

# Charity efforts were apparently misplaced

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the YMCA, who agreed that something needed to be done. The something that he did was talk to Professor Schuyler Davisson, the Y advisor, who happened to have an automobile capable of transporting the jargesse collected by the students.

It was perhaps the professor who took the precaution of stopping to chat with a neighbor of the elderly couple in the shack. When learning that the professor and students had come bearing help in the form of food and clothes, the neighbor snorted, "Why them people there? They got more money than me and you put together. Why, them people is rich."

Further investigation revealed that the elderly woman was the former Sarah Belle Latimer, a 1874 graduate of IU with a bachelor of science degree. A gifted student, she had been known to speak fluent Greek and had taught school for a time. IU historian, James Woodburn,

mentioned Belle Latimer and her brother, James, in his account of the early years of the university. Belle was an associate editor of the Student and gave the main speech at the third anniversary of Hesperian Society, an organization of women students.

The Latimer Family had come to Monroe County prior to 1850. The father of Belle and James was an Irish immigrant, who bought a farm in Salt Creek Township. Belle was born in 1843 and her brother in 1851.

The News reporter apparently regarded the whole incident as an oddity worthy of a little research, but not too much. He may have confused neighbors gossip for the truth. In any case, Belle Latimer must have been a "character" worthy of prodding the reporter's imagination.

Actually, there were some rather unusual features to her history, but the reporter didn't stay long enough in town to unearth them.

Next week: Belle Latimer Kelley and her eccentricities.