

10 men in 1st class at IU

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Bloomington was about 600, with its few business places confined to the west and southwest areas of the square. It is not known what "Father Andrew's children" expected their schooling at the seminary would be like. In fact, the earliest students hadn't met "Father" Andrew Wylie at all, since he did not assume the presidency of the seminary until 1829. Up to that time Hall had the students in tow, reciting ad infinitum in the crude classrooms of the first seminary buildings.

IF ROTE LEARNING WAS NOT enough to cause them to rebel, the daily 8 a.m. chapel services probably did. Many an early IU student was caught nodding and yawning while sitting on the crude benches as Hall and Wylie, both ministers, ministered to their charges moral as well as intellectual natures.

Not far away from the campus the grog shops on the square beckoned. Too, almost every store kept a stock of home brew on the counter for the convenience of their customers. Some of the students after a hard day reciting and memorizing Latin, developed their own version of the "happy hour." The in-loco-parentis attitude of the university was in force with a vengeance, and the faculty constituted judge and jury.

One of Father Andrew's children, W. Palmer, turned up for chapel under the influence of liquor. It seemed, according to historian Clark, Palmer was lying down on the bench during the songs and sitting during prayers. He also had his knife open and laughed during Dr. Nutt's prayers. Another student, W. L. Prather, and confederates earned a hearing before the faculty by removing the pipes from the chapel stove so that it filled the room with smoke, thus postponing the services.

W. E. Maxwell sowed beans and birdshot over a commencement audience to relieve the tedium of a long address. He further shocked his mentors by bringing a dog to chapel services and refusing to remove it.

What became of that first class of raw student recruits? Did Baynard Hall and "Father" Andrew turn them into polished classical scholars? Woodburn reports that Findlay Dodds took his education to a tannery. James F. Dodds, Aaron Ferguson, and Hamilton Stockwell became doctors. John Todd and Michael Hammer preached the gospel. Samuel Dunn was merchant, banker, and public office holder. James W. Dunn, James A. Maxwell, and Joseph A. Wright became lawyers, the latter later elected governor of Indiana and a foreign diplomat.