

Mysterious night visit to Maple Grove farm was never explained

Prior to the alleged night visit to the farm of Clinton Houston by four menacing fellows, there was nothing in the life of the man to indicate that he differed from his neighbors. There is a relatively short biographical sketch of Houston in the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana*, published in 1887.

Actually, the sketch deals more with his relatives than with the man, himself, as if the writer was hard-pressed to fill up the space. We learn that he was born in Bourbon County, Ky., that he married Elizabeth Wood, daughter of one of the earliest settlers of Monroe County, that he was a self-made man and that he was a member of the Christian Church. Also included are the names of his children — Nathaniel C., Richard W., Charles D., Emma E., Emsley C., Samuel F., Luella, Eva and Maggie.

Only a week after the mysterious visit of the four men, who called on Houston during the night at his farm in the



Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

Maple Grove section of the county, a small item appeared in the *Bloomington Progress*. It enigmatically said: "C.M. Houston says the 'mystery' connected with the night attack upon his house is being unraveled, and he will make it all plain at no distant day."

It should be noted that the county was plagued by whitecapers, who were self-styled arbiters of individual morality. Drunkards and wife-beaters had good reason to look over their shoulders when coming home late at night or sleep with one ear open. The night visitors meted out tongue-lashings, if the subject was fortunate, and lynchings. Needless to say, county

see *Mystery*, page A2