

All in fun

Publisher of Progress liked to share a laugh with readers

William Gabe, editor/publisher of the *Bloomington Progress* during the last century, had piled his trade in Bedford before moving to Bloomington. There is ample evidence in issues of the *Progress* to indicate that he brought more than printing presses to town or else his sense of humor merely followed him here.

While still editor of the *Bedford Independent*, Gabe reported to his readers in April of 1865, that Bloomington is "pitching in for the state agricultural college, in which farming is to be taught by actual experiment, rather than mere theory. From our knowledge of the soil around the vicinity of 'Young Athens,' we would suppose that all experimental teaching would fail. Still we hope our neighbors will succeed, and if Bedford is successful in getting a female college, we



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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will furnish the farmer boys with wives."

After he began publishing in Bloomington, Gabe had a habit of writing articles that leave readers wondering if they haven't been "had." Take for example the editor's account of an "All Fool's Day" social gathering.

According to Gabe, a man — "famous for a love of creature comforts" — who lived in the southern part of Bloomington, sent out "neatly written invitations

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