

## First IU president's son

# Andrew Wylie famous

When Indiana University historian Thomas Clark coined the phrase "Father Andrew's children" he was referring to the early IU students during the administration of Andrew Wylie, the school's first president.

**THE MAN DID ACTUALLY** have some children of his own, and one, in particular, was on "center stage" at a couple of dramatic moments in our country's history.

Andrew Wylie, Jr., was born in Cannonsburg, Pa., while his father was serving as president of another college. When the man was elected president of Indiana University in 1829, 15-year-old Andrew, Jr., moved with the family to Bloomington.

It is probable that young Andrew had already taken some college-level courses in Pennsylvania. A Wylie family cousin and later IU professor, Theophilus Wylie, recorded in his book, *Indiana University, Its History From 1820, When Founded to 1890*, recorded that young Andrew was a graduate in the class of 1832, and that

## Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

he received the bachelor's and master's degrees.

UNLIKE THE OTHER Wylie children, he was not to enjoy the pleasure of living in the impressive brick house his father had built for the family in 1835 at the corner of Second and Lincoln streets. Three years earlier young Andrew, the graduate, had left Bloomington to study law at Transylvania University in Kentucky and in the Pittsburgh office of a distinguished lawyer, William Forward.

By 1838, the IU president's son had been admitted to the bar, according to his cousin, Theophilus. Ten years later he (Andrew, Jr.) moved to

Washington, D.C., and continued to practice in that city and nearby Virginia.

HIS FATHER, WHO guided the young Indiana University its first, sometimes faltering, years, was not destined to see his son achieve distinction in his own right. In the fall of 1850, President Wylie went out for a walk and took along his axe. When he had ranged about a mile from the home on Second Street, he accidentally cut his foot and bled a lot before he was found by some passersby. Pneumonia set in — not an unusual fate in those days before sulfa, penicillin and antibiotics — and the president succumbed.

At the age of 49 Andrew Wylie, Jr., was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as one of the justices of the supreme court of the District of Columbia. It was not only a juicy plum of an appointment, but it put the lawyer in the limelight at two occasions of national importance.

TROUBLE WAS BREWING in the

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