

My Hoosier Bicentennial Hero

Levi Coffin

A hero to me is a person that looks after others. Levi Coffin was a hero to Indiana. He was a great man and I wish I could have met him. He helped our State by letting African American slaves live in his house. He also never had slaves work for him. That's what makes him a great Hoosier.

He was born in 1789. One day when he was watching his dad chop wood, the two of them noticed slaves chained together. At that time Levi Coffin wanted to help them. When Levi Coffin was in Indiana, he opened a Sunday School for slaves. After that, he led 20,000 African Americans in a railroad to Cincinnati. Levi Coffin is known as the Railroad King. This stuck out to me because he saved people from slavery. That's what makes him a great Hoosier.

When Levi was a teenager he had his first opportunity to offer assistance to slaves. While attending a corn husking a 15 year old Coffin noticed a group of slaves brought to the corn husking by a slave dealer named Stephen Holland. While the other whites dined at the party, the Quaker boy remained behind to talk with the slaves and see what he could do for them. I like Levi because he puts others first. That's what makes him a great Hoosier.

After Levi's neighbors made him stop helping slaves he took it easy. Levi had some kids of his own and played with them; and signed contracts to help slaves. After a year or two he went back to his heavy lifting. I love Levi because he would never stop the job. That's what makes him a great Hoosier.

Sadly Levi Coffin died on September 16, 1877. I will always remember him as a hero; and I hope I can see his house someday. He did his best to make slaves lives easier. Without him, we would not be where they are today. All that is why I chose Levi Coffin to be my hero and what made him a GREAT HOOSIER.

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