

Joseph Wright saved IU from extinction

In Rose Hill Cemetery there is a monument which bears the simple inscription "John D. Wright, died 1825, age 49."

Nothing about the head stone indicates that there was anything special about the human being buried beneath it so long ago. In fact, it is the epitome of understatement.

THERE WAS something special, though, about the year that Wright died, since May 1825 was the time when the first class of the Indiana Seminary was admit-

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

ted, and the doors of the school were opened. It is not known whether John D. Wright lived to see his son, Joseph, chosen among

the 10 first students, since the tombstone doesn't indicate which month the senior Wright died.

In a manner of speaking John Wright had already made an investment in the brand-new seminary that, in time, became Indiana University. He had brought his family from Washington County, Pa., during the decade between 1810 and 1820.

The census for the latter years is one of the only records that John Wright lived in Monroe County. Another place his name can be found in Blanchard's history of

Morgan, Monroe and Brown counties, which describes the first two seminary buildings. Among the workmen who constructed them in 1822 was John Wright, who was contracted "to do the stone work, and lay the brick in good mortar, made of well sifted dirt and plenty of good lime at \$4.25 per thousand."

THE DEATH of John Wright three years later must have been a hardship for his family. Though the 1820 census of

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