

A Rural Indiana Weekly as Promoter: Editorials from the *Peru Gazette* of 1839

*Edited by Walter R. Houf**

Midwestern towns during the nineteenth century often sprang up overnight and grew into sizable communities in a few years. Frequently their developers had grandiose dreams and envisioned them as the metropolises of the future. In their minds the crossroads hamlet or the trading center on the riverbank would swell into a thriving city serving the surrounding countryside. Fulfilling this dream required an influx of many kinds of settlers who could produce the wares and provide the services necessary for such a social and economic unit. Therefore, throughout most of the 1800s promoters of particular midwestern towns sought to attract immigrants from older communities who could practice the arts, crafts, and professions essential to their towns as well as to lure farmers into their vicinity.

Mark Twain, ever perceptive to the mundane side of man, satirized much of this promotional drive in *The Gilded Age*. In this work, Colonel Beriah Sellers transformed a broken down river landing into a paper city, claiming that it would contain all the facilities and services that settlers and investors desired.¹ An earlier article in *The American Review* of October, 1845, also colorfully depicted some of the techniques used by speculators and promoters. According to the *Review* one town developer found it most convenient to lay out his settlement in midwinter when freezing temperatures provided firm footing in what was otherwise a marsh.²

Whether they were reputable or shady ventures, incipient towns had to be publicized if they were to attract the settlers so essential to their survival. As a result local newspapers often acted as publicity agents for them. The editor's reasons for doing so varied. He might be an open or surreptitious representative of the town's developers who had established the press specifically to advertise the community. Perhaps his admiration resulted from a sincere conviction that the settlement offered the greatest opportunity and the best society available to new residents. Or he could serve as publicist because his success was tied to the growth of the town, for more than likely if the county had probably begun about 1827, but Miami County was not officially organized until 1834. Miamisport, the first town in the county, was munity prospered, the newspaper prospered. Consequently many small town

* Walter R. Houf is assistant professor of history, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

¹ Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* (2 vols., New York, 1873), I, 197.

² "'Commercial Delusions'—Speculations," *The American Review*, II (October, 1845), 341-57, reprinted in Charles N. Glaab, *The American City: A Documentary History* (Homewood, Ill., 1963), 147-59.

editors called attention to their localities through sketches outlining the qualities which they considered most inviting.³

Despite a somewhat general pattern of a booster press in the early Midwest, rural Indiana weeklies seem to have been less active than those of neighboring states in promotional activities.⁴ However, a prominent example of the technique appeared in 1839. During that year the *Peru Gazette* ran a series of promotional articles describing the natural and economic characteristics of the town and its surrounding area. Defining their mission as one of informing potential residents about the advantages of Peru and Miami County, the editors, Augustus Banks and James B. Scott,⁵ stated that their remarks were "particularly designed for that class of good citizens, who may chance to see them, inhabiting the ridges of the Alleghany [*sic*] or the mountain itself. . . ." They claimed that it was unnecessary to tell Peru's residents about the town's advantages since they were "self-evident truths familiar to all our citizens. . . ." Clearly illustrating the efforts of Banks and Scott to encourage the growth of their community, the articles provide information about Peru—indicating population, types of businesses, town plan, and anticipated improvements in transportation. They also touch upon such social and cultural features of the community as schools and churches. Since this particular emphasis became increasingly important in later promotional literature, Banks and Scott display shades of the future in their campaign. The editors also express the established community's fear that it might lose settlers to other towns and states farther west.

The area lauded by Banks and Scott included the town of Peru and Miami County, located in north central Indiana. Lasting white settlement in laid out in 1829. Rivalry between Joseph Holman, its founder, and William N. Hood, an influential resident, led to Hood's laying out the town of Peru

³ Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Americans: The National Experience* (New York, 1965). Chapter 17 is a good brief treatment of the booster press. Lewis Atherton, *Main Street on the Middle Border* (Bloomington, 1954), 8-13, 28, includes information on the role of the local press in promotion and an instance when an editor had to defend himself against the claim that he was an agent of the developers of Algona, Iowa.

⁴ A sampling of Indiana newspapers produced almost no examples of promotional editorials.

⁵ Little information about Banks has been located. The *Miami County Sentinel* noted his death in 1891 at the age of ninety-one and recalled that he had arrived in Peru in 1837, shortly thereafter becoming involved in newspaper work with James B. Scott. His partner left more of a mark. His life spanned most of the nineteenth century from his birth in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1815 to his death in Delphi, Indiana, in 1899. During Scott's early childhood, his family moved to Brookville, Indiana, then to several other towns in the state. During these years his father served as judge of Wayne County and also published a series of newspapers. James learned the printer's skills from his father, and in 1839, after undergoing some of the difficulties common to starting a local paper in the pioneer Midwest, he and Banks began publishing the *Peru Gazette*. *Miami County Sentinel*, January 29, 1891; Indiana Biography Series, IV, 106-107, Indiana Gazette, July 27, 1839.

in 1834. Holman and Hood vied for the county seat, but the latter agreed to donate land for a public square, offered to bear the cost of building a brick courthouse and a log jail, and proposed to contribute lots to the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations if his town was selected. Commissioners designated Peru the county seat in 1834. Hood also enticed many Miamisport businessmen to Peru, either by giving away business lots or selling them at a very low price.⁷

In August of 1840 the *Peru Gazette* aligned itself with the Whig party, and the editors began emphasizing partisan politics rather than publicizing Peru and Miami County. From this date on, editorial space was devoted to arguing political issues, criticizing the opposition, and endorsing Whig candidates. Viewed in the context of promotional activities by rural mid-western weeklies of the mid and late nineteenth century, the articles in the *Peru Gazette* are not unique. Instead, they indicate how this newspaper engaged in a kind of campaign much more typical of the local press in other places and at other times.

⁷ George Pence and Nellie C. Armstrong, *Indiana Boundaries: Territory, State, and County* (*Indiana Historical Collections*, Vol. XIX; Indianapolis, 1933), 592, 595; Arthur L. Bodurtha, *History of Miami County, Indiana* . . . (2 vols., Chicago, 1914), 86-88, 153-58. Today the old town of Miamisport lies within the city limits of Peru. Its boundaries are Main Street on the north, Lafayette Street on the east, Holman Street on the west, and the Wabash River on the south. Bodurtha, *History of Miami County*, 156.

[Peru Gazette
July 27, 1839]¹

We last week said something of the rise and progress of the district of country belonging to our county [Miami] laying northwest of us—in this place we purpose [*sic*?] continuing our remarks a little farther and nearer home, so as to embrace Peru and its suburbs, to notice some of the results of enterprise and industry brought about in the short space of time of less than five years. These remarks are more particularly designed for that class of good citizens, who may chance to see them, inhabiting the ridges of the Alleghany or the mountain itself, or any other country where the whortleberry and mullen grows luxuriantly in a favorable season, and the whip poor-will whistles its mournful notes by moonlight. They are self-evident truths familiar to all our citizens, every day affairs, and consequently of but little interest to any other than such persons as those to whom we have alluded above, who may wish to hear of a better country than the one which they inhabit.

About five years ago the first sale of lots took place in Peru, then the town tract of land and the country generally in a state of nature, where Indians and wild beasts held almost undisturbed sway—at the present time Peru contains a population of near four hundred and the country around well settled.² Four years ago or about twelve months subsequent to the time the town was laid out, a friend of ours informs us he came to this town, and when he supposed himself in the neighborhood of Peru, made enquiry of some one whom he chanced to meet in the woods, where he would find a tavern, he was directed to take a circuitous route up one cow-path and down another, the best streets and roads to be found in them days, and on the rising ground near which one of our best hotels is now situated, he would discover a round buckeye log cabin, ten feet by twelve, which was the best tavern in Peru; prior to his arrival at the tavern and after he made the first enquiry, our informant says he met a second friend on the then street and had to enquire the second time for the tavern before he could find it through the woods and underbrush. On his arrival at the inn he found a goodly number of the settlers met together discussing very earnestly some points of law, over a good large fire composed of logs little short of the same dimensions of those in

¹ With minor changes in spacing these editorials have been reproduced exactly as they were in the original newspapers. Printing and/or spelling errors (for example, Alleghany, sufficient, accessible, people, fanned) have been retained and have not been indicated by a [*sic*]. Inconsistencies in spelling and/or grammar—enterprise, enterprize; lying, laying; centre, center—have likewise been reproduced. Apostrophes which were omitted from possessives have not been added, and colloquial expressions such as “them days” have not been changed. In one instance a period has been added in brackets at the end of a sentence; occasionally explanatory material has also been inserted in brackets. Photographic reproductions of the original newspapers, which are located in the Archives Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, were used in editing.

² *The Sixth Census of the United States, 1840*, 359, does not list the population of Peru. Peru Township, however, had 961 residents and Miami County 3,048.

the walls of the hotel, in which they appeared all interested. As soon as they had fairly discussed the questions of law having a bearing on the case, and the Squire gave his decision, our informant had something of the best the country would afford prepared to allay hunger and afterwards made himself better acquainted with the crooks and turns of the streets in Peru.

Peru is rapidly on the increase, probably growing as fast or more rapidly than any other town on the [Wabash] river taking into view all things connected with its prosperity. There are at this time several very respectable houses rapidly going up to completion, beside many other valuable improvements making in town and country. Whilst our town lots are being improved the rich and fertile soil of the surrounding country, is stripped of its foliage given it by nature and successfully tilled, yielding abundantly to the enterprising and industrious farmer[.] At this time there are in Peru five dry goods stores, one apothecary and drug store, three groceries, three taverns, gunsmiths shop, four carpenters and joiners shops, two cabinet makers shops, one hatter and one saddler shop, four tailors shops, two blacksmith shops, one tanners shop, two or three shoemakers shops, three magistrates offices, one law office, four physicians, post office, printing office, &c. This is about a fair estimate of the business transactions now going on in Peru, the seat of justice of Miami county.

Taking into view the many natural advantages which this town and adjacent country is possessed of, it may readily be supposed our improvements are not to stop where they now are, but march steadily forward for the time to come as they have been progressing for the four or five years which are past, and with equal or greater rapidity. One amongst the most valuable improvements in this vicinity and one of incalculable advantage to the growth of the place, which deserves at least a passing notice at our hands, is the elegant sawmill erected and very recently finished, situated at the dam built across the river, half a mile above town from which the great Wabash and Erie canal³ here obtains a supply of water. The mill is built on a site immediately below the dam, and so constructed as to be at all times, summer and winter, fed with a plentiful supply of water with perfect ease and safety, to drive two saws, which it is calculated to run. We understand the proprietors of the mill here spoken of, have it in contemplation to erect a flouring [grist] mill at or near the same place; the water power easily obtained is

³ Construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal, to be built from Toledo, Ohio, to Lafayette, Indiana, was begun in 1832. The project was to be financed by a substantial federal land grant and proceeds from the canal. Although some sources indicate that the canal reached Peru as early as 1837, this article verifies that it was there at least by 1839. Not until July 4, 1843, was the Wabash and Erie opened for navigation from Toledo to Lafayette. Arthur L. Bodurtha, *History of Miami County, Indiana* . . . (2 vols., Chicago, 1914), I, 247-48; John Stephens, *History of Miami County* (Peru, 1896), 181; Logan Esarey, *Internal Improvements in Early Indiana* (*Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Vol. V, No. 2; Indianapolis, 1912), 78-95.

sufficient for all such purposes. The extensive tannery establishment on the canal at Miamisport, half a mile below town, should not be lost sight of, which is in full operation and of much use to the citizens of this place and vicinity, where the necessary supplies of the article manufactured, can at all times be obtained at reasonable rates, and of a quality not inferior to that made at any other place. These are some of the results of enterprize and industry which we have thought proper here to notice, which have recently taken the place of the Indians hunting ground; there are other improvements of no less importance which we must at this time pass over.

A few months more the large and valuable tract of country, lately ceded to the government by our neighboring tribe of Indians laying along the Wabash south and east of us, will be offered for sale. The treaty entered into last fall by the government's agent, Col. Pepper, calls for at least two hundred thousand acres of as good soil as any in the State of Indiana, well watered and timber of every variety in great abundance.⁴ This tract of country is now being surveyed, or perhaps the survey is completed, holds out very strong inducements to those who wish to become possessed of valuable tracts of new land, to make purchases, when a purchase can be effected. The extent of country which will be for sale, its favorable location, the richness of the soil, watered as it is by never failing mill streams and springs of wholesome pure water as ever run out of the bowels of the earth, plenty of all kinds of timber for every purpose for which it may be wanted; all these combined advantages to be derived by purchasers, will no doubt before another five years roll round, draw to the country quite a dense population, and a valuable accession to the increasing population of Miami county. Situated on Little Pipe creek, which waters part of the above mentioned territory, about two or two and a half miles from this town, is an excellent sawmill which yet sends many supplies of lumber to town; and previous to the erection of the new mill at the Peru dam, nearly or quite all the lumber necessary for building and other purposes on this side of the river, was procured at this mill summer and winter.

The line of the Central Canal, which is not yet located to any point on the Wabash, will in all probability pass through the eastern extremity of the late purchase of land, and run nearly the course of the Mississinawa river for a considerable distance above its mouth, to some point below the mouth of

⁴ Government agent Colonel Abel C. Pepper completed this treaty with the Miami Indians on November 6, 1838. It went into effect February 8, 1839. For text of the treaty see Charles J. Kappler (ed.), *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties* (2 vols., Washington, 1904), II, 519-24. For map showing area of cession and discussion of Indian land cessions and removal in Indiana, see Logan Esarey, *A History of Indiana from Its Exploration to 1850* (2nd. ed., 2 vols., Indianapolis, 1918), I, 374, 377-85. See also R. Carlyle Buley, *The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period, 1815-1840* (2 vols., Indianapolis, 1950), I, 94-123.

said river and a little distance above this place.⁵ It has been ascertained, and we believe correctly too, by those well informed of the most practicable routes for said canal line, that it would be a saving of many thousand dollars to the State, and a large amount of labor, to have its termination at the river near this place, that it would conserve as well or better to the interests of the community at large, than perhaps any other accessible point higher up the river. From all the information we have been able to gather on this subject, we are of the opinion, and it is no doubt the opinion of a large portion of the people, founded on reason and judgment, that the arguments to be aduced in favor of a point at or near this place for its termination, are about as two to one over any other place at all practicable further up the river. It is yet unknown how soon a survey and location of this line of improvement will be made or the work entered upon, but it is to be done, and no doubt will be attended to by those into whose hands have fallen the care of the public improvements of the State, in due season; a year or two will unravel the mystery.

[Peru Gazette
August 3, 1839]

A friend of ours paying us a visit at the office the other day, made the remark that we had a most beautiful landscape presented to view, of the tract of country lying immediately below town, along the canal and river and including Miamisport. The observation made, caused us again to notice it, perhaps for the twentieth time, and revived within us many pleasing reflections that our lot was cast in a land of plenty, where kind Providence supplies the wants and necessities of all who sow, and those who do not, in a country as plentifully as any other. The gentle inclination of the land from the river back gives to it an imposing appearance laying as it does beautifully to the sun. The first thing that presents itself to view is the many gardens within the limits of town, tastefully laid off, bearing within their enclosures all which the cultivators were want to produce in great plenty, which is now

⁵ In 1836 the Indiana General Assembly provided for an extensive, state financed internal improvements system. The System of 1836 included plans for canals, railroads, and roads. Two of the proposed projects were the extension of the previously mentioned Wabash and Erie Canal to Terre Haute and the Central Canal. The latter was to begin at the most suitable point on the Wabash between Fort Wayne and Logansport, proceed via Muncie to Indianapolis, down White River to the forks, thence by the best route to Evansville. When, due to lack of adequate planning, finances, and the Panic of 1837, the System finally broke down in August, 1839, only a few sections of the Central Canal had been completed. As indicated in this editorial, the northern terminus of the canal had still not been determined nor construction begun in 1839. For discussion of the System of 1836, its effect on settlement in Indiana, and its eventual failure, see Esarey, *History of Indiana*, I, 408-36; John D. Barnhart and Donald F. Carmony, *Indiana: From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth* (4 vols., New York, 1954), I, 321-27, 333-44.

at full mid-summer growth, and presents to the view a yield as abundant as anticipation can reasonably suggest. Beyond the town plat is to be seen a hundred or more acres of corn, now nearly at full growth, thickly though evenly set upon a soil as well adapted to its culture as any, probably, in the world, the tops of which when fanned by the southern breeze, has a beautiful and pleasing appearance. A little further down is the village of Miamisport, if we mistake not, the first white settlement made in the county, here is to be seen all of which we have already noticed, with many residences recently put up, inter-mingled with buildings, the work of the enterprising and hardy pioneers, who ventured amongst the aborigines in years which are past.

[*Peru Gazette*
August 3, 1839]

It is perhaps already well known to all our readers, that this town was laid out and sale of lots took place about five years ago, which was then a country in a state of nature; view if you please what a favorable change has been brought about even, without extending the observation further, in Peru, and then look at the further improvements we may reasonably anticipate in the country, say, by the time the year 1850 comes round. At the present time we have between four and five hundred inhabitants pleasantly situated along ten or eleven streets, handsomely laid out, crossing each other at right angles, with the several churches, frequent preaching and respectable congregations, schools through the week and Sabbath schools well and profitably attended by the young and the adult, this has all been brought about in five years. This being the fact, what may the year above stated, ten years from this time, exhibit to view in this place and country. As improvements now progress and emigrants come into the country, Peru may number five thousand inhabitants and the county of Miami poll as many votes, instead of seven hundred as is now the case.⁶ The great natural advantages to this place are numerous, and if those advantages be well improved, the time to come well spent, ten years

⁶ Peru did not achieve the spectacular growth envisioned by the newspaper. The following chart indicates the population of Peru and Miami County from 1840 to 1900. While it shows growth, that of the first two decades was far from what the editors predicted.

	Peru	Miami County
1840	961 (includes Peru Twp.)	3,048
1850	1,266	11,304
1860	2,506	16,851
1870	3,617	21,052
1880	5,280	24,083
1890	7,028	25,823
1900	8,463	28,344

From the federal census reports for the years cited.

we confidently say will carry us far beyond countries being much our senior in years in improvements of every class. The country will be checkered over with good roads and canals, which is as much susceptible of being easily and profitably improved in this way as the general face of any country under the sun. As improvements march on, towns and villages will spring up as if by magic, on sites which the wild deer and wolf now take their nightly repose in silence, and the day hunter pass over without beholding any thing with admiration but the richness of the soil which he treads upon. In ten years Peru may in all probability boast of her fine bridge erected across the Wabash at the end of Broadway, a handsome and well finished structure over which may pass daily many the residents of the country a part of which has but very recently passed into the hands of the government. In 1850 a South Peru may be built up, where now the lonely shanty stands shaded by the sycamore which nature planted there, numbering many more inhabitants, than does now Peru proper. The expiration of ten years in all probability will find a great central thoroughfare through the State from a point on the river at or near this place, along which the rich products of the country will pass north and south as they may be required, or the fluctuation of markets dictate. On either side of this canal may stand erected splendid specimens of architecture, as costly as any of which the state can now boast, lockports, farms and farm houses as tastefully got up as New England can present to the eye of the backwoodsman.

[*Peru Gazette*
September 28, 1839]
*For The Gazette*⁷

PERU.

"What beautiful little village is that, springing up in the midst of this wilderness," inquired my friend as we emerged from the deep shades of the lovely forest, known as the "MIAMI RESERVATION," which skirts the southern border of the Wabash river, almost in the center of the State of Indiana.

"That," said I, "is the town of PERU, the seat of Justice for Miami, one of the richest counties of land in the State. Five years ago that lovely little village had no existence; now it contains nearly five hundred inhabitants, as industrious, enterprising and respectable as are to be found in any other place."

"How vast! how wonderful! the change that has been wrought upon this section of country within a very brief space of time," said my companion. "Ten years since this whole region was one unbroken forest—

⁷ While this item has the appearance of a letter to the editor and is signed "M," it is possibly an editorial in disguise, since editors frequently used this technique to present their opinions.

"Where nothing dwelt but beasts of prey,
And men as fierce and wild as they,"—⁸

Now it begins to "bud and blossom as the rose." The all pervading spirit of modern enterprise has but to wave over the primeval forest,—her magic wand and forthwith, in the twinkling of an eye, up springs beautiful villages and cultivated farms, all teeming with an industrious and happy population, enjoying all the advantages of canals, rail roads, and turnpikes, in the full tide of successful operation."⁹

* * * * *

The town of PERU is delightfully situated upon a gently elevated plain, a short distance below the confluence of the Wabash and Mississinawa rivers, and immediately on the north bank of the former stream. It must undoubtedly from its dry and elevated position, be a healthy location,—and surrounded as it is, with a soil of unsurpassed fertility, abounding with springs and honey brooks in great variety—and having an abundant supply of the best hydraulic power, it bids fair to become at no distant day, one of the most business points on the "Upper Wabash."

The county of Miami contains nearly four hundred square miles of territory, a large portion of which is the richest alluvial or bottom lands. The majestic Wabash rolls through it from east to west. And parallel with, and from five to eight miles distant from this noble stream, glides the chrystal waters of the beautiful Eel, one of the best and most permanent mill streams in the State. And then from the south east corner to the centre, that wild and romantic forest stream, the Mississinawa, winds its solitary course, and mingles its limpid waters with those of the Wabash:—Thus affording to the inhabitants of this highly favored country, the incalculable advantage of three fine rivers, together with many less, though important streams. This and the adjoining counties abound with inexhaustable beds of iron ore of a superior quality, which will ere long yield to the enterprising capitalist a rich reward.¹⁰ The Wabash and Erie canal, that grand chain of communication, which is to connect, and commingle the waters of Lake Erie with those of the gulf of Mexico, passes directly through Peru. And last, though not least,—the Peru Collegiate Institute, the only chartered college north of the Wabash

⁸ Source unknown.

⁹ Asterisks below are in the original editorial and do not indicate an omission.

¹⁰ According to Barnhart and Carmony, *Indiana*, I, 365, the manufacture of iron ore was begun at Mishawaka (St. Joseph County) in 1837 and at Rochester (Fulton County) about 1839. Hoosiers were enthusiastic about the extent and richness of Indiana ore, even predicting that cities in the northern part of the state would become "ere long, the Pittsburg of Indiana." Subsequent experience did not bear out such high hopes.

is located here, and bids fair to become a flourishing and respectable institution of learning.¹¹

Now gentle reader in view of all these advantages, we have only to say to you, if you are seeking a habitation, and a home, in the rich valley of the Wabash, just give us a call, for we are satisfied that Peru, and the surrounding country, "to be admired need but to be seen."

M.

[Peru Gazette
October 5, 1839]

EMIGRATION.—At no period perhaps since the first settling of this country, has there been such a march of emigration into our country, as there has been during the past month; from our own observation, we are satisfied that the number of movers this fall will more than double that of the corresponding period last season. The farmers of the neighboring State of Ohio, and older counties of our own beloved Hoosier land, are to be seen wending their way through our town daily, we might say, to use a common place term and without exaggeration, in droves, to their new homes on some of the rich lands north and west of us, in this Fulton and other adjoining counties. There is room for all in this fertile region of country and to spare, excellent locations for the farmer not yet made choice of, of every variety of land desirable to the cultivator of the soil. The farmers we like to see coming and settling down on the uncleared lands of the county, it speaks well for the rise and progress of improvements in this new country.

Where every variety of soil exist those who wish to own or cultivate it, cannot help but be able to make a choice to their satisfaction. In Miami county if the farmer wishes to have river bottom land, rich, level and a heavy growth of almost every variety of timber, at a moderate price per acre, he can have such; if land a little distance from the rivers, where farms are more easily opened, soil excellent, be preferred it can be had; if higher and more rolling land be the choice, soil rich enough to produce fifty or sixty bushels of corn to the acre, it can be purchased a short distance from the county town at cheap rates; if wet prairie land is the choice of any,

¹¹ The Peru Collegiate Institute was chartered by the state legislature and opened in 1837. The act of incorporation granted the power to confer degrees in the arts and sciences similar to degrees granted by other colleges in the United States. In addition, the institution was to give immediate and serious consideration to conducting a department for the preparation of common school teachers and was to establish a division for training females in the branches of learning usually taught in female seminaries. Indiana, *Local Laws* (1837), 17-18; Richard G. Boone, *A History of Education in Indiana* (New York, 1892), 60, 73. According to Bodurtha, *History of Miami County*, I, 295, the institute was operated by the Reverend John Stocker, a Presbyterian minister, and his wife, and financial difficulties eventually caused the institute to close.

plenty to be had, which in many places might be converted into the best of farms at about the same cost and labor of clearing an equal number of acres of wood land; if dry prairie or oak opening land be preferred such can be had in our county to purchase at prices varying from three to ten dollars an acre or upwards according to quality and location.

Peru is situated in latitude about 41 deg. N., climate as healthy as the boasted Alleghany mountain locations; we would not exchange our present place of residence with all the imaginary difficulties incident to a new country settlement, for any other north, east, west or south, and a quarter section of the best land to boot. The chilling wintry winds and drifting snows of the wide spread prairies of Illinois, nor the scorching summer sun of July and August dont have so direful an effect on us as upon less fortunate settlers. The Iowanians and Missourians may be content with their homes, but the settlers of Indiana have greater reason to be satisfied. The rocky cliffs, mountains and ridges of the east, the endless snows and barren soil of the north, the rice, sugar and cotton fields of the south and south west, all may have their charms, but give us a Hoosiers residence among the cornfields and pumpkin vines of Indiana.