

Small Historic Towns across America.

as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at:

www.fpeusa.org

The History of Crawfordsville

In 1813 Williamson Dunn, Henry Ristine, and Major Ambrose Whitlock noted that the site of present day Crawfordsville was an ideal place to build a town. A decade later they returned and found a cabin already built so Major Whitlock laid out plans for the city to be built. In 1834 it was successfully incorporated as a town. Two years before that, Wabash College moved in and is one of three all male college in existence today. Crawfordsville grew in size until it gained city status in 1865. In 1880 Lew Wallace produced Crawfordsville's most famous work Ben-Hur: A Tale of Christ. In 1882 one of the first Rotary Jails in the country opened, it served from 1882-1972 and is now a museum.



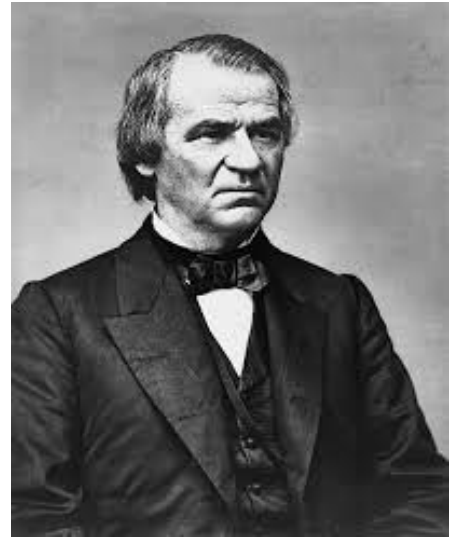
Places to Stay



A hotel you could stay at is Hampton Inn & Suites. It is a midscale, smoke-free, interstate hotel near I-74, Exit 34 and 43 miles from Indianapolis Speedway. It has, 3 floors, 74 rooms and suites – elevator, Heated indoor swimming pool - exercise room, Free hot breakfast buffet, Free Internet in room, Free parking
Pet-friendly hotel - allows pets up to 20 pounds - \$15 per night fee for each pet. For directions go to <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Indianapolis+International+Airport,+7800+Col.+H.+Weir+Cook+Memorial+Drive,+Indianapolis,+IN+46241/2895+Gandhi+Dr,+Crawfordsville,+IN+47933/@39.8724653,-86.7120993,10z/data=!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x886ca7aaf0a1ffa1:0x248add2283fd672f!2m2!1d-86.295595!2d39.716859!1m5!1m1!>

Who was the President at the time?

Andrew Johnson was the president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. He became president in a time of political strife. The Union had won the war and was trying to have the south re-enter the country. As the president, he took a moderate approach to restoring the south which clash with the radical republicans. In 1868 he was impeached by congress but was not removed from office. He did not run for a second term.



The Oddest Business



RR Donnelley is the oldest most successful business in town. The company, legally known as R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, was founded in 1864 by Richard Robert Donnelley. His son, Reuben H. Donnelley, founded the otherwise unrelated company R. H. Donnelley.

RR Donnelley's cartographic production facility in Lancaster, Pennsylvania grew to be one of the largest custom mapmaking companies in the United States. In the early 1990's, the division successfully integrated routing technology with its digital map databases and launched a separate company, Geosystems, which several years later became MapQuest.

The Government of Crawfordsville

The Government of Crawfordsville has a mayor and a city council which acts as the city's the legislative branch. The city's regular meeting are held on the second Monday of every month.



Things to Do



The Carnegie museum was the first library in Crawfordsville. After the Library moved across the street the building was converted to a museum about Crawfordsville and the surrounding area. It is an interactive museum of history, science and art. The two story museum has 6 galleries. Each gallery contains several items from the time period. It is opened March-December, Wednesday-Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. It is on 222 S. Washington Street, Crawfordsville. The admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

The General Lew Wallace study and museum is a national historic landmark, and is dedicated to the legacy of Lew Wallace, Civil War Major General, diplomat, inventor, and author of Ben-Hur. The study was designed and built by General Wallace. The house and study contains several personal artifacts, paintings, inventions along with memorabilia from various adaptations of Ben-Hur. The Museum is located on 3.5 acres of wooded grounds and is equipped with picnic tables drinking fountains, and handicapped-accessible restrooms. It is open February-December on Tuesday-Saturday 10am – 5pm tours by appointment it is on 200 Wallace Avenue, Crawfordsville and admission is charged.



The Lane Place and surrounding five acre estate was the mansion of Henry S. Lane Antebellum. Henry Smith Lane represented Montgomery County as U.S, congressman, governor and U.S. Senator. He was chairman of the first Republican National Convention in 1856, Pattison Pavilion and his influence helped secure the party's nomination of Abraham Lincoln for president. It is a National Register of Historic site. It overlooks Pattison Pavilion and the Speed Cabin, which was a part of Indiana's Underground Railroad and has been restored and available for tours by appointment. It is opened from March- December, Wednesday- Saturday 10 am – 5 pm. It is on 212 S. Water Street, Crawfordsville and admission is charged.

The Rotary Jail was one of the first of its type. It was built by William H. Brown and Benjamin F. Haugh of Indianapolis. The jail served as the county jail for 91 year until it was forced to shut down after it failed to pass safety inspection. Attached to Montgomery Country's unique jail stands a two-story house which housed the sheriff's family. The Museum is located in Crawfordsville on U.S. 231, at the intersection of N. Washington St. and W. Spring St. and its hours from March 1 through Memorial Day, and Labor Day to Dec. 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Summer Hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is charged.



The Strawberry Festival is a festival that is held on the lawn of the Lane Place. It has many vendors selling knick-knacks, clothes, Jewry, artwork and other things. Music is provided from local talent and there is a game area where one can play can for a number of tickets. Tickets can be bought at the information center. It is from June 12th to 14th

Why Go?

Crawfordsville is a nice town that has a rich history. The people of the town are nice. It is a nice addition to any sightseeing vacation. It has nice local restaurants and several small businesses that are fun to shop at. It also has many nice park to spend some relaxing time. It has several other cities close by to visit so you are not staying in one place.



Links you might want to look at

<http://crawfordsville.org/TEST/what-to-do/>

<http://thestrawberryfestival.com/>

<http://www.sugarcreekplayers.org/>

<http://www.crawfordsville.net/>