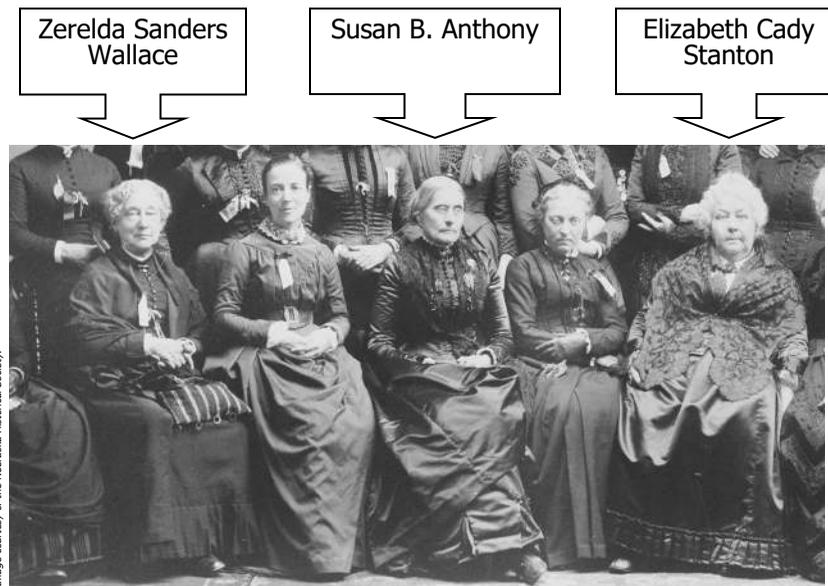




# WOMEN'S HISTORY WALKING TOUR

## CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA



Some of the greatest women in history touched Crawfordsville...  
take the tour to find out more.

*This program made possible by:  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society  
League of Women Voters of Montgomery County*

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with assistance from Thomas Sarver  
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**1. CENTER HALL—Elizabeth (Lizzie) Boynton Harbert (1845-1925)**—An author (*The Golden Fleece*) and suffragist, Ms. Harbert is remembered locally as the leader of a group of twenty-four young women who applied to enroll at Wabash College. Their application and subsequent rejection set off a nationwide blizzard of articles, letters and essays about the place of women in higher education.

**2. GOODRICH HALL**—Goodrich Hall was a gift to Wabash College from **James P. Goodrich (1864-1940)**, who served as the Governor of Indiana from 1917 to 1921. He called a one-day session of the legislature on January 16, 1920, to ratify the Women's Suffrage Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**3. LILLY LIBRARY—Ramsay Archives**—In the archives is a copy of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Woman's Bible. Published in 1895, the Woman's Bible contested the "idea of women's subordination [as] reiterated times without number from Genesis to Revelations."

**4. FOREST HALL—Anne Leavenworth (1887-1954)**—When the United States entered WWI, Wabash College faced a serious faculty shortage. Anne Leavenworth, wife of faculty member Clarence Leavenworth, was asked to teach on an emergency basis, thus becoming the first woman member of the faculty at Wabash College. Decades later, **Dr. Melissa Butler**, who joined the faculty in 1976, was the first woman to be granted tenure at Wabash College.

**5. HAYS ALUMNI CENTER—Will Hays, Sr. (1879-1954)**—Will Hays, Sr., served as Postmaster General of the United States & National Chairman of the Republican Party. This house became his family home when he married a local woman, Jessie Herron. During his term, he strongly influenced the party to support the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, granting women the right to vote. When the amendment passed, leading suffragists thanked him for his assistance.

**6. 300 W. WABASH AVE—Mary Holloway Wilhite (1831-1892)**—Dr. Wilhite was born in Montgomery County & received her medical degree from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1856. This house was the home where she & her husband Eleazer hosted visiting suffragists, including **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**. Dr. Wilhite practiced medicine in Crawfordsville for 36 years. In 1869 she chaired the organizing committee for the Woman's Suffrage Association of Montgomery County & wrote regularly for local newspapers on suffrage issues. She once wrote "I hope that someday, every young man will look into the eyes of his mother & see his equal."

**7. CRAWFORDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**—The local history section is the place to research suffrage in Montgomery County & many other interesting local history topics. **Meredith Nicholson (1866-1947)** was born in Crawfordsville & grew up in Indianapolis. In addition to a very successful career as a writer, Nicholson strongly supported full suffrage for women, stating "Many of the old arguments against the enfranchisement of women have been pretty effectually disposed of in the States that were pioneers in general suffrage."

**8. & 9. MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE—Mary Hannah Krout (1851-1927) and Caroline Krout** These sisters were leaders in organizing the Ladies Reading Association which provided literature to women in the community & served as a focal point of woman suffrage activities. Their library was housed in various locations in downtown Crawfordsville. Mary Hannah Krout spoke at her first woman suffrage convention when she was only 16. She later joined Lizzie Boynton in petitioning Wabash College to admit women. A nationally known journalist, she assisted friend Susan Wallace in completing General Wallace's autobiography after his death. Caroline Krout had early success as a writer & taught school in Crawfordsville. Teddy Roosevelt wrote her to praise her novel *Knights of Fustian*. **Dr. Martha Hutchings Griffith (1842-1924)** Born in Hanover, Indiana, Dr. Griffith studied medicine in secret for two years with a local physician before attending

the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia. In 1871 she moved to Darlington with her husband Dr. Thomas Griffith, a founding member of the Montgomery County Medical Society. Dr. Martha Griffith was refused membership on the grounds of her gender, but was belatedly admitted in 1880 & later served as vice president of the organization. In 1894, she was one of a group of local women who attempted to vote locally. When turned away from the polls, Dr. Griffith petitioned the court, arguing that the law did not specifically forbid women from voting.

**10. THE JOURNAL REVIEW**—This building once housed the Crawfordsville city government offices. It was here that Laurel Kirtley, first woman to hold elected office in Crawfordsville, served. In 1918, **Laurel Miller Kirtley (1887-1970)** lost her dentist husband in the flu pandemic and was left with two small sons to support. Friends suggested that she run for the office of city clerk. Although she ran on the Democratic ticket, which was the minority party at that time, she won and became the first woman elected official in Crawfordsville. She served two terms in the 1920s.

**11. CRAWFORDSVILLE POST OFFICE—The Women & Girls Association** (aka Community House for Women) building once stood on this site. This local organization, like the YWCA, provided meeting rooms for local women's groups, a respectable place for local women to gather, and housing for young working women. Over the years, as more opportunities opened up for women in Crawfordsville, the role of the Association dwindled. When the U.S. Post Office offered to purchase the site, the group used the money to buy the Lew Wallace Study & donate it to the community, thus making one last significant contribution to our city.

**12. LANE PLACE—Senator Henry S. Lane (1811-1881)** was a supporter of women's suffrage. The story is told that in his later years, the Senator would often tell young girls that they would be able to vote when they grew up.

**13. SPEED CABIN—John (1801-1873) and Margaret Speed**—The Speed cabin was a stop on the underground railroad and was originally located by the Bethel AME Church on 213 North St. Many women and men who became abolitionists also advocated women's rights.

**14. DAR HOUSE**—In the drive for the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, suffragists formed alliances with a wide range of women's organizations which helped broaden the base of support for the movement and make it more acceptable to the nation. Susan B. Anthony was a long time member of the DAR. The temperance movement was another path that led many women to support the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

**15. WILLSON SCHOOL—Anna Willson (1869-1923)** was the first woman superintendent of schools for the City of Crawfordsville from 1921 to 1923. She did not support women's rights and it was said she favored boys in her classes. She provided a strong role model for many young women & men in our community & was Laurel Kirtley's teacher & mentor. Willson School sits on land she donated to the school system.

**16. GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM**—General Wallace's step-mother, **Zerelda Sanders Wallace (1817-1901)**, was a young wife & mother when she became the first lady of Indiana as Lew's father, David, became the sixth governor of Indiana in 1837. A fervent supporter of temperance, she migrated to the women's suffrage movement, testified before Congress, & spoke around the nation about the moral imperative for women's suffrage. The characterization of Ben-Hur's mother was modeled after Zerelda's nature. Her daughter-in-law, **Susan Elston Wallace (1830-1907)** was an acclaimed author and poet. She was her famous husband's closest confidant & editor. Susan supported the women's rights movement, but never as publicly as Zerelda. In writing to her friend, Lizzie Boynton Harbert, in 1873, Susan states, "My private opinion is the women of Indiana are domesticated to death."