



Indiana Historical Bureau

140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296
TELEPHONE 317-232-2535
FAX 317-232-1659
INTERNET www.IN.gov/history

NEWS

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Contact:
Casey Pfeiffer, 317-232-2537
cpfeiffer@history.IN.gov

“Union Literary Institute” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Union City, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating Union Literary Institute is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2017. The marker dedication will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the former site of the Union Literary Institute, along CR East 600 South, Union City, Indiana (Randolph County), near 8605 CR East 600 South. Parking for the event will be available at the site.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Union Literary Institute”:

Union Literary Institute was one of the first schools to offer higher education without regard to color or sex before the Civil War. It was established in 1846 by a biracial board, including free blacks from nearby settlements. At the time, Indiana laws did not allow blacks to attend the public schools. Students labored four hours a day in exchange for room and board. The school was supported by local and national donations, including land. Ebenezer Tucker was the first teacher, and notable attendees included Hiram Revels, the first black U.S. Senator, and James S. Hinton, the first black elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. In 1860 a two-story brick structure was built. The school was a noted Underground Railroad stop.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that commemorates the manual labor school, which was established in 1846 “for the benefit of that class of the population who the laws of Indiana at present preclude from all participation in the benefits of our public school system.” At a time when the country was at war over slavery, the school treated the education of white and black students equally and admitted students regardless of race, religion, or sex. The marker will be dedicated during Longtown Settlement’s annual homecoming celebration.

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. The Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, oversees the Indiana State Historical Marker Program. Since 1946, the standard 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 Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history> or call (317) 232-2535. For more information about the marker dedication ceremony commemorating Union Literary Institute, please contact Roane Smothers at rsmoth1026@aol.com or (937) 231-0777.

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