

Louis Braille and the Invention of the “Six Dot” System
200th Anniversary – 1824-2024
Paul Jehle



With our theme emphasizing the next generation in this year’s parade, we honor Louis Braille, who at 15 years of age, in 1824, invented the “six dot system” that would become the accepted system of writing for the blind.

Louis became blind at 3 years of age. While studying at the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris, France, he invented 63 characters made up of one to six raised dots. It was brought to the United States as *Modified Braille* in 1878 by Joel W. Smith, who was a blind piano tuning teacher at Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston. In 1900 it was renamed *English Braille*. Watch for the float that will highlight the fact that *the diligent creativity of youth has been a blessing that can inspire all parents and teachers to continue their work!*