

It is clear that Neff has acquired the papers of the late Andrew Potter who lived over at Ladoga for many years and claimed to have been in the Civil War.

In about 1927 I had heard about Potter and had interviewed him in Crawfordsville. I had heard a number of claims that Potter was a fake and that he had not really been what he claimed to be. He claimed that he had been a government detective with the U.S. War Department and had also been a body guard of General Lew Wallace after the war.

I found that there was no doubt that Potter and one of his nephews had been bodyguards for Wallace. This was established by statements of a number of persons who had been around when Wallace was and they remembered both Potters being constantly with Wallace and always armed and protective of him.

As to Potters having been in the Civil War, Potter was clearly able to describe for me exactly what he had done and the people with whom he had worked. He said that he had been part of the spy system of Lafayette Baker who was a special agent for the War Department and Potter provided for my perusal his commission in the Indiana Cavalry signed by Governor Norton. He also had a great amount of correspondence which clearly showed that he had corresponded with the Authorities in Indiana regarding the Copperheads in Indiana. Potter certainly was a detective during the war and he worked for the War Department. Whether all the things of which he spoke and wrote are true I do not know. He has referred to a number of things which depart radically from previously recorded history.

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