



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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***“Graves et al. v. Indiana”* state historical marker will be dedicated in Bristol, Indiana**

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for August 25, 2007. The state historical marker recognizing the Indiana Supreme Court case, *Graves et al. v. Indiana*, will be dedicated at Memorial Park, located on the corner of State Road 15 and State Road 120, Bristol at 11:00 A. M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “*Graves et al. v. Indiana*”:

In 1847, three Kentucky men tried to capture Thomas Harris, fugitive slave in Bristol; a justice of the peace ruling freed Harris, who fled. In 1848, the Elkhart Circuit Court convicted the three men of causing a riot in 1847. In 1849, Indiana Supreme Court reversed Circuit Court based on 1842 *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* decision of U.S. Supreme Court. This incident is an example of local judicial officers countering a pro-slavery federal decision. 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 commemorating this court case and the Underground Railroad.

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.

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