

Indians lived in county

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the town square demonstrating their bow and arrow skills "with unerring arrows splitting apples and knocking off six-pences."

According to Maxwell, when two Indians were taunted about their expertise, they shot two arrows at the gold ball on the courthouse steeple — some 70 feet high. Years later, when Hall was gone from Bloomington, Maxwell wrote to him that the holes left by the Indians' arrows were still there.

Another tragic/comic story about the Indians was related in Hoosier dialect by Hall in his book, *The New Purchase*. Just prior to the mass exodus of Indians from this area a revered chief named Blue Fire died and was buried with wistful, affectionate ceremony befitting his rank atop a "beautiful natural mound."

Hall was a trifle vague about the exact location of the mound, but he wrote that it was near the path to

Gosport. (When Hall first came to Indiana he lived with relatives in the Gosport area.) He had been to the mound several times on horseback and on one occasion remembered seeing Indians who told him they were on their way north.

The grave also had particular significance for Hall, because he was told a story about a prank and grave-robbing episode. It seemed that Dr. Maxwell's nephew and another young man were studying medicine with Maxwell and had heard about the Indian grave. They decided to dig up the body to dissect it.

Unfortunately their plans leaked out, and several persons decided the chief ought to be left in peace. They enlisted the help of an older man who transformed them into pseudo-Indians, with the help of paint. Blankets, buckskin leggings, hatchets and rifles completed their disguise.

When the students arrived at the grave site, the "Indians" were hidden in the brush nearby. After

the medical students had commenced digging, the "Indians" reared up out of the brush and fired several shots over the students' heads. Some war whoops utterly terrorized the grave-robbers, who fled in different directions. Maxwell's nephew ran straight up the middle of the nearby stream, and the other student ran headlong through weeds and briars toward the river.

When he finally paused long enough to take a good look at his pursuer, he still didn't catch on to the prank. The student found the nearest cabin and breathlessly reported that the Indians had killed his companion and taken his scalp.

The settlers in the area, who weren't privy to the prank, sent out scouts and hunters to find the "Indians." Though news of the prank and the deed that prompted it provided a lot of amusement among the settlers, Maxwell's nephew managed to return later and succeeded in digging up the chief's body.

Later, on a trip that took him past the burial mound, Hall saw a large party of mounted Indians passing the site. Hall wrote: "The party did not halt at the grave, as probably they would have done, if no pale face had been there to notice: if they had, although no sign apparently could lead to the discovery that the sacred deposit was gone, I should have felt, if not afraid, yet truly ashamed."

Local, area deaths

Lena Galyan

Lena Galyan, 81, of Bloomington, died this morning at Bloomington Hospital. Arrangements are pending at Day Mortuary.

Murphy Seat

Murphy W. Seat, 60, of 1516 S. Walnut St., died

all of Bloomington; two brothers, Calvin Seat and Leonard Seat of Dyersburg, Tenn., and one sister, Margaret Seat of Dyersburg, Tenn., and three grandchildren.

Services will be 10 a.m. Monday at the Greene and Harrell Mortuary, chapel, with Rev. Kiah Rayl officiating. Burial will be in