



Restoring the Brick Wall

Larry Paarlberg
Director

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is a National Historic Landmark. This designation is conferred by the United States Department of the Interior and is the highest designation possible for historic places that hold national significance. The Secretary of the Interior designates these places as exceptional because of their abilities to illustrate the heritage of the United States. There are less than 2,600 designated properties in the entire country and only 42 in Indiana. The landmark status of the Wallace property includes the Study, the Carriage House, the statue of Lew Wallace, and the brick wall that surrounds the property. In 1909, Henry Lane Wallace, son of Lew and Susan Wallace, contracted for the

original portions of the brick wall on the east, north and west sides of the property, which were built with locally made Poston bricks. In 1919, the wall that runs along the south

side of the Wallace Museum property was built. The wall varies in height from seven feet to over eleven feet depending on the ground slope. A heavy limestone cap tops the bricks, protecting them from the elements. For years, the wall stood in good condition. It was a community landmark enjoyed

by many—especially neighborhood children who walked along the top of the wall and might even have climbed over the wall to gain access to the Wallace grounds when the museum gates were locked. However, by the 1950s it was beginning to show signs of deterioration. For the next sixty years stopgap measures were taken to repair or even rebuild portions of the wall. Staff from the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation department did repairs and over the years some of the trustees of the museum even lent their hands at tuck-pointing and brick replacement. Talk about hands-on trustees!

One area of the wall is now in jeopardy of collapsing. On the east side of the property



side of the Wallace Museum property was built. The wall varies in height from seven feet to over eleven feet depending on the ground slope. A heavy limestone cap tops the bricks, protecting them from the elements. For years, the wall stood in good condition. It was a community landmark enjoyed

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The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

is deeply committed

to the protection

and preservation

of Lew Wallace's

legacy now and for

generations to come.

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Notes From The Director



Each day we all create history—it just doesn't always feel like it. This year, however, we are creating history daily and it does feel like it! In January and February of 2020 who would have predicted the changes that we would see in our country? The changes affecting the world and our nation have impacted our local community, too. The response to the pandemic led to shuttered businesses, livelihoods lost, schools closed, illnesses, and sadly, deaths in Montgomery County.

Pandemics have come and gone before, but with the ease of world travel combined with the explosion of social media in the last decade, this illness and its impact have spread farther and faster than ever before. Our 2020 exhibit looking at the lives of Lew Wallace's parents was prepared in the fall of 2019 and very early 2020. Coincidentally, we discuss two of the illnesses, cholera and tuberculosis, that were epidemic in the 19th century and impacted the Wallace family. Little did we know that this topic of pandemics would prove to be so timely and historically relevant.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the City of Crawfordsville followed guidelines established by the State of Indiana and the advice of local health experts and closed non-essential

services. The museum closed to the public on March 19 and did not reopen until June 16. During that time, we worked to develop appropriate cleaning and sanitizing protocols and upgraded our social distancing measures in anticipation of re-opening, our paramount concern being the health and welfare of visitors and staff.

We also used this "down time" to catch up on projects on our "to do" lists—such as the creation of our newest strategic plan. The staff and the board of trustees, like many other agencies, met via Zoom meetings—a novel concept that quickly became routine for many of us. Perhaps the biggest impact for the museum was the cancellation of our 2020 programming. Each year we do our best to bring unique and engaging programs and events to Crawfordsville. Sadly, we realized that given the nature of our events it was impossible to host them as we would have liked and so they were cancelled. Again, our primary concern was the protection of our stakeholders and the community.

The museum staff has enhanced our social media and virtual presence with unique and engaging posts. We also posted activities and lessons for parents who suddenly found themselves homeschool teachers. These postings are no substitute for on-site experiential learning, but hopefully they were fun and engaging diversions for our

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audience. We were joined in our distribution of on-line lessons by the other wonderful Montgomery County museums, which also developed activities and programs for families to utilize off-site.

As we moved into a late summer without the TASTE of Montgomery County, we encouraged people to remember we had reopened for tours. Our tours were redesigned to be as safe as possible. Our 2020 exhibit is well worth a

visit and our gift shop is available both on-site and through our website with a great selection of books and keepsakes. As we consider the history being made in 2020, we are already looking to the future and how we can return to hosting events and activities that bring Lew Wallace to audiences near and far—and to seeing people! We also look forward to supporting our local businesses, restaurants, and caterers, and encourage our community to do the same. Take care and stay safe.

General Lew Wallace deserves his place in history. Help us preserve that place.

Membership to the **Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society** begins with your annual contribution of \$25 or more. Membership offers discounts and complimentary admission and event tickets.

Lieutenant Level—\$25 (Individual)

- Complimentary admission for 1
- Subscription to newsletter

Major General Level—\$50 (Family)

- Complimentary admission for family
- Subscription to newsletter

Governor Level—\$100 (Sustainer)

- Major General-level benefits, plus
- 10% discount in museum shop



Ambassador Level—\$250 (Benefactor)

- Governor-level benefits, plus
- 2 tickets to the annual Taste of Montgomery County

Ben-Hur Level—\$500+ (Patron)

- Ambassador Level benefits, plus
- 1 ticket to the annual Holiday Tea

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Please clip & mail your membership information to LWSPS, PO Box 662, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

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History Highlight: Zerelda Wallace

Larry Paarlberg

Museum Director

Zerelda Sanders Wallace, step-mother to Lew Wallace, died in 1901. She was a gifted and much sought after speaker for the causes she believed in. She was in such demand and responded to so many requests that she nearly killed herself in 1891 trying to balance her public and private commitments.

In September of 1891, Zerelda was speaking in Shannon, Illinois, on the return leg of an extensive tour. She had spoken throughout the tour and on the previous evening she gave a vigorous presentation in Freeport, Illinois. The morning after the Freeport talk she boarded a train to Shannon at 8:00 a.m. and upon arrival spoke for over an hour to the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Her evening program had been widely promoted and she arrived at the venue, a local church, feeling her usual healthy self. After her introduction, she only spoke a brief moment or two before saying: *"I shall not be able to pursue this argument any further. I am sick."* She turned for a chair but before anyone could reach her she slipped to the floor unconscious. People rushed to her aid and lifted her to the stage platform and then to a cot. She was carried cot and all to the home of her local hosts, Dr. & Mrs. J.A. Smith.

Word was immediately sent to her son, David B. Wallace, Jr., who was an assistant postmaster in Indianapolis, and her stepson, Lew, in Crawfordsville. Because



of the lateness of the hour, it took several hours to make train arrangements, but when the train did leave Indianapolis it made a stop in Crawfordsville for Lew to join his brother. Zerelda spent a restless night, generally remaining unconscious. By the time the Wallace brothers arrived, it was reported in the papers that she was unconscious and sinking. Word spread quickly and national leaders in Suffrage and Temperance like Susan B. Anthony and Frances E. Willard sent telegrams of concern.

Zerelda was 75 years old and had been on the road for two weeks speaking across the Midwest. Because of her age and a previous bout of illness, Mrs. Wallace had decided to limit her speaking to ONLY Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. She had written to her son, David, toward the end of the tour that she was anxious to get home because the cool weather had turned hot and she was growing weary. The doctors pronounced her illness severe and all who hovered around her bed feared that the end was near. The papers reported that:

"Her many friends in this city [Indianapolis] and State will anxiously await news from her bedside, for a more generally-loved woman never resided in Indianapolis."

After a few days Zerelda rallied and survived this attack, returning to her daughter's home in Owen County, near Cataract. She had been living with her daughter, Agnes, for several years on and off, but stayed with increasing frequency and for longer duration in the late 1880s and early 1890s. After this illness, she generally considered Owen County her home. At the pleadings of her children and grandchildren she reduced her public speaking and extensive travel—for a while. She resumed some public speaking

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and travel and she maintained an active interest in Suffrage and Temperance, often lending her voice and arguments in interviews if she couldn't travel. As the papers reported in 1901 at her passing, after this serious illness as she recovered and resumed some public speaking,

"She had no sign of age in her voice, however, and with her youthful heart, strength of mind and will of love for her cause and her friends, no one ever thought of her as old. Her voice never wavered and her step was as firm and light as that of many women half her age."

Zerelda did not have an easy life, but her charm, dignity,

and uplifted spirit carried her forward. Her husband died relatively young, leaving her in a difficult financial position. She lost three of her six children in infancy and, when her daughter Mary Wallace Leathers died in 1875, she became mother to Mary's four children raising James M., Wallace, Zerelda, and Mary Leathers as her own. Two of her three beloved stepsons predeceased her as did four of her five sisters. At her death in 1901, she was lauded and her passing lamented. Her service as first-lady of Indiana, her speaking on behalf of Temperance and Suffrage, her support of her churches, her efforts encouraging her husband to ban slavery in the 1850

Constitution, her support of her family, and even her business acumen were all highlighted in papers across the country. Just as so many who were fortunate to have known her, Lew Wallace adored his step-mother. He frequently told audiences that he created one of the most important characters in Ben-Hur, the mother of Judah Ben-Hur, based on Zerelda. He wrote:

"...the world has been as unable to resist her as I was. In all the states of the Union, in every village and city, there are good people who know and speak of her as Mother Wallace, the sweet-tongued apostle of temperance and reform."

From the Grounds

Deb King

Grounds Manager

Our visitors and neighbors often describe the Lew Wallace Study grounds as quiet, serene, an oasis in the heart of Crawfordsville. That description has never been truer than this year. From the middle of March to June 16, the gates stayed closed. No visitors, no dog walkers, no photographers—no one. To see people standing at the gate, wanting and hoping to enjoy the beautiful grounds, and have to tell them they could not come in, was unimaginable. Though I am a solitary gardener, working alone for two months made me appreciate my coworkers and their jobs even more.

The flowers and trees this spring were beautiful. Spring

was one of the prettiest that I remember. From the first burst of color, I shared pictures with the public on our Facebook page. Crocus, daffodils, lilies, dogwood, magnolia—a plethora of color and textures.

Park Day, the first Saturday in April, was postponed, and then later cancelled. The 'cleanup' work done by volunteers on Park Day kicks off the start of the garden and grounds season. Instead, cleanup started in March and continued well into May. Adopt-A-Spot Gardens were prepared and planted by Memorial Day, in anticipation of the Museum's June opening. The gardens were planted with zinnias, snapdragons, four o'clocks, alyssum, salvia, elephant ears, castor beans, cannas, daisies, Rudbeckia,

plus many more colorful plants. The Reflecting Pool urn, planted with elephant ears, croton, big leaf coleus, vinca vine, and begonias, grew into a riotous mix of foliage and color.

Summer arrived with heat and humidity making the gardens burst into bloom. At last, visitors were allowed onto the grounds. The gardens started to thrive when the visitors arrived. Late summer had the Study in the grips of a moderate drought, with just a thimble full of rain in August and September. Even though the Study's grounds are a low maintenance landscape, the gardens and young trees have needed supplemental watering. The trees planted in the last 3-5 years require constant

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Brick Wall, continued

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along Elston Avenue, a section approximately fifty feet long is leaning significantly. The Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society, on behalf of the City of Crawfordsville, is looking to properly restore this section of the wall. The project will include carefully dismantling the wall, salvaging and cleaning the Poston bricks, repairing the foundation of this portion of the wall, removing trees that undermine the integrity of the wall, and then rebuilding the wall using the bricks from 1909 with mortar that matches the original. This will be a difficult and an expensive project, but it will assure the preservation of this landmark feature for the next 100 years.

This project received a significant boost

when it was awarded a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation. This grant will cover a significant portion of the restoration costs. The project has also

been greatly boosted by the interest of a group of local citizens informally known as the “Wallace Wall Walkers.” Spearheaded by Sue Rickett and Mary Kummings, they are looking to connect with current and former neighbors who enjoyed walking the wall in their youth. This initial effort at wall restoration is important as the leaning portion is a danger to the community that walks on the sidewalk along Elston Avenue. It is also important, as it will be the first step in future wall restoration efforts.



If you would like to support this project financially, or with stories, please feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from all the Wallace Wall Walkers out there!

The brick wall appears in the background of this family photograph from Mary Kummings. Mary had this to say about the wall:

“For my family, the wall served mostly as a backdrop on a stage. It was in all our pictures. I have photos of my mother and her sisters playing in front of it, of early cars picking up family members in front of it, of my grandmother positioning her adult children, spouses and first grandchild in front of it. My first 12 years were spent in front of it, many poses also, with friends, and in a nurse’s outfit. I certainly walked it with my brothers. I do remember the sensation of walking it fast (not running though) and the ground on both sides seemingly falling away. Here is the best memory, but it isn’t mine. My brother Bill recalls being on the wall and looking up to see our Irish Setter coming toward him from the other direction—a different kind of Wall Walker. The wall means family and friends to me. It surrounds and supports a special place. One that we all love.”

Holiday Tea

If this were this an ordinary year, we’d be sharing excitement about our 2020 Tea in this newsletter. However, there will be no 2020 Holiday Tea & Fashion Show. Given the warm and inviting format of the Tea, the committee felt we simply cannot risk it. In its place, we are hosting a “Non

Tea.” We are still seeking sponsors to help support the museum, which has suffered a loss of income this year. In 2020, with your \$100 donation please consider honoring a person who has inspired you to “stand tall in tough times.” We would be delighted to have someone special to you (living or not) remembered.

From the Grounds, continued

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monitoring to ensure their future.

The Crawfordsville Tree Survey recommended approximately 30 trees for removal from the grounds.

The survey cited dead or damaged limbs, risk factors, and the consequences of a tree falling as standards in the removal decision. After assessing the recommended removal tree list, the Study will remove 3-6 trees this fall/winter.



Unhealthy signs have appeared on trees, sometimes unnoticed to develop problems years later. Broken treetops or dead limbs, roots heaving above the ground, injured or damaged trunks, damage caused by humans, are all factors that have contributed to the welfare of the trees. The risks associated with these trees are paramount to the safety of our visitors, staff, and buildings.

Growing near the Carriage House, two Kentucky coffeetrees (*Gymnocladus dioica*), along with a tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) are slated for removal. Kentucky coffeetree wood is rare and prized by lumber mills and woodworkers. The coffeetree, known as 'Kentucky Mahogany,' has a dense grain and rich color. The Study hopes to salvage some of the tree to

pass along to woodworkers. The wood can be use in the making of furniture, in carving, and woodturning. A hackberry, basswood, and a sugar maple are other trees slated for removal.

In the past few years, the Study implemented a tree-planting initiative. Thankfully, planted in 2018, were two Kentucky coffeetrees. We are monitoring

their growth and health, ensuring that Lew Wallace's grounds will always have this rare tree. Pawpaw, sweetgum, hickory, flowering dogwood, and basswood are just some of the trees planted in the last few years.

The Princess Irene garden and the Terrace garden are getting makeovers. The gardens have begun to look a little like a jungle, a look Lew Wallace may have cultivated. Hydrangeas are spreading their roots and taking over large areas, iris and hostas need dividing, plants (and weeds) spread by birds and squirrels, all contribute to these chaotic gardens.

Siberian iris, under the watchful eyes of Princess Irene, have grown into massive clumps but are hollow in the

center. These irises are early season bloomers, blooming along with the daffodils and crocus. Intricate frilly blooms soar above the grass-like foliage and blooms for a considerable time in a cool spring.

Four o'clocks, grown from seeds sown in the spring, have flourished in the Princess Irene garden. The four o'clocks, along with 'Lady in red' salvia, are providing hummingbirds with much needed food for their long migration south. Divided perennials include coreopsis, ostrich ferns, daylilies, and iris. I will be planting the divided perennials in other Adopt-A-Spot gardens.

Fall arrived and Lew's arboretum changed colors overnight, surprising, considering the drought. Golden yellow hickory trees, sugar maples turning bright red and orange, while the ginkgo tree stayed green. The ginkgo tree has a tendency to take a few days to turn yellow, and then drop all of the leaves at once.

I will add plants to the Princess Irene and Terrace gardens next Park Day, April 3, 2021. We hope to have the hydrangeas under control so colorful perennials can be planted in these two gardens. Winter is time to 'take stock' of the failures and accomplishments of the grounds and gardens, then plan for a great gardening season for the next year.

Wallace Book Project Nears Completion

Since 2013, Museum staff has been working hard to format and reissue Lew and Susan Wallace's books in paperback and Kindle e-book format. That project is now drawing to a conclusion, and should be finished by early 2021.

Susan Wallace's books already reissued include *The Storied Sea*, the record of Susan's 1881 trip with Lew to the Ottoman Empire; *Land of the Pueblos*, a collection of her articles on the history of New Mexico; *Ginevra*, published with the original illustrations by Lew Wallace; *The Repose in Egypt: A Medley*, Susan's account of her visit to Egypt; *Along the Bosphorus and Other Sketches*, her reminiscences of travels along the Bosphorus and to Italy and England.

Joining these books in October 2020 are *The City of the King: What the Child Jesus Saw and Heard* by Susan Wallace, and *Selected Poetry of Susan and Lew Wallace*. *The City of the King* is a slim volume describing an historic picture of the Jerusalem of Jesus' time, followed by the Jerusalem that Susan and Lew Wallace visited in 1882. *The Selected Poetry of Susan and Lew Wallace* are gathered from various publications in which Susan's poetry appeared, as well as

poems from Lew's longer works.

Of Lew Wallace's books, we have already reissued *The Fair God, or Last of the 'Tzins: A Tale of the Conquest of Mexico*; *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, Lew Wallace: *An Autobiography* in two volumes; and Lew's campaign biography of Benjamin Harrison.

Lew's books joining the lineup in late 2020 and early 2021 include *The Wooing of Malkatoon* and *Commodus*, *The Prince of India*, and *Selected Speeches and Essays of Lew Wallace*.

Lew was inspired by his time in Constantinople and took advantage of his relationship with the Sultan, Abdul-Hamid II, to access places and books many scholars would not have had available to them. From this research and inspiration, he composed *The Prince of India, Or Why Constantinople Fell*. The novel centers on the mythological figure of the Wandering Jew, a man who supposedly mocked Jesus on the way to the cross. For this, Jesus curses him to wander the Earth until the second coming. When the reader first encounters this man, the eponymous Prince of India, the year is 1450 and he is attempting a grand scheme to unite the three religions of the book—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The Wooing of Malkatoon and *Commodus* are two separate works that have always been published together. *The Wooing of Malkatoon* is an epic narrative poem based on figures from Ottoman tradition. *Commodus* is a play about the Roman Emperor whose rule marked the end of the Pax Romana, the golden age of Rome. This is the same Commodus who served as the basis for Joaquin Phoenix's character in the 2000 film *Gladiator*.

The Selected Speeches and Essays of Lew Wallace have been located in many varying sources, with advice from Wallace Scholars Gail Stephens, Roger Adams, and Chuck Beemer. The speeches selected cover four decades of Lew's life. Topics range from speeches about the Civil War, Turkey, Mexico, the Democratic Party, the Prevention of Presidential Assassinations, and more. Context is provided as needed for some pieces.

All books are available as a paperback or e-book through Amazon and as a paperback in the Study's gift shop. Books may be purchased online through our gift shop website <http://www.ben-hur.com/shopping/>.

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Hoosier Authors Book Club Returns After COVID Pause

Stephanie Cain

Visitor Services

The Hoosier Authors Book Club was supposed to begin its fifth year with a League of Women Voters/Lew Wallace joint meeting in March to discuss *Fighting for Equality: A Life of May Wright Sewall* by Ray Boomhower. Begun as a part of the 2016 bicentennial programming celebrating the Golden Age of Indiana Literature, the book club has proven very popular over the years.

Unfortunately, with the unusual events of 2020, the book club, along with all museum programming, was put on hold throughout the spring and summer. With the fall, Indiana Humanities resumed circulating its book club collections, and on October 1, the Hoosier Authors Book Club met virtually via Zoom to discuss Susan Neville's book *Sailing the Inland Sea: On Writing, Literature, and Land*.

This was followed on November 5 with a discussion of *Divided Paths, Common Ground: The Story of Mary Matthews and Lella Gaddis, Pioneering Purdue Women Who Introduced Science Into the Home*. The evening featured author Angie Klink joining the book club remotely.

After polling current and past participants in the book club, the decision was made to go forward with virtual discussions through the winter of 2020 and spring of 2021. Genres will include biography, essay collections, general fiction, and nonfiction.

The current schedule of book discussions (subject to change) is as follows:

Thursday, December 10, 2020 - 7 pm - *A Conservationist Manifesto* by Scott Russell Sanders

Thursday, February 11, 2021 - 7 pm - *Invincible, Indiana* by Nate Dunlevy

Thursday, March 18, 2021 - 7 pm - *Fighting for Equality: A Life of May Wright Sewall* by Ray Boomhower - The author will be joining our Zoom call.

Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 7 pm - *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

Copies of each book will be available for checkout from the museum, courtesy of the Indiana Humanities Novel Conversations program. Meetings will be held on the Zoom platform, and registration is required to receive a link and password for the discussion. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club, visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.

2021 Exhibit

For fourteen years, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum has had an exhibit dedicated to one aspect of the life of Lew Wallace. In 2021, we will continue with this approach to examining Wallace by hosting an exhibit on his art and music.

In addition to his literary endeavors, he also sketched, painted, and sculpted. His

creativity also extended into the musical realm; not only did he play the violin, but he also learned to make violins late in life.

The 2021 exhibit will feature works by Wallace which are not commonly seen, as well as his more famous paintings such as "The Conspirators."



General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

Received March 12 - October 14, 2020

Every member and donor matters a great deal to us and we appreciate your support. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made an error in your listing, please contact us immediately.

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Adopt-A-Spot

Richard & Eileen Bowen
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Betty & John Culley

TASTE!

Prior to the cancellation of the 2020 TASTE! due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these generous donors provided funds to sponsor the event. We recognize their contributions and thank them.

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Study Scrapbook

Left: Mary Lou Dawald of Athens Arts creates a chalk drawing of Lew Wallace in the parking lot for our reopening in June

Right: A new tupelo tree was planted on the Study grounds thanks to Crawfordsville Main Street



Vote for New Board Members

It's time once again to approve the slate for the Society's board of trustees. This group provides governance for the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. Individuals are slated each year for election on a rotating basis. Once elected, these individuals serve a three year term and are eligible for two consecutive terms. The Society governs the museum on behalf of the City of Crawfordsville, which owns the site and partially funds operations.

Below is the ballot that we ask you to complete, detach, and mail back to the museum by December 15, 2020. Alternatively, you can send your email vote to study@ben-hur.com. Your participation in this election is greatly appreciated! Thank you.

OFFICIAL LEW WALLACE STUDY PRESERVATION SOCIETY BALLOT

Member Name: _____

2021 Slate:

Nominees for first (three year) term: Nicole Hazlett Byron Thada Joey Gerold

Yes, I approve the slate of candidates.

No, I do not approve the slate.

Write in Candidate(s): _____

Please mail your ballot to LWSPS, PO Box 662, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or email study@ben-hur.com by 12/15/2020.



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MUSEUM**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

Thursday - Friday, November 26-27, 2020 - Museum closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 10, 2020 - The Virtual Hoosier Authors Book Club will meet to discuss *A Conservationist Manifesto* by Scott Russell at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

Friday, December 11, 2020 - Last day of 2020 Season

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - Museum opens for 2021 Season

Thursday, February 11, 2021 - Virtual Hoosier Authors Book Club. Books will be available in the Carriage House in January.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 - Annual Exhibit opens. The 2021 exhibit will explore Lew Wallace's artistic side.

Saturday, April 3, 2021 - American Battlefield Trust Park Day. Join us for this annual event cleaning up the grounds and preparing for spring.

