CHAPTER XLVIII.

AN ACT to establish a State Seminary, and for other purposes.

Approved, January 20, 1820.

SEC. 1. BE it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That Charles Dewey, Jonathan Lindley, David H. Maxwell, John M. Jenkins, Joseph Norman, and William Love, be, and they are hereby appointed trustees of the state seminary, for the state of Indiana, and that the name and style of the trustees of the state seminary, of the state of Indiana, and they, and their successors in office, shall have perpetual succession, and by the name and style aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law, to sue, and be sued, pleased, and be imprisoned, answer, and be answered unto, as a body corporate and politic, in any court of justice; and the trustees hereby appointed, shall continue in office, until the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, and until their successors are chosen and qualified.

SEC. 2. The trustees aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall meet at Bloomington in the county of Monroe, on the first Monday in June next, or so soon thereafter, as may be convenient, and being first duly sworn to discharge the duties of their office, shall repair to the reserved township of land in said county, which was granted by Congress to this state, for the use of a seminary of learning, and proceed to select a site for said seminary.

SEC. 3. It shall be lawful for the trustees hereby appointed, to appoint an agent to give bond, and such bond to be approved of by the trustees aforesaid, payable to the Governor and his successors in office, for the use of the state seminary aforesaid, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of their office, and that it shall be the duty of the agent aforesaid, after taking an oath of office, to proceed to lay off, and expropriate to said state, under the sanction of the trustees aforesaid, any number of lots, or quantity of land, within the reserved township, aforesaid, and contiguous to Bloomington, not exceeding one section, or six hundred and forty acres thereof.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the agent aforesaid, first to expose to sale such lots as may be selected most contiguous to the site which may be selected for the seminary aforesaid, and take of the purchasers of any lots or lands which may be sold, under the provisions of this act, such payments and security as may be directed by the said trustees aforesaid.

SEC. 5. The trustees aforesaid, shall in such manner as they deem expedient, erect a building for a suitable building for a suitable and commodious house for a Professor, on the site which may be selected by them for that purpose.

This act signed into law by Governor Jonathan Jennings on January 20, 1820, may be called the birth certificate of Indiana University. The law named the trustees of the proposed State Seminary and instructed them to meet in Bloomington the first Monday in June 1820. They were directed to sell some of the land, select a site for the seminary in Perry Township of Monroe County, and erect "a suitable building for a state seminary, as also a suitable and commodious house for a Professor." The trustees spent more than five years complying with the terms of the law, for it was April 1825 before the seminary opened for instruction. The State Seminary had as its first appropriation, $8,000, in support of the university.