

Professor anxious over tenure in 1837

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that is very probable, it will not be very much to my discredit though those who know but little about me, and will not examine into the state of the case, will think otherwise."

Actually, Wylie had a bit of influence with the administration, at least. He was a cousin to the president of the university, Andrew Wylie. Burton D. Myers, Officers of Indiana University relates that Theophilus was hired by his cousin on a pro tempore basis to teach natural philosophy and chemistry.

Wylie may have been reading one page ahead of his students, since he was primarily a scholar of classical languages. His diary entry indicates that his class had just been tested in "mixed" mathematics and mechanics optics.

While Wylie was speculating about his chances of achieving permanent status on the faculty, he wrote, "Perhaps if I should come back and should continue to teach philosophy, I may one day become tolerable proficient, I love the study and that gives me hope."

Upon his arrival in Bloomington, Wylie had taken up residence in his cousin's house, but, "Not long after this, I got my

(miltimus) from Dr. Wylie's and had to take up lodgings at Mr. Orchard's public house."

In spite of his anxiety about his teaching position, the professor was very pleased with his new residence, "about as decent a one as I have ever lived in." Apparently he liked the Orchards, too, for he added, "It is a temperance house, the table is good, the host attentive and obliging."

On Sept. 27th, while he was still in suspense about his teaching position, Wylie looked inside himself and related in his diary, "... but when I looked forward to the duties which will lie before me if I remain a teacher in the college, I do feel as if I could do something. Whole lectures, illustrations, contrivances, all start into my mind, I feel as if I could please myself and please others."

Please the trustees he did. On Oct. 1 he wrote, "The board of trustees has adjourned, the elections are over, and the faculty remains in status quo, save, the lopping off of the titles pro tem from the names of us green-horns."

The trustees were to approve of the appointments of many teachers in the years ahead, but their decision to keep Theophilus Wylie was one of their finest hours of work in the early years