

his term in office, he declared a statewide Thanksgiving Day holiday. In 1840, he was elected as a Whig to represent Indiana in Congress, serving from 1841 to 1843. He was also a prominent attorney.

### 7. Wallace Family Home & Carriage House

Lew and Susan spent the first year of their married life in Covington. The house on Wabash Avenue in 1868 was the first home that Lew and Susan built. It was not, however, their first home in Crawfordsville.

The Wabash Avenue home faced west, toward the home of Susan's sister and brother-in-law, Helen Elston and Aaron H. Blair.

Henry Wallace sold the Wallace family home in 1918 to his cousin Harold Taylor. But by 1919, John and Clara Tudor purchased the house. Henry built the brick wall at this time to separate the former Wallace home from the Study property. In 1937 the house was extensively remodeled when the second floor was removed.

The Wallaces built a carriage house behind their home in 1870. It contained a carriage room, hayloft, stable, and a space for Wallace to work on his inventions. In the 1940s it was remodeled and used by various scout groups until the 1960s. In 2004 the museum again remodeled the building to be used for exhibits, offices, and collections storage.

### About Lew Wallace

Lew Wallace was born in Brookville, Indiana, in 1827. He fought in the Mexican War before becoming a lawyer. He practiced in Indianapolis, then became the Fountain County Prosecutor in Covington, Indiana. In 1852 he married Susan Elston. The next year, their son

Henry was born. The Wallaces moved to Crawfordsville later that year.

He became a Major General in the Union Army and fought in the Civil War battles of Romney, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, & Monocacy. He served as a military judge in the trials of the Lincoln Conspirators and Commander Wirz of Andersonville Prison. President Garfield appointed Lew ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. In addition, Lew was a brilliant author, orator, artist, inventor, and musician.

His masterwork, the religious novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1880), gained General Wallace high accolades. *Ben-Hur* became the best-selling novel of the nineteenth century. Several dramatizations interpreted the novel, including the 1959 Academy Award®-winning motion picture starring Charlton Heston.

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum has preserved General Wallace's personal memorabilia. He designed and built his Study in 1895 on the site where *Ben-Hur* was penned. Each year, the Museum presents educational and entertaining programs for all ages.

### Guided Tours:

Tours of the Study begin at the Carriage House at the east end of this property. All tours are paid, guided tours. Tours take about an hour and are not started after 4:15 p.m.

### Admissions:

Adults: \$7  
AAA/Active Military: \$5  
Students 13 - 18: \$3  
Students 7 - 12: \$1  
6 and Under: free

# General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

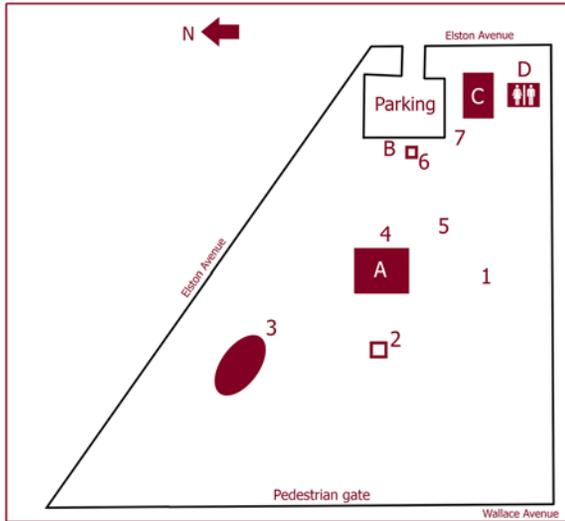
## Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Grounds



### General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

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PO Box 662 (mailing)  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Phone: 765-362-5769  
E-mail: [study@ben-hur.com](mailto:study@ben-hur.com)



## Welcome to the General Lew Wallace Study Grounds Tour!

The current Study grounds cover 3.5 acres. The property is set apart from the neighboring residential area by a brick wall ordered by Wallace's son, Henry, in the early 20th century. The brick wall ranges from six to ten feet in height. Within the walls is a park-like setting with rolling grounds and a ravine on the west side.

The Study grounds are home to a hidden geocache. If you are a geocacher, make sure you check it out! We also have several spots in the games Pokémon Go and in Harry Potter: Wizards Unite.

- A. Study Building
- B. Little Free Library
- C. Carriage House Interpretive Center
- D. Restroom Building

### 1. Study Building

"I know what I should love to do—to build a study; to write, and to think of nothing else. I want to bury myself in a den of books. I want to saturate myself with the elements of which they are made, and breathe their atmosphere until I am of it." – Lew Wallace to Susan Wallace, 1885

Lew's dream became a reality after the success of *Ben-Hur* (1880) and his third novel, *The Prince of India* (1893). With help from Indianapolis architect John G. Thurtle, he drew up plans for his study. Construction began in the fall of 1895. The structure was built within one year at a cost of \$30,000; however, Wallace did not occupy the building until 1898, possibly due to the elaborate interior decorations.

### 2. Statue and *Ben-Hur* Beech Tree

Wallace enjoyed sitting and writing under his favorite tree, later named the *Ben-Hur* Beech. The 40-foot-tall beech was cut down in 1908 after being damaged in a storm. However, in 1910 a statue honoring General Lew Wallace was erected where the tree once stood. Andrew O'Connor, a noted early twentieth century sculptor, cast the statue in bronze. He created it as a replica of the white marble statue of Lew that stands in Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.

### 3. Reflecting Pool

Lew built a reflecting pool northwest of the Study in 1898. The pool was surrounded by brick walls and topped with flat stone coping. It did not have a brick, stone, or concrete bottom. The pool contained a round brick island with a large, decorative iron urn. Wallace filled it with dirt after he filled in the moat adjacent to the Study. For over 110 years, it remained buried and largely forgotten. In 2017, brothers Chuck and Mike Beemer indicated they wanted to bring this important feature back to life. They sponsored a restoration as a memorial to their parents, Gordon and Julia Beemer.

### 4. Moat and Moat Garden

One of Lew's favorite pastimes was fishing. To ensure he could fish whenever he wanted, he installed a moat along the east side of his study and stocked it with fish. This provided all-weather fishing. On rainy and cold days, he could go down to the Study basement and fish through the porthole windows!

He developed concerns about the impact of the water on the Study's basement and the potential danger to children. Based on photographs of Lew and his two grandsons, it appears he removed the moat by 1900.

In its place, Lew built a circular garden with gravel paths. Grounds Manager Deb King has recreated that garden. While digging the new pathway, she uncovered gravel from the original garden.

### 5. Basement

The Crawfordsville Review reported on September 26, 1896, "The [Study] proper has a basement under it in which is the furnace, engine, and water distributors."

The basement housed several rooms, including a bathroom, a wine cellar, and a full kitchen, so the General could entertain visitors. Because no original blueprints for the building still exist, we're uncertain where the kitchen and wine cellar were located. The bathroom is in a small room underneath the mechanical room of the Study building.

### 6. David Wallace Monument

David Wallace played a prominent role in Hoosier politics in the 1820s and 1830s. He served as Indiana's sixth governor from 1837 to 1840. During