

Moss regime dark period in the history of IU

By ROSE H. McILVEEN

Special to the H-T

Of all the growing pains and crises Indiana University weathered in its infancy, perhaps the Moss-Graydon affair was the most outlandish.

The incident had its roots in the year 1875, when Cyrus Nutt, the fifth IU president, was abruptly dismissed for a combination of reasons. To fill the vacancy, the board of trustees chose Lemuel Moss, a Kentucky native and Baptist minister, who was presiding over the University of Chicago.

His arrival began cheerfully enough with a welcoming committee and vote of confidence in the college chapel, but his administration was marked by controversy.

An early issue was the question whether the literary society should be made coeducational.

There was also the problem that although Moss was an acknowledged scholar and teacher,

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he was known to take his title too seriously.

For instance, there was the organ grinder incident in the fall of 1877. An Italian with a performing bear in tow turned up at the university buildings. Professors Munson and Ballantine dismissed their geology and Greek classes to watch the show.

According to the *Indiana Student*, Moss charged out of the Preparatory Building and sent