

# Women raised a stink over hogs running loose

"... it is likely no man is so green as to try to run a garden and a hog at the same time." *Bloomington Telephone*, June 6, 1883.

In the fall of 1882, the women of Bloomington decided they'd had it with hogs. Not that they didn't continue to serve pork at the family table. The problem, incredibly, was an ordinance, or rather the lack of one, that restricted the freedom of domesticated farm animals.

An earlier effort by the county commissioners did provide for the construction of a fence around the courthouse — one that would keep animals from grazing on the lawn. (The periodic visits to Bloomington of the joint Indiana House and Senate Education Committee members and the occasional pressure to move Indiana University from Bloomington may have had some influence on the commissioners' decision about the courthouse lawn. Legislative teams were frequently dined at the Orchard



## Looking back

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House, and their informal deliberations could have been drowned out by the mooing of the cattle on the nearby courthouse lawn.)

Nevertheless, although the City of Bloomington had played with the idea of dog licensing, the problem of the hogs had been overlooked until the fall of 1882, when the women succeeded in getting the council to pass an ordinance restricting the roaming of hogs.

By the fall of the following year, the pro-hogites had gotten themselves organized. Commented the *Bloomington Courier* on June 9, 1883, "The city council

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