

Diary tells of early life in Monroe County

(Continued from page 1)
ing my Doctor Bill January
St 2 1897 Amount \$48.20."

There are some hints about Knight's religious preference in a few of the entries. On several occasions he reported attending services at the Friendship Church, located in the township, and there was a notation in his 1893 expenses summary, "August 8 Sined for the Nonconformist 3 months 25 ce." It is not clear whether the "Nonconformist" was a specific church or a publication.

A couple of entries dealing with politics give no indications of Knight's preference, but do show that he was aware of that sphere of activity. On Feb. 9, 1894, he wrote in his diary, "Convention up at schoolhouse today

Democrats convention." More than two years later — in May of 1896 — he went to Bloomington to deliver oak spokes and learned that a "Populous" convention was being held. The nominees, duly reported in his diary, were C. Bender, auditor, and James O. Baxter, commissioner.

A sense of the continuity of life in the changing seasons can be found in the sad entries that report the occasions when Knight was called upon to help dig graves for some of his neighbors.

Despite that occasional melancholy chore, Knight also took cheerful note of the signs of spring. In the margin of his diary next to April 14, 1896, he wrote, "First Whipperwill and the warmest day this year."