

Letter to the Editor

Editor: *Indiana Magazine of History*

At hand is a short memoir by George Cary Eggleston describing his experiences as a teacher on Riker's Ridge (also spelled Ryker's Ridge) in Jefferson County, northeast of Madison, which his brother Edward Eggleston re-used in his novel *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*. This incident interests me.

Charley Grebe, aged 21 and the strongest boy in the School, made a deal with the new young schoolmaster—age 16!—that he would keep order in the school if the master would truly teach him math, “instead of just pretending, like the rest.” It was his ambition to become a shipwright, for which he needed to know “arithmetic, algebra, and at least the rudiments of trigonometry.”

The agreement was mutually satisfactory. Eggleston did teach him; he became an apprentice, and discipline was exemplary. Eggleston did not know whether he achieved his goal and did indeed become a shipwright.

Does any reader know his later history?

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Letters to the editor are printed verbatim.