

Troubles plagued young IU

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and if the people of Monroe County are madly resolved to send it to Indianapolis, under my present opinions and feelings, I solemnly declare I will not try again to prevent it."

If the threat of the removal of the college to Indianapolis were not enough, financial troubles began to plague the institution. Before Indiana became a state, the U.S. Congress passed an act giving certain public lands in Gibson County to fund a university at Vincennes.

At the outset the duly appointed board of trustees of that institution went through the motions of establishing a school. Between 1806 and 1820 Vincennes University sold 4,000 acres of Gibson County land, rented out another part and built a college building. Still, in many respects from 1810 until

1825 the school was a public institution in name only.

Meanwhile, the state legislature passed an act establishing the Indiana Seminary at Monroe County and gave the proceeds from the sale of land in Gibson County to the new school. The legislators acted in good faith because they had been led to believe that the Vincennes contingent was no longer serious about establishing a university.

Suddenly in 1844 the dormant board of trustees of Vincennes University came to life and produced "minutes" to prove that they had indeed been meeting at least once a year during the years when it was supposed that they were doing nothing about the school. Too, it had come to the attention of the Vincennes board that the general assembly had given their lands in Gibson Coun-

ty to the young Indiana Seminary in Monroe County.

The Vincennes board filed suit against the State of Indiana to regain the value of the property it had lost. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and the justices ruled in favor of the city on the Wabash. In effect, the state of Indiana was obliged to compensate Vincennes University to the extent of \$66,000, which was duly paid out of the university fund being administered by the legislature for the Indiana Seminary at Bloomington.

The effect of the suit was devastating for the future Indiana University, since it was dependent upon money from the university fund. No sooner had the outcome of Vincennes' suit been felt in Bloomington, than a fire of very suspicious origin destroyed one of the main buildings on the S. College

Avenue site of the college.

The Indianapolis *Morning Journal* of April 12, 1854, stated: "Nothing is known as to how the building took fire . . . There had been no fire in the stoves since Tuesday night; and no candles lighted in the building since Wednesday night, at which time the session closed . . ."

The prospects of the young college at Bloomington were so bleak that it was generally assumed that the school would close its doors for lack of funds and

be moved to Indianapolis at last. Andrew Wylie, the school's first controversial, but deeply loyal, president had died, and "Father" Maxwell was too old to fight yet another battle for his fledgling university.

Other heroes, Robert Dale Owen, editor and politician, and Governor Joseph A. Wright, were to take up the fight to save the university so modestly begun in January of 1820.

Next: Monroe Countians come to the rescue, too.

Committee smooths tax bill differences

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- Increase the maximum child care credit for the poor from \$400 to \$720. Even people earning \$30,000 or more would be able to deduct a maximum \$480 for child care expenses.

- Provide high interest "all-savers" certificates that would allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$1,000 per person in interest earned on the one-year certificates. But, the cur-