

of contention.

*In the spring of the year,
When the blood is too thick,
There's nothing so rare,
As a sassafras stick.
It cleans up the liver,
And strengthens the heart,
And to the whole system
New life doth impart.
Sassafras, oh, sassafras!
Thou art the stuff for me!
And in the spring I love to sing
Sweetest sassafras, of thee.*

While the poem originally appeared in the *Journal-Review* of Crawfordsville over the poet's name, he hotly denied its authorship in a letter to the editor. Paradoxically, he lays quiet claim to it in yet another poem. Let the truth lie where it may, each spring the controversy serves to bring Elmore and his rustic verse before the public once more.

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Crawfordsville's five Civil War Generals

by Colonel Owen L. Crecelius

For many years, it has been a source of pride to many residents of Crawfordsville and Montgomery County that this area has been a center of culture and great literary tradition. The reporter who long ago referred to Crawfordsville as "The Athens of Indiana," has been remembered gratefully even though he may have had his tongue in his cheek at the time.

Another source of community pride, not so well known, is the fact that Crawfordsville, a small city of less than two thousand inhabitants at the time, furnished five generals to the Union side in the Civil War. The five Crawfordsville residents who during the war attained the rank of general were: Wm. H. Morgan, John P. Hawkins, Edward R.S. Canby, Mahlon D. Manson, and Lew Wallace.

Wm. H. Morgan was living in Crawfordsville when he was appointed to the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He graduated in 1856, served two years in the navy, then resigned and came back to his home in Crawfordsville.

In 1861, he became a captain in the 10th Indiana regiment, and was successively promoted to the rank of major, lieutenant colonel, and in April, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel commanding the 25th Indiana regiment.

He later commanded the 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, of the 16th Corps, with the rank of Brigadier General. His brigade served in the Tennessee Campaigns. Morgan served under Fremont in Missouri, was at Donelson and Shiloh, and later with General Sherman on the Atlanta Campaign and the "March to the Sea." After the war, General Morgan moved to Illinois. However, he was long remembered by veterans of this area.

John P. Hawkins attended Wabash College for two years, then entered West Point Military Academy in 1848. After graduation in 1852, he served on the frontier against the Indians for several years, then transferred to the Commissary Department in the east.

When the Civil War got underway, he was assigned first to Fremont's then to Grant's command. After serving in the Vicksburg Campaign, he was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a colored brigade, and for the

remainder of the war was stationed in the Louisiana-Arkansas area.

At the close of the war he resumed his duties in the Commissary Department until his retirement in 1894. General Hawkins and General Canby were brothers-in-law.

Edward R.S. Canby was the son of Dr. Israel Canby, who at one time was a member of the Indiana State Senate. In 1832 Dr. Canby succeeded Ambrose Whitlock as Receiver of Public Moneys for the District Land Office in Crawfordsville.

Young Edward attended Wabash College for several terms, then entered West Point in 1835. After graduating in 1839, he served with distinction in the Mexican War.

Soon after the beginning of the Civil War, Canby was appointed Major General of Volunteers. He took part in the campaign against Mobile, and in the final year of the war served in the Southwest. After the war ended, Canby continued to serve in the regular army with the rank of Brigadier General. While commanding the Department of Columbia on the Pacific Coast, General Canby was selected to negotiate peace terms with the Modoc Indians. On April 12, 1873, while peace talks were in progress, Captain Jack, the renegade leader of the Modocs, treacherously murdered General Canby and three of his staff officers. Captain Jack and three of his followers were later captured and hanged.

The Crawfordsville Senior High School building now stands on the site of the old Canby homestead. As mentioned before, General Canby was married to Louisa Hawkins, sister of General Hawkins. The New York Tribune asserted that "General Canby was 'the remarkable instance' of an officer who was without enemies in his profession."

Mahlon D. Manson was born near Piqua, Ohio, in 1820. His father died when Mahlon was three years old, and he had to go to work at an early age to help support the family. As a result, he was unable to attend school regularly but tried to overcome this handicap by extensive reading. By hard work, he managed to set himself up as a druggist. In 1842 he moved to Crawfordsville, where he continued in the drug business. During the Mexican War, he served as a captain in the 5th Indiana Regiment.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Manson recruited a company of volunteers in Crawfordsville, and was commissioned captain and assigned to the 10th Indiana regiment. He was soon promoted to the rank of Major and later Lieutenant

Colonel.

Colonel Manson commanded a brigade at the battle of Mill Springs, January 19, 1862, and on March 24th was made Brigadier General of Volunteers. Manson's brigade served in east Tennessee for a time, and at the battle of Resaca his command made an assault on the Confederate works with heavy losses. In this engagement General Manson was severely wounded. He never fully recovered and was compelled to leave active service in December, 1864.

Back in Crawfordsville after the war, General Manson had a long and distinguished career in politics and government, veterans affairs, and the Masonic Lodge. He had previously served a term in the Indiana House of Representatives, 1851-53, and had been a delegate to the National Democrat Convention in 1856. In 1864, Manson was the Democrat candidate for Lieutenant Governor, but was unsuccessful, and in 1866 ran for the office of Secretary of State, but was again defeated by the Republican candidate. However, in 1870 he defeated his old political rival General Wallace in the race for congressman from the ninth district.

Manson was later chairman of the State Central Committee of the Democrat Party. In 1876, he was elected State Auditor, and in 1884 was chosen Lieutenant Governor, but declined the office when he was appointed Director of Internal Revenue for the Lafayette District.

Lew Wallace was born in Brookville, Indiana, in 1827. His father, David Wallace, of Scotch-Irish descent, was a West Point graduate, who, after resigning from the army, had studied law and later become state representative, lieutenant governor, and governor.

Lew's formal schooling ended when he was sixteen years old, but he afterwards studied law in his father's office. In 1846, young Wallace recruited a company of volunteers for the Mexican War. Lew was elected second lieutenant, and the company became "H" Company, First Indiana Infantry. For months, the First Indiana was stationed in a miserable camp at the mouth of the Rio Grande and was not allowed to join General Taylor's army and take part in battle. Greatly disappointed with his war experience, Lew returned to Indianapolis to continue studying law. Irving McKee, author of the biography, *Ben-Hur Wallace*, wrote this description of Lew at twenty-one: "He was self-confident, serious, keen, ambitious. He dreamed of a personal destiny, a dramatic triumph of the