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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.

"This Just In" Exhibit Opens

Stephanie Cain

Visitor Services

The Museum's 2022 exhibit, "This Just In: Recent Acquisitions at the Museum," opened to the public on Saturday, March 12.

People often believe history museums stop adding to their collections. Lew Wallace died in 1905, after all, so nothing has changed about his life since then, right? But we are constantly learning new things about Lew and his family. In the past few years, many people have decided some pieces should come to the Museum to help tell Lew's story to the world.

We have had paintings and other artwork inspired by Ben-Hur, The Fair God, and the Study grounds donated to us. Just last year we were

contacted by someone you'll learn what who had a notarized document that the very ornate carriage lanterns they wanted to donate had been owned by Lew Wallace.



Recent Ben-Hur acquisitions currently on display in the Carriage House Interpretive Center

Some items are easier to verify than others (and some still haven't been traced). In the 2022 exhibit,

guides the Museum's decisions to collect (or not collect) certain pieces. We discuss aspects of our Vision & Mission Statements & Collections Policy,

> among other guiding documents, and we'll tell the stories of some of the fantastic pieces we have added to our collection in the past decade.

Some of these artifacts have never been on exhibit in the Museum before. including a gift from

Sultan Abdul Hamid II to Susan Wallace. Another recent acquisition is a hawthorn walking

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Notes From The Director



Our 2022 exhibit highlights additions to the collections at the General Lew Wallace Study &

Museum. As

we consider these additions and changes to the collections over the last ten years, it's also worthwhile to take stock of the changes we've seen on the property over the years. Neither the collections nor the property are static and the cumulative changes to both over the last decade are impressive.

We've made an effort to do something of significance in the way of preservation or restoration each year since 2010. Some of these changes have been dramatic and showy, while others have been a way to exercise good and quiet stewardship. These changes include: restoration of the copper roof (2010); archaeology on the grounds (beginning 2011); restoration of two Elston Family grave markers at Oak Hill Cemetery (2011); restoration of the stucco foundation (2012): recreation of the moat garden (2012); addition of interpretative signs on the grounds (2013); restoration of a significant portion of the brick wall (2013); creation of an endowment for the

museum (2014); restoration of the Study interior (2015); completion of the book collection inventory (2015); purchase of new display cases for the Study (2016); treatment of Emerald Ash Borers (2016, 2018, 2020); assessment and conservation of a dozen oil paintings (2016-2019); restoration of the Wallace Reflecting Pool and urn (2017): repair of the grandfather clock (2019); completion of a tree survey on the grounds (2020); restoration of a significant portion of the brick wall (2021); full inventory and rehousing of collections (2022); and the removal of damaged and dying trees and replanting of new trees to maintain the grounds for future generations (beginning 2011 and ongoing).

This listing is impressive, but does not fully convey the time, energy, work, and community support involved in these projects. Working with skilled professionals, each and every project on this list was accomplished with the support and encouragement of our members, donors, and community agencies. Together we've made a tremendous difference helping to ensure the secure future of this property.

In addition, over the last many years, the staff and volunteers have also worked to provide exceptional annual exhibits, tours, events, and countless

varied public programs.
Through these efforts, this property and the legacy of Lew and Susan Wallace remain vibrant and relevant. The projects and programs also help advertise Crawfordsville and Montgomery County to an audience far beyond our immediate community. In doing so, the museum adds to the quality of life and to the tourism economy that benefit so many other individuals and businesses.

In looking back over the history of the property from

its inception as a museum over 80 years ago, thanks to the women of the Community House Foundation who saved the Study from demolition, this property has benefitted from so many people. Community leaders, Wallace family members, museum members, donors, researchers, staff, and more—have contributed to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of this iconic property. Crawfordsville is lucky to have this National Historic Landmark in our midst and we thank and recognize the generations who

have made it the gem that it is as we work on behalf of generations yet to come.

Lew Wallace made a difference in his lifetime and it is critical that we continue to honor his life story through our efforts on this property that he loved.

Larry S. Paarlberg

Citywide Wayfinding Project

It is not unusual to have visitors to the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum comment on the difficulty they have in finding us. Even in this day of GPS and Google Maps, it can be a challenge. This summer that problem should get a lot better! Crawfordsville Main Street and the Montgomery County Visitor's Bureau have partnered with other agencies to develop sophisticated wayfinding signage. With tremendous support from the City of Crawfordsville, dozens of gateway, vehicular, pedestrian, and parking signs will be installed throughout the downtown this summer.

Wayfinding signage involves a little bit more than just identifying where you are! It helps visitors know where you are in an environment, know where their desired destination is, and know how to get there from their present location. Some of the pedestrian signs will include maps, estimated time to walk from location to location, and even some history about the community. The signs have a unified look that reflects downtown Crawfordsville and will greatly improve the visitor experience in our community. Additional sign templates have been created for use throughout the county. In addition, the Visitor's Bureau is creating

city and county tear-off maps that will be distributed to hotels, businesses, and cultural attractions that will help answer those age-old questions: How do I get there from here? Where can we get a good meal?



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The Royal Pedigree of Judah Ben-Hur

Larry Paarlberg

Museum Director

When Lew Wallace penned Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ, he created a character with a royal pedigree. Judah Ben-Hur was one of the richest men in the region and Prince of the House of Hur. Royal connections have continued to float in and out of the Ben-Hur legend. King Edward VII of Great Britain and his wife, Queen Alexandra, were great fans of the stage play when it appeared in London at the turn of the twentieth century. Fifty years later when the storyline was prepared for the epic 1959 film version, director William Wyler decided that for an elaborate party sequence in the movie, he wanted genuine "patricians" in the scene. At the seven a.m. casting call, a number of members from Europe's royal families showed up. Among those Wyler had to carefully seat and properly light were Prince Emanuele Ruspoli and his brother Prince Raimondo of Italy; Count Santiago Oneto of Spain; Prince and Princess Hohenlohe of Austria; Princess Irina Wassilchikoff of Russia; Count Marigiano del Monte of Italy: Baroness Lillian de Balzo of Hungary; and Dutchess Nona Medici of Italy.

With the latest film version of *Ben-Hur* released in August 2016, another tie to this storyline of royals was created. The actor portraying Judah Ben-Hur, Jack Huston,

is Hollywood royalty on his father's side and true English aristocracy on his mother's side. He was born and raised by his parents, Walter Anthony (Tony) Huston and Lady Margot Lavinia (Cholmondeley) in England. On his father's side, Jack's aunt is the famed actress Angelica Huston, his uncle is actor Danny Huston, his grandfather was legendary actor/director John Huston, and his great-grandfather was famed character actor Walter Huston.



Jack Huston as Judah Ben-Hur

Jack Huston's mother, Lady Margot Lavinia (Cholmondeley), has an ancestry deeply rooted in English aristocracy. Her father was Hugh Cholmondeley, 6th Marquess of Cholmondeley. Through the Marquess's father,

George Cholmondeley, 5th Marquess of Cholmondeley, who was of English descent, Jack is a descendant of Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister of England (in the 1700s). The 6th Marquess's mother, Jack's greatgrandmother Sybil Sassoon, was of Ashkenazi Jewish and Iraqi Jewish-Indian Jewish descent, and through her, Jack is a descendant of David Sassoon, the treasurer of Baghdad between 1817 and 1829, and of Mayer Amschel Rothschild, who founded the Rothschild banking dynasty.

Among the actors who have portrayed Judah Ben-Hur are Edward J. Morgan and William Farnum on stage, Herman Rottger in the 1907 unauthorized silent film version, Ramon Navarro in the authorized 1925 silent movie, Charlton Heston in the award winning 1959 version, and Joseph Morgan in a 2010 filmed version. Ramon Navarro came from a relatively prosperous background and his family, the Perez-Gavilans, were a reported to be a mixture of Spanish and Aztec blood, perhaps descended from Guerrero, a prince of Montezuma. But even with Navarro's rumored lineage, of all of these men, Jack Huston brings a family heritage to the role, making him the most aristocratic actor in history to portray the legendary Prince of Hur.

Unique Ways to Support the Study

Did you know there are easy ways to support the Study while you shop? You can register your Kroger Plus Card in the Kroger Community Rewards program at http://krogercommunityrewards.com/ and search for us as "Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society" or by our organization number, "29089." Every time

you use your Kroger Plus Card, we'll get a portion of your total donated to our organization!

You can also support us while shopping online at Amazon. Visit http://www.ben-hur.com/shopping/ and click a link to an Amazon product; you will be taken to Amazon through our Amazon Affiliates link. We

will get a portion of anything you buy during that visit, at no extra cost to you! We also have a charity wishlist on Amazon at https://amzn.to/2FthSiS.

For other ways to support the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, visit our Join and Support page at http://www.ben-hur.com/join-support/.

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 members	hip information to	LWSPS, PO Box	662, Crawfordsville, IN 47933		
□ Enclosed is my check payable to the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society □ I will pay with credit card online Please visit www.ben-hur.com/join-support to pay for your membership with a credit card via Paypal					
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Book Club Marks Seventh Year

The Hoosier Authors Book Club began as part of our Indiana State Bicentennial programming for 2016.
The Museum's 2016 exhibit discussed the Golden Age of Indiana Literature. This Golden Age began with the publication of Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur*. It included prominent novelists such as Crawfordsville native Meredith Nicholson, Gene Stratton-Porter, and others. The book club has proven to be a popular program.

Until COVID-19, the book club met in the ADA-accessible Carriage House. In late 2020 we moved to a virtual format on the Zoom platform. While we hope to return to in-person meetings later in 2022, we are limiting our early discussions to Zoom only. Later we will have hybrid options for those who aren't yet comfortable attending in person.

Copies of the books are usually available for checkout beforehand at the Carriage House. For more information call 765-362-5769 or email scain@ben-hur.com. All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. EDT. To register for the discussions and receive a Zoom link, visit our book club website here: https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/.

In news about past book discussions, Michael Koryta's novel *So Cold the River* has been turned into a motion picture! This novel, set largely at the West Baden Springs Hotel, was a 2018 Hoosier Authors Book Club selection. The film had a wide release to digital and on-demand options on March 29. You can learn more about the film here: https://www.pigasuspictures.com/so-cold-the-river.

2022 Book Discussions (Dates subject to change)

The first meeting of the year took place on April 7, 2022, with a discussion of *Riverine:* A Memoir From Anywhere But Here by Angela Palm. Palm grew up on the Kankakee River, which was one of Lew Wallace's favorite places to hunt and fish. In fact she lived very near Baum's Bridge and the Collier Lodge, locations closely associated with Lew. Her memoir discussed life on the

river and coping with tragedy after her close friend is convicted of murder. Several people participated in the online discussion.

May 19, 2022 - The Life List of Adrian

Mandrick – Chris White – A 2020 Indiana Authors Awardwinning novel, which tells the story of a birder's quest to add the near-extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker to his life list. July 7, 2022 – The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays from a Human-Centered Planet – John Green – The bestselling author's latest work of nonfiction inspired by his popular podcast of the same name, exploring the way we live now in the world we have altered.

August 4, 2022 – Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants – Robin Wall Kimmerer – A 2015 book of essays combining botanical expertise with Potowatomi tradition to consider our relationship with the earth.

October 20, 2022 – Always a River: The Ohio River and the American Experience – Robert Reid, editor – A 1991 book of essays tracing the Ohio River and its geographical,

political, economic, and literary significance.

November 17, 2022

- All These Beautiful Strangers - Elizabeth Klehfoth - A young woman haunted by a family tragedy is caught up in a dangerous web of lies and deception involving a secret

society in this highly charged, addictive psychological thriller that combines the dishy gamesmanship of *Gossip Girl* with the murky atmosphere of *The Secret History*.

Exhibit, continued

stick Lew accidentally left behind on a train in the 1890s. The person who found the walking stick was able to identify it because Lew's name is engraved on the handle. That family donated it to the Museum in 2020.

The exhibit may be viewed free of charge from 10

am to 5 pm when the museum is open. After taking in the exhibit for free, visitors may also take a paid, guided tour through the "house that *Ben-Hur* built." Tours last approximately one hour and are \$7 for adults and \$3 or \$1 for students. "This Just In: Recent Acquisitions at the

Museum" will run through early December 2022.

For more information about the exhibit, visit https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/annual-exhibit/ or contact Larry Paarlberg at 765-362-5769 or lpaarlberg@ben-hur.com.

Youth ArchiCamp Returns this Summer

We are excited to offer ArchiCamp again this year after a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with Indiana Landmarks, we are hosting ArchiCamp on June 14-15 for children ages 8-12. The camp will run from 9:00 to 3:00 each day and costs \$25 per student.

ArchiCamp provides an introduction to local history and architecture for students. During the two-day camp, students will learn about Crawfordsville's architectural heritage, including the historic Study building. Campers will take walking tours, learn about architectural terms, make cast plaster designs, build birdhouses, learn about



ArchiCamp Participants in 2019 take a closer look at the architecture of the Masonic Temple

careers in historic preservation, create a cardboard town, and visit the unique Masonic Cornerstone for a tour with a local architect!

In order to provide this experience to students for only

\$25, we rely on donations from organizations, businesses, and individuals to sponsor students for \$75.

If you are interested in sponsoring a local child, or if you would like to register a student

for ArchiCamp, please contact Amanda McGuire at amcguire@ben-hur.com or visit https://www.ben-hur.com/ programs/archicamp/ for more information

Stay Connected Online:



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General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions Received October 22, 2021 through March 15, 2022

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

Ellen Ball/Tom Twarek Susan's Garden **Barb & Steve Carver** Lew Jr. Garden Elaine & Rick Chase Moat Garden Betty & John Culley Statue Garden Helen & Marc Hudson Princess Irene Garden Suanne & Tom Milligan Water Babble Garden Ruth Ann & Edward Ouick Old John Garden Robyn & Bernie Thompson Grounds gift Flower Lovers Club

cont. on page 9

Contributions, continued

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Study Scrapbook









Clockwise from top left: Tea-goers enjoy delicious treats at the 2021 Holiday Tea; volunteers help clear sticks from the Study grounds; a reception was held for long-time board member, Dale Petrie, to thank him for his years of service; volunteers Wanda and Dan Bennett donated a snowblower just in time for a winter snow storm; Associate Director Amanda McGuire spent the winter reorganizing the collections vault

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From the Arboretum

Deb King

Grounds Manager

Spring has arrived, along with the rains, and bulbs, wildflowers, and trees are bursting into bloom. For the second year in a row, the magnolia trees were decimated by a hard frost. Only a few hardy buds opened and provided a magnificent pink blossom. Volunteers on Park Day spent the morning raking, picking up sticks, cleaning up a downed tree, and moving mountains of stump grindings. Leaves from the Reflecting Pool were loaded into a dump truck and three loads were taken to the yard waste site.

The tree stumps that remained from last fall's removal of damaged trees became a storage area for squirrels. Groundhogs burrowed into two of the stumps. An apiarist captured the bees that occupied one tree, along with pieces of the hive. Now, what to do with the stumps?

Along with the rotted stumps, three very large stumps remained. Previous tree removal of two oak trees, each close to forty inches in circumference, and a sassafras tree stump remained. Stump grinding was the only viable option for the Museum.

A stump grinder uses a rotating saw blade that chews or grinds the stump into small chips. It makes quick work of stump removal! The cherry tree stump took ten minutes to remove, while the large oak stump took 45 minutes. Leaving the oak stumps

to decay on their own could have taken over 20 years!

When the grinding was finished, large piles of chips remained. For

a variety of reasons, these chips will not be used immediately. Applying freshly ground wood chips near buildings can be an attractant



White strawberries at the Study

to termites. While the termites may not feast on these chips, the chips make a good sheltering environment for them.

Applying freshly ground chips under trees or on a garden can affect the plant growth. Leaves could yellow and plants may become stunted. During the decaying process, chips use huge amounts of nitrogen, depriving the plant of this essential element. Small amounts of the mulch may be used when combined with a high yield nitrogen fertilizer. The chip piles, moved to a holding area, will be 'seasoned' for future use. By the fall, the chips can be used as mulch around the newly planted trees and the gardens.

Tee's garden will not be mulched. Named after Lew and Susan's grandson, this garden has a ground covering plant. White strawberries, reintroduced to the property in 2017, provide a green carpet among the perennials planted in the garden.

Lew Wallace loved the woods and grounds of his home and Water Babble. Historic photographs of the gardens show Lew had a

wide interest in plants. White strawberries grew on the grounds of Lew and Susan's home. The small strawberries bear a white flesh that has a sweet taste and fragrance. We

now have two gardens that grow the white strawberries.

The Wallace family shared strawberry plants with another famous Indiana author and naturalist—Gene Stratton-Porter. While visiting the Wallace home, Mrs. Stratton-Porter noticed the gardens and magnificent beech trees. As her books and interests in wildflower gardening became known, people all over the country sent her cuttings, starts and plants.

The white strawberries on the Museum grounds disappeared at some point. Thankfully, the Stratton-Porter connection remained. In 2017, representatives from Gene Stratton-Porter State Historical Site presented the Museum with white strawberry starts. The strawberries returned to where they originated. Check out our website for the full story of the white strawberries https://www.ben-hur.com/people-lew-knewgene-stratton-porter/

Adopt-A-Spot

The grounds of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum became Lew's sanctuary. Lew often sat in his chair with a lapboard underneath the canopy of a majestic beech tree. Today, many beech trees remain, perhaps descendants of the *Ben-Hur* Beech. Over the last fifteen years, many changes have occurred to the landscape. The reintroduction of native wildflowers, a tree planting program, the recreation of the moat garden, and the continuation of the gardens planted during Lew and Susan's time may not have occurred if it was not for the Adopt-A-Spot program.

The Adopt-A-Spot program invites the public to collaborate with the Museum in maintaining and developing the gardens and arboretum. Community partners can 'adopt' a garden in honor of someone, memorialize a loved one, or advertise a business. Thirteen gardens, named for aspects in General Wallace's life, are available for adoption. A sign with the adopter's name or a memorial sign is placed in the garden. Adopting a garden does not require the adopters work in the garden—staff and dedicated volunteers plant, weed, and water the gardens.



As the Museum strives to maintain the high standards of Lew Wallace's legacy, the Adopt-A-Spot program is a critical component. Over 8,000 visitors visit the grounds, strolling through the arboretum, learning of Lew Wallace's love of the outdoors. For information, please contact the Museum.

GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM

Adopt-A-Spot Program



Be a part of History!

We invite you to partner with us in developing and maintaining the Museum's gardens and arboretum.

The Adopt-A-Spot program brings the community, businesses, and individuals together in preserving a piece of history.

Dedicate a memorial, honor a loved one, or advertise your business with a sign in one of the beautiful gardens.

Over 8,000 yearly museum visitors will see your name literally bloom with an adopted garden.

Learn how to Adopt-A-Spot Today!
Contact the Museum at study@ben-hur.com
or 765.362.5769

GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM



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2022 Spring & Summer Events Calendar

May 19 - The **Hoosier Authors Book Club** will discuss Chris White's *The Life List of Adrian Mandrick* at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Free. RSVP required.

June 14-15 - **ArchiCamp** (see page 7 for details)

July 7 - The **Hoosier Authors Book Club** continues with a discussion of *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays from a Human-Centered Planet* by John Green at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Free. RSVP required.

August 4 - The **Hoosier Authors Book Club** will discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Free. RSVP required.

August 27 - The 15th annual **TASTE of Montgomery County** will take place on the museum grounds and feature scrumptious food from local restaurants and live music. Mark your calendars to join us!