

# 10 young men in first class at IU in 1824

Indiana University historian Thomas D. Clark called them "Father Andrew's children" — the 10 raw, awkward young men in homespun suits that turned up on the opening day (May 1, 1824) at the brand-new State Seminary in Bloomington.

From the crowd of hopeful scholars IU's first professor,

Baynard Hall, separated out the ones who hadn't studied Latin and Greek and sent them home. Schooled in the classics at Union College

## Looking back

*By Rose McIlveen*

and Princeton Theological Seminary, Hall probably didn't imagine how earthy and mischievous his backwoods charges could be.

It is unfortunate that the early university records were lost in a fire, but fortunately another IU historian, James Woodburn was able to scrounge the names of the first students from other sources such as letters and Board of Trustees President David Maxwell's report to the State Legislature. Actually the first class was a bunch of Kentucky-born-turned Hoosiers. Apparently Professor Hall selected the following to try their hand at a seminary education: Findley Dodds, James F. Dodds, Aaron Ferguson, Hamilton Stockwell, John Todd, Michael Hummer, Samuel C. Dunn, James W. Dunn, James A. Maxwell and Joseph A. Wright.

**-WOODBURN'S HISTORY SAYS** that Maxwell reported to the legislature that in the first three years only Latin and Greek were taught to the Seminary students by Hall, whose teaching technique was strictly by rote — i.e. memorize and recite ad boredom.

Small wonder then that the stuff of which the first graduating class was made of rebelled at times.

David D. Banta, an early student at IU himself, who later became president of the Board of Trustees, estimated that the 1836 population of