



# Meet Lew's Parents through New Exhibit



*Stephanie Cain*  
**Visitor Services**

Our 2020 exhibit, "Suffrage & Sovereignty: David, Esther, and Zerelda Wallace," opened to the public on Saturday, March 7.

David Wallace served in the U.S. House of Representatives and as the sixth Governor of Indiana. He married Zerelda Sanders after his first wife, Esther, died of consumption. During his career, David Wallace helped fund Samuel F.B. Morse's telegraph and oversaw the Mammoth Internal Improvements Act creating canals and infrastructure in Indiana. He also signed off on the Indian agent's plan to remove Indiana's

native inhabitants, which ultimately resulted in the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Well-educated and outspoken, Zerelda discussed politics with her husband and advocated for temperance. When she found politicians

decades-long struggle that ultimately led to the 19th Amendment.

David, Esther, and Zerelda helped shape Lew Wallace into the Renaissance man he became as Lew followed his father into a legal career, emulated his mother's love of reading, and



did not respect her because she was a woman, she also became a suffrage activist. Though she was never able to vote, Zerelda worked tirelessly in the

used his stepmother as the model for Judah Ben-Hur's mother in his best-selling novel.

The exhibit covers all of these topics, and

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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.*

**Mission**

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## Notes From The Director



It is hard to believe that 20 percent of the 21st century is now history! Time truly does go quickly and the people,

places, and issues that define generations come and go. Too often, they are soon forgotten. At the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum we seek to not only remember and honor Lew Wallace, we also work to remember his family and his associates as products of their time and conduits of change. In our exhibit for 2020, we are looking at Lew's parents, the issues they faced and some of the ways these issues changed Indiana and the nation. In several ways, these issues continue to affect our country today. As generations progress, issues once seen as controversial and subversive become mainstream while other generally accepted practices and activities are viewed with skepticism or sadness. In our look at Lew's parents there are issues that reflect both of these generational changes of view.

The development of this exhibit was enlightening for staff. We learned a lot about Lew's parents and how they influenced him, but it was challenging! Lew's mother, Esther, died in 1834 and

left very little record of her existence. As with many women in the 19th century, she was generally remembered only as a daughter, wife, or mother and little else. It was difficult to find ways to illustrate who she was as a person and how, in her brief life, she influenced Lew. It was relatively easy to document David Wallace's professional life, but beyond a few statements written by Lew decades after his father died, there was little evidence of what David was like on a personal level. Lew's stepmother, Zerelda, was the easiest of Lew's parents to bring to life. Zerelda's public persona and issues were fully documented during her life. However, many people who knew her also wrote of her character, personal intelligence, charm, and dynamic personality. She was organized, thoughtful, and unafraid to address wrongs.

This exhibit was greatly enhanced by staff research at the Indiana Historical Society, the State Library, and the State Archives, where primary source materials were discovered that allowed us to give greater insight into each of these people. I invite all to come and learn more about these three individuals who played such a significant role in the development of Lew Wallace and how the issues they faced over 100 years ago continue to impact each one of us today.

### Museum Staff

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**765-362-5769**

As with any public agency, there are many moving parts and members of the team who support its operation. We could not do the work we do here without the support of our members, other contributors, the City of Crawfordsville, the support of the Wallace family, and our volunteers—including our board members. We thank all who have helped the museum move forward in the 21st century. Only 71 years to the next century milestone!

As quickly as the 21st century is flying by, the year 2020 is also moving forward quickly and making news that will be remembered as a watershed time in history. On March 16, the City of Crawfordsville, in alignment with recommendations from the Governor's office and the

Indiana State Department of Health, closed its doors to the public because of concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus. This was taken as a proactive measure to slow the spread of the illness and to protect the public at large. City staff members are still carrying out most of their duties and can be reached via telephone and email.

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is a city-owned facility and we are complying with this action. While staff will generally be here for the duration, we will not be conducting tours and programming as we would like. We have already cancelled our first two programs of the year and will assess future activities on a regular basis. We will make every attempt to

reschedule cancelled events for a later date, so please keep checking our website and following our social media. Our top priority is the health and safety of our community, guests, volunteers, and our staff. While this has impacted our daily operation, the Lew Wallace Study has weathered critical times in our Nation's history for almost 130 years. We encourage everyone to remember our community and those individuals and businesses who will be significantly impacted. **Please continue to patronize and support local businesses.**

*Larry S. Paarlberg*

## Brick Wall Project

The Lew Wallace Study and the museum grounds are a National Historic Landmark. This is the highest recognition a historic property can attain through the United States Department of the Interior and was conferred on the Wallace property in 1976. The brick wall that surrounds the property is included in this designation. Most of the wall was built in 1909 by Wallace's son, Henry, with locally purchased Poston Brick. Over the years, one



particular section of the wall has had significant structural failure. There is a section about fifty feet long on the east side of the property near the Carriage House that is leaning significantly and is in danger of collapse. In 2020, we hope to address this public safety issue by taking the wall down, cleaning the brick, and rebuilding it using mortar consistent with that used in 1909. This will be an expensive repair but is necessary and should take care of this section for another 111 years.

# David Wallace and the Telegraph

**Larry Paarlberg**  
Museum Director

David Wallace played a prominent role in Hoosier politics in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1840, he was elected as a Whig to represent Indiana in Congress, serving from 1841 to 1843. He was not re-elected in 1843 and Lew Wallace, in his autobiography, detailed the singular reason for his father's defeat.

Professor Samuel F. B. Morse had perfected his telegraph and sent his first message over the wires in 1838. All that was needed, according to Morse, was a long-distance trial which he was too poor to fund. As a last resort, he applied to Congress for an appropriation of \$30,000 in 1841. A bill was introduced and then referred to a special committee of five, with David Wallace being one of the Representatives.

As Morse was stretching a wire from the House chamber to the Senate Chamber for a demonstration, a rushed vote was organized for the committee. There were only four members of the committee present in the House at that moment because David Wallace was watching the set-up in the Senate chamber. Although Representative Wallace did not understand the technology, he witnessed the sending of and reply to a message while in the Senate chamber. Wallace rushed to the House chamber just as the tie vote of two for and two against the appropriation was about to

be approved, thereby killing the bill. He quickly voted in the affirmative to approve the appropriation, moving the bill forward. The House and Senate ultimately passed the special appropriation bill that would have died without Wallace's one vote.

David Wallace was nominated by his party to serve a second term in 1843, but Morse had not yet completed his long-distance public demonstration of the telegraph. Wallace's Democratic opponent,

William J. Brown, campaigned vigorously denouncing the great expense of \$30,000 that Wallace had cost the country by his vote. Wallace's strong support of internal improvements in Indiana prior to the Panic of 1837 had already proven an expense the State of Indiana struggled under, so audiences were receptive to Brown's arguments. Wallace lost to Brown by 1,085 votes.

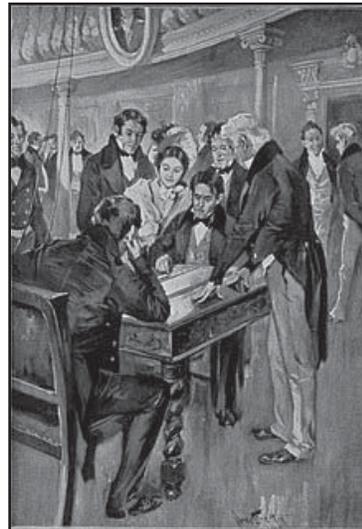
Samuel Morse used the \$30,000 appropriation to stretch a telegraph wire from the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., to the Mount Clare Depot in Baltimore. In an interesting final twist, a Hoosier was to

play yet one more role in the history of the telegraph on May 24, 1844, when Annie Ellsworth of Lafayette selected the first message to be sent over telegraph lines from one city to another. She was the daughter of Henry Leavitt Ellsworth, the Patent Commissioner, and Annie selected a verse from the Bible (Numbers 23:23) "What hath God wrought?"

Wallace continued to play a role in Indiana politics, but he never again held elective office. In 1857, recognizing his early support of the telegraph, David Wallace was invited to make the key address in Indianapolis' celebration of the first

trans-Atlantic cable between America and England. By this time, the telegraph was widely recognized as the wonder of the age and those associated with it were held in great esteem. Unfortunately for all concerned, after a brief initial success, this first cable quit working and it would be another nine years and many attempts before the trans-Atlantic cable was operational.

David died unexpectedly in September of 1859. While he lived to see many of the changes he envisioned wrought by the telegraph; he certainly never could have guessed how instant communication would change the world over the next 170 years.



*Sending the first telegraph message*

# Youth ArchiCamp Returns this Summer

In partnership with Indiana Landmarks, we are offering ArchiCamp on June 23-24 for children ages 8-12. The camp will run from 9:00 to 3:00 each day and costs \$25 per student.

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 plaster rosettes from molds, build

local buildings from cardboard boxes, learn about careers in historic preservation, and discuss



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

preservation successes in our community.

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](mailto:amcguire@ben-hur.com).

## 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

## 2020 Programs

One of the goals of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is to bring educational programming and activities to Montgomery County not otherwise being offered. This year is no different as we already have a number of events on our calendar. **Some events and programs have already been postponed due to COVID-19 so please check our online calendar, social media, or contact us at the museum to stay up to date on program dates.**

In addition to the 14th Annual **Taste of Montgomery County** on Saturday, August 22 and our popular **Holiday Tea and Fashion Show** on December 4, in the coming months we will host:

Postponed Date TBA - **Hoosier Authors Book Club** featuring *Fighting For Equality: A Life of May Wright Sewall* by Ray Boomhower hosted in partnership with the League of Women Voters.

Postponed Date TBA—**From Amanda to Zerelda: Hoosier Suffragists Who Raised a Ruckus**. This program will be held at the Carnegie Museum. It is hosted in partnership with Indiana Women’s Suffrage Centennial, the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville District Public Library, Indiana Historical Society, Montgomery County League of Women Voters, and Wabash College.

May Date TBA— **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series** featuring a program on the internal improvements highlighting canals

June 18— **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series** featuring Sarah Halter from the Indiana Medical History Museum. Her program will focus on the state of medicine in Indiana during the 19th century and how it has evolved over the last few decades.

June 23-24—**ArchiCamp** for students ages 8-12

July 9—**Hoosier Authors Book Club** reading *Whistling Past the Graveyard* by Susan Crandall

July 18—Our popular **Behind the Scenes Tour** of the Study and Carriage House

Sept 24—**Hoosier Authors Book Club** reading *Sailing the Inland Sea* by Susan S. Neville

October Date TBA—**Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series**, Dr. Miller speaking on the domestic side of Lew Wallace and Victorian contemporaries.

November 28—**Hoosier Authors Fair** celebrating Small Business Saturday. This popular event brings authors to Fusion54 to share their recent publications.

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## 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/>.

## Exhibit, continued

with such a wealth of information, great restraint had to be exercised in creating the wall panels. When designing an exhibit, it's important to remember some visitors have limited time and interest, while others will absorb everything they possibly can. This year, as we often do, we took all the information that wouldn't fit into the Lynne D. Hohlbein Education

Room and created an exhibit booklet with more information. It is available in the gift shop for \$4.

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. "Suffrage and Sovereignty: David, Esther, and Zerelda Wallace" will run through early December 2020.

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](mailto:lpaarlberg@ben-hur.com).

## Hoosier Authors Book Club Marks Fifth Year of Meetings

The Hoosier Authors Book Club had hoped to begin its fifth year at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum with a special discussion.

The Study's book club planned to join with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County's Well-Read Citizen discussion group to invite Hoosier biographer Ray E. Boomhower to our meeting. Unfortunately the book discussion had to be postponed to take precautionary measures to limit the local impact of COVID-19.

We hope to reschedule, as the book to be discussed—Boomhower's *Fighting For Equality: A Life of May Wright Sewall*—is an excellent tie-in to our 2020 exhibit about David and Zerelda Wallace, which discusses Women's Suffrage and the 100th anniversary of women achieving the right to vote.

Other books for 2020 will include historical fiction, memoirs, and an essay collection.

Linda Furiya's *Bento Box in the Heartland* is a memoir of growing up as a Japanese-American in Versailles, Indiana. *Whistling Past the Graveyard*, by Susan Crandall, is an historical novel set in 1963 and focusing on an interracial friendship in Mississippi. Susan Neville's *Sailing the Inland Sea* is a collection of essays about writing and its relationship to the landscape.

The remaining 2020 schedule of book discussions is as follows:

**Thursday, June 4** at 7 p.m.  
– *Bento Box in the Heartland*:



*My Japanese Girlhood in Whitebread American* – Linda Furiya

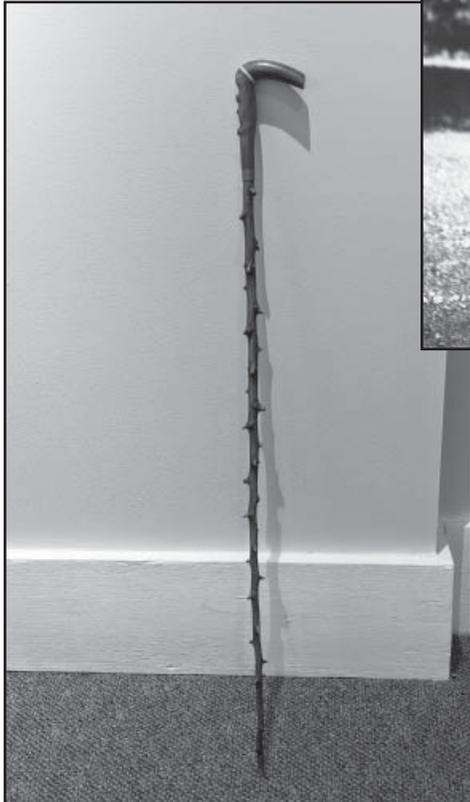
**Thursday, July 9** at 7 p.m. –  
*Whistling Past the Graveyard*  
– Susan Crandall

**Thursday, September 24**  
at 7 p.m. – *Sailing the Inland Sea: On Writing, Literature, and Land* – Susan Neville

Copies of each book will be available for checkout from the museum, courtesy of the Indiana Humanities Novel Conversations program. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House. All discussions are free and open to the public. Because space is limited, we ask that participants RSVP ahead of time. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club, visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.



# Study Scrapbook



*Clockwise from top right: Volunteer Dave Alber gave our reception desk a makeover this winter; 18 authors participated in the 2019 Hoosier Authors Fair on Small Business Saturday at Fusion54; Tea-goers enjoy delicious treats at the Holiday Tea; This cane, once owned by Lew Wallace, was donated to the museum in February; Lew Wallace pictured on the grounds of the Study with the cane*

## From the Arboretum

*Deb King*

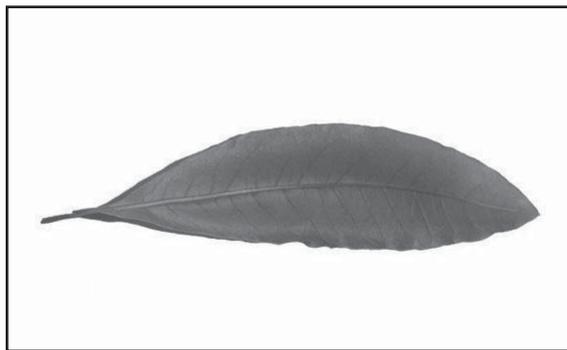
*Grounds Manager*

The tree survey conducted by the City of Crawfordsville has provided some new identifying information for the Study—varieties of trees that had not been in the Study's inventory.

We have two species of ash—white and green. White ash grows in moist soil and has a whitish underside to the leaf. The green ash grows in most environmental conditions and their leaves are all green. The white ash is the taller of the two. The Study has been treating the ash trees, trying to save the trees from the emerald ash borer.

There are over 500 species of oak and the Study has seven. White, red, and pin are the most common varieties in the Midwest. In the northwest corner of the property, there is a tree that I have debated for years what kind of tree it is. The tree inventory identified it as a shingle oak. The shingle oak leaf has a leaf unlike all other oaks. The unlobed glossy dark green leaf looks more like a magnolia leaf than an oak leaf.

The study has three species of hickory trees. A mockernut hickory, misidentified in our previous inventory, is really a pignut hickory, according to the arborist. The pignut and the bitternut hickories have



*Shingle Oak leaf*

bitter fruit. Dropped nuts lay uneaten underneath the trees in the fall. The shagbark hickory produces sweet fruit. Squirrels, feasting on the nuts, rain shredded husks down on our unsuspecting visitors as they make their way to the reflecting pool.

Over thirty varieties of trees, 1 inch in diameter at breast height, have been inventoried on the Museum grounds. Beech trees are the

most common, followed closely by walnut and maple.

The Study has a diversified arboretum and will continue to plant native trees, just as Lew Wallace envisioned when he built the Study. On Arbor Day, April 24, the Study will plant a black gum (tupelo) tree thanks to Crawfordsville Main Street. The black gum, with its small black fruit, will provide nourishment to birds and small animals. The spectacular fall color will range from yellow, orange, bright red to purple. It will be a welcome addition to the arboretum.

The Crawfordsville Parks and Recreation Department will be planting trees in additional parks. Check in with our Facebook page for more Arbor Day activities.



*A large sassafras tree near the statue had to be removed earlier this year. It was completely hollow!*

## General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

### Received October 23, 2019 through March 10, 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.*

#### **Membership** **Ben-Hur**

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Dennis J. & Dee Hohlbein  
Dale & Linda Petrie

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Tom & Betty Sheets  
Joann Troxel  
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#### **Adopt-A-Spot**

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### **Stay Connected Online:**



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## Adopt-A-Spot

A new decade presents new challenges. Mature trees declining in health, tree replacement, planting perennials and maintenance of the arboretum and gardens of the Study require basic needs. Understandably, funding for grounds and gardens are generally at the bottom of budget proposals. New and creative ways of funding are required for large and small museums.

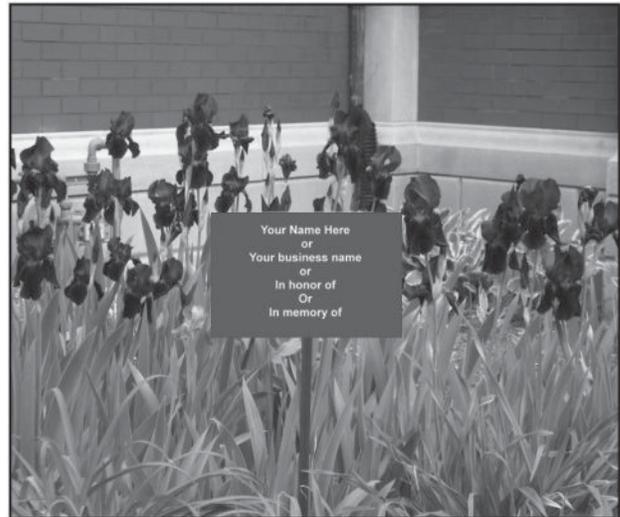


*The Moat Garden planted with lilyturf, coneflowers, bee balm, candytuft, castor beans, and colorful annuals*

Our way of finding funds to maintain Lew Wallace's arboretum and gardens is the Adopt-A-Spot program. The 3.5-acre grounds have over 30 varieties of trees and 13 'adoptable' gardens. The gardens are named for important aspects of General Wallace's life. Henry's, Water Babble, Princess Irene, Lew Jr., Ben-Hur, Wallace, Statue, Tee's, are just a few of the gardens.

Garden adopters (as of March 13) for 2020 are Flower Lovers Club, Barb and Steve Carver, Elaine and Rick Chase, Suanne Milligan, Helen and Marc Hudson, Chuck and Nancy Beemer, Mike and Diane Beemer, and Roger and Jan Cain.

## 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](mailto:study@ben-hur.com)  
or 765.362.5769



**GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM**

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[www.ben-hur.com](http://www.ben-hur.com)

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## 2020 Spring & Summer Events Calendar

Postponed - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series.** Marsha Miller will present “From Amanda to Zerelda: Hoosier Suffragists Who Raised a Ruckus for Women’s Suffrage” at 7 p.m. at the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. Free.

June 4 - The **Hoosier Authors Book Club** will meet to discuss Linda Furiya’s *Bento Box in the Heartland* at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Interpretive Center. Free. RSVP required.

June 18 - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series.** Sarah Halter, executive director of the Indiana Medical History Museum, will lecture on the state of medicine in 19th century Indiana. 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Interpretive Center. Free. RSVP required.

June 23-24 - **ArchiCamp** (see page 5 for details).

July 9 - The **Hoosier Authors Book Club** continues with a discussion of *Whistling Past the Graveyard* by Susan Crandall at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Interpretive Center. Free. RSVP required.

July 18 - Join us for a **Behind the Scenes Tour** of the Study at 10 a.m. \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. Member pricing is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students.

August 22 - The 14th 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!