

# Controversy over road route eventually led to trial

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## Looking back, from page C1

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Confronted by such politically influential taxpayers and, more importantly, voters, the board did what any group of practical politicians would do. They appointed a second group of viewers.

Reported the *Courier*, "... the

second body of viewers recommended that the road be opened. This was so ordered by the commissioners and an appeal was taken to the circuit court by the remonstrators, which cause came up for trial yesterday." Hence the trial which began on Dec. 23.

There is not much that can be inferred by reading between the lines

of the newspaper. There is, though, a rather oblique reference to Judge Robert Miers (who would normally have heard the case) "being an interested party" stepping aside in favor of an out-of-county judge. The readers of the *Courier* may have known about what his connection with the plaintiffs was, but any newcomer newspaper readers would have been left in the dark over what the conflict of interest might have been.

Crooke was Miers' choice for the sticky decision, but the *Courier* added that it was "with the permis-

sion of all parties concerned..."

Concluded the newspaper, "No trouble was had in the selection of a jury, and the trial began about 9 o'clock. Duncan & Batman and East & Miller appear for the petitioners and Henley & Wilson and Fulk & Corr for the remonstrators."

It was a battery of Bloomington's most prominent and experienced lawyers. The trial promised to be a particular entertainment for the courthouse habitues and professional trial attenders.

*Next week, the outcome.*