

To the General Assembly of the State of Indiana
The undersigned Trustees of the Indiana University have
noticed from a perusal of the proceedings of your honorable
body that a resolution directing an enquiry into the expediency of
"relocating said Institution" has been adopted in the Senate, &
that the House of Rep^s. has appointed a select committee to
enquire into the causes of the decline of said ^{Institution}. These move-
ments on the part of your honorable body plainly indicate
that the idea is entertained abroad that the Indiana Uni-
versity is not answering the high expectations of its friends
or of the people of Indiana at large. It is with painful
feelings that the undersigned have witnessed the adoption
of any measure on the part of either branch of your
honorable body the tendency of which would be to remove
from Bloomington this Institution of learning. Yet notwith-
standing our feelings upon this subject we are fully apprized
of the truth that as guardians of the public weal it is
your imperative right & duty to investigate the situation
of public institutions thereby enabling yourselves to deter-
mine if any, or all of them, are answering the purpose
of their creation. The undersigned would respectfully repre-
sent to your honorable body, that they cannot conceive for one
moment, that the slightest cause exists for the removal of
this Institution from its present location: upon the contrary
it appears to us that the location of the State University
at Bloomington was peculiarly felicitous. The healthful-
ness of the town & its vicinity - the cheapness of board-
ing - the morality of the citizens - the love of literature
which seems to pervade the whole population - the retired
situation of the town, ~~& its vicinity~~ all conspire in an emi-
nent degree to render the present location of the Institution a for-
tunate event for the State. There are however other strong reasons

which the undersigned would respectfully suggest why
the Institution should not be removed — 1st A great amount of the
land belonging to the State for the use of the University and which are situated in the
vicinity of Bloomington have within some three or four years past been sold to the citi-
zens of this (Monroe) county, at a much higher price than they otherwise would have
commanded, had not the purchasers at the time understood & firmly believed
that the location of the University was permanent, & that in all future time they
and their descendants, would be enabled to reap the rich harvest of intellectual
improvement which necessarily results from such an Institution of learning.
There were inducements to purchasers to give high prices for the land, consequently
every dollar which those land diminish in value from the removal of the Universi-
ty, is so much actual pecuniary loss to the purchasers of those lands; to say nothing of
the much more substantial loss (mental improvement) which must be sustained
by every citizen in the vicinity of the University. In view of these facts we submit the
question frankly to each member of your honorable body "is it fair, is it just, is it
meeting out sheer justice to the purchasers of those lands, & to the people of this com-
munity to remove this Institution from amongst them thus suddenly & effectually
blasting their high & justly formed expectations of future benefits; we think we
can hear the response of every member of your honorable body, no, it is not fair, it is not doing
unto others, as we would they should do unto us. — At the same time that we feel so
confident of this response from your honorable body, we do not wish to be understood as censur-
ing the conduct of the Legislature or of any member thereof — far from it; it is only our desire,
and wish to disabuse the public mind (as we conceive it our right & duty to do) in re-
lation to the present location of Indiana University being a bad one. We would
further beg leave to represent that though a large majority of the people of this,
and the adjoining counties are opposed to the present Head of the University, yet we
believe there is not a solitary individual opposed to the Institution itself. (1)
In relation to the 2^d proposition involved in the action of your honorable body, viz
the appointment of a committee of investigation; we have a few things to say. We
are constrained (however painful it may be to us) to state that from some cause,
or causes, the University has been & yet is rapidly on the decline in the number of its stu-
dents. We believe we know the causes of this decline, at least we are satisfied in

our own mind what the causes are, yet we may be mistaken in our opinion. We think however that if your honorable body can by your committee of investigation ferret out the causes of its decline, & remedy the evil, that you will individually & collectively be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the friends of literature, and of the people of Indiana in particular. Indeed we think that if no other good was to be done by you during your present session than to ferret out the causes of the decline of the Institution and remove them, that your time, & the money of your constituents would be well spent, & the cause of literature much advanced & benefited. Why is it that Indiana University, situated in a central & healthy portion of a great & flourishing state containing nearly 800,000 inhabitants, an institution which has been regularly organized, either as a college or University for about eleven years, should have but forty one students, is to us a miracle. We will venture the assertion, that a similar state of affair does not exist in any reputable college or University in the United States. Some 12 or 18 months since the Indiana College (now the University) had from 100 to 137 students in a college year; now Indiana University has 41 who have reported themselves to the treasurer. Will may the Legislature say, with these astonishing & humiliating facts before them that something is wrong. — We would farther suggest to your honorable body that some amendments are necessary to be made to the charter.

- 1st Provide a more definite manner for the holding of called meetings of the Board when necessary.
- 2nd Prevent any of the Faculty from being members of the Board in any contingency whatever.
- 3^d Also to change the time of holding the regular sessions of the Board to the months of June or August. There are months when many members of the Board viz Attorneys & Physicians can attend; otherwise they cannot without great sacrifice.

In conclusion we earnestly remonstrate against the removal or relocation of Indiana University. We also say (& we presume our fellow members of the Board would do the same) that we do not oppose an investigation. If the fault

be with the trustees, we say, go on, if elsewhere our motto
is the same, go on. Ferret out the causes of the decline of this
Institution—place it on that high ground which it ought to occupy;
make it (what it ought to be) the pride of our young & growing
State.— Let it be pointed to as the hope of our future great-
ness—the main pillar which is to stay & support us in our fu-
ture career of prosperity & usefulness.—

In a word let the noble & generous ambition of the framers of the
constitution be fully realized in this Institution which was
provided for & founded by them

Bloomington

January 8. 1839

Pais C. Drumming

Wm. Turner

J. C. Howe

Leroy Mayfield

Dec
No 3

Office of Secretary of State

Indianapolis April 25 1840

I William J. Brown Secretary
of State for the said State of Indiana do hereby
Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the petition
introduced into the House of Representatives of the
State of Indiana by Mr Allison a Representative from
the County of Green on the 17th day of January 1840
I further certify that, ~~that~~ the sentence commencing
at the 24th line from the top on the second page in the
original, appears to be intended to be stricken out, as
near as can be after the manner of this copy

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the seal
of State at Indianapolis the date above

Wm J Brown
Secretary of State

