

Education important to early residents

(Continued from page 1)

which served the purpose temporarily.

Meanwhile, the state legislature passed an act creating the Monroe County Female Seminary and appointed the following men to get it started: John Borland, John Hight, William Alexander, James D. Robertson, Frederick T. Butler, Austin Seward, Richard Hardesty, Ellis Stone and John Graham.

THE WOMEN GOT A building in 1835 and Pering, an Englishman educated at the Royal Academy of London, was their first principal. Enrollment each year averaged about 60 women.

In an account of the early days of the county, Margaret J. McCullough remembered the girls of Mr. Pering's school marching up what is known as Walnut Street "two by two, wearing white dresses with pink or blue muslin sashes . . . over their shoulders."

The Methodist Church set up a female seminary of its own and used the church for classes. They also operated a boarding hall for the women on Sixth Street between Walnut and Washington. That school closed at the beginning of the Civil War. Female students were admitted to IU in 1866, and separate schools were no longer needed.