

## ***Meet Lew Wallace: Timeline of an American Hero***

*“A peculiarity of the most democratic people in the world is their hunger for heroes.”*

- 1827** Wallace born in Brookville, IN on April 10.
- 1846** Wallace serves in Mexican-American War.
- 1849** Wallace passes the bar exam and sets up law practice in Covington, Indiana.
- 1852** Wallace marries Susan Elston, daughter of Isaac Elston.
- 1853** The Wallaces' only child, Henry Lane Wallace, born and family moves to Crawfordsville.
- 1856** Wallace elected to Indiana State Senate. He also organizes the Montgomery Guards, a militia unit that gains him statewide notoriety.
- 1861** At the outbreak of American Civil War, Wallace serves as Adjutant General of Indiana, before becoming Colonel of the 11th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.
- 1862** Wallace promoted to Major General and commands Union military divisions in Tennessee battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. Organizes successful defense of Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1864** Wallace saves Washington, DC from Confederate assault at the battle of Monocacy.
- 1865** Wallace serves as military judge at Abraham Lincoln assassination trial and at court-martial of Henry Wirz, commandant of Andersonville prison.
- 1873** Wallace's first novel, *The Fair God*, published.
- 1878** Wallace appointed by President Hayes to serve as Governor of the New Mexico Territory.
- 1880** Wallace's second novel, *Ben-Hur*, published.
- 1881** Wallace appointed by President Garfield to serve as United States Minister to Turkey.
- 1893** Wallace's third novel, *The Prince of India*, published.
- 1895** Construction of Wallace's study begins in Crawfordsville, Indiana.
- 1899** *Ben-Hur* adapted into a stage play and opens at the Broadway Theater in New York City.
- 1905** Wallace dies on February 15 in Crawfordsville.
- 1906** Wallace's self-titled autobiography published.
- 1907** Susan Wallace dies on October 1 in Crawfordsville.
- 1910** A marble statue of Wallace placed in Statuary Hall at the United States Capitol Building, Washington, DC.
- 1925** First full length motion picture of *Ben-Hur* released, starring Ramon Navarro.
- 1959** Re-make of *Ben-Hur*, starring Charlton Heston, breaks box office records and garners a record eleven Academy awards.

*“May a man tell what he can do until he tries? That, I take it, is the soul of the Americanism which makes us a peculiar people.”*