

# Wright first Monroe County IU graduate

During this weekend approximately 920 Monroe Countians will receive degrees from Indiana University. Since 1825, when the Indiana Seminary advertised in Midwestern newspapers that it was open for (education) business, local young people have taken advantage of living in a "college town."

**THOUGH** there were no Monroe Countians in the first graduating class of 1830, the 1831 IU catalogue listed 18 out of the 60 students enrolled as either coming from Bloomington or Monroe County. The list

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## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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may also be found in Theophilus Wylie's *Indiana University: Its History from 1828 to 1890*.

No first names of students were given. They were: Alexander, Anderson, Dodds, Freeland, Harney, Jones, Ketcham, Lowe, Maxwell, Nichols, I. Porter, S. Porter, Roach, Throop, Seward, Smith, Wylie and Wallace.

The first graduate born in Monroe County was George Grover Wright, who received his degree in 1839. There is an irony in that a member of that particular family was to be the first. A little family history will indicate the irony of it.

When John Wright, the father of George,

brought his family to Monroe County some time before 1820, they were dirt poor. His family ultimately consisted of a wife and nine children.

**JOHN EKED** out a living as a stone mason, and the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana* lists Wright as one of the builders of the first two Indiana Seminary buildings. By 1825 he was dead at the age of 49.

It was his eighth child, George, who was

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