



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Indians Murdered 1824” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Pendleton, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker examining the 1824 murders of nine American Indians in Madison County is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017, marking the 193rd anniversary of the brutal affair. The marker dedication will begin at 5:30 p.m. just north of the N. Pendleton Ave. bridge over Fall Creek. Parking is available south of the bridge on N. Pendleton Ave. and throughout Falls Park.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Indians Murdered 1824**”:

U.S. took American Indian lands in central Indiana by treaty in 1818. Some Indian villages and camps remained in the area as white settlers rushed to buy land. In the spring of 1824, white men murdered nine Indian men, women and children living at their winter camp on a stream about eight miles east of here. White residents soon arrested all but one of the culprits. To allay fears of settlers and Indians, U.S. Indian Agent John Johnston used federal funds to provide supplies to families of Indian victims and to build a log jail near here to secure the accused. Following jury trials, three perpetrators were hanged in 1825; Governor James Ray pardoned one young man. In this rare case, Indians obtained some justice from U.S. law.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that examines the March 22, 1824 murders and the aftermath of the horrific events. On April 28, 1824, John Johnston, U.S. Indian Agent for central Indiana, described the brutal nature of the murders in a letter to U.S. Secretary of War John C. Calhoun. He declared: “The affair for cold blooded cruelty baffles all description, and in point of atrocity surpasses anything that has ever disgraced the settlement of this Country.” During the many years of frontier hostilities between American Indians and white settlers, Indian victims of settler violence and their families rarely obtained the remedies of the American judicial system. More often, Indian agents like John Johnston offered gifts, supplies, and other goods to the Indians as remuneration for the transgressions of settlers against the Indians. However, in this rare case, American Indians obtained some justice from U.S. law resulting in the executions of three white perpetrators for their crimes.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, 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. Over 600 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the marker dedication ceremony, please contact Bob Post at icustombob@gmail.com. For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history>, follow IHB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (317) 232-2535. Donations can be made to the South Madison Community Foundation, 233 S. Main St., Pendleton, IN, 46064, southmadisonfoundation.org. Please reference “Indian Murders”.