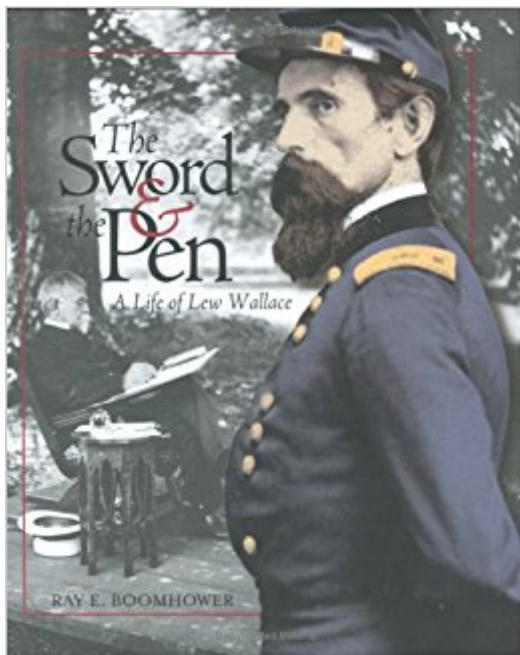


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The Sword & The Pen: A Life Of Lew Wallace



Synopsis

From fighting for the cause of freedom during the Civil War to writing of one of the best-selling books of all time, Lew Wallace of Indiana enjoyed a remarkable career that touched the lives of such famous figures in American history as Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain, James Garfield, James Whitcomb Riley, and Billy the Kid. The ups and downs of Wallace's amazing days are told in this new biography for young readers. Written by award-winning Hoosier historian and author Ray E. Boomhower, *The Sword and the Pen: A Life of Lew Wallace*, includes numerous photographs and illustrations of Wallace and the people he met and events he participated in during his lifetime. The book also features information on historic places related to Wallace's life and times. Growing up when much of Indiana was still a wilderness, Wallace frequently fled from his classroom studies to wander the woods and fields he loved. The son of an Indiana governor, Wallace became passionate about books and combat. He tried to win lasting fame through service for the Union cause on the battlefield during the Civil War, but instead won honor and glory through a quieter pastime: writing. His novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, became one of the country's best-loved books and was made into two successful Hollywood films. At various times in his life, Wallace also was a lawyer, an Indiana state senator, vice president of the court-martial that tried the conspirators behind the assassination of President Lincoln, governor of the New Mexico Territory during the days of outlaw Billy the Kid, and a diplomat who represented the United States in Turkey. Wallace dreamed always of glory and lived a life full of adventures, triumphs, and tragedies. Through it all, he believed in himself and was never afraid to accept new challenges. He remains one of the most colorful and important figures in the Hoosier State's history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ray E Boomhower is senior editor with the Indiana Historical Society Press, where he edits the quarterly popular history magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. His previous books include biographies of author and Civil War general Lew Wallace, famed Hoosier war correspondent Ernie Pyle, suffragette and peace activist May Wright Sewell, World War II photographer John A. Bushemi, and astronaut Gus Grisson. In 1998 Boomhower received the IHS's Hoosier Historian honor.

Written for perhaps high school students but I really enjoyed it. He was an interesting guy. Sort of like Forrest Gump! He seemed to be associated with many famous people in history.

I found this book very inviting to read. Ray Boomhower did a good job of revealing the character of Lew Wallace while helping keep the reader's interest. I personally do not like exhaustive historical works but much prefer ones that expose me to the important highlights of a topic or in this case an extraordinary individual in a succinct manner. It was not too lengthy, just what I have been wanting for a number of years. The movie *Ben Hur* has been my favorite for decades and I had always been curious about the author Lew Wallace. Thank you Mr. Boomhower.

I really recommend this book for everyone interested in history. We bought it as a life story of Gen. Lew Wallace, the famous author of *Ben-Hur*. And you need not be disappointed: It tells an interesting and vivid story about him from early boyhood years up to the years of his great achievements. But it also brings a fine picture of the life in general at that time. And it tells about many other famous U.S. citizens of the era. To be a fairly short book, it contains a lot of interesting reading. Warmly recommended!

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