



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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### **“Rhodes Family Incident” State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Westfield**

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2008. The state historical marker commemorating the Rhodes family will be dedicated at Asa Bales Park, located east of U.S. 31 on Hoover/181st Street, Westfield. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Rhodes Family Incident”:

In 1837, an enslaved family of three escaped from Missouri; settled six miles north of here 1839 with name Rhodes. In 1844, Singleton Vaughn arrived at their home to claim them; family resisted until neighbors arrived. Vaughn agreed to take family to Noblesville for trial. In route, a crowd stopped Vaughn, demanding the family be taken to Westfield. Urged on by the crowd, driver of wagon carrying family sped to Westfield; family escaped before wagon reached town. Vaughn sued some in crowd, for interfering with his right to reclaim slaves. In *Vaughn v. Williams*, 1845, jury found defendants not guilty, finding Rhodes family had been freed when a previous owner moved them to Illinois, a free state.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state historical marker that commemorates the Rhodes family’s efforts to gain and maintain their freedom.

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’s website at [www.IN.gov/history](http://www.IN.gov/history) or call 317-232-2537.

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