

IU's early graduates contributed to state

It was a warm day in June of 1819 when the last vote was counted in the temporary capitol building at Corydon, Indiana. Earlier in the spring of that year the frontier legislators had been summoned there to hammer out a state constitution for the vast area formerly known as the "Indiana Territory."

SECTIONS 1 AND 2 of Article 9 of the new constitution said in part: "Knowledge and learning, generally diffused through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government, and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country being highly conducive to this end...it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by law...for a general system of education, ascending in a regular gradation from township schools to a State University."

Thus enacted in black and white, the legislators expected that the "payoff" would indeed enrich the state of Indiana for generations to come. Actually, once the

Looking back

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little seminary they set in motion produced an almost instant "payoff." Translated into reality, the university brought benefits beyond the expectations of the legislators. (Admittedly, a college-educated man stood head and shoulders above his neighbors who had a one-room, log school house education.)

WE ARE INDEBTED to the seventh professor employed by Indiana University, Theophilus Wylie, for the opportunity to evaluate the benefits that began to be experienced by the state of Indiana and the

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