

manuscripts that made this great interior region of North America known to the wider Atlantic world. Most of the items are rare works, often listed in bibliographies but seldom available to readers. One pamphlet is unique—the only surviving copy of *The Life and Confession of James Hudson* (Indianapolis, 1825), the first white man executed in America for the murder of an Indian, “written and published at the request of the deceased.”

Of itself this catalogue has permanent value for librarians and rare book dealers, or as an elegant souvenir of the exhibit. For students of history its greatest service is to call attention to the valuable library of the Indiana Historical Society. A similar exhibit for items published since 1838 would be a welcome elaboration of this theme.

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Patrick J. Furlong

Lew Wallace: Militant Romantic. By Robert E. Morsberger and Katharine M. Morsberger. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1980. Pp. xii, 560. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$17.95.)

Lew Wallace, one of the most fascinating Hoosiers, has been in need of an objective, scholarly biography for a long time. The only reliable work on Wallace was Irving McKee's short, undocumented biography, published in 1947. Wallace's autobiography was less than half complete when he died, and his wife Susan chronicled the remaining forty-five years of his life in 200 pages. As with most autobiographies, Wallace's, although informative and entertaining, is self-serving—an important consideration when studying the man's life.

Robert Morsberger and Katharine Morsberger have attempted and for the most part succeeded in producing a definitive one-volume biography of this man who played an important role in American military, literary, political, diplomatic, and religious history. It is unfortunate that this book cannot be given unqualified praise; however, it has some serious weaknesses. The most disturbing is its lack of adequate documentation. Although the bibliography is impressive, the end notes are much less so. In the first eleven chapters the authors rely exclusively on Wallace's autobiography in more than half of their notes. Also, the authors depended almost entirely for their primary source material on the Lew Wallace letters in the Wallace Collection of the Indiana Historical Society Library. Although this is a fine collection whose use is greatly

simplified by an exhaustive calendar, it, like the autobiography, is one-sided, and events are seen only through Wallace's eyes. The danger of overuse of such sources is obvious. A flagrant example concerns the battle of Shiloh in April, 1862. The authors use the autobiography to substantiate Wallace's forty-year claim that he was the scapegoat for U.S. Grant's failure. The episode is by no means as free of debate as the Morsbergers, with their limited source material, imply. Knowing how Shiloh haunted Wallace until the end of his life, they should have been more cautious in accepting his views on the subject.

Despite these criticisms, the book has strong points. It is well organized and very readable. Although the work is arranged topically, one has little trouble following Wallace's myriad and often overlapping activities. When dealing with his governorship of New Mexico, for example, the authors manage to treat Wallace's writing of *Ben Hur*, a large portion of which was done in Sante Fe, without letting that topic interfere with discussion of his territorial rule. *Ben Hur* is saved for the next chapter, where the emphasis shifts from the military and politics to literature. In addition, the authors give excellent critical analyses of Wallace's writings. Finally, although the book is inadequately documented, a check of the sources shows it to be substantially correct in fact and interpretation. In short, this biography, flawed as it is, is an improvement on McKee and more reliable than Wallace's autobiography.

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Raymond L. Shoemaker

The Road Taken. By Lee Norvelle. (Bloomington: Indiana University Foundation, 1980. Pp. 349. Illustrations, index. \$10.00.)

The first half of Lee Norvelle's autobiography tells the remarkable story of a northern Kentucky farm kid who resumed grade school at age nineteen—after spending years at home helping his parents farm—and with considerable effort and much help from a number of teachers at Asbury College, Taylor University, and Indiana University (Bloomington), finished his B.A. degree in psychology ten years later. Today's reader must marvel at Norvelle's persistence and willingness to work at a variety of hard jobs in those harder times in order to get the education he sought as a foundation for teaching speech, coaching debate, and producing theater.