



17th Annual TASTE of Montgomery County



**August 2024
Volume 25, Issue 2**

Museum staff, the TASTE Committee, and dedicated volunteers are preparing for the seventeenth annual TASTE of Montgomery County. The event returns on **Saturday, August 24** from **12:00 - 9:00 pm.**

available for download on the website before the event. Suffice it to say, diets should be left at the gate!

Music

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

Playing from

3:30 – 5:30 pm will be **The Moon Cats.**

The Moon Cats are 4 guys who love the roots of rock & roll. Legends like Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, and Chuck Berry have shaped their sound. With

more than 50 years of stage experience, they have joined together to pay tribute to these legends. The Moon Cats have appeared at venues such as the James Dean Festival, and the Horseshoe Stage in Lucas Oil Stadium and now the TASTE of Montgomery County! For more information on the Moon Cats and their performances, go to www.mooncatsrock.com.

The Stampede String Band

opens the day from **12:30 – 2:30 pm.** The Stampede String Band has earned a reputation for their hard-hitting acoustic performances, thoughtful lyrics, and powerhouse vocal harmonies. A taste of bluegrass and flat picking sure to energize Taste attendees! You can check them out at www.thestampedestringband.bandcamp.com.

Inside This Issue

17th Annual Taste!	1
Notes from the Director	2
Diplomatic Diversions	4
Summer & Fall Programs	6
Sponsor Appreciation	7
Unraveling Carr Wilson	8
Study Scrapbook	9
From the Garden	10
Old John's Gift Shop	11
Events Calendar	12

Food & Drink

Perhaps the best part of the TASTE is the flavors of Montgomery County. Local restaurants, caterers, and food vendors will serve up delicious delicacies on the Museum's grounds. Local favorites include: **China Inn, Coal Creek Cellars Winery, Crawfordsville Country Club, Four Seasons, Greek's Pizzeria, The Juniper Spoon, Klooz Brewz, Messer's Bar & Grill, Smokin' Melts & Rollin' Dough, Tacos El Pampano, and Woody's Hawaiian BBQ.** A menu will be

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.



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Notes From The Director



Contrary to what many of us learned in school, history is always evolving; changing as new information

comes to light, as society reinterprets itself, as new issues and concerns take precedence over earlier topics. Some holidays like Columbus Day shift focus, others like Juneteenth come along with their important stories.

Like history, museums are not static in their collections and interpretations. Exotic places like Pompeii, Rome, Egypt, and China are unearthing treasures that change their public interpretation. Closer to home, archaeologists at George Washington's Mount Vernon recently discovered over 30 large glass bottles containing preserved cherries in the basement of the mansion. These bottles and their contents will see years of study but are already revealing information about the enslaved population at Mount Vernon, kitchen and agricultural practices, and how the Washington's entertained guests. It's hard to believe that a site as storied and studied as Mount Vernon still has secrets to reveal!

Like Mount Vernon, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum has been the beneficiary of recently donated artifacts and new research that adds to our understanding of Lew and Susan Wallace. Some of these artifacts will require additional research to help us refine our interpretation, but they assure that the telling of the Wallace story remains vibrant. Did a recently donated hat rack actually hold Lew's derby hat in the late 19th century? Which of Sultan Abdul Hamid's daughters is the subject of the portrait of the Turkish Princess? What stories related to Lew do the recently transcribed letters of Abram Carr Wilson, a member of Lew's 11th Indiana volunteers have to tell us?

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026, the stories that museums share will be even more important, multi-faceted, and inclusive than ever before. Happily for our museum, Lew lends himself to continued investigation and new finds. He was a multi-faceted man with varied interests and careers. Each interest and activity holds the promise of new information and interpretation.

Museum Staff

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Grounds Manager
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@WallaceStudy

TASTE Continued

Finishing out the evening will be the outstanding **Michael Kelsey**, playing from 7 – 9 pm.

Kelsey has toured nationally with Blind Melon and Dishwalla and has opened for the Doobie Brothers, and .38 Special. His improvisational instrumentation and soulful vocals seamlessly blend diverse musical genres as shone at Eric Clapton's Crossroads 2004. He was the winner of Guitar Center's prestigious "Guitarmageddon" competition where he beat out over 3,000 entrants. He is a virtuoso musician who will impress guests at the TASTE. For more information about Kelsey, visit www.michaelkelsey.com

For more information on the musical acts, TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.com or check out our facebook at www.facebook.com/tasteofmontgomerycounty.

Tickets

Advance tickets are now on sale. Advance adult tickets are \$5 and student tickets are \$2. They can be purchased at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Carriage House Interpretive Center, the Montgomery County Visitors and Convention Bureau at 101 W. Main inside Fusion54, Milligan's Flowers & Gifts at 115 E. Main Street, and Crawfordsville Community Center at 922 E. South Blvd. Advance ticket holders can bypass the admission line for

quicker access to the event. Day of event admission will be \$8 for adults and \$3 for students.



Michael Kelsey

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 free admission and their choice of a free T-shirt or food tickets. To volunteer, please visit <http://www.tasteofmontgomerycounty.com/volunteers/> and click the "Sign Up Genius" button or contact the museum.

Sponsors

The General 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, Crossroads Furniture, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Dr. Howard Miller, 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 of 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, Larry Paarlberg, Thomas Meeks, Dale Petrie, and Heather Shirk. A special thanks to committee chair Jessica Bokhart. We'd also like to thank the men of Wabash College for their help with TASTE preparations 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 admission 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 the TASTE, visit TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.

Diplomatic Diversions

Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director

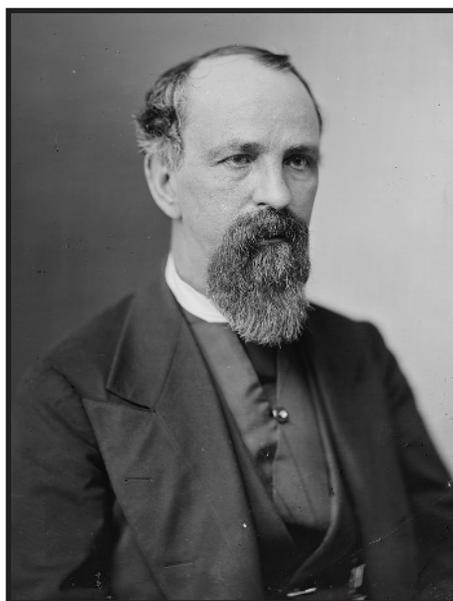
On March 3, 1885, an enthusiastic Lew Wallace wrote to his wife Susan that the day had finally come for him to resign from his diplomatic duties as minister to the Ottoman Empire stating, “If any looker-on... should ask whether... I regret giving up the office, I answer, No, I have seen all there is of it; I have tasted its sweetness; I have squeezed out all its honor; my successor is welcome to it, and the sooner he comes let me off, the better I shall be pleased.”

After submitting his letter of resignation, Wallace eagerly anticipated returning to the comfort of Crawfordsville from the chaos of Constantinople. All he could do now was wait for word from Washington, acknowledging to Susan that “the great men of the Capitol move slowly.” Finally, three and a half weeks later on March 28th, a telegram arrived informing Wallace that President Grover Cleveland had nominated Samuel Sullivan ‘Sunset’ Cox as his successor. Wallace was thrilled, though unsure if Cox had accepted the offer. For now, he was bound to the Bosphorus River, awaiting further notice.

Wallace believed Cox to be an excellent choice for the position. Cox had previously visited Türkiye on two occasions. The first in 1851, when he and his

wife Julia honeymooned aboard a French steamer touring the Mediterranean en route to Constantinople. Thirty years later, in 1881, Cox returned while on a grand tour of Europe, which included stops in England, Germany, Norway, Russia, and more. During this trip, Lew Wallace, freshly appointed Minister to the Ottoman Empire, recognized Cox as a familiar face in a foreign land and invited him to meet Sultan Abdul Hamid II as part of the American Legation.

The Ohio-born lawyer, author, and editor earned the nickname “Sunset” for the colorful exaggerations common in his writing while owner of the Columbus-based *Ohio Statesman* newspaper. Cox entered the political arena in the tumultuous 1850s, representing Ohio in Congress from 1857 to 1865. During the Civil War, Cox positioned himself as a



Samuel “Sunset” Cox

moderate Unionist with distinct sympathies towards the South. He opposed the Thirteenth Amendment and campaigned against President Lincoln in 1864, which ultimately led to his defeat in that year’s congressional elections.

Once out of Congress, Cox moved to New York, returning to the practice of law and producing memoirs of his time in Washington D.C. Soon after, his interest in politics was reignited by the impeachment process of President Andrew Johnson. In 1869, Cox was elected in a landslide to represent New York in Congress, a position he held until 1885.

Cox was initially hesitant about his diplomatic appointment to the Ottoman Empire. He was accustomed to his comfortable life stateside, particularly his lengthy twenty-year congressional career. However, the allure of the Orient proved irresistible. Viewing the appointment as an opportunity to recapture the romance of his honeymoon and to represent his homeland on the global stage rather than just local, Cox ultimately accepted the position. He began making preparations to embark across the Atlantic en route to the Sublime Porte of Constantinople.

Ten days had passed since Cox accepted the position and Wallace still had no word

of his resignation. Writing to Susan on April 7, he expressed his restlessness: “I cannot understand it, and my impatience grows with the passage of days.” Wallace wrote to Washington a second time asking to be recalled by the last of the month.

On April 14, Wallace wrote to Susan again stating, “I am packing for my departure, which cannot be much longer delayed. The last steamer... brought a letter of recall, the one I have so long been waiting for. It is very courteous, announces the appointment of my successor, and ends by requesting and hoping I will stay in Constantinople until shortly before Mr. Cox’s arrival.”

In 1885, the quickest, fairest, and most consistent transatlantic ticket was the Cunard Line. Established as the first scheduled steamship connection to North America in 1839, the British shipping and cruise line between Queenstown and New York brought an estimated two and a half million immigrants to the United States in the 1880s alone. By this time, the voyage was cut down to seven days. A short hop, skip, and jump compared to the eighteen days it took to cross in 1839.

Cox secured passage for himself and his wife aboard the *R.M.S. Gallia* with the departure date set for June 20. The *Gallia* was named for the ancient region of Western Europe that was home

to the Celtic Gauls; modern day France. Built in 1879 by the Glasgow based J. & G. Thomson & Company, the 430 foot ocean liner was considered state of the art and capable of carrying hundreds of passengers.

As the steamer pushed into the Atlantic on Saturday, June 20, 1885, everything was running smoothly. However, on the third day of the voyage, roughly 600 miles east of Newfoundland, the *Gallia*’s engine shaft broke. Cox and the 300 other passengers on board tried to remain calm as the engineers diagnosed the issue, but the lack of long term provisions while being stranded in the middle of the ocean was a fear inducing thought.

The first night passed, and no other steamship liners had gone by. Panic really set in at dusk of the second night. Finally, at nine p.m. on Thursday, June 25th, the *Gallia* was spotted by the *SS Adriatic*, a relief for all involved. The next morning, the *SS Geiser* came to tow the disabled *Gallia*. Unfortunately, the *Geiser*’s towline snapped, leaving the *Gallia* stranded once again. This time, passengers were at ease with their whereabouts known.

Soon after, multiple other ships aided the *Gallia*, bringing provisions and taking mail on board. Finally, the *Gallia* was taken in tow again, this time by the steamer *River Avon*. After a three day tow toward Sevilla, Spain, the engineers aboard the *Gallia* were able to repair the broken shaft while still at sea, and the ship proceeded to Liverpool. They arrived on July 5th, eight days overdue. At the time, forty days were allotted to diplomats for travel to Constantinople from New York. Diversions Cox may have enjoyed en route were now cut short after losing so many days stranded in the Atlantic.

Unlike Cox’s journey, Wallace had left Türkiye back on May 20th, and leisured about Italy for a couple weeks. He arrived in New York on July 3, two days before the *Gallia* reached Liverpool. Wallace likely empathized with Cox’s experience, but was so overjoyed to be home that he told a *New York Tribune* reporter, “I am home again... and more satisfied than ever with my country.”



RMS *Gallia*

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 24th, we roll right into a great series of educational programs.

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green will be the first book club selection in the fall to be discussed on September 18. The book follows Colin Singleton, a child prodigy living in Chicago, who fears he will not maintain his genius as an adult. In his life, Colin has dated nineteen girls named Katherine, all spelled the same. After being dumped by Katherine XIX, Colin is longing to feel whole, and longing to matter. He hopes to become a genius by having a defining “eureka” moment.

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 pm - The Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series - Carriage House
Former Wabash College Archivist Beth Swift will give a lecture called **Athens of Indiana: The Pre-War Years** about Montgomery County prior to the Civil War. Included in her talk will be

the Wabash College Cadets, a militia formed of college students that trained alongside Lew Wallace’s Montgomery Guards militia.

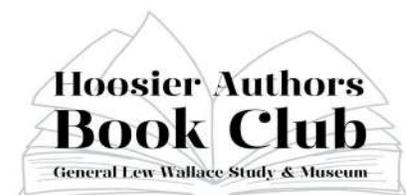
Thursday, October 17, 7:00 pm - The Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series - Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church
Renowned storyteller Dolores Hydock and musician Bobby Horton will present *A Sweet Strangeness Fills My Heart, The Journals of Sallie Independence Foster 1861-1887*. This performance, based on Sallie’s diaries, papers, and letters from her brothers off at war, presents a funny, touching, and uniquely personal look at the life and times that Sallie shared with her paper “dear Companion.” Dolores and Bobby interweave Sallie’s story with camp songs, period favorites, and original tunes to create a poignant, powerful, and humorous picture of a world of innocence turned upside-down.

Thursday, October 24th, 7:00pm - Hoosier Authors Book Club - Carriage House
The final book club selection of 2024 is *The Magic Garden* by Gene Stratton-Porter. The book club will meet and discuss the book on October 24th.

Stratton-Porter’s final novel follows Amaryllis, who after careful consideration, decides to run off in search of love. She finds a beautiful garden where she meets John Guido, a lonely teenage boy whom she promises to marry when she grows up. Unfortunately, her father finds Amaryllis and takes her away against her wishes.

Saturday, November 30, 5:00 pm - Hoosier Author Fair - Fusion 54
In conjunction with Crawfordsville Main Street’s Downtown Party Night on Small Business Saturday, we are hosting our 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 6, 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Holdiay Tea & Fashion Show
Held at the Elston Homestead, this fundraiser will showcase a selection of sweet and savory treats, holiday music, and an interactive fashion show presented by women’s clothing store heathcliff.



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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Unraveling Carr Wilson

Sully Caldwell

Summer Intern

In 2008, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum received a collection of 45 letters donated by a member of the Wilson family, giving a different perspective of a soldier in the Civil War (1861-1865). The letters are a one way correspondence between a Lieutenant in the Union Army and his wife back home. The letters have been waiting to be transcribed and they were only just finished this summer.

Abraham “Carr” Wilson was a Union soldier who was mustered from Indiana and served from 1861 until his confirmed death in the Fall of 1864. He served in the Eleventh Indiana under Lew Wallace, and then re-enlisted after three months and continued to serve in Company “I” until his death. His wife Mary “Mollie” Wilson was the recipient of Carr’s letters. Carr and Mollie were married on September 21, 1858 and their first child was born on November 3, 1858 named Hugh R. Wilson. They may have cared for another child (whose name we believe was George), and in a letter dated to April of 1861 Carr speaks of another child but it does not appear that the child survived long after birth.

In Carr’s letters, it’s clear that they loved each other and that writing to each other was a solace that they could both partake in to extract themselves

from reality, and converse as if they were close rather than the hundreds of miles apart. Along with the loving exchanges, Carr consistently makes it a point to state that if she ever needed help, his Grandpop was there to help with anything. Carr details the life of a soldier in the Union Army and the horrible conditions that they faced such as weather difficulties, constant death, and the various illnesses that plagued the camps such as typhoid, camp diarrhea, and infected battle wounds.

After describing his daily routine, Carr frequently mentions mutual acquaintances that he has seen, asks about things in Crawfordsville, and always makes sure that he closes with a hug and kiss for Mollie, Hugh, and George. In December of 1864, it appears Mollie received a letter in which it states *“Enclosed you will find further certificate on active services of your late husband. Will you please acknowledge its receipt. You failed to acknowledge the receipt of certificate I sent you last session at least I did not receive any letter from you on the subject.”* After looking through various sources and databases within Indiana, we can find no record of his death.

While the letters are a good primary source from the Civil War, they only depict one side

of the conversation which leads us to believe that her letters were either lost or destroyed. This gap leaves information that could have helped explain some responses from Carr that he brushed off or gave a cursory response to.

Following the war, Mollie married Milo Suman on September 27, 1866 who took guardianship over Hugh in 1867. Hugh would go on to marry Sarah Louise Campbell on February 6, 1892 and have two children a boy named Carr after his grandfather and a daughter named Rebecca.

I found it intriguing listening to everyday life of an officer during the Civil War and what the conditions were like from a first-hand account rather than a generalization from various accounts that were focused in one state or region. Despite the death and constant battles he was around, Carr always managed to sit down and write to his wife which shows his commitment to Mollie.

From all of us at the Study, we owe our Intern Sully Caldwell a serious debt of gratitude. In her short time with us, she has accomplished so much to benefit our mission. Thank you for your hard work Sully.

-Larry, Tom, Deb





Study Scrapbook



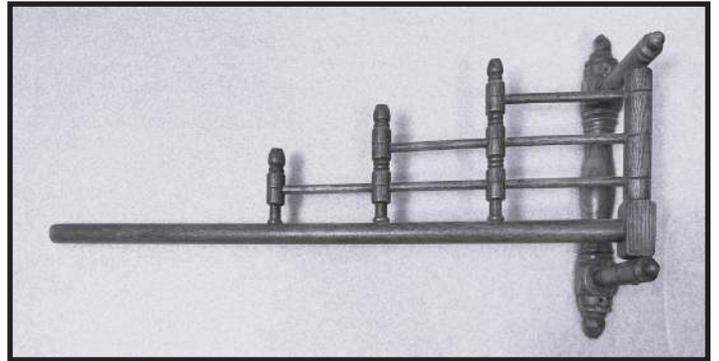
Book signing for Michael Fox's new book *LEW*.



ArchiCampers building birdhouses.



Corvette Club visit to the Study.



Recently donated Wallace family coatrack.



Monocacy National Battlefield 160th anniversary celebrations.



New museum wayfinding sign.

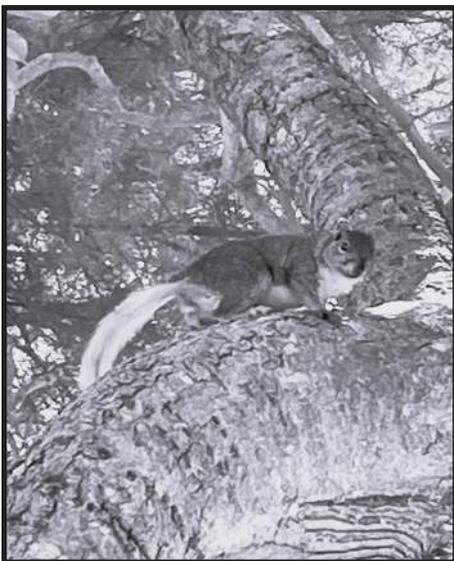
From The Garden

Deb King

Grounds Manager

After a glorious spring, summer has arrived and the gardens are filled with color. The Moat garden, dug up in the fall of 2023, has been replanted. In the spring, the Moat garden birdbath was surrounded by spring daffodils, bearded iris, and Siberian iris. More bulbs will arrive for fall planting.

Summer color is provided by red bee balm, purple liatris, white daisies, yellow black-eyed Susans, orange butterfly weed and pink coneflower. Elephant ears and seeds of marigolds, zinnias, celosia and castor bean fill in the blank spots. It is a paradise for hummingbirds, bees and goldfinches. Milkweed provides food for the monarch butterflies. I was excited to see the Jack in the pulpit, planted in 2022, have its first bloom this year. The wild ginger has grown into nice clumps and the mayapples are spreading.



White-tailed Squirrel

This year, native cardinal flower has been planted in the smaller moat garden. It will have red tubular flowers on a 3'-4' stalk. It may take a few years to get established. Another red perennial planted is royal catchfly, or fire pink. This perennial is a color magnet for hummingbirds and butterflies. It will grow to be 2 feet tall.

This spring I walked the woods, with permission, hunting for mushrooms and collecting wildflowers. My backpack was filled with wild yellow violets, squirrel corn (hoped for Dutchman's breeches) and what I hope is white trillium. Masses of Prairie trillium were growing on the forest floor and I plan to continue my quest next spring to find other plants to add to Lew's gardens!

One oddity on the Museum grounds this year is the appearance of white-tailed squirrels. In the past, we have had an all-white squirrel but we had not seen squirrels with just white tails. I have seen the white tail squirrels all over the Crawfordsville Parks system, Wabash College campus and even my home! The question is why these squirrels are appearing in so many numbers this year. Causes of a change of color could be Leucism—a genetic condition, similar to albinism, which causes partial loss of pigment. Or a recessive



Cardinal Flower

trait has developed in offspring whose mother has a white tail.

The squirrel colony at the Museum is quite large and the interaction between the 'white tails' and the 'normal' squirrels doesn't seem affected by the color difference.

For a small donation, pots of divided perennials provided some added color to our visitor's gardens. Hostas, coneflower, yarrow, lily of the valley, moonflower, black-eyed Susans, garden phlox, ostrich fern and bee balm starts were available this spring. Visitors could also pick up free packets of celosia, moonflower, black-eyed Susans, and gold dust alyssum seeds that were collected last fall.

Old John's Gift Shop

In recent weeks, we have freshened up the wares available in our gift shop. A number of new items are now available including die-cut stickers of General Lew Wallace and the Study building.

School: Lincoln School for Colored Children as well as her older titles Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite and The Legend of the Legendary League: A History of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County.

Finally, we are prepared for the upcoming holiday season after an extremely talented Hoosier woodworker recently donated custom wood ornaments of the Study that are available for sale. We hope to see you soon!

There are also new Lew Wallace books available, including *The Man Who Saved Cincinnati* by Peter Bronson and *Lew: The Life and Times of the Author of Ben-Hur* by Michael Fox. We have recently added local author Shannon Sullivan Hudson's new Crawfordsville history book *To Remember the Forgotten*



New stickers available in gift shop.

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
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2024 Summer & Fall Events Calendar

August 24 - **The TASTE! of Montgomery County:** Noon - 9 pm

September 19 - **Hoosier Author's Book Club:** *An Abundance of Katherines*
by John Green

September 26 - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series:** Former Wabash Archivist Beth Swift speaking on the *Athens of Indiana: The Pre-Civil War Years*.

October 17 - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series:** *A Sweet Strangness Fills My Heart, The Journals of Sallie Independence Foster 1861 - 1887*, performed by Delores Hydock and Bobby Horton

October 24 - **Hoosier Author's Book Club:** *The Magic Garden* by Gene Stratton-Porter

November 30 - **Hoosier Author's Book Fair:** Downtown Party Night at Fusion 54

December 6 - **Holiday Tea & Fashion Show:** At the Historic Elston Homestead