

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2012

Date Set for Dedication of General William H. L. Wallace Memorial Monument

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On Sunday, October 28th, at 2:00pm, the monument honoring General William H. L. Wallace will be unveiled and dedicated in the Grand Army of the Republic section of the Ottawa Avenue Cemetery. The public is invited to this event.

As part of the dedication ceremony, Jerry Kowalski, a National Chaplain of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, will offer the invocation, a Civil War military honor guard will present a rifle salute and a bugler will play taps. A bagpiper dressed in a Scottish kilt will begin and end the ceremony.

Re-enactors portraying General U. S. Grant, Colonel T. Lyle Dickey, Ann Wallace, and Mayor Silas Cheever of Ottawa will be attending the ceremony as well as several other Union Army dignitaries. Edmund T. Thornton, a major contributor to the monument, will also be on the dais.

Born in Ohio in 1821, William Wallace moved to Illinois with his family in 1834. 12 years later while a lawyer in Ottawa, he enlisted in and was promoted to an officer in the Mexican War. In 1851, he married Martha "Ann" Dickey, the daughter of his law partner. Wallace enlisted for the Northern Cause for the Civil War in 1861. General W. H. L. Wallace is credited for withstanding a Confederate onslaught during the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862. He was shot through the head while he stood in the saddle to get a better view of the battlefield. Wallace died on April 10, 1862, from wounds he received during the battle. His wife, Ann, was with him during the last days of his life. Will and Ann Wallace, along with their adopted daughter, are buried in the private Dickey family cemetery on Ottawa's north bluff.

Back in April, the General WHL Wallace Memorial Committee presented a weekend of events honoring the life and death of General William H.L. Wallace, one of LaSalle County's greatest Civil War heroes. These events along with the donations from many local businesses and individuals funded the monument. The committee is already planning next year's Civil War weekend, April 19-21, 2013, entitled, "Lincoln and his Generals: LaSalle County at War". All money raised from the 2013 event will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the Dickey family cemetery.

Tax-exempt donations can be made to
WHL Wallace Memorial Fund
c/o Ottawa Avenue Cemetery Association
Attn: Joe Ferrero
1506 Ottawa Avenue
Ottawa, IL 61350

Portrait of General
William H. L. Wallace

