

# Covenanter Presbyterians began cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

**ANDREW WAMPLER** WAS not one of the 1816 Monroe County land buyers. It is a matter of record, however, that he was a "seller of liquor" at Mt. Tabor. His property was in Section 1 in the extreme northeast corner of Richland Township. According to the *Histories of Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties, Indiana*, Wampler was a county justice of the peace in 1836 and a poll tax payer in the township in 1841.

One of the family homestead cemeteries in Van Buren Township was established by the Bunger family. The 1850 census taker found five

families by that name on the eastern side of the township. He reported the Bunger heads of household as Philip, age 54; John, 44; Jacob, 42; Joseph, 40, and Juritha, 34. All but the latter were born in Virginia.

**DESPITE THEIR** Southern roots, the Bunger family were avid supporters of the Union cause in the Civil War. Clarinda and Joseph served on the county committee to send boxes of food and clothing to wounded soldiers. M.E. was an adjutant in the 82nd Indiana Regiment and James E. died at home in August of 1864, of wounds received at the Battle of Resaca.

A sad commentary on the fate of unprotected and abandoned cemeteries may be found in the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library. Leaning against the fireplace is a little tombstone with a simple inscription, "Mary Elizabeth, daughter of William R. Kriner Born May 16, 1859 — Died September 24, 1859."

**FOR A LONG TIME** the "home" for the stone was a mystery. It had been found by local police in a student apartment — probably the victim of some sort of prank.

Bobbi Taylor, Indiana Room librarian, put a sign next to the tomb-

stone, asking patrons to scratch their memories about where it belonged. It is now believed that its home is the Stepp family cemetery within the boundaries of the Morgan-Monroe Forest. And it is logical to suppose that that is where it was originally. The name of Kriner (B.F., E.E., J.C. and John) can be found in the index of the history of Morgan County. Presumably they were near neighbors of the Stepp family.

Unfortunately the removal of the Kriner tombstone is not an isolated case. Other old stones have been pulled off their foundations by vandals and broken.