



Indiana Historical Bureau

140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296
TELEPHONE 317-232-2535
FAX 317-232-3728
INTERNET www.IN.gov/history

NEWS

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2007

Contact:

Jeremy Hackerd, 317-232-2537
jhackerd@statelib.lib.in.us

***“Donnell v. State, 1852”* state historical marker will be dedicated in Greensburg, Indiana**

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for November 16, 2007. The state historical marker recognizing the 1852 *Donnell v. State* Indiana Supreme Court decision will be dedicated at the Decatur County Courthouse, 150 Courthouse Square, Greensburg at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “*Donnell v. State, 1852*”:

Luther Donnell was convicted in Decatur Circuit Court (1849) of aiding fugitive slaves, Caroline and her four children, to escape to Canada. In *Donnell v. State*, Indiana Supreme Court reversed the conviction, claiming that under U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* federal law superseded a state law regarding aid to fugitive slaves. *Prigg*, a pro-slavery decision, was used in this case and elsewhere to benefit the anti-slavery cause. The Underground Railroad refers to a widespread network of diverse people in the nineteenth century who aided slaves escaping to freedom from the southern U.S.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state historical marker that commemorates Underground Railroad activity in Indiana and the legal repercussions of that activity. A reception with light refreshments will follow the ceremony at the Decatur County Historical Museum, 222 North Franklin Street, Greensburg.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

###