

Bartering was way of life

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the Bloomington mills and traded part of the wheat for the milling service.

J. & S.M. Orchard, who operated an inn, were willing to take corn, oats, wheat, pork for services they had previously rendered. Since meals were served in the inn, the Orchards could stock their kitchen larder with the edibles paid to them.

Physicians, newly arrived on the frontier from the East, were probably surprised at receiving firewood in exchange for house calls. It may be recalled that Dr. David Maxwell advertised in the *Post* that he had 12 or 15 barrels of old dry salt that he

was willing to sell for cash, "or exchange for corn."

Some of the merchants who advertised in the *Post* did not specifically state that they would take produce for goods. Perhaps, they were reluctant to take in feathers and hand over a yard of coarse, brown linen, but considering the scarcity of money, it is hard to imagine how they could survive financially.

As Indiana's money situation worsened in 1836, legislators were already fully aware that someone needed to be done. As Perring had stated in his letter plans were underway to overhaul the state's banking system.

Next week: More Local Effects of the Money Problem.