



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Oswell Wright” State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated In Corydon, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for August 16, 2008. The state historical marker recognizing Oswell Wright will be dedicated at 417 Chestnut Street, Corydon at 2:00 P. M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Oswell Wright”:

Born in Maryland early 1810s. Bought land in Corydon, May 1849. In November 1857, Kentuckians arrested Wright and two white men, Charles and David Bell; they were indicted and jailed in Kentucky for aiding escape of fugitive slave. Bells rescued in jailbreak 1858. Wright convicted May 1859; completed sentence in Kentucky Penitentiary; released June 1864. Wright, a free black, lost his own freedom for helping a slave escape. Died in Corydon March 31, 1875. 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. A luncheon will be held before the ceremony at the Leora Brown School located at 400 E. Summit Street, Corydon. The luncheon, beginning at noon, will feature a discussion about the events that led to Wright’s arrest. The luncheon is \$15. For reservations, call (812) 738-3376.

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 or call 317-232-2537.

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