

# Wright first Monroe IU graduate

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born in Monroe County on March 24, 1820. Wyllie's history relates that George was first educated by his mother at home and entered the university preparatory school at about the age of 14.

His IU education was interrupted several times, when he had to drop out of school to help his widowed mother. While he was still young, he suffered from a seven-year bout with rheumatism, which left him crippled for life.

George's brother, Joseph, was also trying to work his way through school. IU trustees' minutes record that Joseph repaired the college building roofs and rang the chapel bell. He also was employed as Monroe County's first librarian. But the financial problems of the family kept sabotaging Joseph's education, and finally he dropped out of IU to

study law in an attorney's office.

**GEORGE PERSISTED**, despite the interruptions. In time, he earned the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Laws degrees, plus four honorary ones. After he left Bloomington, his career included chief justice of the Iowa State Supreme Court, U.S. Senator and founder of a law school that was incorporated into Iowa University.

Neither one of the Bloomington Wright brothers forgot his IU education. Wyllie mentioned that on June 11, 1889, George returned to Bloomington to deliver an "eloquent address" at the Methodist Church.

Joseph became governor of Indiana and asked the legislature to help his alma mater when it was financially foundering. The IU Wright Quad dormitory complex is named for him.