

Professor anxious over tenure in 1837

"As for the mere fact of being continued teacher in this place, I care but little, but I do feel that I would be considerably mortified to go home, as one who had been turned out. We are standing a trial now, it is no pleasant thing to be condemned." Theophilus Wylie, Sept. 25, 1837.

Though the tone of Theophilus Wylie's diary might sound a trifle dramatic, the truth of the matter was that he was sweating out an early form of the tenure process for Indiana University professors.

Unlike today's process, Wylie and another teacher were being sized up by the trustees. Wylie wrote, "The trustees who have assembled in the village (Bloomington) have to decide whether



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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or not our situations be made permanent (i.e. the situations of Mr. Ruter Dodds and myself, who are distinguished by the same title, PT)."

PT stood for pro tempore, which meant they had been teaching on a trial basis. Wylie, whose anxiety was reflected in his diary, mused, "Though if it should so be that I will be unsuccessful, and I really think that

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