

Cost of living low in 1800s

(Continued from page 1)

from Louisville. (There was, however, a freight charge of 1 cent per pound.)

Mrs. Perring's cooking stove — also ordered from Louisville — cost a staggering \$50. She wrote her friend that it was such "an abridgement of labor."

Bacon and dried ham were 6¼ cents a pound, the same as tree sugar. Wood, presumably for the cooking stove and Perring household fireplaces, cost 75 cents a cord.

As wife of the female seminary principal, Mrs. Perring hobnobbed with the

wife of Indiana Seminary president Andrew Wylie. Apparently the two women had compared notes about servant problems. Mrs. Perring found the local female "help" a little too independent and cheeky for her taste. Nevertheless, she had a farm girl live-in servant and sent the laundry out. The cost was 37½ cents a week, without soap or starch, which the principal's wife was obliged to furnish.

Periods of prosperity and recession certainly made prices fluctuate, but perhaps the biggest single factor that lowered them was the coming of the New Albany and Salem Railroad in the mid-1850s.

Goods, previously brought into the county in smaller quantities by the horse-power freight service of the Orchard brothers, became more plentiful and cheap.

ISU trustees authorize suit

United Press International

Ray A. Neil, an associate