

# Monroe County still home for Indians in 1820s

Back in the days when Monroe County was one vast forest, it was the property of the Indians.

But in the Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809 the Indians ceded a diagonal stripe of territory that included most of the area that was to become Monroe County.

Though the treaty marked the beginning of emigration of a majority of the Indians, some remained in the county.

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## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

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**JAMES PARKS**, an early settler who came in 1816, wrote that when he brought his family to the Ellettsville area, Indians were still plentiful. In fact, they operated a "trading house" not far from the Parks homestead.

Geographically Monroe County lay between two well-traveled Indian trails, one of which followed White River diagonally across Owen County, and the other ran directly north/south a few miles beyond the Monroe County/Brown County line.

Baynard Hall, Indiana University's first professor, who arrived here in the early 1820s, wrote that Indians occasionally rode into Bloomington to while away the time in town, the former site of a wigwam village. He recalled that Dr. David Maxwell told the story of the day several Indians were on