



Apr 21st, 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

**Luncheon Address - Professor Robert Bray, R. Forest Colwell  
Professor of American Literature, Illinois Wesleyan University:  
"Our Living History"**

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**LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

**“OUR LIVING HISTORY”**

Dr. Robert C. Bray, R. Forrest Colwell Professor of American Literature

Approximately 1:15 p.m. Memorial Center Main Lounge

Professor Bray has been a member of the Illinois Wesleyan University faculty since 1970. He received a bachelor's degree from Kansas State College (Pittsburg), and an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. Professor Bray's interests as a teacher concern 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature; American painting and literature; midwestern literature; and the literature of Illinois.

His books include *Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution* (with Paul Bushnell, IWU history department); *A Reader's Guide to Illinois Literature* (editor in chief and contributor); and *Rediscoveries*. Among many other subjects Professor Bray has published articles on Mark Twain, Robert Herrick, Francis Grierson, and Peter Cartwright. Cartwright, a Methodist circuit rider of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and one of the founders of Illinois Wesleyan University, has been a special interest of Professor Bray's. A biography of Cartwright is under contract with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Bray has served on the Association of Departments of English Executive Committee, the Read Illinois Advisory Committee which he chaired for five years, the Board of Directors of the Illinois Humanities Council, and the Advisory Board of the Illinois State Historical Society, among many other professional activities.

Most recently, Professor Bray has undertaken an oral history of Illinois Wesleyan University, which will be the subject of his remarks today. This afternoon, a presentation by Liz Dierbeck and Erika Rozinek will elaborate on some of the work done to date on this project.