THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM

FROM THE STUDY

GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM
HOME OF BEN-HUR

August 2025
Volume 26, Issue 2

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Mission Statement

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.

18th Annual TASTE of Montgomery County

Museum staff, the TASTE Committee, and other dedicated volunteers are hard at work preparing for the 18th annual TASTE of Montgomery County. This year the event is on Saturday, **August 23**, from **12:00 - 9:00 p.m.** It will be hard to improve on the event from 2024, but we are working to make it even better in 2025!

Perhaps the best part of the TASTE is the opportunity to experience the flavors of Montgomery County. Local restaurants, caterers, and food vendors will serve their most delicious delicacies on YOUR Museum's grounds. We foodies are looking forward to tasty treats from local favorites like: **China Inn**, **The Juniper Spoon**, **Tacos El Pámpano, Messer's Bar & Grill, Smokin' Melts & Rollin' Dough**, **Sabores de Veracruz Bakery**, **Jesus Kettle Corn, Greek's Pizzeria, La Michoacana**, **Swick's Kitchen & Emporium**, **Wildfire 348**, **Sunshine in a Box**, **Four Seasons,** and **Klooz Brewz**. A menu will be available to be downloaded from the website before the TASTE. Suffice it to say, diets should be left at the gate and just enjoy the day!

This year the TASTE will feature three great musical acts on stage!

The Golden Oldies Jazz Band was formed with the goal of helping to preserve the Art of Jazz! As this group of guys from Crawfordsville perform songs from this uniquely American art form, they hope to encourage audiences to join on a journey down "memory lane" listening to a variety of musical selections from the 20th century! They will be performing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Check out their website for more information on the band at www.goldenoldiesjazzband.com.

Playing from 4:00 – 6:00 pm will be **The Midtown Madmen**. The Midtown Madmen are an energized four-piece band that plays the hits of Elvis, Buddy Holly, Little Richard, Johnny Cash and more. Their set list is a great blend of classic rock and roll, with some swing, jump and blues mixed in to satisfy every crowd! For more information on The Midtown Madmen, go to www.midtownmadmen.com.

Taste! Experience the Flavors of Montgomery County

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Notes From The Director

A volunteer is defined as an individual who performs work for charitable, humanitarian, or civic reasons for a public agency or nonprofit organization without the promise, expectation, or receipt of any type of compensation for their work. Volunteers are very special people and much of what is accomplished in the nonprofit world would not happen without diligent, talented, insightful, and dedicated volunteers. As we approach the TASTE of Montgomery County in August, we are reminded of just how critical volunteer support is for the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum.

The success of the TASTE, our largest annual fund-raiser, has allowed us to accomplish so many different projects and offer so many programs to the community. These projects and programs are a direct result of volunteer engagement. Beyond the TASTE we rely on volunteers year in and year out for our very successful Holiday Tea, for conducting tours, for office support, for our Book Club (thank you Stephanie), and so much more.

In this help from volunteers, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is not unique. The Do-Good Institute estimates that the hourly value of volunteer service at all levels averages to $34.79 in 2025. Since the end of the Covid pandemic, volunteer hours contributed have rebounded and now exceed that contributed prior to the pandemic—which is wonderful news. Nation-wide, there are now over 100 million volunteers who help each week. If each volunteer, on average, contributes 3 hours of service per week that equates to 300 million hours per week. When that number is multiplied by their hourly value and then multiplied by 52 weeks in the year, the value of volunteer support is astounding.

For decades the Montgomery County Community Foundation has recognized the service that volunteers provide to the local nonprofit community. They recognize adult volunteers, and for many years have recognized youth volunteers, through the Peggy Herzog fund, encouraging the next generation. This year the volunteer of the year nominees were Sally Gooden who helps with the Animal Welfare League, Bill Durbin with the Veterans Memorial Park, Marvin Swick with FISH Food Pantry, and Jessica Bokhart for the Lew Wallace Study & Museum. We are so thrilled that Jessica was selected as the Volunteer of the Year for 2025.

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Jessica has served several terms on our Board of Trustees, including two as President. She has also been chair of the TASTE for 12 years. She has proven an invaluable resource to the Lew Wallace Museum. With her financial background she has guided investments at local banks, has happily secured new and renewed sponsors for the TASTE of Montgomery County, has frequently helped secure food vendors for the TASTE, and has been a team leader and team builder on the board.

She encourages sponsorship for the TASTE by writing a personal note to each solicited sponsor and she follows up with visits and conversations whenever possible. Under her leadership, income from the TASTE has improved dramatically which has enabled the museum to undertake important programs and restoration projects that would otherwise be outside our financial capability.

Jessica has assisted with securing board members who meet our board member matrix, helped sponsor events, and has even enrolled her children in our ArchiCamp program to personally support that program. She guided changes to our price structure for both the museum and the TASTE to keep us competitive and current.

Jessica steps forward with a "can do" philosophy that is grounded in thoughtful consideration and strategic initiatives. She is happily willing to volunteer herself to pursue projects or requests that others might be reluctant to take on. She has made both the board and the TASTE committees fun and engaging for people to participate on. She is wonderful at balancing her work, family, and multiple volunteer committee obligations. Because of her intellect, wonderful personality and willingness to serve, Jessica has been an asset to numerous organizations in Crawfordsville in recent years and I am confident each of them supports MCCF in recognizing Jessica as Volunteer of the Year.

Volunteers make a material difference in the life of their communities. We are so fortunate to have Jessica, Sally, Bill, Marvin and so many others in Montgomery County helping an extraordinary range of nonprofit organizations. With young people like Liam Venis, who was recognized by MCCF as the 2025 Youth Award winner, things look good for the next generation. The work can be long, difficult, hopefully never thankless, and tiring, but rest assured—we couldn't do it without you!

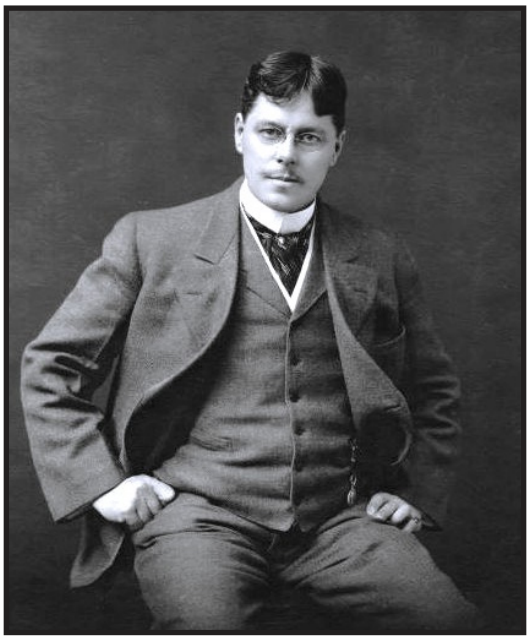
Jessica Bokhart Accepts Volunteer of the Year Award with Support of GLWSM Board.

Lew Wallace, Eric Pape, & The Fair God

Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director

In June 1873, *The Literary World*, a respected periodical based in Boston, offered high praise for an upcoming novel by Lew Wallace titled *The Fair God*. "We have recently read in manuscript a novel that can hardly fail to rank with the great romances of all time," the publication declared. "It is a story of the conquest of Mexico – the coming of Cortez; the feeble amiability of Montezuma; the lofty patriotism of Gautamozin; and the superhuman loyalty of the Aztec people to their gods and their country. It is the work of one whose hand, conspicuously familiar with the sword, exhibits a grasp of the pen no less resolute and masterly – Gen. Lew Wallace. ...so vivid and real are its pictures of the vanished Aztec world."

The Fair God's strong initial sales encouraged Wallace, who now realized the bright literary future ahead of him. By the 1890s, Wallace had become one of the most celebrated authors in the world. His second novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* sat atop the bestseller list, and Wallace's literary legacy was secure. Riding the wave of Wallace's success, the Boston-based publishers of *The Fair God*, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., reissued the novel in 1898. This time Wallace's "vivid and real" descriptions of the Aztecs were accompanied by over two-hundred illustrations. They did not have to look far for an artist capable of such a job. One of America's most distinguished artists resided just a short distance away in Gloucester, Massachusetts.



Eric Pape in 1906.

Born on October 17, 1870, in San Francisco, Eric Pape was already a star in the art world when the commission to illustrate *The Fair God* was presented. Pape's passion for art emerged early, beginning formal lessons at eight years old and later honing his skills as a teenager at the San Francisco School of Design, where he studied under the exalted Danish-American realist and impressionist Emil Carlsen.

At eighteen years old, Pape set out for Paris to continue his training at the esteemed Académie Julian. His talent attracted attention quickly, and within months he was invited to join the École des Beaux-Arts, an elite collection of influential art schools in France. While overseas, Pape studied under the tutelage of the most acclaimed artists of the day, including Jules Joseph Lefebrve, Jean-Léown Gérôme, and Benjamin Constant. The exposure to the varying artistic styles of his instructors, from dramatic historical scenes to intimate personal portraits, left a lasting impression on the young artist. As a student, Pape travelled extensively to draw and paint in Germany, Holland, and Egypt, among other countries. His work was exhibited in Cairo, Munich, and in Chicago during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Pape returned to the United States in 1894, taking up residence in New York City. By the end of the year, Pape's reputation was met with numerous commissions, regularly illustrating for major publications like *Scribner's*, *Century*, and *Ladies Home Journal*. In 1897, Pape moved to Boston to teach at the Cowles School of Art for one year before opening his own school the following year with his wife Alice Monroe. The Pape School of Art quickly became a sought after institution, hosting over two hundred students per season at its height. Among the

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notable alumni were artistic luminaries N.C. Wyeth, Henry J. Peck, and Clifford Ashley.

When Houghton, Mifflin & Co. proposed the idea of an illustrated edition of *The Fair God* to Lew Wallace in mid-1897, he responded with hesitation. The publisher believed a substantial investment in advertising was essential to draw attention to the lavishly produced new edition, but Wallace disagreed. In his view, the novel's enduring popularity after twenty-five years should speak for itself.

Wallace was also dissatisfied with the financial terms. The publisher offered a 5% royalty rate, which he felt was inadequate. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. countered that such a rate was standard for special reissues of older titles. Perhaps Wallace's greatest concern, however, was with the illustrator. He was unfamiliar with Eric Pape, his body of work, and his reputation. Though it's possible Wallace had encountered Pape's illustrations in leading magazines of the day, he remained skeptical. The scale and complexity of the illustrated edition, he felt, might simply be too much for the young artist.

To ease his doubts, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. sent Wallace a sample sketch by Pape. Wallace was stunned by the quality of the work and made sure to express his admiration in reply. Yet one concern lingered—could Pape draw horses? Wallace, who considered himself an amateur artist, knew how difficult it was to depict horses accurately and convincingly. The publisher responded with reassurance, writing: "We have in Mr. Pape an artist whose superior skill, and the generous scale of whose work in illustrating and embellishing the book, will oblige us to spend many times what we should ordinarily put into an illustrated holiday book… We do not know how strong Mr. Pape is in horses, but can easily ascertain what skill he has in drawing them."

When the new edition of *The Fair God* was released at the end of 1898, Wallace thoroughly reviewed the finished product. On January 2, 1899, he wrote to the publishers, stating: "Few books, if any, are more perfect in everything pertaining to the book making art; for art it is, and of a high order… I congratulate Mr. Pape upon his illustrations, which are singularly in accord with the spirit and text of the book."

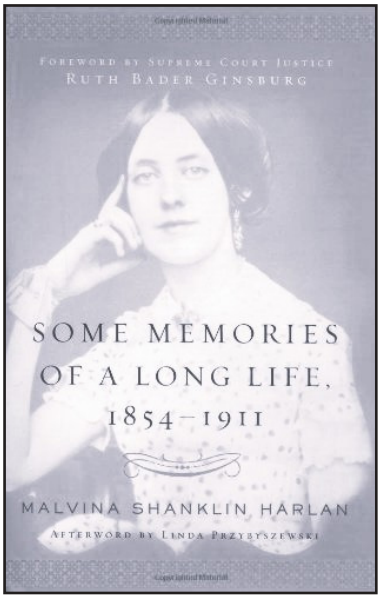
It was clear that Wallace's earlier concerns had been put to rest. The final product had exceeded his expectations, and he was genuinely pleased with the outcome.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to Dr. Gregory Conn for his generous donation of Eric Pape Art.

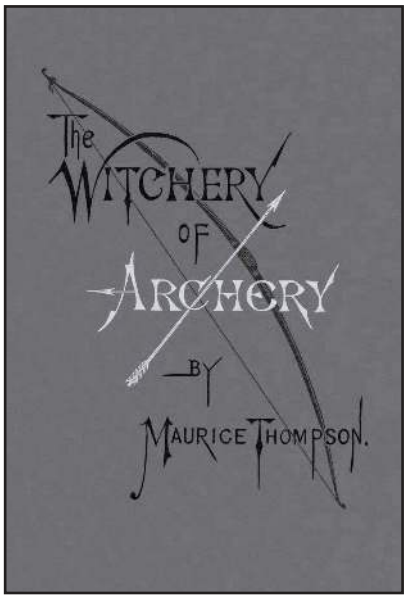
Summer & Fall Programming

Lew Wallace was a Renaissance man with many talents and interests! Each year we strive to provide programs that speak to the talents of General Wallace. After the TASTE on August 23rd, we roll right into a great series of educational programs.

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House
Some Memories of a Long Life by Malvina Shanklin Harlan is a unique account of life before, during and after the Civil War, written by the wife of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, who played a central role in some of the most significant civil rights decisions of his era. Malvina Harlan witnessed and influenced national history from the perspective of a political leader's wife. Her husband wrote the lone dissenting opinion in Plessy v. Feruson, the infamous case that endorsed seperate but equal segregation.



Thursday, October 23, 7:00 pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House
The Witchery of Archery by Maurice Thompson is filled with various stories, many of which are humorous. It gave practical advice on the sport, such as the manufacturing of archery paraphernalia and how to use the equipment while hunting. The book is credited with returning the sport of archery to the public interst. Some of this was due to rifles bringing back bad memories of the American Civil War. Archery became a convenient substitution. In addition the late 1800s saw the last of the American Indian Wars, thus romanticizing the Native Americans and their cultures which included expert archery. Author Maurice Thompson was a close friend of Lew Wallace, and his book made Crawfordsville the center of international archery for decades.

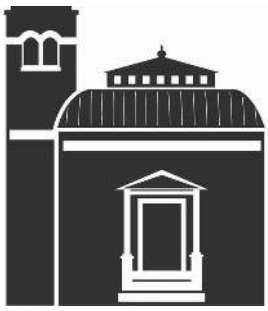


Sunday, October 26, 3:00 - 5:00 pm - Montgomery County Historical Society Trunk or Treat at Lane Place

Saturday, November 29, 5:00 - 8:00 pm - Hoosier Author Fair - Fusion 54
In conjunction with Crawfordsville Main Street's Downtown Party Night on Small Business Saturday, we are hosting the annual author fair. Authors from Crawfordsville and around the state will have books and related merchandise for sale. They are happy to sign books and discuss writing with attendees.

Friday, December 5, 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Holdiay Tea
Held at the Elston Homestead, this fundraiser will showcase a selection of sweet and savory treats, and holiday music. Ring in the Holidays with this festive tradition.

Hoosier Authors
Book Club
General Lew Wallace Study & Museum



General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

Received March 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

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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John & Betty Culley

Taste of Montgomery County Continued

Finishing up the evening will be the outstanding **45RPM**, playing from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. A multi-national band, 45RPM takes its audience on a magical journey back to the music that changed rock history of the 1960s. Faithfully reproducing the hits of the British invasion and America's musical response! For more information about 45 RPM, visit www.45rpm60s.com.

For more information and videos of performances by the 2025 musical lineup, visit the TASTE of Montgomery County's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/tasteofmontgomerycounty.

Tickets

Advance tickets will be on sale in select locations on August 1. Visitors can purchase TASTE tickets at the Carriage House Interpretive Center at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum; the Montgomery County Visitors and Convention Bureau at 101 W. Main inside Fusion54; Milligan's Flowers & Gifts at 115 E. Main Street; and Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation at 922 E. South Blvd. Advance tickets are $5 for adults and $2 for students, and advance ticket holders can bypass the line at the entry gate for quicker admission to the fun. Admission at the gate is $8 for adults and $3 for students.

Volunteers

Are you interested in attending the TASTE for free? The museum is recruiting volunteers to assist before, during, and after the event. Volunteers get a TASTE t-shirt or food tickets and free admission to the event. To volunteer, please visit www.tasteofmontgomerycounty.com/volunteers/ and click the "Sign Up Genius" button.

Sponsors

The Lew Wallace Study & Museum, together with the City of Crawfordsville, would like to thank Title Sponsors (to date) of this year's event: Acuity Brands, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Dr. Howard Miller, Indiana American Water, Industrial Federal Credit Union, Journal Review, Market Street Wealth Management – Jessica Bokhart, Montgomery County Tourism Commission, Nucor Steel, The Paper of Montgomery County, and Tri County Bank & Trust!

For a full list of our amazing sponsors, please check our Thank You list! We thank all these businesses and individuals who make the TASTE possible.

The staff and board would like to thank the TASTE Committee for their hard work and dedication to this event: Rusty Carter, Elaine & Rick Chase, Erin Gobel, Deb King, Tom Meeks, Larry Paarlberg, and Dale Petrie. A special thanks to this year's committee chair Jessica Bokhart. We'd also like to thank the men of Wabash College for all their help with TASTE clean-up after the event and the Montgomery County Visitors Bureau for their help with regional marketing!

The TASTE is the biggest annual fundraiser for the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. All proceeds from gate sales directly benefit the Museum's collection and programming. Bring your friends and family to help support the organization that keeps General Lew Wallace's legacy alive for future generations. For more information about this year's TASTE, visit TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.com. You can also keep up with announcements and news by following the TASTE on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.

August 23, 2025
Noon - 9 pm

Study Scrapbook

Black Swallowtail Butterfly on a purple coneflower.

ArchiCampers after touring the Masonic Cornerstone.

161st anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy

New sidewalk along Elston Avenue.

Flower Lovers Garden Club helping on the grounds.

Replica Montgomery Guards flag flying on the grounds.

A Major Thank You to the Taste Title Sponsors

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Summer Fun in Collections

Deacon Green
Summer Intern

My name is Deacon Green, and I am a senior history major at Wabash College. Over the summer, I have split an internship between the Lew Wallace Study and the Montgomery County Historical Society at Lane Place.

Throughout my time as an intern, I have gotten to spend a summer's worth of time in the collections of both museums, learning to preserve and archive a variety of items. Some items that I've gotten to work with here at the study have been: paintings, hand-painted Ben-Hur magic lantern slides, postcards from across the world, and editions of *Ben-Hur* that I never knew existed. I've worked with copies of *Ben-Hur* that were printed across the world, translated into different languages, and even made into comic books for children.

Between the two museums, I've learned about the rich history of Montgomery County, and I've gotten to work with it hands-on. Apart from working with history, I've also gotten to sit in on meetings with both museums. Through these meetings, I have learned how museums are run and how they work with the local community. My time at both museums has continuously inspired me to pursue a career in history after graduation.

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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2025 Summer & Fall Events Calendar

August 23, 12 - 9 pm - **The TASTE! of Montgomery County**

September 18, 7 - 8 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Club:** *Some Memories of a Long Life* by Malvina Shanklin Harlan

October 23, 7 - 8 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Club:** *The Witchery of Archery* by Maurice Thompson

October 26, 3 - 5 pm - **Montgomery County Historical Society Trunk or Treat** at the Historic Lane Place

November 29, 5 - 8 pm - **Hoosier Author's Book Fair:** Downtown Party Night at Fusion 54

December 5, 3 - 6 pm - **Holiday Tea:** Tea & Savory Sweets at the Historic Elston Homestead