

# Early settlers literate

(Continued from page 1)

county commissioner in 1818. He later served as a justice of the peace and associate judge in 1825. He was also a teacher.

A CONTRACT FOR OVERSEEING the first county road was awarded to William Craig of Clear Creek Township. The road extended from Bloomington to Scott's Ferry on Salt Creek.

When straying farm animals interrupted county business on the square, Thomas Graham was among the villagers who petitioned the commissioners for a wall around the courthouse. The Bloomington Township resident allowed his cabin to be used for a polling place for the county's first election and was paid a handsome \$2.00 for the use of same.

Another overseer of the first county road to Salt Creek was William Jackson of Bloomington Township. He also held the offices of coroner and commissioner in 1822 and 1831, respectively.

JOHN KETCHAM, A MARYLANDER, was an Indian fighter during the War of 1812 and earned the respectful title of "colonel." He built a brick courthouse for the county and was an IU trustee. He lived in Clear Creek Township.

The first sheriff of the county was John W. Lee, who owned land in Van Buren and Bloomington townships. He was also a justice of the peace in 1832 and was a member of the committee charged with the responsibility of tearing down the old jail in 1837.

William Matlock, a Van Buren Township farmer, bought land in Bloomington Township, too. He served as an associate judge in 1823. The Matlock Heights subdivision is named for his family.

A Kentuckian, Jonathan Nichols, was another two-township landowner, in Van Buren and Bloomington. He was the first county surveyor, a justice of the peace and an IU trustee. He is also reputed to have been the first teacher in a school at Harmony.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE LEWIS NOEL settled in the Richland area of Bean Blossom Township. He, too, bought several Bloomington town lots and was a charter member of the Vernal Baptist Church.

An early Bloomington resident and liquor dealer was

John Owens. The merchant was appointed to a committee to find a site for the poor farm.

James Parks was a North Carolinian, who settled near Ellettsville. He frequently entertained Pottawattomie and Delaware Indians and their children in his cabin. Parks was a county commissioner and a state legislator, who refused to run for a second term, because he said he couldn't afford room and board in Indianapolis.

The first county treasurer was Roderick Tawlings. The Bloomington Township resident drew up plans for the first jail and signed a petition to incorporate the town of Bloomington.

DAVID ROGERS, A PENNSYLVANIAN, sold part of his 1816 parcel of land for the first courthouse. He assisted Robertson Graham in laying out the first Bloomington lots. Rogers, who also loaned his cabin for voting, was an early member of the First Christian Church.

Another 1818 commissioner was Bartlett Woodward, a Kentuckian, who settled in Clear Creek Township. It was Woodward who made the motion at the commissioners' meeting that whiskey be made available for prospective buyers at the first auction of Bloomington lots.

Elzy Woodward, whose birthplace is not recorded, was a justice of the peace for Indian Creek Township. He was also a schoolteacher in that area.

Close behind the above-mentioned 1816 land-buyers were other settlers who gave generously of their time to get Monroe County on a firm footing. Among them were the Blair, Maxwell, Rogers and Ellett families.

## Fires keep crews busy

United Press International

Firefighters gained an edge over a 7,000-acre blaze in brush and timber in Nevada, but flames in a rugged, wilderness area of northern California broke through a line and forced crews to call for reinforcements.

The Bureau of Land

Management said the flames destroyed brush as well as groves of pinion.

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