:00 PM: Home for the Holidays Decorations Debut at Long Home Museum

December 5: 1:00–4:00 PM: Santa Meet & Greet, Long Home Museum Parlor

December 9: 5:00–7:00 PM: CCHS 2026 Annual Meeting

Follow us online for event updates!

casscountyhistory.org