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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.

2024 Exhibit “The Flower of Gallantry”

Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director

Each year, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum creates an exhibit to showcase the life of Lew Wallace. We are pleased to announce the opening of *The Flower of Gallantry: The Montgomery Guards & the 11th Indiana Volunteers 1856-1861*. The exhibit examines how Lew Wallace's local militia company blended into the famed Eleventh Indiana Civil War regiment.

The mid-1850s was a time of personal and political self-discovery for Wallace. He was sure of one thing, that a conflict between the states was near. Fueled by his unwavering pursuit of honor and a desire to preserve the Union, Wallace decided to ready himself for the impending conflict by organizing a local militia known as the Montgomery Guards.

The Guards' dedication to drilling, rooted in an innovative French aesthetic, laid the groundwork for their lasting legacy following the war.

The exhibit explores how Lew Wallace and the Montgomery Guards evolved into the Eleventh Indiana Volunteers at the start of the war. Highlights include the inspiration and adoption of the French Zouave infantry style, Wallace's appointment as Indiana's Adjutant General and commander of the Eleventh Indiana, the oath to “Remember Buena Vista” taken in

front of the Indiana Statehouse, and the national exposure of the regiment following the gallant romp on Romney, Virginia. As part of the Eleventh Indiana, many of the former Montgomery Guards became officers in the war with commissions ranging from Second Lieutenant to Major General.

The Flower of Gallantry will run through early December 2024 and may be viewed free of charge from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

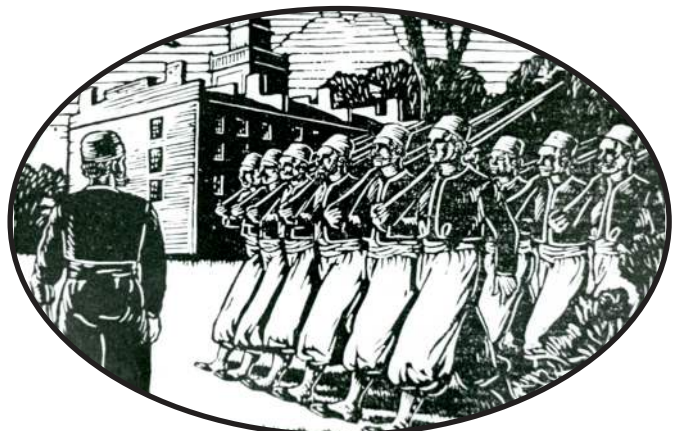


Illustration of the Montgomery Guards Drilling from July 1979 *Montgomery Magazine*.

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Notes From The Director



As we work to preserve the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum we are mindful of the changing world around us. People and

information are more mobile than ever before which brings a new set of challenges as we seek to communicate relevance. The Wallace museum, together with other historic resources in our county, brings a sense of identity to the community in a changing world which helps people foster a system of personal values that guides their approach to life.

For the community at large, we believe that the numerous cultural facilities in Crawfordsville lay the groundwork for a strong and resilient community. Even for those who are new to the area, the collective memory of our county builds a sense of place and belonging. When we share stories and experiences, the community is strengthened by building a common bond.

We also believe that our museums are a catalyst for the economy. Tourism is one of the cleanest industries and people are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity. Preservation of history is an essential component of any vibrant local economy.

It enhances business development by providing an infrastructure that attracts a broad range of talent.

The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (the state agency responsible for tourism in Indiana) recently released information on the economic impact of tourism in Indiana in 2022—the most recent year for which numbers are available. They found that Indiana hosted almost 81 million visitors who spent more than \$15 billion. There are over 200,000 jobs dependent on tourism with wages of over \$6 billion dollars, taxes generated of almost \$3 billion, and a total economic contribution of almost \$10 billion. In this study, which can be broken out county by county, the study found that visitors spent over \$80 million tourism dollars in Montgomery County—which ranked 19th of Indiana’s 93 counties.

As the agency History Relevance has pointed out, history also helps people craft better solutions. By bringing history into discussions about contemporary issues, we can better understand the origins of and multiple perspectives on challenges facing our community. A sense of history provides leaders with inspiration and role models for addressing current issues. History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future

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@WallaceStudy

Notes From The Director Continued

generations. History is crucial to preserving democracy by explaining our shared past. Without the preservation of our collective histories, future generations will have no grounding in what it means to be an American. Communities and nations fail when they lose their identity and a rising

generation has little invested in its sense of place.

For all of these reasons we work to preserve the legacy of Lew Wallace, using it as a springboard for our visitors to consider their legacy in their lives and for their communities. We sincerely appreciate the

support of all of our members, sponsors, and supporters who make this work possible.




Adopt-A-Spot Program

“A place where I can get away...”

Lew Wallace dreamed of a sanctuary and thankfully his dream was fulfilled. Today, the Museum grounds provide a bit of sanctuary for all who enjoy the serene grounds of the Study. The grounds, filled with gardens and trees have become an important component of a visitor’s experience.

The Museum invites you to collaborate with us in developing and maintaining the Museum’s gardens and arboretum. There are thirteen gardens available for adoption, all named for an aspect of Lew’s life: The Ben Hur garden, Susan’s garden, Henry’s garden, Lew Jr’s. garden, Tee’s garden, Water Babble garden, Wallace garden, Old John’s garden, Terrace garden, Princess Irene’s garden, Moat garden, Statue garden and Zouave garden.

The Adopt-A-Spot program provides the Museum with funds needed to keep Lew Wallace’s dream alive. Tree and plant labels, interpretive signs, tree maintenance and replanting, rehabilitation of gardens, and other improvements are funded by the Adopt-A-Spot program.



Be a part of History!

Learn how to Adopt-A-Spot Today!

Contact the Museum at

study@ben-hur.com

or (765) 362-5769

Friendly Inspiration: Benson Lossing & Lew Wallace

Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director

From an early age, Lew Wallace was fascinated by artistic expression. As he came into manhood, Lew's father discouraged his artistic pursuits stating, "In our country art is to have its day, but the day may not come in your time." Influenced by this fatherly advice, Wallace stated in his autobiography, "I resolved to give up the dream." Yet the allure of artistic expression continued to linger for Wallace. "Still it haunts me," he continued, "At this day even, I cannot look at a great picture without envying its creator. The delight he must have had while it was in evolution."

Lew's father lived in a bygone era in comparison to his sons. By the late 1850s, illustrated newspapers had become a resounding success. Esteemed artists were in high demand by nationally recognized publications that relied on pictures to complement their narratives, such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. The images within vividly captured the true spirit of 19th-century Americanism.

Lew Wallace recognized the impact an illustration could have on a narrative. In 1886, he created sketches to complement his wife Susan's book, *Ginevra*.

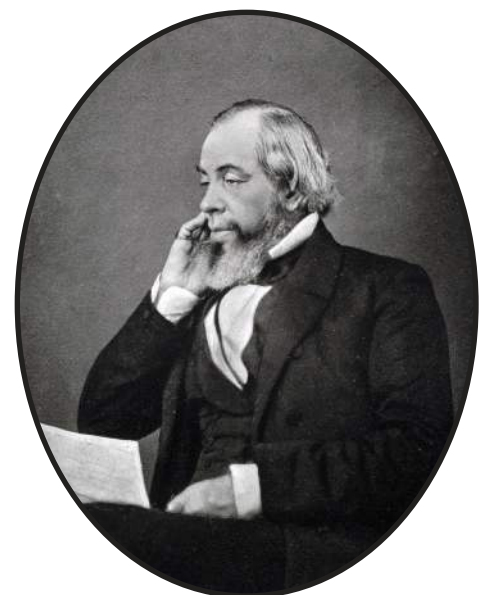
Susan, with her own intriguing background, attended a Quaker boarding school in Poughkeepsie, New York as a teenager. While in New York, Susan developed a close friendship with Helen Sweet, who later married the renowned American historian Benson Lossing.

Lossing, like Wallace, also grasped the significance of supporting a narrative with illustrations. His most celebrated historical works, namely *A Pictorial History of the American Revolution* and *A Pictorial History of the Civil War*, were strategically marketed around this very idea. Upon meeting, Lew Wallace and Benson Lossing quickly formed a lifelong friendship. They were compatible like connecting puzzle pieces, just as their wives were.

Lossing was born to Quaker parents on February 12, 1813 in Beekman, New York. Orphaned as an eleven year-old boy, Lossing moved to Poughkeepsie in his teen years to begin an apprenticeship as a watchmaker. He spent much of his free time sketching and scouring history books. In 1835, at the age of 22, Lossing became a part owner of the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* newspaper, and eventually the *Poughkeepsie Casket* literary paper. Journalism exposed

Lossing to the intricacies of wood engraving, a printmaking technique where an artist uses a carved block of wood to reproduce detailed images. In order to refine his engravings, Lossing journeyed to New York City in 1838, actively seeking instruction in detailed illustration.

Throughout the 1840s, Lossing's fusion of engravings with historical narrative gave rise, in his own words, to a "visible language" that resonated with the masses. This innovative approach, with its epic portrayal of historical events, particularly appealed to the new waves of immigrants learning the language. It also appealed to American citizens looking to reaffirm their sense of patriotism. His use of primary sources—interviews, artifacts, and personal sketches



Benson Lossing, 1860.

of what he was seeing—brought his narrative to life, giving credibility and drawing in new audiences. Over the ensuing forty years, Lossing was prolific, publishing more than forty works as an author or editor.

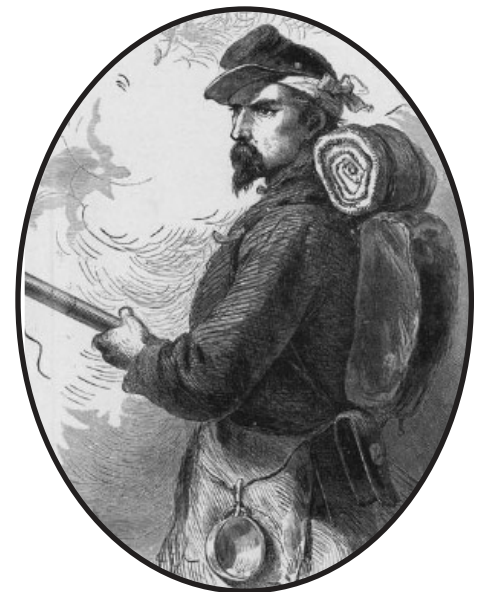
Lossing and Helen married in 1856. As the Civil War unfolded, Helen's close friendship with Susan Wallace became a valuable link for Benson to a crucial primary source—Lew Wallace. The war developments Lew experienced were conveyed through letters from Susan to Helen, who, in turn, shared this information with her husband. Lew and Benson also engaged in direct correspondence during the war, so much so that Lew expressed concern that he might be boring Benson with the details.

Lew Wallace held deep admiration for the creative life that Lossing led. He often acknowledged Lossing's prowess as both an author and

artist, a sentiment imbued by bittersweet emotion as he had sought such qualities within himself. In a letter to Lossing in 1864, Lew wrote, "There are a number of qualities you possess, which I would give anything for... a habit of steady, constant, persevering labor, not working by fits, but always going, like a running stream."

Inspired by his friend, Lew focused more on his writing, publishing *The Fair God* in 1873, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* in 1880, and *The Prince of India* in 1893. It could be possible Lossing urged Lew to pick up the paint brush again as well. Though we cannot make this claim with certainty, we do know that in the same 1864 letter, Lew thanked Lossing for sending him a box of paints that included a delicate sepia color. All of Lew's paintings we are aware of were created after this gift. One thing is sure, Wallace fully embraced his creative side following his friendship with Lossing.

Lossing sent an engraving of an unknown soldier to Lew because he believed it looked like him. The image, originally created by famed American illustrator F.O.C. Darley was used in one of Lossing's books. That original engraving is currently on display as a part of our 2024 exhibit *The Flower of Gallantry: The Montgomery Guards & the Eleventh Indiana Volunteers 1856-1861*.



Engraving sent to Lew Wallace by Benson Lossing.

The TASTE! of Montgomery County Saturday, August 24th

General Lew Wallace Study
& Museum

200 Wallace Ave.,
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For more information visit
tasteofmontgomerycounty.com
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Spring & Summer Programming

The Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series

The Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series programs help to compliment our yearly exhibit in the Carriage House Interpretive Center. This year there are five lectures scheduled to support our 2024 Civil War themed exhibit. The first by Owen Bennett, Assistant Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society— Lane Place on **March 21**. His program, ***Reconstructing Henry S. Lane: Redefining Political Legacy Amidst Reconstruction Ambiguity*** looked at how Henry S. Lane's active role in reconstruction efforts following the Civil War have been largely diminished in historical narratives. He also discussed the politics and lasting political legacy of Lane.

On Thursday, **April 25**, we are proud to welcome newsman, author, and editor, Peter Bronson to Crawfordsville. Mr. Bronson has recently published a book entitled ***The Man Who Saved Cincinnati***. Bronson will discuss Lew Wallace's role in defending Cincinnati from a potential Confederate attack in

September 1862; including the Black Brigade, the first African Americans employed in defense of the Union, the Ohio Squirrel Hunter volunteers, and more.

On Thursday, **May 16**, Crawfordsville's own Shannon Sullivan Hudson will discussing ***The United States Colored Troops of Montgomery County***. The talk will cover how local African Americans responded to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. It is largely an untold history of service and sacrifice.

Two additional lectures are scheduled for the fall. Beth Swift, former Wabash College archivist, will give a talk titled ***Athens of Indiana: The Pre-War Years*** on Thursday, **September 26** about Montgomery County prior to the Civil War. On Thursday, **October 17**, Dolores Hydock and musician Bobby Horton will give their presentation of ***A Sweet Strangeness Fills My Heart, The Journals of Sallie Independence Foster 1861-1887***.

The Hoosier Authors Book Club

The Hoosier Authors Book Club began as part of our Indiana Bicentennial programming in 2016 with the Museum's exhibit on the Golden Age of Indiana Literature. This Golden Age began with the publication of Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur*. The book club has proven to be a popular program with almost 50 books on a wide range of subjects having been read since late 2015.

The meetings are at **7:00 p.m. EDT** in the **Lew Wallace Carriage House**. The books selected this year demonstrate the broad range of Hoosier literature that is available!

The book club readings begin with ***Shakespeare Saved My Life*** by author Laura Bates on **April 18**. In this captivating memoir, Shakespeare professor and prison volunteer Laura Bates takes us on an extraordinary journey through the darkest corners of incarceration, where she shares the incredible story of a prisoner's redemption through the timeless words of William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare Saved My Life is a riveting testament to the transformative power of literature, showcasing how the universal themes of love, betrayal, forgiveness, and redemption resonate even in



Spring & Summer Programming

the harshest of circumstances. Bates's poignant narrative highlights the resilience of the human spirit and the potential for personal growth, no matter the circumstances.

On **June 20**, the club will discuss *Hoosier Public Enemy: A Life of John Dillinger* by John A. Beinke. During the bleak days of the Great Depression, news of economic hardship often took a backseat to articles on the exploits of an outlaw from Indiana—John Dillinger. For a period of fourteen months during 1933 and 1934 Dillinger became the most famous bandit in American history, and no criminal since has matched him for his celebrity and notoriety.

In *Hoosier Public Enemy: A Life of John Dillinger*, the ninth volume in the Indiana Historical Society Press's Youth Biography Series, John A. Beineke delves into Dillinger's life from his unhappy days growing up in Indianapolis and Mooresville, Indiana; his first unlucky brush with the law; his embracing of a life of crime while behind bars at the Indiana Reformatory; his exploits as the leader of a gang that terrorized banks and outwitted law enforcement in the Midwest, earning a reputation as a Robin Hood-style criminal, and his headline-grabbing death in a hail of bullets on July 22, 1934, at the Biograph Theater in Chicago.

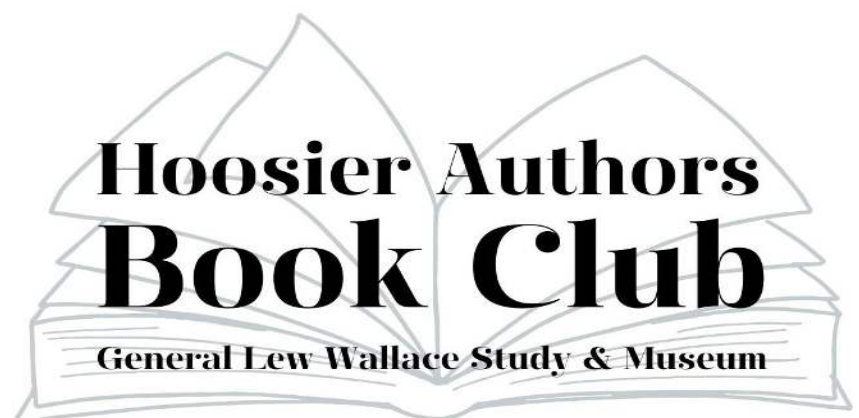
Dillinger won public attention not only for his robberies, but his many escapes from the law. As noted in the book, Dillinger's breakouts, getaways, and close calls were all part of the story. The escapes he made from jails or tight spots, when it seemed law officials had him cornered, became the stuff of legend. While the public would never admit that they wanted the bad guy to win, many could not help but root for the man who appeared to be an underdog.

The third book selected this year is, *You Should See Me In A Crown* by Leah Johnson that will be discussed on **July 18**. Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, and too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed Midwestern town. But it's okay -- Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever: attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra, and become a doctor. But when the financial aid she

was counting on unexpectedly falls through, Liz's plans come crashing down . . . until she's reminded of her school's scholarship for prom king and queen. There's nothing Liz wants to do less than endure a gauntlet of social media trolls, catty competitors, and humiliating public events, but despite her devastating fear of the spotlight she's willing to do whatever it takes to get to Pennington.

The only thing that makes it halfway bearable is the new girl in school, Mack. She's smart, funny, and just as much of an outsider as Liz. But Mack is also in the running for queen. Will falling for the competition keep Liz from her dreams . . . or make them come true?

The final two selections for this year are *An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green on **September 18** and *The Magic Garden* by Gene Stratton-Porter on **October 24** recognizing the centennial of Stratton-Porter's death in 1924.



General Lew Wallace Study & Museum Contributions

Received October 16, 2023 through February 29, 2023

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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 Beverly Wyatt
 Jerilyn Yerkes

From The Arboretum

Deb King
 Grounds Manager

The Water Babble garden, named after Lew Wallace's summer home, continues to be planted with Indiana natives. One of those natives is the mayapple. Mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, is a glossy green 'umbrella' that grows in shady areas, among the rich humus of the forest floor. In mid-spring, mayapple foliage appears, followed by a solitary nodding white blossom in May. Mayapples grow in colonies, spread by their rhizomes. Many mushroom hunters look for a stand of mayapples to find the

elusive morel mushroom. Another native planted on the grounds is wild ginger. *Asarum canadense*, has large heart-shaped leaves and colonizes like the mayapple. Wild ginger prefers a moist shady environment and will carpet the area. We have two clumps planted along a drainage area near the Reflecting Pool.

Other native plants under consideration are great blue lobelia, bloodroot, Royal catchfly, woodland larkspur, and sundrops.



Mayapple Leaf



Wild Ginger

Winter Intern

Sullivan (Sully) Caldwell, a student from Franklin College, volunteered her services as an intern at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum this past January. Her internship was designed to be rather open-ended in an effort to give Sully the broadest experience possible with respect to the operations of a small museum. She quickly became part of our team, accepting all kinds of assignments with energy and enthusiasm. Two of her research finds actually ended up in the 2024 exhibit!

In her brief time with us, she helped assemble installations for our 2024 exhibit, rehoused collections removed from our 2023 exhibit, shadowed staff on tours, worked in our Past Perfect collections database, transcribed 19th century letters in one collection and organized another collection of Civil War letters. She also created two booklets based on the text from previous exhibits that will be for sale in our gift shop. It was a pleasure to have Sully join us for her internship and wish her well as she pursues her degree.



Intern Sully Caldwell

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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Enclosed is my check payable to the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society

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I wish to remain anonymous

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Study Scrapbook



*Lew Wallace & James Whitcomb Riley
on Study terrace.*



2023 Holiday Tea Smorgasbord



*New Collection Item
Ben-Hur Carousel Postcard*



*11th Indiana Soldier Carte-de-visites
featured in 2024 exhibit.*



View from the Study tower.



Spring Daffodil Bloom



GENERAL LEW WALLACE STUDY & MUSEUM

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2024 Spring & Summer Events Calendar

April 18 - **Hoosier Authors Book Club**

Shakespeare Saved My Life by Laura Bates

April 25 - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series**

The Man Who Saved Cincinnati by Peter Bronson

May 16 - **Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series**

The United States Colored Troops of Montgomery County
by Shannon Sullivan Hudson

June 18 & 19 - **ArchiCamp**

Architectural themed camp for kids 8-12 years old

June 20 - **Hoosier Authors Book Club**

Hoosier Public Enemy: A Life of John Dillinger by John A. Beineke

July 18 - **Hoosier Authors Book Club**

You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson

August 24 - **The TASTE! of Montgomery County**