



THIS WEEK IN INDIANA HISTORY

December 19, 1888: Lew Wallace Speaks to the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion



This week in Indiana History General Lew Wallace spoke to the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States at the Inaugural Banquet. The banquet was held at the Bates house in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Loyal Legion was established after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln to help ward off future threats to the American Government. Wallace spoke to the group about the possible meanings of the word, "Hoosier."



More info: Program from the Dec. 19, 1888 meeting (IP 369.152 no 1)
List of membership (IP 369.152 no. 3)

"...every citizen of the State knows, that Indiana has suffered more from the nickname 'Hoosier' than could be told in an octavo volume... we, genuine residents, protested fully fifty years against the title 'Hoosier,' but in vain. Now, however, we have adopted it and are proud of it. It is no longer a reproach, its signification has changed. It means a great State now..."

General Lew Wallace speaking at the Inauguration Banquet of the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

LOYAL LEGION OF INDIANA.
The New Commandery to Be Inaugurated
with Special Marks of Distinction.

Nearly all the charter members of Indiana were members of Ohio, some twenty-five or more having been transferred from the Ohio Commandery. At the meeting of the Commandery-in-chief at Philadelphia, in October last, a charter was granted to Indiana. General Lew Wallace, who was a member of Ohio, was one of the petitioners for the Indiana charter, and he is now the temporary commander of the new commandery. At the permanent organization General Wallace will be elected permanent commander. Lieutenant B. B. Peck, another Ohio man now residing in Indianapolis, is temporary recorder, and will be the permanent recorder.

Right: From the *Indianapolis Journal*, November 26, 1888