

# *IU's first president faced trials*

"In the house things are broken and lost at a sad rate," wrote Indiana University's first president, Andrew Wylie, to his wife.

**MARGARET WYLIE**, who was luke-warm about the Indiana frontier in general and Bloomington in particular, had made a return trip to Cannonsburg, Pa., where the family had lived prior to her husband's assuming the presidency of the Indiana College. And she made no bones about her dislike of the primitive condition of Bloomington.

The president's letter, which was written on June 24, 1835, was a recital of discomforts, starting with sadly

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## Looking back

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*By Rose McIlveen*

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missing her company. In addition to the disorder of the Wylie household, he informed his wife that "we have had almost incessant rains and tremendous floods since within a few days after you left us till this week . . . But now it thunders, the sky is overcast and we expect rain again."

Wylie had reason to be disappointed in the weather, since he was in the process of building a house to pacify Margaret. "The building is at a stand," he wrote tersely. "I never yet in all my life engaged in any thing with so little spirit as this building, and nothing to which I ever put my hands dragged so heavily."

**REFLECTING** on the sadness he was still feeling over the untimely death of their son, William, the president digressed from relating the latest news to include a little passage on resignation.

"Our duty, in the mean time, is meekly to resign ourselves to his  
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