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*The General
Lew Wallace Study &
Museum is committed
to the protection
and preservation
of Lew Wallace's
legacy now and for
generations to come.*

19th Annual TASTE of Montgomery County

Museum staff, the TASTE Committee, and our dedicated volunteers are hard at work preparing for the 19th annual TASTE of Montgomery County! This year's event will be held on **Saturday, August 22, from Noon - 9:00 p.m.**

Food & Drink

The heart of the TASTE is sampling the incredible flavors of Montgomery County. Local restaurants, caterers, and food vendors will serve a variety of delicious favorites, including **Gordo's Food Truck, Smokin' Melts & Rollin' Dough, China Inn, Açai Bowls & More, Greek's Pizzeria, Klooz Brewz, and Wildcat Creek Winery**, among others. Vendor menus will be available for download on the TASTE website

before the event and displayed on the day of. This is one day to leave your diet at the gate!



Music

Taking the stage from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, **Mark Stansbury** is an Indiana-based country artist. Mark's shows blend classic country hits with a warm, engaging stage presence. His performances are family-friendly and appealing to both longtime country fans and newcomers.

The Big Swing Band returns to the TASTE with their 18-piece Big Band musicians and vocalists to perform from 4:00 - 6:00 pm! Focusing on the Swing Era of the 1920's to today's arrangements, they perform the works of notable artists such as: Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman and more. They offer the best of Big Band entertainment.

Finishing up the evening 7:00 - 9:00 pm will be the outstanding band **Common Ground**. Established in 2005, the band delivers high-energy dance music that's fun, entertaining, and perfect for all ages. Featuring female vocalists, saxophone, guitar, bass, and drums, they perform everything from classic rock and country to today's biggest hits. They keep every generation singing and dancing along.

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Notes From The Director



Places like the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, as well as other landmarks, are touchstones to our past.

They serve as

reminders of the people who came before us, of traditions that unify us, and of events that created the community and nation that we know. In a year of reflection and remembrance like 2026, as we recognize the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, historic sites give insight into issues that we face and guide decisions that we make.

Although historic properties are often seen as strong and permanent fixtures in our lives for generations, they are quite fragile. Whether through fire, flood, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, war, vandalism, or other acts either manmade or natural, many historic sites are damaged or lost each year. Some sites, like Notre Dame in Paris, survive catastrophic damage and are restored to their former glory while others are permanently lost.

Each year, the National Trust for Historic Places and Indiana Landmarks, among other historic preservation organizations, create lists that identify historic properties that are at risk. These lists serve

to highlight the properties and alert communities to the fragility of historic resources in their area. Often, inclusion on these lists will spur community action and awareness that stimulates restoration and repair.

In just the last year, Crawfordsville has seen the completion of some significant restoration, adaptive reuse projects, and new historical markers that have breathed new life into local landmarks and history. The Montgomery County Courthouse and the Ben-Hur Building have both seen significant historic preservation work that ensures they will continue to enhance our community for years to come. In addition, a new historical marker in Lincoln Park now highlights an often-overlooked aspect of our community's legacy.

Each of these projects has received significant public attention and applause. The Ben-Hur Building received the prestigious Cook Cup for Outstanding Restoration. This award is Indiana Landmarks' premier statewide preservation award. Named after Bill and Gayle Cook, who were passionate preservationists, the award recognizes transformative historic building restorations that positively impact their surrounding communities. This is the first time a project in Crawfordsville

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has been recognized! There have been many other local projects that have improved historic resources in the past year or two, but there have also been some losses. Each improvement or loss changes the face of our community in different ways, and they remind us that historic resources can be both resilient and fragile.

Over the last two decades, we have undertaken many projects at the Lew Wallace Study & Museum that help to ensure that it will survive for generations to come. Beyond

repairs and enhancements to the grounds, we have restored the copper roof of the Study, completed interior restoration and electrical rewiring of Lew's Study, restored paintings and other artifacts, restored a significant portion of the surrounding brick wall, completed significant structural repairs to the Carriage House and so much more.

These restoration, repair and enhancement projects would not have been possible without the support and involvement of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and skilled crafts people. We

wish to extend our appreciation to all who have contributed to the projects and programs that keep this museum a vital part of the Montgomery County community and a landmark in the State of Indiana and for the United States. Gifts to our museum and the others in our community say a lot about who we are as a people, what we value, and what we want our children to receive as a gift from this generation.

Larry Spearberg

From the Garden

Deb King
Grounds Manager

The moat garden is planted with perennials that attract multitudes of pollinators. From early spring snowdrops and daffodils, iris, alliums to summer-long bloomers bee balm, coneflower, black-eyed Susans and fall chrysanthemums, the moat garden is a gardener's dream.

Collected from various gardens, hollyhock seeds were sown in the moat garden. Considered a biennial (2-year life cycle), hollyhocks spend a year developing leaves and a thick taproot that stores energy. Last year, hollyhocks seeds were sown and grew to be about 'knee high'. This year, we are pleased to see 4-5-foot

plants with beautiful maroon & pink blooms!

Alcea rosea, considered an 'old fashion flower' has been growing since the early 15th century. In Victorian times, hollyhocks were grown for the wide range of colors and were a standard for the home garden. To hide an untidy back corner of the lawn, a 'wild garden' was planted using hollyhocks, peonies, foxglove, delphiniums, castor beans and phlox. These areas were left to grow naturally, with very little work to maintain as many of the plants are self-sowing.

Hollyhocks prefer sunny areas and adapt to most soil

conditions. They do not like to be heavily mulch and need very little watering. Hollyhocks are classified as a short-lived perennial but because they self-sow, they will grace a garden for many years.



Hollyhock Flower

Diplomatic Diversions - The Mr. Sidi Property Dispute

Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director

It has been said that diplomacy is the art of letting someone else have your way. During his tenure as Minister to the Ottoman Empire from 1881 to 1885, Lew Wallace confronted a variety of diplomatic challenges involving commerce, religious liberty, and the protection of American interests abroad that challenged his negotiation tactics. Few, however, illustrate Wallace's approach to diplomacy more clearly than the 1882 Alexander Sidi property dispute. The case revealed the difficulties of international citizenship in the nineteenth century and demonstrated Wallace's willingness to defend American interests overseas.

Alexander Sidi was born in the cosmopolitan Ottoman port city of Smyrna (modern İzmir, Türkiye). In the late 1840s, he emigrated to the United States, settling in Boston. By 1853, Sidi completed the naturalization process and

became an American citizen. Soon afterward, he married and raised two sons, Abraham and Joseph. After nearly twenty years in America, however, an opportunity to enter the thriving merchant markets of Smyrna drew him back to his home country. Sidi quickly became a prominent exporter of licorice root to the United States.

At first, Sidi's American citizenship appeared sufficient to protect interests in his home country. In 1877, Ottoman authorities permitted him to purchase two houses. Problems arose when he attempted to give those properties to his sons and acquire another in 1882. Local officials refused the transfers and warned that the properties already in his name would become vacant property to be given to the Government for religious benefit upon his death, effectively stripping his sons of their inheritance. Sidi immediately appealed to the American consulate in Smyrna, and through Vice-Consul

John Griffith, his case was forwarded to Lew Wallace at the American legation in Constantinople.

To Wallace, the issue was more than a simple real estate dispute. It raised fundamental questions about citizenship and the obligations of the Ottoman government to those whose lives crossed international borders. After reviewing Griffith's correspondence, Wallace examined the wording of Protocol 222, an 1874 agreement between the Ottomans and United States permitting American citizens to own real estate in the Ottoman Empire provided they were subject to Ottoman civil law. Tucked into the protocol was a reference to Ottoman subjects whose nationality changed, stating they would be governed by a "special law." Upon researching, Wallace discovered that no such law had officially been enacted following the agreement.

Believing the matter required action from the Sublime Porte, the central government at Constantinople, Wallace penned a formal letter to Grand Vizier Mehmet Said Pasha on September 25, 1882. In doing so, he transformed Sidi's personal grievance into a broader question of principle. Wallace first addressed the rights of Sidi's sons. Abraham and Joseph, both born in Boston, were unquestionably



Ottoman Empire c. 1882

cont. on page 5

American citizens. Wallace argued that their right to acquire property under the 1874 protocol was beyond dispute. He demanded the legal basis for denying those rights and requested that the Ottoman government instruct local authorities to permit the transfer.

Sidi's own case was more complicated. In his letter Wallace focused on the lack of a "special law" and argued, "The case is that of a failure by a government to perform obligations with which it is charged. What are the effects of the failure as regards the right of individuals for whose benefits the obligations were contracted?" The Ottoman government's failure to enact the promised law left naturalized Americans like Sidi in legal limbo. By failing to fulfill its own commitment, the Ottoman government denied people like Sidi both the rights of Ottoman subjects and the protections afforded to other American citizens. Wallace presented Sidi as being representative of a broader class of naturalized Americans whose rights remained uncertain.

No reply came until January of 1883. The Ottomans acknowledged that Sidi's American-born sons could hold and transfer property but continued to deny Sidi those same rights. Officials argued that because he had been born in the empire, his status remained governed by an 1867

law that predated the protocol. Wallace was unconvinced. While observing the formal courtesies expected of nineteenth-century diplomacy, his reply on February 10, 1883, excoriated the Ottoman position. The 1867 law, Wallace argued, could not possibly be the "special law" envisioned by the protocol because it had existed years before the agreement was written. Had the protocol intended no change in the status of naturalized Americans, there would have been no reason to mention them separately.

Further, Ottoman authorities approved his purchase of the first two houses, and for seven years he possessed them without objection. Only when he sought permission to sell them did officials suddenly claim he never possessed a legal right to own them and threatened to seize them for religious benefit. Wallace firmly exposed the contradiction stating, "Observe, I pray your highness, to what this last declaration commits your Government... that whether he wished to or not he shall carry the property inalienably to his grave... then it be diverted to religion for the glorification of God? Speaking with becoming reverence, I do not believe God would be gratified by enrichment in such a manner; but be that as it may, the world has a name for such a transaction which



The Port at Smyrna, c. 1890.

courtesy forbids me to use." The implication was unmistakable, and Wallace regarded the proposed action as little more than legalized confiscation.

The historical record does not reflect how the dispute was resolved. Nevertheless, Wallace's advocacy appears to have protected Sidi's commercial standing. According to the U.S. Bureau of Foreign Commerce, by 1885 more licorice root was purchased from the firm of Alexander Sidi of Smyrna than from any other exporter of the region. The Sidi affair reveals much about Wallace's diplomatic philosophy. Rather than relying on threats, Wallace employed careful legal reasoning, exposed contradictions in the Ottoman government's position, and appealed to principles of fairness. In doing so, he demonstrated that effective diplomacy depended not on coercion, but persuasion. It depended on letting someone else have his way.

Summer & Fall Programming

Lew Wallace was a Renaissance man with many talents and interests! Each year we strive to provide programs that speak to the talents of General Wallace. After the TASTE on August 22nd, we roll right into a great series of educational programs.

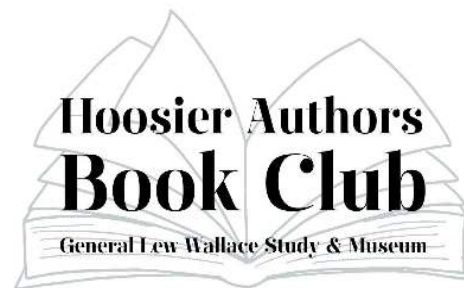
None of this would be possible without our program partners and the generous support of our contributors. Whether through membership, memorial gifts, endowment contributions, sponsorships, event underwriting, or simply attending and participating, you make this work possible. We are deeply grateful to our supporters.

Thursday, September 10, 7:00 pm - Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series - Carriage House

Join us for an engaging presentation by Melissa Gentry as she explores the women's suffrage and temperance movements, with special emphasis on Zerelda Wallace and her granddaughter, Zerelda Wallace Grover.

Melissa is the Supervisor of the Paul W. Stout Map Collection at Ball State University Libraries and serves on the board of the Delaware County Historical Society. An active member of the League of Women Voters, she is a recognized speaker on Indiana women's history. She has presented at numerous state and national conferences and

was selected as a speaker for the 2019 Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial. Her work on Indiana suffrage history has also been recognized by the Library of Congress' Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. This program will highlight the contributions of Zerelda Wallace, Zerelda Wallace Grover, and several other Crawfordsville women to the causes of women's suffrage and temperance. Attendees will discover how these local women were connected to prominent leaders of the national suffrage movement and helped advance the fight for women's voting rights. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about these remarkable women who helped shape both local and national history!



Thursday, September 17, 7:00 pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House

The first fall selection for the Hoosier Authors Book Club is *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance* by A'Lelia Bundles. Dubbed the "joy goddess of Harlem's 1920s" by poet Langston Hughes, A'Lelia Walker was a dazzling cultural icon whose legendary

parties and Dark Tower salon helped define the Harlem cultural scene. After inheriting her mother's pioneering hair care business, A'Lelia became America's first high-profile Black heiress and a patron of the arts. *Joy Goddess* takes readers inside her New York homes, where she hosted luminaries including Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, and James Weldon Johnson. The author, A'Lelia Bundles, plans on joining the book club via Zoom.

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House

Set during the Tudor dynasty period in the late 15th and 16th centuries of English history, *When Knighthood Was in Flower* by Charles Major tells the tribulations of Mary Tudor, a younger sister of old King Henry VIII of England who has fallen in love with a commoner. However, for political reasons, King Henry has arranged for her to wed neighboring King Louis XII of France and demands his sister put the House of Tudor first, threatening, "You will marry France and I will give you a wedding present - Charles Brandon's head!"

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm - Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series - Carriage House

Award-winning author and historian Ray E. Boomhower

Summer & Fall Programming continued

will join us to present *A Soldier's Friend: A Life of Ernie Pyle* to explore Pyle's life from his boyhood in Dana, Indiana, to his experience as a roving correspondent with the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, to his growing fame as a columnist detailing the rigors of combat faced by the average GI during World War II. Pyle offered a "worm's-eye view" of the war as he reported on the life, and sometimes death, of the common soldier doing the dirty work of fighting in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France

against the enemy forces of Nazi Germany.

Ray E. Boomhower is senior editor of the Indiana Historical Society Press, where he edits the popular quarterly history magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. His twenty published books have examined such notable Hoosiers as Civil War general and author Lew Wallace, astronaut Gus Grissom, President Benjamin Harrison, teacher and peace activist May Wright Sewall, World War II navy fighter pilot Alex Vraciu.

**Saturday, November 28,
5:00 - 8:00 pm - Hoosier
Author Fair - 119 E Main St.**

In conjunction with Crawfordsville Main Street's Downtown Party Night on Small Business Saturday, the museum is hosting the annual Hoosier Author Fair on the second floor of the Montgomery County Community Foundation. Over thirty authors from Crawfordsville and around the state will have books and related merchandise for sale. They are happy to sign books and discuss writing with attendees.



Study Scrapbook



Park Day volunteers build new picnic tables.



Museum Director Larry Paarlberg introduces Lew Wallace author & historian Gail Stephens.



Fallen Bur Oak behind Study.



ArchiCamper loses at Jenga.

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TASTE! continued

Tickets

Advance tickets go on sale **August 3** and are available at the **Carriage House Interpretive Center at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, the Montgomery County Visitors & Convention Bureau** (inside Fusion54), **A Sprig of Lime**, and **Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation**. Advance tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students and allow holders to skip the admission line. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$8 for adults and \$3 for students.

Volunteers

Want to attend TASTE for free? We're looking for volunteers to help before, during, and after the event. Volunteers receive free admission plus a TASTE T-shirt or complimentary food tickets. To sign up, visit www.tasteofmontgomerycounty.com/volunteers/ and click the Sign-Up Genius link.

Help us spread the word by sharing TASTE on social media! Visit our website for downloadable images and a printable flyer.

The TASTE is the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum's largest annual fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting the museum's collections and educational programs. Gather your family and friends and join us for a great day of food, music, and community while helping preserve General Lew Wallace's legacy. Learn more at www.tasteofmontgomerycounty.com.



Wabash College Summer Intern

Hello, my name is Derek McDonald, and I am a senior Political Science and History major at Wabash College. This summer, I have been interning at both the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum and the Montgomery County Historical Society at Lane Place. The experience has given me the opportunity to work with historical materials, assist with public programming, and learn more about how museums and historical organizations operate on a daily basis.

During my time at the Lew Wallace Study & Museum, I have taken on a wide range of responsibilities. Some days have involved helping host programs, such as an architecture camp for children ages 8–12, while others have focused on archival work, artifact preservation, research projects, or creating educational materials for visitors. I have also helped develop informational pamphlets and written articles for the museum. One of the things I have enjoyed most about the internship is the variety of work. Every day has been different, and I have been able to gain experience in many areas of museum operations.

As a history major, one of the most interesting parts of

the internship has been learning more about General Lew Wallace and his place in Indiana and American history. Before this summer, I was familiar with Wallace's role as a Civil War general and the author of *Ben-Hur* but working at the museum has given me a much deeper understanding of his life and accomplishments.



Derek McDonald, Wabash Class of 2027.

Through research, conversations with staff and visitors, and daily interaction with museum collections, I have spent much of the summer studying Wallace's career and legacy.

The internship has also provided opportunities to work directly with historical artifacts. I have helped handle and archive materials ranging from personal items belonging

to Lew Wallace to original Ben-Hur memorabilia, historic newspapers, photographs, and other documents. Working with these collections has given me a greater appreciation for the effort required to preserve historical materials and make them accessible to the public.

Outside of the museum, I have been spending my summer studying for the LSAT, working on my two senior capstone papers, and trying to lower my golf handicap before my final year at Wabash. The internship has been a great opportunity to gain practical experience related to my academic interests while still allowing me to prepare for my future plans after graduation.

Overall, this experience has helped me better understand the work that goes into preserving and presenting history. It has allowed me to apply skills I have developed in the classroom while learning new ones through hands-on experience. As I prepare to return to Wabash for my senior year, I am grateful for everything I have learned and for the opportunity to spend the summer working with two organizations dedicated to preserving Montgomery County's history.

General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

Received March 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026

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.

Memberships

Ben-Hur

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Lorena & James Elmore

Ambassador

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Cindy & Jerry Smith
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Lucy Brooks
Rachel & David Brown
Kitty & Herm Haffner
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General Lew Wallace Bicentennial

Museum staff, historic sites, community partners, and dedicated volunteers are making preparations to celebrate the 200th birthday of General Lew Wallace in 2027! Born on April 10, 1827, Lew's bicentennial will be celebrated throughout the year. Join us as we honor the remarkable life and enduring legacy of one

of Indiana's most fascinating historical figures.

Through special exhibits, programs, lectures, tours, and special events, we will remember the life of the great soldier, statesman, author, and diplomat. There's never been a better time to discover the many lives of Lew Wallace.



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

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

Ambassador Level - \$250

- Governor level benefits, plus
- 2 Tickets to Annual Taste of Montgomery County

Ben-Hur Level - \$500+

- Ambassador level benefits, plus
- 2 Tickets to Annual Holiday Tea

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please clip & mail your membership information to LWSPS, P.O. Box 662, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society

☐ I will pay with a Credit Card online

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2026 Events Calendar

August 22, 12 - 9 pm - **The TASTE! of Montgomery County**

September 10, 7 pm - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series**

Women's Suffrage and Temperance Movements
by Melissa Gentry

September 17, 7 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Club**

Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance
by A'Lelia Bundles

October 15, 7 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Club**

When Knighthood Was in Flower by Charles Major

October 22, 7 pm - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series**

A Soldier's Friend: A Life of Ernie Pyle by Ray Boomhower

November 28, 5 - 8 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Fair** at the Montgomery County Community Foundation during Crawfordsville Main Street's Downtown Party Night

December 4, 3 - 6 pm - **Holiday Tea:** Tea & Fashion Show at the Historic Elston Homestead