



# FROM THE STUDY



November 2016

Volume 17, Issue 3

GENERAL LEW WALLACE  
STUDY & MUSEUM  
HOME OF BEN HUR

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## Tenth Annual Holiday Tea Returns to Elston, Lane Place

*Amanda McGuire*  
*Associate Director*

On Friday, December 2, the Tenth Annual Holiday Tea & Fashion Show returns to the Elston Homestead and Lane Place with a theme of “200 Years of Hoosier Holidays.” This event allows ticket holders a rare chance to see two of Crawfordsville’s most prestigious historic



*Tea attendees enjoy the sweet and savory treats served at the 2015 Holiday Tea*

homes and enjoy holiday merriment, while supporting the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum.

The Elston Homestead, located on Pike Street, was the childhood home of Susan Elston Wallace. The house, now home

*cont. on page 6*

## Tenth Annual TASTE a Rousing Success

*Stephanie Cain*  
*Visitor Services*

The morning of August 27 made TASTE-goers nervous--thunderstorms rolled through around 9 am, making setup messy. Fortunately, by noon, the weather had cleared, and we were presented with beautiful weather for the Tenth Annual TASTE of

Montgomery County. Over two thousand people tried new flavors and listened to catchy tunes.

Indianapolis-based Celtic fiddler Emily Ann Thompson opened the day’s musical festivities, performing traditional Irish, Scottish, and Ca-

nadian music in a fresh and original style. Emily Ann Thompson’s third album is scheduled for a 2016 release.

Dinner hour entertainment was provided by a favorite local band, the Leadsmen. They played the inaugural TASTE

*cont. on page 5*

*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.*

**Mission**

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## Notes From The Director



**Serendipity** is a noun that means finding valuable or pleasant things that are not looked for. According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, the origins of the word come from the mid-1700s when the English author Horace Walpole stumbled upon an interesting tidbit of information while researching a coat of arms. In a letter to his friend Horace Mann, he wrote: "This discovery indeed is almost of that kind which I call Serendipity, a very expressive word, which as I have nothing better to tell you, I shall endeavor to explain to you: you will understand it better by the derivation than by the definition. I once read a silly fairy tale called 'The Three Princes of Serendip' as their highnesses travelled, they were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of. . ." Walpole's memory of the tale was not quite accurate, but his creation of the word gave it meaning that it retains to this day.

Serendipity often plays a great role in successful programs and projects. At the Study it was truly a serendipitous day when Dr. Sharon Gerow visited. At the time of her visit we were beginning to ponder just how we might do a complete and thorough inventory of Lew Wallace's book collection, including recording all of the notes he (and Susan) wrote in the margins. By her background, education, training, talents, and interests Sharon was uniquely qualified to take on this project—as a volunteer! She had recently returned to her hometown of Crawfordsville

and was looking for something to help pass the time. Time did pass and for the past several years, Sharon painstakingly has gone through all of the Wallace books in the museum collection—over 1,300 individual books—turning each page, recording in pencil all of the notes, comments, and marks made by Lew and Susan. In doing so, she came to recognize Lew and Susan's handwriting and their method of highlighting important passages. She found books that Lew used to develop *Ben-Hur* and gained insight into their personalities.

From beginning to end, Sharon's attention to detail, her care with these valuable artifacts, her organizational abilities, and her talents at research have created a unique database. It is doubtful that anyone since Lew Wallace has poured over these books with the care and dedication that Sharon has—and doubtful that anyone will for the next 100 years! In a final serendipitous twist, just as Sharon is finishing this monumental volunteer project, she will be leaving Crawfordsville to start a new life and new adventures in Maryland. Sharon is just one of the talented volunteers who make a difference at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. It is with profound thanks and great appreciation that we recognize the work that she has contributed to the museum tinged with a touch of sadness that she won't be just up the street when we have a question about a curious comment made by Lew in the margins of one of his books! Best wishes and many thanks to Sharon from all of us at the museum.

*Larry Paarlberg*

# Hoosier Author Fair Wraps up 2016 Lew Wallace

## Festival of Words

**Stephanie Cain**  
Visitor Services

During our ongoing year-long Lew Wallace Festival of Words, we have focused on dozens of Hoosier authors through our Hoosier Authors Book Club, our adult lecture series, and even a theatrical release of this year's remake of *Ben-Hur*. Now, as we wrap up our Festival of Words, we invite you to join us on Saturday, November 26 from 1 - 4 pm to meet several regional authors who are among the current crop of Hoosier Authors.

This event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Carriage House Interpretive Center. Authors will have books for sale and are happy to sign copies and chat with readers. Our author guests include historian and biographer Ray E. Boomhower, inspirational author Kelly O'Dell Stanley, dog training expert and fantasy author Laura VanArendonk Baugh, leadership coach Tim Timmons, and fantasy author Stephanie A. Cain. Read on to learn more about the authors.

We hope to see you there!

**Ray E. Boomhower** is interim senior director of the Indiana Historical Society Press, where he is also responsible for the quarterly popular history magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. Boomhower has been with the Society



A native of Mishawaka, Indiana, Boomhower graduated from Indiana University in 1982 with degrees in journalism and political science. He received his master's degree in U.S. history from Indiana University, Indianapolis, in 1995. Before joining the Society staff, he worked in public relations for the Indiana State Museum and as a reporter for two Indiana daily newspapers, the *Rensselaer Republican* and the *Anderson Herald*.

In 1998 he received the Hoosier Historian award from the Indiana Historical Society and in 2010 he was named winner of the Regional Author Award in the annual Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards.

Along with numerous articles for *Traces*, the *Indiana Magazine of History*, *Outdoor Indiana*, and other history periodicals, Boomhower is the author of several books; among them are *Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr.: A Life in History and Politics*; *The Country Contributor: The Life and Times of Juliet V. Strauss*; *Destination Indiana: Travels through Hoosier History*; "But I Do Clamor": *May Wright Sewall, A Life,*

since 1987, beginning work for the statewide, nonprofit organization as its public relations coordinator.

*1844-1920; "One Shot": The World War II Photography of John A. Bushemi*; *Gus Grissom: The Lost Astronaut*; *The Sword and the Pen: A Life of Lew Wallace*; *The Soldier's Friend: A Life of Ernie Pyle*; *Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary*; *John Bartlow Martin: A Voice for the Underdog*; and *Pen and*



*Coral: The World War II Reporting of Robert L. Sherrod* (forthcoming from IU Press in 2017).

**Kelly O'Dell Stanley** is a graphic designer who writes (or is it a writer who designs?). Either way, when she found the place where the two intersected, she was exactly where she wanted to be. As a result, she's written two books, *Praying Upside Down* and *Designed to Pray*. Kelly is a redhead who's pretty good at controlling her temper, a believer in doing everything to excess, and a professional wrestler of doubt and faith. She's been married for 25 years (making Tim a saint), and she loves her three quirky nearly-grown kids. Even if they do call her all the time. (Maybe especially because they call her all the time.) She blogs at [kellyostanley.com](http://kellyostanley.com) and is happy to call Crawfordsville home.

# Charles Major and the Golden Age of Indiana Literature

**Larry Paarlberg**

**Museum Director**

The years from 1880 to 1920 are often recognized as the Golden Age of Indiana Authors. There had been well respected Hoosier authors before 1880 and certainly many literary leaders in the years after 1920, but beginning with Lew Wallace and his book *Ben-Hur*, there was an outpouring of best selling works by a variety of Hoosier authors that has not been equaled in almost 100 years. Names that are still familiar like James Whitcomb Riley, Booth Tarkington, Meredith Nicholson, George Ade, George McCutcheon, and Gene Stratton Porter were part of this outpouring of Hoosier talent. With his leading role in this golden age, Lew Wallace was friends to most of these authors and mentor to several of them.

There were others who burnished Indiana's literary history during the golden age who are not as well remembered today. One of these was Charles Major. In the first decade of the twentieth century Charles Major dominated the field of American authors. Born in 1856 in Indianapolis, Major and his family moved to Shelbyville when he was 13. He attended the University of Michigan between 1872 and 1875 and became a lawyer who, like Lew Wallace, dabbled with writing on the side.

Like Wallace, Charles Major did exhaustive research on his topics before putting pen to paper. His first book, *When Knighthood Was In Flower* was published in 1899. This novel was a historical romance set in the time of Henry VIII and became a best seller. It remained on the New York Times best seller list for almost three years, was produced as a

play on Broadway in 1901, and was the subject of successful film interpretations in 1908 and 1922.

With the success of his first book, Major quit his legal career to pursue writing full time. Beyond writing historical fiction, Major enjoyed success as the author of children's adventure stories such as *The Bears of Blue River* written in 1902. Many of his children's stories written over the next decade were set in Indiana. His third book, *Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall* was just as successful as his first. It too spent years on the Times best seller list, went to Broadway stage and in 1924, Mary Pickford starred in the screen adaptation.

Lew Wallace had a reputation for encouraging young people. In particular, he counseled struggling authors who had met with rejection or had difficulty finding their voices. Major was aware of this reputation and had sought Wallace out. Just prior to the publication of his first book, Charles Major wrote a letter to Lew Wallace telling of the first time he had sought to meet the esteemed author Wallace. On December 28, 1898, Major wrote:

"I beg to tell you a bit of ancient history that may amuse you. Many years ago, when I was quite young, I became so enamored of your works and was so anxious to see the author of them that, after many privations, I saved enough money and went to Crawfordsville to call on you. I

went, but after I got there my heart failed me, and alas! I came home and the only satisfaction I had was that I spent my money. From this incident you can judge my delight in meeting you the other day. When *The Fair God* first came out, you had met Dickens and Thackeray, and had they said to you the

kind, generous and encouraging words you spoke to me and to Miss Marlor about me, you could not have resisted the temptation to express your delight and appreciation. . . no more than I. Therefore, may the last and least of Indiana's authors say to the first and greatest, that he thanks you for your generous kindness

and encouragement (a thing, by the way, above and beyond Dickens and Thackeray). That he hopes some day to make a trip to Crawfordsville that will not be in vain, and from his heart of hearts he wishes you the happiest of New Years."

While Charles Major's self assessment as the last and the least of Indiana's authors proved incorrect, his admiration for Wallace as a kind mentor to emerging writers was on target. Beyond his role in ushering in the Golden Age of Indiana Authors with the publication of *Ben-Hur*, that era would have been vastly different without Lew Wallace's interest in and encouragement of the young Hoosier men and women who followed him pen in hand.



Charles Major

## Taste, continued

*continued from page 1*

in 2007. Original members Ray Kirtley, Dan Wills, Kenn Clark, and F. David Will were joined by newcomer John Ford.

Our headlining act was the Big Swing Band, a 19-piece band from Lafayette specializing in classic big band sounds from the 1940s swing era to the modern swing revival. The Big Swing Band has played the TASTE before and has always been a hit with the crowd.

This year we added a musical act on the front lawn, playing between stage sets. The Balhinch Bunch is a family band with Dennis Beach, his daughter Josie Beach, and brother-in-law Clayton Peters. They played old-time Irish, Celtic, and French-Canadi-



*Lew Wallace, portrayed by Bernie O'Bryan poses with the Balhinch Bunch*

an reels to the enjoyment of all. Sixteen vendors participated in this year's TASTE, including The Barefoot Burger, The Big Dipper, El Charro, China Inn, Coal Creek Cellars Winery, Daredevil Brewing Co., Hawg Wild, Iron Gate II, The Joshua Cup, The Juniper Spoon, K & K Café, and Norvell's. New vendors at the TASTE this

year were Completely Nuts and Candy Company, Maxine's on Green, and Valentino Italian Cuisine.

Every year we do two sets of awards: Judges' Choice and People's Choice. This year our judges were Andy Biddle, Kelly Taylor, Emily Petrie, and Dale Petrie.

### Judges' Choice

Best Entree - The Juniper Spoon's Lamb Adobo Tamales  
Best Dessert - K & K Cafe - Butterfinger Cheesecakes  
Best Booth Presentation - Maxine's on Green

### People's Choice

Best Entree - El Charro  
Best Booth Presentation - The Joshua Cup

The Lew Wallace Study would like to thank Title Sponsors of this year's event: The Paper of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Tourism Commission, Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health of Crawfordsville, Dr. Howard Miller, and The Journal Review.

Contributing Sponsors include: City Securities Insurance, Cool Oldies 1550 AM, Country for the Heartland 106.3, Crawford Industries, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Lafayette Bank and Trust, Metronet, Thunder 103.9, Wabash College, and Walden Transport & Recycle.

Supporting Sponsors include: Arni's of Crawfordsville; Banjo Corporation; Davis Morrison Realty; Dr. Janet L. Rucker, DDS;

Elizabeth A. Justice, Attorney at Law; Team Rusty - Rusty Carter; Henthorn, Harris & Weliever; Indiana American Water; J.M. Thompson Insurance; Morse Family Dentistry; Kirtley, Taylor, Sims, Chadd & Minnette, PC; Lafayette Printing; MainSource Bank; Market Street Wealth Management Advisors - Jessica L. Bokhart, CFP®; Northridge Chiropractic; nPrint Copy & Design; Pace Dairy; Powers Priebe Funeral Home; Ratio Architects; RR Donnelley; The Juniper Spoon; Tri-County Bank & Trust; and Montgomery County Visitors & Convention Bureau.

And of course we couldn't make the TASTE happen each year without the support and dedication of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to each and every person who showed up to donate your time and energy to making this year's TASTE great!

Make sure you mark August 26, 2017, on your calendar as the Eleventh Annual TASTE of Montgomery County. We're already hard at work brainstorming ways to make it even better, and we hope you'll be there with us.

Because proceeds from the TASTE go toward funding educational programs and outreach events, attendees are able to support the Study while enjoying wonderful local food and music. To see more photos and videos taken at this year's TASTE, visit our Flickr account here: <http://bit.ly/TASTEpix>. You can also keep up-to-date on TASTE news at the Facebook page here: [www.facebook.com/TasteOfMontgomeryCounty](http://www.facebook.com/TasteOfMontgomeryCounty).

## Holiday Tea, continued

*continued from page 1*

to Wabash College President Gregory Hess and his wife, Lora, will be decorated for the holiday season by Milligan's Flowers & Gifts. Event goers can also enjoy an interactive fashion show featuring models and fashions from local boutique *heathcliff*. Tea will be served, complete with coffee, sweets, and savory



*Wabash College T-Tones perform in 2015*

snacks provided by Bon Appétit. Door prizes, generously provided by local merchants, will be awarded throughout the afternoon. Visitors can also enjoy live holiday music from the Wabash College T-Tones.

Lane Place, located on Water Street, was once the home of Henry Lane and his wife Joanna, sister of Susan Wallace. Lane Place will be decorated for an 1816 Christmas. The popular "Making Spirits Bright" Holiday wreath sale will also be on display at Lane Place. Local artists and designers have created unique holiday wreaths that will be available for purchase. These beautiful handcrafted wreaths make great holiday presents to give or to keep for years to come!

Pattison Pavilion, a gazebo located on the grounds of Lane Place, will also be decorated for the holidays and holiday music will fill the grounds.

"Our Holiday Tea has become a popular way to welcome in the holiday season," said Larry Paarlberg, Museum Director.

"The museum is fortunate to have such willing and generous organizations, including the Montgomery County Historical Society, Wabash College, and other local businesses, support our event."

Make a day of it! In addition to downtown shopping before the Tea, guests can also make plans to attend *FrUiTCaKes*, performed by the Sugar Creek Players at the Vanity Theater at 7:30 p.m. The play will run December 2-4 and 9-11. For more information about the play and for tickets, please visit [www.sugarcreekplayers.org](http://www.sugarcreekplayers.org).

Reservations for the Holiday Tea & Fashion Show are \$25 per person and due by December 1. To reserve places for you and your guests, call the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum at (765) 362-5769 or visit [www.ben-hur.com/programs/holiday-tea](http://www.ben-hur.com/programs/holiday-tea) to purchase tickets online.

## *Holiday Tea*

### *Schedule of Events*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016

*3:00-6:00 p.m.*

Tea, sweets & savories served,  
Holiday floral arrangement display  
Elston Homestead

*3:00-6:00 p.m.*

Special holiday collections display  
Lane Place

*3:30-6:00 p.m.*

*heathcliff* Fashion show  
Elston Homestead

*4:00-6:00 p.m.*

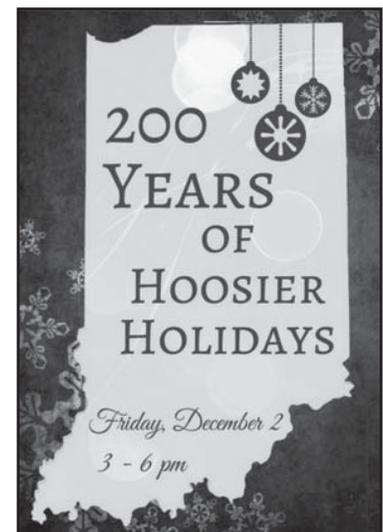
Door prize drawings  
Elston Homestead

*4:00-5:30 p.m.*

"Making Spirits Bright"  
Holiday Wreath Sale  
Lane Place

*5:15 p.m.*

Live holiday music  
Elston Homestead



# From the Garden

**Deb King**  
**Grounds Manager**

The Summer of 2016 has been an eventful season. Designing, digging, dividing, planting, and watering have been the main gardening activities this summer. Two gardens have been updated and landscaped and a garden was developed near the back pedestrian gate.

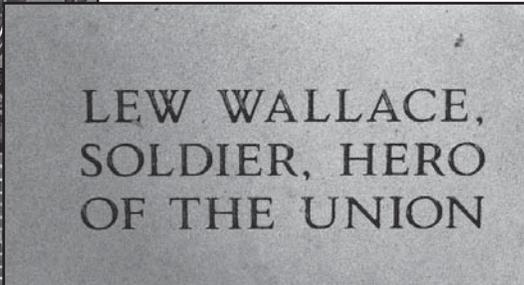
The Wallace garden, located along Wallace Avenue, has been rehabilitated this summer. A troublesome barberry bush was removed and iris have been divide. The overgrown purple and yellow iris had become clumps of intertwined rhizomes and the plants were not blooming as well as they should. Dividing the rhizomes and replanting good healthy rhizomes will provide more color for the garden. The garden has been edged with landscape block and will be planted with daffodils and tulips.

The Zouave garden, located near the parking area, has undergone a major transfor-

mation. Engraved limestone blocks thanking our generous restoration donors have made a wonderful plaza leading to the flag pole. The daylilies and iris removed for the construction of the plaza have been replanted. The hundreds of daffodil bulbs dug up and stored during the construction will be replanted and provide a beautiful spring show for our visitors. The David Wallace monument will be moved to an adjoining area and



the landscaping will continue through spring of 2017.



The relocated handicap access and pedestrian walkway provided a great opportunity to put in small gardens along the driveway gates. Hosta and daylily divisions were planted, along with butterfly bushes, black-eyed Susans, white daisies, coral bells and iris. Mari-golds, snapdragons, and four o'clocks provided season long color.

The gardens are filled with flowers that produce an abundance of seed. Salvia, celosia, castor bean, ligularia, and moonflower seeds are collected and stored for future use. Many visitors have gone home with a packet of seeds or a snipped bloom from celosia and moon-

flower. Ligularia plants have been dug and given to visitors all year, great memories of the Study and

a lasting memento of their visit to Crawfordsville.

*Clockwise from top: Celosia; one of the limestone blocks from the donor plaza; the rehabilitated Wallace garden*

## Stay Connected Online:



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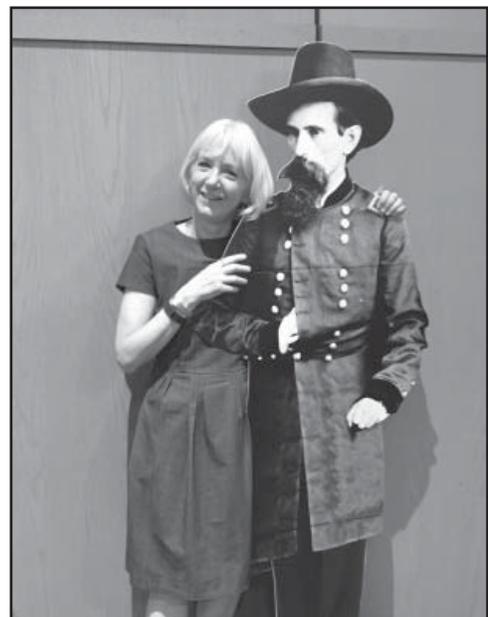
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## Study Scrapbook

Clockwise from top right: *Lali Hess from the Juniper Spoon receives her Judges' Choice award for Best Taste; K & K won Judges' Choice for Best Dessert; Carol Wallace Hamlin poses with a cardboard cutout of her great-great-grandfather, Lew Wallace; Maxine's on Green's booth won the award for best presentation at this year's TASTE; Lew Wallace (portrayed by Bernie O'Bryan) poses in the Ben-Hur chariot*





*Bernie O’Bryan carried the Bicentennial torch as Lew Wallace as part of the Bicentennial Torch Relay on October 13. He carried the torch through the grounds of the Study before passing it on to Bryce Barton at the east end of the grounds.*

## **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*

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](http://www.ben-hur.com/join-support) to pay for your membership with a credit card via Paypal

I wish to remain anonymous

I’m declining benefits, making my contribution deductible to the full extent of IRS regulations.

## General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

*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 July 16 - October 20, 2016

#### Ben-Hur

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### In Memory of Don Herring

Johanna Herring and the Herring  
Family  
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### Tea Sponsors as of Oct 24, 2016

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### TASTE!

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Tri-County Bank and Trust

### Other

Powers-Priebe Funeral Home

## Ben-Hur Exhibit to Open March 11



Over the next two years, our annual exhibits will highlight Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur* and its world-wide impact. The exhibits will follow the success of the novel, Broadway play, several movie adaptations, and how *Ben-Hur* affected popular culture and modern Christianity. These exhibits will feature artifacts never before exhibited by the museum, including one of Judah Ben-Hur's racing costumes from the 2016 motion picture.

## Author Fair, continued

continued from page 3

### Laura VanArendonk Baugh



is an award-winning writer of speculative fiction, mystery, and non-fiction. Her works have earned numerous accolades,

including 3-star (the highest possible) ratings on Tangent's "Recommended Reading" list. She is a proud supporter of the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society and is based out of Indianapolis. You can find her at [www.LauraVanArendonkBaugh.com](http://www.LauraVanArendonkBaugh.com).

**Stephanie A. Cain** writes epic & urban fantasy. She is the author of *The Midwinter Royal*, *Stormsinger*, *Stormshadow*, *Stormseer* and *Sow the Wind*. She grew up in Indiana, where much of her urban fantasy is set.

Her newest novel *Shades of Circle City*, set in Indianapolis, features a werewolf state trooper and a cop who sees ghosts.



She spends her work time at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, marketing the museum online, giving tours of a Victorian mancave, and serving as a one-woman IT department.

A proud crazy cat lady, she is happily owned by Eowyn, Strider, and Eustace Clarence Scrubb. In her free time, she enjoys hiking (except for the spiders), bird-watching, and reading. She enjoys organizing things and visits office supply stores for fun. She owns way more movie scores and fountain pens than she can actually afford.

**Tim Timmons** is an author

and newspaperman, having worked in newspapers from North Carolina to California, and all over Indiana, including as the vice president of *The South Bend Tribune*. He is one of the owners of *The Paper*, a newspaper company headquartered in Crawfordsville that also includes *The Noblesville Times*, the *Sheridan News*, *Hamilton County Sports Daily* and *The Weekly*.

He started in newspapers in the 1970s when he was a high school correspondent for the Indianapolis News and Star and was the sports editor of his school paper. Timmons has practiced journalism both as a career and a heartfelt obsession.





**GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY &  
MUSEUM**

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursday - Friday, November 24-25, 2016** - Museum closed for Thanksgiving

**Saturday, November 26, 2016** - Author Fair (see p. 3 for details)

**Friday, December 2, 2016** - Holiday Tea & Fashion Show

**Friday, December 16, 2016** - Last day of 2016 Season

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017** - Museum opens for 2017 Season

**Saturday, March 11, 2017** - Annual Exhibit Opens (see p. 12 for details)

**Saturday, April 1, 2017** - Civil War Trust Park Day. Join us for this annual event cleaning up the grounds and preparing for spring.

**Saturday, April 8, 2017** - City of Crawfordsville Easter Egg Hunt. This annual city-wide event returns to Study grounds.

