

Professor's book chided community, IU

Bloomington barely resembled a community in 1824 when Indiana University's first professor, Baynard Rush Hall, arrived from Gosport and took up his duties.

IT WAS LONG AFTER HIS philosophical difference of opinion with President Andrew Wylie and his departure from Bloomington that Hall sat down to write about the community and his experiences here.

Under the pseudonym of Robert Carleton, Esq. he delivered a broadside of sarcastic descriptions that destroyed any of the goodwill lingering in the minds of his former IU colleagues.

Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

Having subjected his mind to the educational disciplines of Union College and Princeton Theological seminary, Hall was well qualified to teach at the college level. However, in his book, *The New Purchase*, published in 1843, he

described his Bloomington neighbors as "mainly very poor persons, very illiterate, and very prejudiced, with all of the virtues and vices belonging to woodsmen . . ."

OF THE FIRST TWO university buildings Hall said they were: " . . . crammed with somebody's hay and flax, while the larger was pouring forth a flock of sheep — a very curious form for a college to issue its parchments — which innoxious graduates paused a moment to stare, possibly at a future trustee, and then away they bounded, a torrent of wild wool, to the shelter of the woods."

Not contented with describing Bloomington's backwoods appearance, Hall chose to ridicule its

inhabitants. " . . . Woodville (Bloomington) even then, had two classes, the superior and the inferior; the former shaved once a week, the latter once in two weeks, or thereabouts."

DR. DAVID MAXWELL, who could justly be called a father of Indiana University, came in for his share of the ridicule from Hall's poison pen.

Of the pioneer physician he wrote: "Shoes he wore, it is true — but one a coarse cow-hide laced boot, and the other a calf-skin Jefferson, or some other presidential name . . . As a rare extravagance, and which placed him in the aristocratic class of democrats, the Doctor wore

(Page 2, col. 1, this sec.)