

# Items of interest in 1830s from Bloomington Post

It should be remembered that Marcus Deal, the editor of the young Bloomington *Post* in the equally young Bloomington of the 1830s, was not a native and couldn't be expected to have a lot of local political savvy.

Furthermore, Deal didn't have the modern-day reporter's nose for news or a sense of following through on news items apt to leave his readers in suspense.

A case in point was a little news story in the Nov. 6, 1835, edition of the *Post*. According to Deal, "On Thursday last, after the Regimental muster in this place, a difficulty arose between Samuel and James Edy and Joseph Polley." The difficulty turned into a homicide, Samuel Edy's jugular vein having been severed.

Deal's final paragraph said, "As this case must undergo a judicial investigation, we forbear making any further remarks upon it, except to say, that the parties, as is usual



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in such transactions, were intoxicated by ardent spirits." Subsequent issues of the newspaper failed to report any further details of the case or its disposition. Presumably anyone curious enough to find out, could have hung around the Courthouse, which was a gathering place for people who didn't have enough to do with their time.

The few newspapers published on the Indiana frontier were widely circulated and their articles freely re-printed. No doubt the Indiana College in Bloomington got a lot of free advertising, thereby, from Deal's long description of it in the

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