

Local support vital for IU

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which had no expiration dates, entitled the owner to free tuition at the University and, predictably, became a kind of saleable commodity.

IU historian James Woodburn wrote: "Fully 25 years later...these 'quietuses' were still offered for sale, a little lower than the regular fee . . . So a number of hard-headed farmers and others were known to have received from their "quietuses," in the course of 25 years, nearly twice what they had donated in the hour of the University's need."

MEANWHILE, Governor Joseph A. Wright warned the legislature that the outcome of the Vincennes University lawsuit had left the college at Bloomington in dire straits. Two other friends of the University came to the rescue.

Robert Dale Owen, son and namesake of the New Harmony philosopher, had channeled his talents into the fields of journalism, politics and creative writing. As a former IU Trustee, he was well aware of the precarious condition of the young school's finances.

Another champion of the cause was an Ohio University product, foreign language professor Daniel Read, whose career after IU was to include the presidency of the University of Missouri. With Owen he went to Washington, D.C., to form a two-man lobby for help for the struggling institution.

Ten years later, according to Bloomington historian "Pop" Hall, the Indiana legislature made its first appropriation (\$8,000) to IU. The amount of the subsidies steadily increased until 1883, when the general assembly passed an act providing for a permanent endowment for the University. It was backed up with a tax of one-half cent for each \$100-worth of taxable property.

MONROE COUNTIANS were to come to the rescue of "their" University again after the fire of 1883. A sum of \$50,000 secured by bonds was promised by the county commissioners over the protests of a few disgruntled property owners, who were faced with a tax of \$4.10 per year for ten years on \$5,000 worth of taxable property.

The fire prompted a handful of vocal citizens around the State to re-open the issue of moving the University to Indianapolis. Instead, the school moved across town to the Dunn's Woods site.

The issue was to rear its head yet another time in a puzzling incident on the occasion of the dedication of Kirkwood Hall in January of 1895. Some students appeared at the exercises wearing badges advocating the removal of the University to Indianapolis. Company H of the Indiana National Guard was also present as an honor guard for Governor Claude Matthews.

AS WOODBURN STATED IT, "Members of the Company, by order of the captain and at the instigation of some citizens, tore the badges from the clothes of the students, of both men and women. Some who resisted were struck in the face; others were knocked down and even bayonets were drawn on them . . . Very few citizens approved the Company's conduct and many were ready to aid the students in the prosecution for the misdemeanor. Steps were taken to revoke the Company's commission, but the affair was soon allowed to blow over."