

Education issues have long history

"We have teachers in our own county that don't know what part of the world we live in, don't know whether we live north or south of the equator, or whether the world turns to the east or to the west," said James Woodburn in an address to the Monroe County Teachers Association in 1856.

Despite working conditions that would discourage many early Hoosiers from the teaching profession, James Woodburn, an early Monroe County settler, not only taught, but he tried to improve the lot of himself and his colleagues. It was his recollection that the first record of a local teachers organization was dated 1843.

He wrote later, "... I felt, I suppose, just like all young folks do when they set out; that is, that the world has been standing still just waiting for them to take hold, and that there is going to be a complete revolution in whatever department



Looking back

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of business they turn their attention to."

Woodburn remembered that some of the members of the association were Hubbard Marshall, Matthew Fee, Randolph Marshall, Samuel Hays and, of course, himself.

Apart from teaching conditions in those days one of the issues much discussed at meetings was the controversy of the "loud school" vs. the "silent school." In a debate Woodburn argued in favor of the former. His argument was that "In the first place when children are learning to

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