ASSOCIATES OF LINCOLN
IN ILLINOIS

DRAWER 3 MATURITY - SPRINGFIELD

Abraham Lincoln before 1860

Associates while Living in Springfield

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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ANNUAL ADDRESS.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF SOME OF THE EMINENT STATESMEN AND LAWYERS OF ILLINOIS.

[Hon. Charles P. Johnson, A. M., St. Louis.]

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen—Historically speaking, St. Clair county occupies the most prominent position of any of the territorial subdivisions of the State of Illinois. Within its original boundary lines were the two ancient settlements of Kaskaskia and Cahokia. There has been some contention among antiquarian investigators as to which of these places had precedence in settlement. The difference, however, involves either way but one or two years. Their relative historical importance is about the same. The later subdivision of the county placed Kaskaskia in Randolph county It can be truthfully averred, however, without question, that the county, as originally constituted, was the birth place or cradle of civilization in the valley of the Mississippi. And, further, it can be authoritatively claimed that after the division referred to, the county, as now constituted, became the centre of intellectual activity and was associated for years with more of historical interest than any other county in the State. In 1814 the county seat was removed from Cahokia to Belleville, and thenceforth the annals of that place became more intimately associated with the history of the State than either Kaskaskia or Cahokia. It was my good fortune not only to be born in St. Clair county but to be born on the 18th of January, 1836. That year is very generally referred to as marking a new era in the career of Illinois, About that time old ideas, customs and methods were passing away and new ones were taking their places. The people were beginning to realize and appreciate the magnificent opportunities of their possession and location. A foreshadowing of the glorious destiny of their State, the proud and advanced position she now occupies in the republic, stirred their imagination, inspired their patriotic zeal and aroused their energy. Their efforts were guided by able and ambitious leaders with broad views and prophetic visions, who added the stimulus of agitation to the new born spirit of progress. The real birth of the internal improvement system dates from this period. And notwithstanding the many foolish and reckless phases involved in the efforts to carry it into operation on the immense scale projected, it had its decided beneficial effects. From out those efforts was generated that energizing force which has

brought to perfection the splendid system of railroads in the State, as well as the improvements in canal and river transportation. At the Internal Improvement convention of that year recommendations were made which were incorporated into a bill by the succeeding session of the general assembly, and became a law by which the sum of $10,200,000, was appropriated for the construction of railroads and improving the navigation of certain rivers. At the same session this body provided for another loan of $500,000, to be expended on the Michigan and Illinois canal. Stephen A. Douglas was the foremost champion of the cause. They wrestled with the State bank question, increasing the stock of the State bank to $2,000,000, and that of the Shawneetown Branch bank to $1,400,000. They also passed the bill providing for the removal of the Capital of the State from Vandalia, a name closely associated with the events of the State and Territory. Other important enactments were made by the assembly, but these are enough to tell of the active spirit abroad in the land. And, as might be expected, the questions involved in their work produced a wide spread and healthy agitation among the people throughout the State. I have not the time in this incidental reference to note further the importance of this year as an epoch in the State, but to the interested investigator who traces the lines of progress and development from their origin onward, it will be a source of surprise and instruction to learn of the rapid growth and expansion in every department of united human effort. And it is eminently proper on this occasion and a source of pride to refer to the numerious illustrious men in the General Assembly elected 1836. As accurate and reliable an authority as your worthy president has said on this point:

"The legislature, elected in August, 1836, including some of the holdover senators, was, for mental strength and ability of its members, the most remarkable of any yet chosen in Illinois. No previous general assembly of our State, and very few since, has comprised such an array of brainy, talented men, or as many who subsequently gained such conspicuous eminence in the annals of the State and Nation.

In the Senate were Orville H. Browning, Cyrus Gatewood, John G. Hacker, Robert K. McLaughlin, Henry I. Mills, Wm. Thomas, John D. Whiteside and John D. Wood. In the House, Edward D. Baker, John Hogan, Milton Carpenter, Newton Cloud, Richard N. Cullom, John Dement, John Dougherty, Stephen A. Douglas, Jesse K. Dubois, Ninian W. Edwards, Wm. L. D. Ewing, Augustus C. French, John J. Hardin, Abraham Lincoln, Usher F. Linder, John A. Logan, John A. McClernand, James Semple, John Moore, William A. Richardson, James H. Ralston, Robert Smith. In the list is found one President of the United States; six who have occupied seats in the United States senate; eight congressmen; three governors. three lieutenant governors, two attorney generals, five State treasurers; two State auditors; one superintendent of schools and several judges."

In addition, Joseph Duncan was Governor and Adam W. Snyder represented the St. Clair county district in Congress. In view of the foregoing, it was in many respects fortunate to be born in 1836.

In reviewing the lives of the prominent men, and the associated conduct of the people of the earlier days in Illinois, there is one prominent fact that arrests the attention, and that is the almost universal passion for politics and public life. Whether it came from the wave of patriotic zeal that swept from out the revolutionary conflict with its mighty questions of human liberty, or that the spheres of intellectual activity were more circumscribed, nevertheless it is, a fact that everybody seemed possessed with the idea that upon his individual political action depended the permanency of our new born institutions. No sooner did a man become a licensed lawyer or attain any kind of popularity among the people, then forthwith he aspired to run for some office. People had plenty of spare time to talk politics, and they delighted to hear speeches and listen to the amusing stories told by rival candidates or attorneys traveling on the circuit. Newspapers were few in number, and reading a spiritless method of communication. Individuality counted for much more than at present. Take Lincoln and Douglas, for instance, as a fair illustration of the then social conditions in respect to the time whereof I speak. In Tarbell's life we read: "Although he was but 22 years of age in February, 1832, had never been at school a year in his life, had never made a speech except in debating clubs and by the roadside, had read only the books he could pick up, and known only to the men who made up the poor, out of the way towns in which he had lived, encouraged by his great popularity among his immediate neighbors, as he says himself he decided to announce himself in March, 1832, as a candidate for the General Assembly of the State. His claims for support were found in his belief in "the public utility of internal improvements," a question on which there was more nerve vitality expended by Illinoisans than any other, unless it be the preservation of the Union."

As to Douglas: Politics and public life was the be all and end all of his existence. Refering to these characteristics, I remember setting up as a printer the following from the Providence Journal in 1853. About that time a report was circulated in the press that Douglas had espoused the Catholic faith: "The pope will do well to keep and eye on our friend from Illinois. If he has really embraced the faith of Rome, he will be for making St. Peter's chair elective once in four years and will present himself as a candidate for the next succession," And we all know how the illustrious Governor Reynolds was always "in the hands of his friends" and "willing to serve the people" in any office, and there were few of them to which he did not aspire. These prevalent characteristics and customs made the court house a centre of amusement and instruction. However humble and unprepossessing in its appearance, it was to interested citizens a forum as sacred and inspiring as that of Ancient Rome, clothed with all the splendors of architectural strength and beauty.

Especially prominent among my earliest recollections of Belleville is the old court house. Is was a solidly built brick building square in form, and, for those days, of reasonably large dimensions. It

stood on the north line of the main street, near the centre of the public square, and faced south. On entering a wide front door, there stood on either side to the east and west, stairs leading to the upper floor where the more important county officials had their offices. Passing over a narrow vestibule and through a partitioned door, one stood facing the raised seat of the Judge of the court. It was placed in the centre and against the north wall of the building, and immediately above was painted, in rather an artistic style, the famous coat of arms of the State of Illinois. In front of the judge's seat were arranged chairs and tables for the use of attorneys; the space allotted being closed by a strong wooden railing. On either side of the room were benches for the use of the general public,and on both sides of the judge's stand were seats reserved for the use of jurors. Immediately within the railing, partialy to the north, was a box-like desk, wherein, on a raised pedestal, sat what appeared to my youthful imagination the most august person in the governmental organization—the sheriff of the county I regret to say that this building was torn down some years ago and has disappeared forever; a more stately and convenient one has been erected for the uses to which it was applied in another part of the public square. But I doubt whether the new edifice will ever attain the same relative importance in the history of Illinois.

In addition to the old court house being among my earliest recollections, I must say that, by reason of my personal associations with its precincts—for I was christened therein by an itinerant minister of the Presbyterian faith at a time when the congregation was too poor to have a church, and the illustrious men who I heard in the forensic and political contests, to a period that marked the dawn of my manhood—it is to me one of the dearest and most revered spots on earth. In looking back over the period to which I refer, it strikes me as remarkable when I consider the large number of men more or less prominent in the history of the State and nation who have graced with their presence this old building. Of the local bar I recall as having heard speak on various occasions Lyman and George Trumbull, Gustavus Koerner, James Shields, William H. Bissell, John Reynolds, Jehu Baker, William H. Snyder, Philip B. Fouke, J. L. D. Morrison, Nathaniel Niles and William H. and Joseph B. Underwood and J. B. Hay; of the circuit, Sidney Breese, Joseph Gillespie. Wm. R. Morrison. Outside of that, Stephen A. Douglas, Richard M. Johnson, Edward Bates, A. P. Field, Usher F. Linder, Richard Yates, Uriel Wright, T. G. C. Davis and R. F. Wingate.

Shortly antecedent to the date of my earliest recollections, three illustrious citizens of the town had passed away—ex-Governar Ninian Edwards, Congressman Adam W. Snyder and Lieutenant Governor Kinney.

SIDNEY BREESE.

Though a mere boy, the first time I saw Judge Sidney Breese the impression made was lasting. My mind was more than ordinarily receptive, because of my hearing his name so frequently mentioned in my home life. Judge Breese emigrated from New York and located in Kaskaskia in 1818—the year of the State's birth. At that

time my grandparents and mother were residents of that celebrated town, and the friendly family relations may be surmised from an account of a Fourth of July celebration, as described in the Kaskaskia "Advocate" given in 1823, which was presided over by my grandfather, General Philip Fouke. On that occasion, the report says, Sidney Breese, Esquire, offered as a toast, "Ourselves: we paddle our own canoe, chew our own tobacco and make our own cigars." Perhaps if the occasion had been less public, he would have added "make and drink our own whisky," for, according to certain data of those times there was some indulgence in that beverage There is in the record of this event a smack of youthful exuberance not altogether in keeping with the after modes of thought and expression of the illustrious statesman and jurist. From the relation of events connected with his early career, I already looked upon him in the light of a hero worshipper. I met him afterwards as a judge upon both the circuit and supreme court benches, as chairman of the committee on resolutions in a noted convention, and heard him in public speeches; and, after entering the profession of the law in another state, took especial pleasure in reading his opinions as published in the Illinois Reports. The last interview I had with him was at the Planters house in St. Louis a year or so before his death. The life of Judge Breese from the time of his settlement in Kaskaskia covers the most important period in the history of Illinois, and, in many respects, the most important in the history of the United States. For 60 years he looked upon a panorama of most marvelous events. The title to the Louisiana purchase was but 15 years old, and he saw nearly all of that magnificent, undeveloped expanse subdivided into states and populated with teeming millions of people. He noted the declining power of Spain in the cession of Florida. He read the debates on the Missouri compromise in 1820, and doubtless was stirred, as others were, by the fierce passions they aroused. He saw the independence of the South American republics acknowledged. Within that time came the birth of the Monroe doctrine, the visit of the illustrious LaFayette, whom he met at Kaskaskia, the death of Adams and Jefferson, the destruction of the national bank, the throttling of nullification and the appropriation by congress of $30,000 to erect wires from Washington to Baltimore to test the practicability of the Morse telegraph. By the way, Professor Morse was a relation of Judge Breese The Indians still warred with the pale faces, and he was one of the army who fought in the Black Hawk war and drove that terror of the early settlers across the Mississippi river. Within his time there came the Mexican war, with its record of brave and heroic deeds, and in which the sons of Illinois performed their share so nobly. Then came the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, championed by Judge Douglas, Judge Breese's associate in the Senate of the United States; the election of Lincoln, the war for the Union, the glorious emancipation proclamation, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Wilderness, the march to the sea, Appomattox, the thirteenth amendment, the death of Lincoln, the nation's mourning, the struggles of reconstruction, the development of the fraternal spirit, the unity of the nation.

There never was a greater or grander drama presented to human vision than that witnessed by your illustrious countryman. But what is notable in the career of Judge Breese is the fact that he was in public life almost the whole of that time. He was an indefatigable worker, well educated and ambitious, though he seems to have been timid in the use of his powers as an advocate or speaker. He tells, himself, of his imagined failure in a trial in Jackson county before a jury in a case shortly after he commenced the practice of his profession. He was not aware at that time that such a feeling was the accompaniment in almost every case of successful advocacy. But he possessed a will power to overcome such feeling, and his abilities were soon being utilized on public occasions to perform such duties as his endowments warranted. For instance, we find him on the occasion of LaFayette's visit to Kaskaskia, April 13, 1825, at the banquet given in his honor at the public hotel, again proposing a toast: "Our illustrious guest; in the many and trying situations in which he has been placed, we see him the same consistent friend of liberty and man." A very apt sentiment and felicitously expressed, for, surely, LaFayette had been placed in many trying situations since he had last been in America. In 1820 he was acting as Assistant Secretary of State. Thereafter postmaster, and in 1822, succeeded by appointment John Reynolds as circuit attorney of the Third judicial circuit. He also was for a time under Adams, United States district attorney. Indicative of his early industry and inclination of mind at that time, in 1831, he published the first volume issued of the reports of the supreme court decisions It contained the judicial opinions rendered from the organization of the court to 1831. This was the first book published in Illinois. From a statement made to me some years ago, the author must have had some knowledge of the printer's business, for it contained the information that he helped at the case in the preparation for the publication of this volume. These were all important and responsible positions, and he filled each with ability and honor.

During the interval between his leaving the position of United States district attorney and becoming judge of the circuit court in 1835, he practiced his profession and served, as before stated, as a soldier in the Black Hawk war. After his election in 1835 he removed from Kaskaskia and made his home near Carlyle. In 1841 he was elected to the supreme bench, one of his colleagues being the distinguished commoner, Stephen A. Douglas. His occupancy of this position was short-lived. His popularity had rapidly grown; his eminent capacity was widely recognized, and in 1842, he was elected United States senator. It would be impossible, in the brief time allotted to me, to relate in detail his career in the Senate of the United States. Suffice it to say, it was a distinguished one. During his term of service that body contained as large a number of great debaters and able statesmen as did the parliament of England in the palmy days of Burke, Fox, Pitt, Sheridan and their associates. Great questions were presented for solution and adjustment. The Mexican war was prosecuted, the annexation of Texas was accom-

plished, the boundary of the Oregon line settled, a railroad projected to the Pacific marked out, and its feasibility established, and the grant to the Illinois Central railroad virtually assured. During this time Clay was defeated by Polk, and the war swept Taylor into the presidential chair.

In reading the records of those years it is a source of satisfaction to the Illinoisans to know that in many respects he proved to be the equal of the great men with whom he was associated. Five years after his election, in 1847, Stephen A. Douglas became his colleague, and, notwithstanding his marvelous powers as a debator, his accurate knowledge of the politics of the country, his matchless gifts as a leader, in some respects he was not the equal of Judge Breese. The latter was at least his superior in legal attainments, in scholarship, in strength and felicity of expression and a capacity for thorough and exhaustive study. It was a serious loss to the State when he retired from the senate; for, notwithstanding his unrivalled career on the supreme bench as giving him a lasting fame as a jurist, a continuous senatorial term during one of the most critical eras of our country's history would doubtless have placed him among the most illustrious and patriotic statesmen of the land. To the illustrious senator from Missouri Mr. Benton, is usually given, by those not conversant with the facts, the honor of projecting the idea of the Pacific railroad. It is an undoubted fact that Judge Breese, when senator, gave the first real impetus to that mighty enterprise and elaborated the feasibility of the undertaking. His report on the question from the committee on public lands, of which he was chairman, is a document of invaluable historical importance and its strength illustrative of his intellectual characteristics. That report described the route ultimately taken in the construction of the road. To make this plan comprehensible the report was accompanied by a map of accurate geographical and route delineations. This was not published with the report and was omitted, strange to say, by the action of Senator Benton. History will, with unerring precision, record honor to whom the honor is due for the projection of this great national work, and its assignment will be to Judge Breese. He retired from the senate March, 1849, Gen. James Shields being his successful competitor. After leaving the senate he returned to the practice of his profession. Pressed by his friends to be a candidate for the house of representatives, he was elected and presided as speaker of that body in 1851–1852. In 1853 he was urged to accept the nomination for judge of the supreme court, but declined. It was during this year that a movement was made to induce Gov. Joel A. Matteson to call an extra session of the general assembly, more especially to further certain railroad projects, notably the Belleville & Murphysboro railroad. Judge Breese took a prominent part in the furtherance of this plan. After an extensive discussion among the various counties of southern Illinois, the movement culminated in a convention which met at Salem on the 25th of November, 1853. Zadoc Casey was selected as

chairman and the usual number of men of prominence as vice presidents. Judge Breese was assigned to the chairmanship of a designated committee to draft and report an address and resolutions expressive of the objects of the meeting. He had already prepared the address and resolutions, and, as might be expected, they were both able, instructive and conclusive.

"The object of this convention being to confirm the executive in the necessity and expediency of an extra session of the general assembly, it may be expected that some reasons for this measure should be set forth."

Thus read the opening of the address. It then set forth, at length, the various reasons why a called session should be had, and sustained them with elaborate arguments. But the principal object in the movement is shown in the following:

"The special acts and the general law, so called, for railroad incorporation, demand action that would alone justify an extra session. Restriction upon the accomplishment of useful enterprise might be removed by an act of ten lines opening the way for the immediate construction of works that would bring in capital from abroad and enhance the value of real estate to the amount of many millions. Such as are now restrained by the want of these legislative facilities, if permitted to go on would afford an increased revenue to the State of more than $100,000. Yet, there is no reason to fear that at the proposed extra session a liberal and just policy on the subjects of railroads will not prevail and time and opportunity be afforded the legislative body to carry into effect the recommendations of the Governor as indicated in his just and admired inaugural message."

In this inaugural the Governor had referred to the beneficent effects of railroads in developing the State, and presented decided opinions in favor of giving every facility to works of internal improvement. I was present in this convention as a delegate from Randolph county, where I was publishing a newspaper. The speech of Judge Breese in support of the report was very elaborate, instructive and comprehensive. The subject to him was a favored one. I had heard him before, but noted more particularly on this occasion his style and manner. He was below the medium height, was stoutly built, with broad shoulders and full chest. An inclination to corpulency gave his head, which was large and well shaped, the appearance of being slightly thrown backward. His hair was black and worn short; his face clean shaven; his complexion dark; his features were large and apparently regular, but their effect marred by his being near sighted and having to wear spectacles. His voice was by no means strong, nor did it vary much in intonation. His gesticulation was limited and moved along straight lines. His bearing was especially courtly and dignified. He spoke with fluency, was at times rhetorical and, though not impassioned, he was persuasive, argumentative, logical and forcible.

John A. Logan, a delegate from Jackson county, followed Judge Breese in seconding the motion of the adoption of the report. He was at that time about 26 or 27 years of age, but had already made some reputation in the lower house of the legislature. He He was an ardent supporter of Stephen A. Douglas. He was full of fire and action, spoke in a continuously loud voice and was profuse and vehement in gesticulation. He pleased his hearers, for he was loudly applauded I heard him on several occasions in after years, when in the zenith of a well merited national reputation, and I was forcibly impressed by his improvement as a public speaker. Study and practice made him a very attractive speaker—impassioned and, at times, eloquent. One trait of the orator, action, that was noticeable in the first speech I heard, was still with him in his maturity. Especially as a soldier, Illinois can well be proud of John A. Logan, for he was unquestionably the ablest civilian general who fought in the war for the Union.

William H. Snyder also addressed the convention. I had heard him previously in the old court house. He was a son of one of the best and ablest men connected with the earlier history of the State—a man whose pathetic and untimely death prevented him from taking his seat in the gubernatorial chair when it was virtually within his reach. I refer to A. W. Snyder.

Young Snyder, for some years, took an active part in politics. He was a member of the legislature, of the constitutional convention of 1870, and was elected to the circuit bench and remained there for a number of years. He was a man of very decided talents, of scholarly attainments; a great reader of the best literature and deeply versed in history, both ancient and modern. He was possessed of a fine presence, was tall, strong and straight, and graceful in deportment. His face was full and expressive, his head large, and he wore his black hair long. He was an effective speaker, rather rapid in declamation and quick in gesticulation. Though genial and affable in disposition, he did not like the coarser associations of politics. He was a good lawyer, an able and conscientious judge.

The Salem convention proved to be of some importance to the State. The address and resolutions were formally presented to Governor Matteson by a large committee selected from the delegates, and eventuated in the calling of an extra session, which met at the capital on the 9th day of February, 1854. A large number of the suggestions for legislation, as urged by Judge Breese in his report, were considered and passed into laws. The declination of Judge Breese to become a candidate for the Supreme Court in 1853, and his subsequent speech in Chicago in answer to Senator Douglas' effort in defense of his course in urging the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, convinces me that he still entertained hopes of returning to the senate of the United States. Though naturally gifted with mental powers that would enable him to become a distinguished jurist, his ambition was to take part in the more active fields of politics. Added to this, he evidently entertained some feeling of resentment as well

as a sense of humiliation that he had been defeated in his aspirations at so important a period in the history of the country by one so far his inferior in all the qualities of learning and statesmanship. His ambition for official position and the opportunity presented finally directed his future along that course he was so well endowed to follow; and, in the year 1857, he was elected to the Supreme Bench. He was re-elected in 1861 and in 1870. He occupied the position nearly 20 years, sitting by rotation twice as a chief justice. From the time of his taking his seat in this exalted position to the time of his death, his public career is written and recorded in the volumes of the Illinois reports, and it is a career replete in the achievements of a great and illustrious jurist. Sixty-seven volumes contain the inscription of his judicial opinions, and their enumeration reaches 1900. Therein is contained the ablest disquisitions upon every department of the law. Therein is raised a monument of immortality as lasting as Time's records shall run. I said that I met him, not long before his death, at the Planters' House in St. Louis. Time had greatly changed him in appearance. He was still apparently healthy and vigorous. His hair was white and very long, as was also his beard. It gave him a reverend look. His mental powers were as strong as ever. He always was a rare conversationalist. He delighted to talk on congenial subjects. On this occasion he referred to his early experiences in Kaskaskia; to the newspapers published there and the stirring events of the Indian wars; his removal of the records of the office of Secretary of State to Vandalia in 1820 in a small wagon, at a cost of $25, and its taking a week to perform the feat; of the divers characteristics of the people and the development from primitive to modern ideas, customs, habits and conditions. Kaskaskia, when he settled there, was comparatively an alien settlement. The impression of the earliest settlers was still paramount; the antique and the modern commingled but were not united. Judge Breese died suddenly in 1878.

Capt. James Shields.

When James Shields came to Kaskaskia he was quite a young man and was seeking a location to make his fortune. He was lucky in the selection of a place. His first occupation was teaching school—a labor that, according to my experience and observation, was what every aspiring young man of education, and some without, undertook to perform. It was either the forerunner or accompaniment to the study of law. In his case it was both, and in 1832 we find him entering upon the practice of law. He had left Ireland in 1826 when but 16 years old. He was every inch an Irishman then and he remained so all his life. He was a young man of fine appearance; a little above the medium height, strong and well-proportioned, with black hair and dark, piercing eyes. He wore a mustache; possessed a military bearing; was gracious and affable in his manner, and by no means timid, and, though somewhat rash and hot-headed, he was brave and courageous. These latter qualities in those days were passports to success. They neutralized in his case an overweening vanity and excessive egotism. His surroundings, experience and the associa-

tion of great and ambition men, made him a good politician. As others of his profession, he soon sought public office. He ran for and was elected to the Legislature in 1836; became State Auditor in 1839, and Judge of the Supreme Court in 1843. He did not remain here long, and it is a reasonable presumption that the position was not altogether congenial to his tastes and inclinations. It was while Auditor of the State that he became angered at Mr. Lincoln, the prominent Whig leader, for writing and publishing, in a Springfield journal, articles of ridicule referring to certain of his vulnerable characteristics and for which he was forthwith challenged to mortal conflict. There is something amusing in Abraham Lincoln fighting a duel, but those were fighting days, and Mr. Lincoln had to recognize the right of challenge. His fine sense of humor, however, came to his rescue and gave to his friends an opportunity to extricate him from the impending danger. Mr. Lincoln being the challenged party had the right to name the weapon, and he drew up the preliminaries. The first clause read:

"Cavalry broadswords of the largest size, precisely equal in all respects, and as now used by the cavalry company at Jacksonville."

Then as to the position he wrote:

"A plank 10 feet long and from 9 to 12 feet broad, to be firmly fixed on edge in the ground as a dividing line between us, which neither is to pass his foot over or forfeit his life. Next, a line drawn on the ground on either side of said plank, and parallel with it; each at the distance of the whole length of the sword, and three feet additional from the plank, and the passing over such line by either party during the fight shall be deemed a surrender of the contest."

Mr. Lincoln's experience as a rail splitter gave him a decided advantage in the proposed duel. To what extent the prescribed conditions worked in causing an adjustment will never be known. But, suffice to say, the friends of the parties brought about an amicable adjustment, and both of the interested ones lived to fight another day.

In 1845 Mr. Shields was appointed Commissioner General of the Land Office. It was while occupying this office that the Mexican war broke out. That memorable conflict was precipitated by the annexation of Texas in March, 1845. The Republic of Mexico had formerly owned that state and still claimed jurisdiction over it. The conduct of our government was looked upon as unfriendly, and a bitter feeling became manifest upon the part of the Mexican government. This was increased by President Polk's order for an army of 4,000 troops to take a station on the Rio Grande. This was in March, 1846, and the command was given to Gen. Zach. Taylor. On April 24, 1846, 60 dragoons from this force on an observation tour were attacked by a large force of Mexican soldiers and forced to surrender after a loss of 16 killed. This precipitated hostilities. Three days after, Congress declared war and authorized the President to accept the services of 50,000 volunteers. The sum of $10,000,000 was appropriated to support the declaration. The war spirit spread with

amazing rapidity throughout the entire west. The recruiting commenced immediately. In every town and city the national flag was unfurled and recruiting officers marched through the streets to the music of the fife and drum. In the old town of Belleville, patriotism rose to fever heat. Even the boys organized miniature companies and marched with paper hats and wooden guns and swords. I remember being so far affected as to join one of such companies as a private and the captain of this company was no other than Gen. Wesley Merritt, lately retired from the army after a most honorable and illustrious career in the service of his country. The quota of enlistment assigned to Illinois was three regiments of infantry for 12 month's service. Within ten days 35 companies reported for service and as many more were making application for enrollment. President Polk appointed James Shields brigadier general of volunteers, and the orders were for the troops to rendezvous at Alton. There they were mustered in for service. Col. Edward D. Baker, one of Illinois' most distinguished citizens (for I think she can claim him), was authorized to raise an additional regiment. The Illinois contingent arrived in Mexico early in August. The first and second regiments were commanded by Cols. John J. Hardin and William H. Bissell, and were attached to the army of the centre under Gen. Zach. Taylor. To General Shields' brigade were assigned a third and fourth regiment, commanded by Colonels Foreman and Baker. The bravery and discipline of both these regiments in the battle of Cerro-Gordo was such as to call forth universal praise, and commendation. The major general in command in his report says:

"The attention of the general in charge is particularly called to the gallantry of Brigadier Generals Pillow and Shields, who were both wounded at the head of their respective brigades."

The battle of Cerro-Gordo was fought under the generalship of General Scott April 18, 1847. The wound of General Shields was a severe one. The first report came that it was mortal. He recovered, however, soon enough to be in the assault at Chapultepec, where he was again wounded. The accounts received at home of the gallantry and misfortune of General Shields raised him in the estimation of the people to a high pinnacle of glory. His praises were heralded on all sides and his popularity throughout the State increased immensely. So it has ever been with the people of this and all other countries. Military glory arouses an exalted admiration to heights which no achievements in the paths of peace can attain. It carried General Taylor into the presidential chair, made a presidential candidate of General Scott and sent General Shields to the Senate of the United States. After recovering from his wounds he returned to his home at Belleville. He had formed a partnership in that place with Adam W. Snyder and Gustavus Koerner in June, 1837, which had to be dissolved because of his official duties requiring his residence in Springfield. When he left that office he had again taken up his residence in Belleville. The occasion of his return from Mexico was marked by many evidences of public respect

and rejoicing. He was tendered a public reception and addressed a large concourse of people in the old court house. I was present and heard his speech. Carried away by the general enthusiasm, I looked upon him as every inch a hero. The halo of human glory, stronger in the youthful than in the matured imagination, encircled his brow. His address was instructive and entertaining. He gave an account of the causes which led to the war and defended the action of the party to which he belonged. He animadverted upon the course of certain members of the Whig party who had opposed the war from the start. He gave a graphic description of the movements of the troops in his command and the battles in which they and he were engaged. He described very minutely the attack on the battery at Cerro-Gordo where he was wounded, and pointed out on his body where the wound was made. He also extolled very highly the endurance, bravery and daring of the officers and soldiers of his command. The occasion was notable; the speech a popular one, and the audience vibrated with responsive sympathy. In truth, it was an occasion worthy of a great oration, but he did not make it. His bearing was gallant and soldierly; his voice well modulated; his gestures not ungraceful, but there was a lack of that magnetism which is the chief power of oratory. His individuality was continually projected throughout the whole of his discourse and his vanity impaired its effect. However, the subject was of such a character as to cover all blemishes, and he met with continuous applause. The ovation was highly complimentary, and his reception by the warm hearted people of St. Clair county of such a character as that he might well be proud. Not long after this, President Polk, as a recognition of his eminent services to the country, gave him the appointment of governor of Oregon. He retained the position, however, but a short time. He recognized his opportunities and aspired to far higher honors, and in 1847 he received at the hands of the Legislature of Illinois the election to the proud position of Senator of the United States

As before stated, he succeeded Judge Sidney Breese. He retained this position for one term of six years. His record as a senator was in no sense as distinguished as his predecessor, and, besides this, he was almost totally eclipsed by the splendid ability and increasing reputation of his colleague, Senator Douglas. He voted consistently with the pro-slavery party, and took an occasional part in the debates, and devoted most of his time to the work referred to the military committee of which he was chairman.

In 1853 I met him when on a visit to Sparta, in Randolph county. As a conversationalist he was interesting. I remember on that occasion he took especial pains to extol the Czar Nicholas of Russia as one of the greatest statesmen of Europe. The Czar was then engaged in the war against the allies and the siege of Sebastapol and its outcome had not yet been reached.

After the expiration of his term of service he returned to Belleville, but soon thereafter left and located in Minnesota. Good for-

tune politically attended him here in one respect. The first legislature of the state elected him as one of the United States senators, but, in drawing lots with his colleague for the long or short term, he drew the short term, so his senatorial career was limited to two years. He was not re-elected and he then went to California. When the Civil war broke out, his old opponent, President Lincoln, appointed him brigadier general of volunteers. This was in August, 1861. He served with some distinction in the valley of the Shenandoah, and was severely wounded in the battle of Kernstown. He resigned his position in March, 1863, and then became a citizen of Carrollton, Mo. He opened an office for the practice of the law. His passion for politics, however, never forsook him. During the candidacy of R. Graham Frost for a seat in the 46th and 47th Congress he was brought to St. Louis to fire the Irish heart in favor of the Democratic cause. The district contained a large Irish vote, and it would seem that he succeeded, for Mr. Frost was elected both times in a closely divided district. In 1874 he was elected to the legislature of Missouri. By virtue of my office as lieutenant governor I was presiding officer of the joint session on the occasion of the inaugural ceremonies of the newly elected Governor Hardin. General Shields was a member of the house. I had not seen him since my meeting with him in Sparta in 1853. After the adjournment he approached and spoke to me Time had greatly changed him in every respect except in his military bearing and the brilliancy of his eyes. Strange to say, the first sentence he spoke was in reference to Kaskaskia: "And is this the son of Elvira (meaning my mother) whom I knew as a girl in Kaskaskia?" His conversation continued reminiscent and was highly interesting to me.

Lewis V. Bogy, United States senator from Missouri, died Sept. 20, 1877. David R. Armstrong was appointed to fill the vacancy until the meeting of the legislature. When that body convened, an election for the short term was to occur. R. Graham Frost and his friends, anxious to repay General Shields for his assistance in the congressional campaigns in St. Louis, visited Jefferson City and urged the election of General Shields to fill the short term, and, surely, it was a short term. They were successful, and he was elected and bore the name of United States senator from Missouri just 34 days from Jan. 21, 1879, to March 4, 1879. He died at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 1, 1879. What a strange, romantic and eventful career had this wanderer from Ireland, for, surely, he was a wanderer! There was a vein of the nomadic in him—a senator from three states, governor from another, and dying in another. A few centuries earlier he would have been a voyager into new and unknown regions or a warrior fighting wherever his gallantry and adventurous spirit suggested. He was neither a great statesman, orator or jurist, but he possessed high military abilities, coupled with a knightly dash and bravery that specially endeared him to the hearts of the people of Illinois.

Col. A. P. Field.

Considering the number of eminent lawyers living in Belleville and the judicial circuit in which it was located, it is not surprising that it should occasionally have been the arena for notable trials and great forensic contests. I have very distinct recollections of several, but one in particular lodged in my memory and made a lasting impression. In fact, the incidents connected with it had a very material bearing upon my future life. It was a murder case brought by change of venue from Madison county. A man by name Duncan, of an unsavory reputation, had located on a farm in that county and his residence was supposed to be a rendezvous for gamblers, horse thieves, counterfeiters and desperadoes generally. The citizens of the county warned him to leave, but, standing upon the order of his going, he had delayed or refused to do so. Violent means to drive him from his stronghold were resorted to, and, in the riotous demonstration, Duncan was killed. Several citizens were indicted for his murder, and it was in this trial I heard, for the first and only time, Col. A. P. Field. He was assisting the circuit attorney, Philip B. Fouke, in the prosecution. The defendants were represented by Lyman and George Trumbull, Joseph Gillespie, William H. Snyder and some others. The array of lawyers on both sides was imposing. A wide spread interest was manifested in the trial, and a great concourse of people came in from the country and the adjoining towns, and there were a number of representatives from St. Louis. The excitement intensified as the trial proceeded, and a desire to hear the arguments was apparent on all sides. On the day set apart for the forensic display, the seats to the left of the judge's bench were assigned for occupancy to the ladies, and quite a number embellished the proceedings with their presence. Gustavus Koerner presided as judge at the trial. Lyman Trumbull made an able and exhaustive argument during the morning session, only a part of which I could hear. His style of oratory was such as not to be appreciated by one as young as I. The afternoon session was to be given to hearing the closing address for the prosecution by Col. A. P. Field. The court room was packed almost to suffocation. I had played truant that day, and during the noon recess, shortly before the meeting of court, I clambered onto the sill of the north window in the court house and the one looking down on the space between the judge's bench and the seats in which the jury sat. I thought that the place would be secure because I knew that the crowd surrounding the window would keep me from falling out, and I would have a fine position to hear every word that was spoken. The court commenced; the judge was on the bench; the jury in their seats. The struggle from the outside to get in grew tumultuous, and, in some respects, overpowering. One consequence therefrom was important to he who addresses you: The pressure from the rear of the window pushed me from the sill and landed me immediately in the space between the judge and the jury. I was startled and frightened beyond measure. It looked to me as if I was the centre of a million eyes, and I imagined that I

would be subjected to immediate ejectment and perhaps condign punishment. But oh! shade of the immortal and illustrious Koerner. If it be that thy spirit wanders in any sphere of the universe, let me now bow to it in grateful reverence and thankfulness for thy kind consideration and merciful kindness. The judge saw my bewilderment and dilemma and beckoned to me, and, in an undertone, told me to take a seat on the steps leading to the platform on which he was seated. Stationed here, within not over eight or ten feet of the speaker, I heard the whole of the speech of Col. A. P. Field, Time has carried me many years since that event; I have heard many of the greatest efforts of great advocates; yet there lingers in my memory an impression that it was the finest forensic address I ever heard. Colonel Field was over six feet tall, straight as an arrow, well proportioned, with dark hair and large but attractive features. In bearing he was erect, courteous and dignified. On this occasion he was appropriately dressed in dark clothes. He occupied over two hours in the delivery of his speech. He reviewed the testimony in the case at length, and applied it with a remarkable skill to the law involved. His descriptive powers were intensely dramatic. He described the home of the deceased; called it his castle, across whose threshold no one had a right to pass unless clothed with the majesty of the law. Then he vividly pictured the attack made upon the defenseless victim; the malice, rage and wanton spirit of those engaged, with hearts regardless of social duty and fatally bent on mischief. He poured forth a perfect torrent of invective against those whom he described as cowardly murderers; and again melted his hearers into sympathy by pathetically picturing the cries of the dying victim. Throughout, his gestures were in keeping with his address, exceedingly graceful and effective. His voice was well modulated and flexible; his accentuation clear and distinct, and, in his impassioned appeals, of marvelous compass and strength. I remember distinctly when describing the features of the murder he repeated an apt quotation from Macbeth, and other parts of his speech abounded in apt and beautiful, poetical allusions. As a matter of course, his address was listened to with the closest attention and produced a profound effect. At its conclusion he was highly congratulated by the members of the bar as well as others.

For years this trial with all its incidents was frequently recalled in memory, and I wondered at times whether my youthful judgment was correct. To satisfy myself on this point, I took occasion to ask Judge Gillespie, with whom I was intimately acquainted up to the time of his death, as to his opinion of Colonel Field's address on that occasion. He told me I was correct in my estimate; that it was, without doubt, one of the most powerful appeals he ever in his long experience heard fall from the lips of an advocate.

The reason of my gratitude to Governor Koerner on the occasion referred to above is because it gave me an opportunity to hear an argument that confirmed my ambition to become a lawyer.

Col. A. P. Field was at one time quite prominent in Illinois politics. He was in the legislature as far back as 1822, and in the momentous contest of 1823-1824, acted with those who tried to establish slavery in the State. Fortunately that attempt failed, and the incubus of that institution never incumbered the State in its march to greatness and renown. He served again in the legislature of 1826 and 1828, and was then appointed Secretary of State, which office he retained until 1840. He received an appointment to a minor position in Wisconsin territory in 1841, and thereafter, in 1847, located in St. Louis where he resided at the time of the trial, the particulars of which I have just related. From there he went to New Orleans, and, notwithstanding his strong pro-slavery views, was a Union man. After the war, during the Warmouth regime he filled the position of Attorney General of Louisiana. He died in 1877. His splendid opportunities were circumscribed and limited because of his dissipated habits and a consequent lack of moral rectitude and stability.

Gustavus Koerner.

Judge Gustavus Koerner, mentioned above as the presiding judge, was both a patriot and hero in the old world, and when he transplanted those qualities to this country they simply grew and flourished with ever increasing strength. He was an elegant gentleman, courteous, dignified, scholarly and well versed in the law. He was devotedly attached to his profession but took sufficient interest in public affairs as to be assigned to several offices of importance and responsibility. Besides being judge of the Supreme Court, in 1845, he was elected Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket with Gov. Joel A. Matteson in 1852, and accepted the appointment of minister to Spain from Mr. Lincoln in 1862. After the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, he became a Republican and was an active and zealous supporter of the Union cause.

It was my intention to speak at greater length on the life and character of Gustavus Koerner, but I see upon the program an announcement that a paper will be read upon that subject by one who is in every way able to draw and present a just estimate of his character.

Lyman Trumbull.

From a practicing lawyer in Belleville, Lyman Trumbull advanced to fill some of the highest positions in the State and became one of her most distinguished citizens. He was born in Connecticut in 1813, and came from a family of historical renown in the annals of the country. He had an academic education, and, like so many other noted men, commenced life as a school teacher, and then entered upon the practice of the law as a profession. He was elected a representative to the 12th General Assembly, and also held the position of Secretary of State. He then aspired to the position of Governor, but failed to attain the nomination, and was defeated for the nomination for Congress in 1846. In 1848 he was elected to the Supreme Bench, but resigned in 1853. This was the year when the

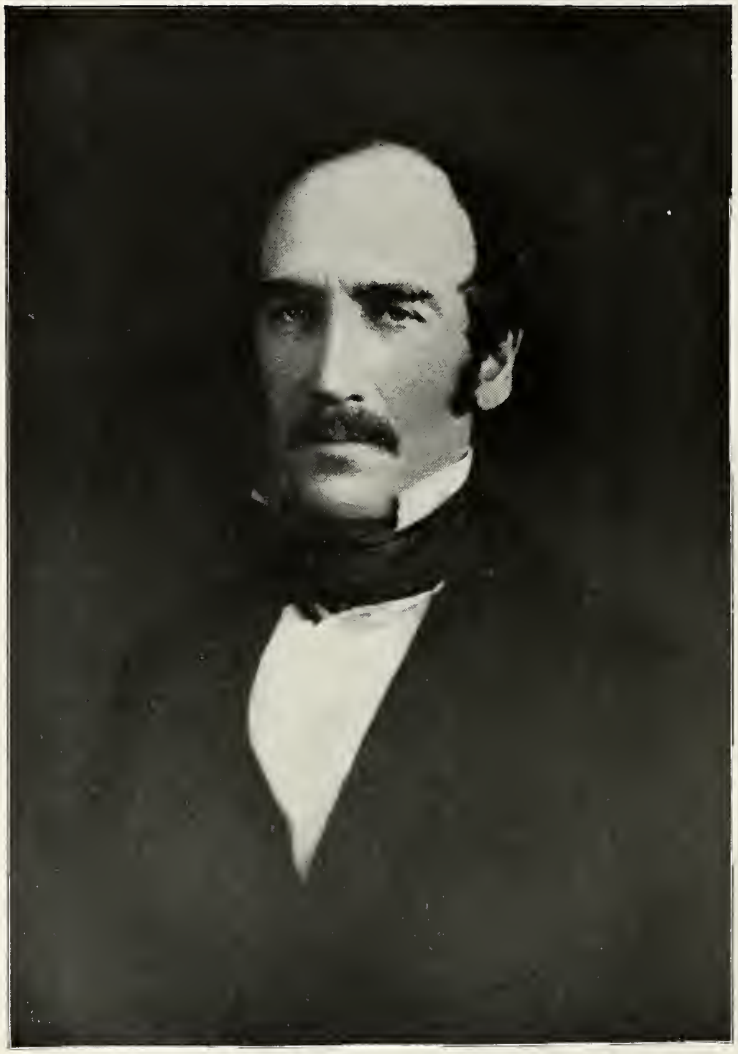
fierce and impassioned discussion of the Kansas-Nebraska bill was precipitated upon the country. No event in the political affairs of the nation caused such a widespread agitation as the introduction of this measure, and never was there one more far reaching and important in its results. Its final passage, in May, 1854, was fraught with momentous consequences. It violently dissevered the Democratic party; swept from existence the old Whig party; gave birth to the Republican party and eventuated in the war for the Union and the destruction of slavery. Judge Trumbull early took a decided position in opposition to this measure, and became a candidate for Congress in the Belleville district, thoroughly canvassed that district on that issue and was elected. He went to Chicago and spoke in reply to Judge Douglas at the time that distinguished statesman made his speech in defense of his course in introducing and supporting that bill. In the 19th General Assembly, which met Jan. 1, 1855, Judge Trumbull was elected to the United States Senate. In the contest, Abraham Lincoln was his chief competitor, and on the first ballot in the joint session Lincoln received 45 votes and Trumbull but five. The five supporters of Trumbull had agreed to stand together under every circumstance, and their unwavering adherence to that predetermined course finally resulted in his triumph. It is easy to understand the stubborn adhesion of these five supporters of Trumbull when we consider that John M. Palmer, so often honored by the people of Illinois with the highest positions in their gift, headed the voting coterie His Democratic opponent, as selected by the caucus of that party, was Gen. James Shields. When we consider the peculiar condition of the country at that period of time, no more appropriate selection could have been made for this high position than Lyman Trumbull. He was peculiarly adapted to enter the arena of debate on the questions presented at that time in the United States Senate, and for the succeeding years of his service. The whole country was already in a vast political ferment. The spirit of unreasoning partisanship was rapidly rising throughout the length and breadth of the land. The fiery pro-slavery leaders of the South foresaw the ultimate triumph of the Republican party and were already pouring forth their impassioned eloquence in denunciation of the wrongs being heaped upon the people of the South by those they called the fanatics of the North. It was a time to stem the tide that was rushing on to a most calamitous war. It was an hour for caution, for conservatism, for cool and dispassionate debate, backed by rectitude of purpose and great intellectual capacity, extensive legal acquirements and accurate political knowledge. Judge Trumbull possessed these qualities in a high degree. He never was a popular man among the people. He was rather distant and reserved in his intercourse with his fellow-citizens. His successes were obtained mostly through the adherence and support of strong men, who admired him for his great intellectual qualifications and his honesty of purpose. In personal appearance he looked more like a preacher than a lawyer. He was tall, spare made, light of complexion, with clear and expressive features, clear in outline, always wore gold spectacles and was rather condescending in his manner. He was not graceful, rather angular

in motion, and had a voice sharp and clear but not melodious. At times he wore a cynical and sarcastic expression, in keeping with the line of his remarks. He was not eloquent in the general acceptation of the term, but, as a logical and argumentative debator, he was the peer of any public man of his day. He had one decided advantage over most of his adversaries, and that was his splendid abilities as a constitutional lawyer. On questions involving constitutional construction he was clear, precise and forcible, and was always listened to with interest and a certain degree of deference by his senatorial associates. I heard him frequently in other trials than the one I have described, and also in the discussion of the Kansas-Nebraska bill before his election to the Senate, and in after years heard him at his greatest advantage in the debates in the Senate during the winter of 1860-61. His surroundings at that time were indeed critical, and the tenor and character of the discussions foretold the approach of the mighty conflict of civil war. Looking down from the gallery upon the Senators, the sectional condition of the country was apparent, not alone in the debates as heard, but in the seating of the members of the respective parties. The main aisle leading from the door of entrance to the Senate chamber to the seat of the president, John C. Breckenridge, was as a dividing line between two combating forces. The existing antagonism was continuously expressed, notwithstanding the strained effort to observe the rules of senatorial courtesy; and there were times when this barrier of senatorial courtesy was overleaped and vindictive attacks were frequently made on individuals and states. I never shall forget the description of senatorial conditions and attitudes made by Senator Iverson, of Georgia, on Dec. 5, 1860, when, virtually, the debate was upon the state of the Union. "Sir," he said, "disguise the fact as you will, there is an enmity between the Northern and the Southern people that is deep and enduring, and you never can eradicate it—never. Look at the spectacle exhibited on this floor! How is it? There are the Republican Northern Senators upon that side; here are the Southern Senators on this side. How much social intercourse is there between them? You sit upon your side silent and gloomy; we sit upon ours with knit brows and portentous scowls. Yesterday I observed that there was not a solitary man on that side of the chamber who came over here even to extend the civilities and courtesies of life, nor did any of us go over there. Here are two hostile bodies on this floor, and it is but a type of the feelings that exist between the two sections. We are enemies as much as if we were hostile states. I believe that the Northern people hate the South worse than ever the English people hated France, and I can tell my brothers over there that there is no love lost on the part of the South."

The seat of Stephen A. Douglas in the body was suggestive. It was situated on the main aisle I have mentioned, but on the Republican side of the Senate. He was virtually between the hostile forces and was made the target for both sides, but, though he stood virtually alone in the debates at that time, he was as undaunted as any

chieftain who ever entered the lists, and never discomforted or overthrown. I heard his speech on the 5th of January, 1861, and there was one circumstance that I took especial note of. It was that he was rarely interrupted in the progress of his arguments. As illustrative of his remarkable memory, one of the Senators from Virginia—Hunter, I think—who had succeeded him as chairman of the Committee on Territories, interrupted him on one occasion by saying that the Senator was mistaken in a certain statement he made in regard to the action of the Committee on Territories on a given amendment pending before the committee. He immediately turned to that Senator and repeated what had occurred at the meeting, giving every detail and incident, those who were present, called the roll on the consideration of the amendment and the names of those who voted for and against it, and ended by saying: "The Senator from Virginia is mistaken; the Senator from Illinois is correct." The Senator from Virginia listened attentively to the reply, hesitated a moment and then said: "I believe the Senator from Virginia is mistaken and the Senator from Illinois correct."

On Jan. 10 Senator Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, made a lengthy argument on President Buchanan's message, in which was submitted the action of the commissioners of South Carolina, virtually upon the right of that state to secede. His speech was a lengthy one, and at its end resulted a running debate between himself, Senator Green of Missouri and Trumbull of Illinois. It was one of the most entertaining contests that occurred at that momentous session. If I had the time, I should like to give you an idea of the ability displayed by each of these distinguished men. Senator Green's reputation in Missouri especially, rested upon his wonderful dexterity in debate, and the long political career of Senator Davis with his acknowledged gifts as a speaker,made him a foeman worthy of any lawyer or statesman. But the debate involved legal and constitutional questions, and Senator Trumbull in that field was the equal of either of his opponents, and on this as on other occasions became apparent the appropriateness, as I have before remarked, of his selection as Senator. The irritating conditions with which Republican Senators were surrounded in debate is shown in the opening speech of Senator Trumbull, when he said: "Mr. President, it has been very hard for me, and I doubt not my republican associates around me, to hear the many misapprehensions, not to say misstatements, of our position, and to see a perverted state of facts day after day urged upon the Senate and country by gentlemen of the other side We have listened to the Senator from Mississippi, and one would suppose in listening to him here that he was a friend to the Union and that he desired the perpetuity of the government. He has a most singular way of proving it and a most singular way of maintaining the constitution. Why, sir, he proposes that the government should abdicate." This was a rather calm and deliberate way to commence an argument against a speech permeated with treason against the government; but such was his style, and if such qualities as distin-



William H. Bissell.—First Republican Governor of Illinois.

guished his course had been predominant in the Senate at that session,it might have resulted in staying the approach of war and desolation. To the glory of his memory it can be said that he used his highest and best ability to its fullest to avert the disaster. Nor should it be forgotten that in another critical period in the history of the country his calm and dispassionate judgment, together with his conscientious rectitude of purpose enabled him to raise a barrier against the waves of party partisanship and passion when an attempt was made to impeach the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, and revolutionize the government. His course in those proceedings added additional glory to his career as a patriot and statesman.

The characteristics of Senator Trumbull that I have referred to, extended through his entire term as Senator. On Jan 12, 1865, he introduced the civil rights bill with the specification: "There shall be no discrimination in civil rights * * * * * on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude." It will be impossible for me to dwell further on his splendid work in the 18 years of his service as United States Senator. After retiring from the Senate he returned to the practice of law, and took up his residence in Chicago. There he enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. His alienation with the Republican party barred the way to further political preferment. He made one attempt to enter politics again, and became a candidate in 1880 for Governor, running on the Democratic ticket. In the Liberal Republican movement he supported Horace Greeley and Gratz Brown for President and Vice President. On the death of Jehu Baker, a lifelong friend and one of his strong supporters, he visited Belleville to attend the funeral. At the grave of Mr. Baker, he delivered an appropriate address extolling the many admirable qualities and distinguished services of the deceased. He had intended further to visit St. Louis, where I expected to meet him, but was taken sick and returned to his home in Chicago, where he died on the 25th day of June, 1896. He belonged to the army of great men who have shed luster and glory upon the State of Illinois.

William H. Bissell.

Of all the great men whom I met in my youth, the one most prodigally dowered with eminent qualities was William H. Bissell. At his birth nature lavished upon him nearly all of her choicest gifts of both brain and heart, but envious fate prescribed a cruel limitation to their matured use and enjoyment. Death claimed him when in the prime vigor of his remarkable endowments.

I first remember him in the trial of a case in the Belleville court house, when he was defending a negro charged with some felonious offense. The case had within it certain elements which aroused a sympathy in behalf of the defendant, and he handled these with such constant skill and pathetic effect as to acquit his client. It was not a case of such importance nor did it involve such striking dramatic incidents as the case in which I heard Colonel Field. Nevertheless

it left a vivid impression in my memory. I heard him frequently after that in the trial of cases, in his political campaigns, and on the notable occasion when a barbecue was given by the citizens of St. Clair county to the officers and soldiers of the Second regiment of Illinois volunteers in honor of their return, on the 29th of July, 1847.

William H. Bissell was born in Yates county, in the western part of New York, in April, 1811. His earliest associations led him to choose the study of medicine as a profession. He already was possessed of a comparatively good education as a basis, and, after reading medicine for a time, he attended the Jefferson Medical school in Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1834. With most young men of the east in those days, the great west was the field in which to seek and strive for fortune and fame. That region to the young and aspiring easterner was a fancied Eldorado, although of a somewhat more practical kind than that sought by the famed Spaniard. As a matter of course, he was poor. The truth is in those days most every young man was of limited means; to be otherwise, was an exception to the prevailing rule, and, when we read the biography of all the most illustrious men of the State, it leads one to believe that it was a blessing, rather than otherwise, to have been possessed of limited means. He decided to try his fortunes in Illinois, and left for his destination in 1837 or 1838. He first went to Jefferson county, and shortly after his arrival was attacked with a severe illness, which not only used up his small supply of money but so discouraged him that he decided to enlist in the United States army. He then went to Jefferson barracks to carry out his intention, but fortunately could not pass the required examination because of his physical debility. Failing in his purpose to become a soldier, he returned to Illinois, but stopped in Monroe county. He became acquainted with Colonel Jones, of that county, who was so favorably impressed with his appearance that he induced him to remain and teach school for a while. He soon abandoned this and embarked in his profession, and shortly thereafter was the recipient of a lucrative practice. The social conditions in Illinois, as I have before remarked, were such as to tempt any ambitious young man to take part in politics and aspire to official position. Mr. Bissell was not an exception to the rule, and we soon after find him associating with prominent politicians, speaking at public meetings and increasing his acquaintance and popularity among the people. His gifts as an orator soon gave him precedence over other aspiring men, and in 1840 he was made the Democratic nominee for the lower house of the General Assembly. He was duly elected, and this position gave the first opportunity to exhibit those remarkable qualities for political leadership, which, in after years, gave him a national reputation and raised him to some of the highest positions of honor and trust. The county of Monroe was a Whig stronghold. His carrying it for the Democracy, notwithstanding the enthusiastic campaign conducted by the Whigs in the State and Nation, attracted the special attention of party adherents and was looked upon as a remarkable achievement. At the end of his term in the legislature he returned home fully determined to abandon the profession of medicine and study law. He had discovered the pos-

session of powers better adapted to that profession than the other, and he saw the advantage the profession of the law gave in furthering his ambition for active political life. During his course of study he attended lectures at the law school in Lexington, Ky., and after graduating he located in the town of Belleville. Here he was thrown in contact with a number of the ablest men in the State, and their association proved of lasting benefit to him in his illustrious career. The first office he held after he began his residence in Belleville was that of circuit attorney. No state office presents a better opportunity for an able and aspiring man to increase his popularity and political strength; at the same time, it being in the line of his profession, it enables him to increase his legal knowledge and experience and practice the art of public speaking. This office was ably filled by Mr. Bissell. To this day there are residents in St Clair county who will tell of his success in his prosecutions. He would only prosecute when convinced that an accused was guilty, and his powers of oratory were such that the closing address overcame the efforts of the ablest attorneys. But he was soon to play another part in the drama of life—soon to display such capacities as a soldier as would exalt him to a place among the great patriots and heroes of the nation and reflect honor upon the State and his citizenship.

In my sketch of General Shields, I referred to the causes of the Mexican war; how it broke upon the country, and the rapid rise and spread of the war spirit. I told of the prompt response made by Illinois to fill the quota assigned to their state, and the brilliant achievements of the third and fourth regiments commanded by Colonels Foreman and Baker at Cerro Gordo, and their after participation in the campaign against Mexico. As soon as the call was made, Mr. Bissell promptly enlisted. He joined the ranks as a volunteer, and marched behind the fife and drum of the recruiting officers alongside of those who afterwards fought so nobly as privates in the regiment he commanded. The military spirit was strong in Mr. Bissell. He was a natural born soldier. In the days of his early struggles, as we have seen, his inclination led him to Jefferson Barracks. At that time the horizon was clear of war clouds; peace reigned throughout the land, and it looked as if the temple of war was closed for an indefinite period. The paths of peace, of profession and politics, seemed to be the only ones for achievement and fame. Yet still he was tempted to the soldier's life, with all its sacrifices and hardships. When, in addition, we take into consideration his lofty spirit of patriotism, it is easy to account for his prompt enlistment and his future brilliant conduct. After enlisting as a private, he was soon elected to the captaincy of one of the St. Clair county companies and was subsequently chosen as Colonel of the Second Illinois regiment. His services in the war are known to every reader of the history of the country. His associate regiment was the first, commanded by Col. John J. Hardin,—a name dear to the heart of every Illinoisan, and both of these regiments were under the command of Gen. Zach Taylor. The greatest glory has been accorded to these two regi-

ments and their respective colonels for their brave and desperate fight at the battle of Buena Vista. This battle stands in the annals of warefare conspicuous for its desperate and bloody character, and furnished a rare record of stubborn endurance, daring bravery, and patriotic sacrifice. The attacking army under Santa Anna numbered 20,000. The opposing force numbered but 4,500. The battle lasted all day, and, in resisting the final charge of almost overwhelming numbers in the afternoon, the gallant Colonels Hardin, McKee and Lieutenant Colonel Clay were killed. Though in the hottest of the fight Colonel Bissell escaped without injury, and blackened with powder and smoke and worn and exhausted by the fierce struggles of the day, when he threw himself upon his rough couch at night his brow was encircled with the halo of an immortal name. Transportation was slow at that time, and the full particulars of the battle were not received for several days. The first authentic accounts came through the St. Louis newspapers, and there is an amusing incident, personal to myself, connected with their arrival and distribution. The connection between St. Louis and Belleville was by means of a hack which, owing to the wretched state of the roads, usually took several hours to traverse the distance between the two places. At the time of the Battle of Buena Vista I was a carrier of the old Missouri Republican and the St. Louis Reveille to Belleville subscribers, and always had a certain number to sell. I usually stood at the post office waiting for the arrival of the above mentioned vehicle to procure my bundle of papers. On that day I received my bundle, tore off the cover and handed the first copy to Mr. Murray Morrison, a lawyer who afterwards became a member of the Supreme court of California. The head lines of the Battle of Buena Vista arrested his attention. Every person in town was expecting the account. As I delivered the paper to him I was in the act of starting on the run, when he stopped me and said: "Here, Charlie! There's an account of the great Battle of Buena Vista in the paper, and General Taylor has badly defeated the Mexicans. Do not sell your papers for less than a long bit". I started down the street with the cry of: "Here is all about the battle of Bu--", but I stopped, looked at the paper, then tried again: "Here is all about the battle of Bu--", balked, and then changed my call to: "Here is all about General Taylor's whipping the Mexicans". And I followed Mr. Morrison's advice; there was a "corner" on newspapers that day.

Battle Field at Buena Vista near
Saltillo, Mexico, Feb., 24, 1847.

Friend Koerner—A tremendous battle was fought here on yesterday and the day before between our forces on the one side and Santa Anna's, commanded by himself, on the other. We had less than 5,000 men, our enemy over 20,000. The battle was long-continued and dreadfully sanguinary, but the result is most glorious, glorious for our own beloved country. We routed the enemy and drove him to seek safety by flight under cover of night. His loss in killed and wounded is immense—we cannot conjecture what. And our own,

alas! is too severe. Cols. Hardin, Tell, McKee and Clay were killed upon the field, in the most dreadful conflict, and fell almost within my reach.

My own brave regiment, which has won for itself eternal honor, and which did more hard fighting than any other regiment or corps on the field, has suffered most severely—about 65 killed, 80 wounded, 9 or 10 missing. I sent a list of the killed in the two St. Clair companies to Mr. Kinney in another letter. Engelmann acted most gallantly upon the field, and was severely but not dangerously wounded in the shoulder. He is doing well and has every attention and is in good spirits. Our whole loss in killed, wounded and missing will probably be between four and five hundred.

We are all perfectly prostrated—worn out. You will get the particulars from other sources. I have not a moment to spare.

Good-bye.

(Signed.) William H. Bissell.

To Judge Koerner.

The news of the outcome of this battle and the bravery displayed by the Illinois regiments produced the wildest enthusiasm throughout the State. In every city, town and village, public meetings were held, speeches made, gun-powder exploded and the nights brightened with bon-fires and illuminations. It was a time of general revelry and rejoicing. In after years, during the Civil War, I had occasion to contrast the universal transports of joy visible upon the reception of this news over a victory of a foreign foe and the divided exultation when news came of a victory of American over American. If there is anything in the movements of men that will stir to its depths the feelings and emotions, it is to look upon the returning veterans of a successful war and one in which they have borne a brave and heroic part. And so the people of St. Clair county were stirred upon the return of the Second regiment and its noble Commander. The reception was one never to be forgotten. There be a few old men yet living whose eyes will moisten at the mention to them of the occurance. One form of expression of public admiration and affection took the shape of a barbecue given on July 28, 1847. An immense crowd assembled on the occasion. The address of welcome to the regiment was made by Judge Gustavus Koerner in his usual felicitous, able and eloquent manner. The response was made by Colonel Bissell. It was a masterpiece of oratory. In opening he said:

"The volunteers, officers and men on whose account this splendid pageant has been gotten up are effected with feelings of deep sensibilty at the honors they are receiving at your hands. In the immense concourse of people here assembled, in the fervid and eloquent address by the orator of the day, and in the warmth and enthusiasm of feeling manifested all around us, we recognize an approbation of our conduct and joy at our return which entirely surpass our expectations and leave us without language to express our gratitude.

Twelve months ago we went forth from among you to do service; to die, if need be, in our country's cause. Many an eye was dimmed at our parting and many a bosom pained. Heavy was the sacrifice which many of you were then called to make, but our country required it, and, upon her altar, that sacrifice was cheerfully offered up. We went forth cheered and encouraged by you and followed by your blessings. In all out wanderings you never forgot us, nor did we for a moment forget our country or her honor. We never forgot that we had the credit of our own Illinois to sustain, nor did we cease to remember that we had cherished friends at home whose eyes were ever upon us, and whose hearts were always with us."

He then referred to the characteristics of the volunteer soldiers from Illinois; spoke of their lack of experience and discipline, but explained how it was that by constant attention and practice they so soon overcame these drawbacks and fought as trained veterans. In this connection he paid them a splendid tribute for moral worth. It is worthy of quotation as showing, aside from his style of speech, the social condition of the times. He said:

"Of the officers and men of the Second Illinois regiment—concerning whom I can speak from more intimate knowledge—of them I take occasion to say that the high tone of moral character which they always and under all circumstances maintained was alike creditable to themselves and honorable to the State which claimed them as her sons. They were not of the class found upon the wharves of our seaports, and gathered up there—men who have no character to sustain and no friends or country to love. They were chiefly the well taught youths of our farming communities and our quiet, moral country towns. The moral sentiments they had imbibed at home, and the high sense of personal honor and personal respect they had there learned to cherish, they carried with them, and these were a panoply and a shield against temptation. Honor! All honor to you, ye mothers! And you, ye fathers! for so forming the character of your sons as to enable them, by the force of that character alone, to draw down honors upon their State."

He then entered into a detailed account of the battle of Buena Vista. It was intensely interesting, and remains a valuable acquisition to the history of the war. His recital in its plain and simple force and beauty reads like a chapter from Cæsar's Commentaries.

In speaking of Colonel Hardin, he said that the meditated charge of the Mexicans in overwhelming numbers which might have resulted in defeat instead of victory, was prevented by the charge so gallantly led and so heroically sustained by that officer. And in the magnanimity of his nature asked: "May we not say, then, that that brave officer and noble-heated man sacrificed himself on that occasion to secure our victory?"

He described his death: "He fell battling manfully for his country's cause, on foot, armed only with his sword, a dragoon sabre; he

lefended himself with heroic firmness against the crowd of lancers which pressed upon him, and only fell when overpowered by their greatly superior numbers."

He then explained the great advantage obtained in the victory of Buena Vista, and pointed out the terrible consequences that would have ensued in case of defeat. After expressing the joy at meeting friends once more, and the deep feeling of gratitude for the magnificent ovation, he closed in the following beautiful words:

"But alas! Our joy, like yours, is checked by the recollection of familiar faces which are not here! By the remembrance of familiar names, which we may call in vain; names, too, some of which there are no prouder ones even in our own proud Illinois. Not a few of the brave men who went with us have yielded up their breath in resisting the foes of their country, and have found amid the mountains of Mexico their last resting place. They will return no more, but mourn them not! They fell in their country's cause! They fell, where they would have chosen to fall, in the arms of victory upon a glorious battlefield, with their county's banner streaming o'er them! Mourn them not! For though with their life-blood they have moistened the soil of Buena Vista, and left their honored remains to mingle with the dust of that famous battlefield, yet they are not dead! No they are not dead! They still live! They live in the spirit which animates our patriot bosom here! They live in the feeling which thrills with electrical influence the hearts of this vast assembly! They live in the memory of a grateful country! They live! They will ever live in a fame as extended as this vast republic and as lasting as time!"

The splendid services of Colonel Bissell in the Mexican war, together with his well known ability, made him the most popular man in the Congressional district in which he lived, and, on his consent to accept the candidacy, he was elected without opposition, in 1848. He was again elected, without opposition, in 1850. The session of Congress of the winter of 1849-50 was one of the most exciting that had yet occurred in the history of the nation. The debate on the admission of California as a free state was bitter and acrimonious in the extreme. The domineering spirit of the pro-slavery party was such that threats of secession and civil war came from the lips of several Southern senators and congressmen. In this body the debates were remarkable for both violence and ability. "At no time in its history" says Mr. Blaine, "has its members been so illustrious, its weight of character and ability so great." Webster made his great speech against his anti-slavery friends, and declared that the South had monopolized three-fourths of the places of honor and emolument under the Federal government ever since the Union was formed. He was charged by his former Southern friends with treason. Jefferson Davis and his associates tried in vain to have a journal entry made of their protest against the wrong done to the slave-holding states in giving the entire Pacific coast to freedom, and Henry Clay succeeded in his great compromise measure which, for a time, stayed the waves of passion and treason. It is easy to premise

the effects these debates had upon a man of the patriotism of Colonel Bissell. He foresaw the consequences of the continued triumph of a party controlled by such leaders as then represented the South, and he foresaw the futility of any attempt on the part of the more reasonable and conservative members of that party from the North to control its policy or direct its destiny. When the time came for the Congressional election of 1852, he refused to submit his name to the Democratic nominating convention and ran as an independent against Philip B. Fouke, Jr. (Democrat) and Joseph Gillespie (Whig) and was triumphantly re-elected The fierce warfare for slavery extension continued. Douglas reported the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1853, and, after a giant struggle, it passed in 1854. It drove forever from the Democratic party many of its adherents, and among them Colonel Bissell. He was prevented by severe illness, from taking part in the House debates on that notable measure. That illness attacked him in the winter of 1851, a partial paralytic stroke, and continuously affected him to such an extent that he was unable to take his seat in the summer of 1853, when the debate was progressing. His decided opposition was manifested, however, in the declaration that if his vote would defeat the measure he would insist on being carried to the House in order to cast it even if the effort caused his death. It was during his first session in Congress that he ran counter to the fire-eating spirit of the South. A vindictive attack had been made by a Congressman from Virginia against the North, and an indiscriminate arraignment made against her people for immeasurable wrongs against her rights under the slave code. It was customary, in such efforts, for Southerners to extol the people of the South as the possessors of higher qualities of manhood than those possessed by the people of the North. Unfortunately, the member from Virginia, illustrating his argument, made the historically inaccurate statement that a regiment from Mississippi had met and repulsed the enemy at a most critical time in the battle of Buena Vista, and after the Northern troops had given way. Colonel Bissell was peculiarly sensitive to any adverse reflection on the conduct or character of the brave Illinoisans under his command and he resented the mis-statement and imputation with characteristic indignation and scorn. His speech, in which he incorporated his reply to the statement of the gentleman from Virginia, gave an insight into the trend of his mind and opened the way to the future distinction of being the first Republican nominee for Governor of the State of Illinois. He entered the lists as an advocate of the people of the North against the unjust charges of aggression and spoliation; showed the weakness of the material on which they based their accusation and the distortion and misapplication of facts to sustain their arguments. In regard to the statement about the Northern troops giving way, he replied in the following eloquent strain:

"I affirm distinctly, sir, that at the time the 2nd Indiana Regiment gave way, through an unfortunate order of their colonel, the Mississippi regiment, for whom the claim is gratuitously set up, was not within a mile and a half of the scene of action, nor yet had it fired a

gun or pulled a trigger. I affirm further, sir, that the troops which at that time met and resisted the enemy and thus, to use the gentleman's own language, 'snatched victory from the jaws of defeat,' were the 2nd Kentucky, the 2nd Illinois and a portion of the 1st Illinois regiments. It gives me no pleasure, sir, to be compelled to allude to this subject, nor can I see the necessity or propriety of its introduction in this debate. It having been introduced, however, I cannot, sir, sit in silence and witness the infliction of such cruel injustice upon men, living and dead, whose well earned fame I were a monster not to protect. The true, brave hearts of too many of them, alas! have already mingled with the soil of a foreign country, but their claims upon the justice of their countrymen can never cease, nor can my obligations to them be ever forgotten or disregarded. No, sir! The voice of Hardin—that voice which has so often been heard in this hall as mine now is, though far more eloquently—the voice of Hardin, yea, and of McKee, and the accomplished Clay, each wrapped now in his bloody shroud, their voices would reproach me from the grave had I failed in this act of justice to them and to others who fought and fell by my side."

His reference to the Mississippi regiment brought a challenge from Jefferson Davis. He was not to be cowed, nor did he propose to be uselessly sacrificed. He accepted the challenge and chose as weapons the army musket, to be loaded with a ball and three buck shots; the parties to be stationed only 40 paces apart, with liberty to advance to ten. The acceptance meant death to both parties. This his opponent had not been anticipating. There was no humor in this proposed duel. Colonel Bissell's conduct in battle argued that he would be the first to advance from 40 paces to ten. It required the intervention of President Taylor to extricate his son-in-law, Mr. Davis, from the terrible dilemma. He succeeded in adjusting the difficulty and there was no loss of honor to Colonel Bissell.

Before the close of the last session of his service in Congress, Colonel Bissell had attained a national reputation as a skillful debator and accomplished orator, a trusted leader and an able statesman. Colonel Bissell returned home at the end of his last Congressional term with the intention of retiring from a further active participation in the political arena. The character and continuance of his illness caused him to doubt the propriety of his again accepting public office, but his intellect was unimpaired, and the part he had taken in the political affairs of the country made it an impossibility for him to become a silent spectator of the great drama. The formative processes of the reorganization of parties were at work. The zealous advocates of a united and undivisible union and an advanced freedom, regardless of divers views on minor questions, were, by the force of events and conditions, being gradually drawn into cohesion and union. In most of the border states the contest was assuming phases of dangerous antagonisms. Especially was this so in Missouri where Benton, Blair and Brown were waging a bitter war on behalf of free soil. Colonel Bissell took great interest in the Missouri conflict and was constantly in correspondence with the

leaders named, and, at times, met them in consultation. No man in Illinois was held in higher estimation by the early workers for free soil in Missouri than Colonel Bissell. The final trend to a consolidation of all elements in opposition to the pro-slavery and disunion party culminated in the convention at Bloomington, Ill., on the 29th of May, 1856. One of your ablest historians records the event in these words:

"It was a famous gathering, and marked the commencement of a new era in the politics of the State. All those who subsequently became leaders of the Republican party were there; Whigs, Democrats, know-nothings and abolitionists. Those who had all their lives been opposing and fighting each other, found themselves for the first time harmoniously battling side by side, consulting and shouting their unanimous accord."

John M. Palmer was made president of that convention, and among the delegates were such men as Lincoln, Browning, Wentworth, Yates, Lovejoy, Oglesby and Koerner. This convention recorded the real birth of that party which so successfully carried on the war for the preservation of the Union and destroyed forever the institution of slavery. Without solicitation, without even an anticipation on his part, Colonel Bissell was unanimously nominated for governor of the State. No higher compliment could have been extended; no greater evidence of the exalted estimation of the man could be given. It was the recognition on the part of great men, sincerely earnest men, patriots and leaders of men, that he possessed those pre-eminent abilities required in the leadership of so great a cause. And he fulfilled the trust faithfully as long as life was given him. During his administration he had to contend against the unreasonable attacks of partisanship, but so bore himself as to carry through measures important to the interests of the State and enforced respect and support for his acknowledged statesmanship.

In person Governor Bissell was of the soldier's standard height. In form, finely proportioned, he bore himself with becoming dignity but without the least semblance of vanity or ostentation. His countenance was frank, open and prepossessing. A finely shaped head, in harmony with his body, was crowned with dark brown hair lining a high and broad forehead. His features were prominent, with a large Roman nose, a square but not protruberant chin; a mouth indicating firmness, with full lips and closely trimmed mustache; small tufts of hair grew just in front of his ears. Eyebrows almost straight, shaded his eyes; these were dark gray and very bright. The muscles of his face were remarkably flexible and expressive. His manners were exceedingly courteous and impressive, and his conversation animated and interesting. His canvassing methods were entirely different from most politicians. There was nothing of the demagogue about him and he never resorted to subterfuges or schemes for success. His habits were regular and temperate, and he never courted votes in the precincts of the saloon. One of his prominent traits, that of modesty, was in marked contrast to many of the public men with whom he associated. I have given some idea of

his powers of oratory in the quotations read from his speeches, but they can convey only, in limited measure, the beauty, strength and power of the spoken words. A clear and well modulated voice, with gestures graceful and appropriate and the fire and fervor of conviction embellished his every effort, and, on occasions, when deeply moved and an inspiration seized him, he rose to the highest flights of eloquence. In daily life his course was in keeping with the noble impulses that marked his public career. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father; a just and upright citizen; a staunch friend and a devoted believer in the faith of immortality, and, lastly, he was a type of the founders of the Republic. His ambition was pure and exalted. He cared not, neither did he strive, for the wealth of earth, but, dying, he left what was greater, "the imperishable heritage of a lofty reputation and a spotless name." It is greatly to be regretted that he did not live to accomplish the good he might have done. He did not live to finish his term of office, but died on Sunday, the 18th of March, 1860. His death was pathetic in the extreme. He retained his faculties until the last. His last hours are described in one of the journals of the day:

"On Saturday morning Governor Bissell had himself a consciousness of the approach of death and about 5 a. m. called his family to his bedside. One or two other persons, attendants during his illness, were present. The scene at the last parting was only referred to that it may place in its brightest light the character of the deceased. Calling each member of the family to his bedside, he gave them a last embrace—the wife and weeping daughters all sharing alike in his affection. A brief address was made to each. Then followed farewells to other members of the household. Of the faithful servants among these was a colored domestic who nursed Mrs Bissell while an infant. Following this, during the forenoon of Saturday, Messrs Lincoln, Hatch, Dubois and Herndon had a brief farewell interview with him. He passed a painful night and on Sunday morning the death struggle commenced at 7 o'clock. At intervals he would rally; his eye would kindle as its wont and his failing powers by the force of his indomitable will would be roused and carry him through some sentences uttered clearly and distinctly, when the ebbing tide would sink back again. About the middle of the forenoon he made a brief prayer to the Deity, as a dying man to his Maker and Judge. It was clearly and distinctly uttered and full of feeling. For an hour or two preceding his death he did not speak, but sank gradually, and so passed from earth."

The voice of mourning—deep, sincere and reverential—was heard in every part of the State on the announcement of the death of Governor Bissell. Nor was it confined to the limits of Illinois. The advocates of the perpetuity of our government, the friends of freedom, the brave, the true and the patriotic throughout the length and breadth of the land mourned the death of the illustrious soldier and statesman. The funeral procession at the capital was by far the largest and most imposing that ever attended the obsequies of any citizen of the State, save one, in later years. It was composed of

military officers of high degree, judges of the Supreme, Circuit and Federal courts, United States senators and members of Congress; governors and lieutenant governors of various states, members of the State Senate and House of Representatives, members of the bar, numerous civic societies, a great concourse of illustrious citizens, and, last though not least, the officers and soldiers who served under him in the Mexican war. Among the chief mourners was his distinguished friend and political associate, Abraham Lincoln. Conjecture asks—What were his reflections on that solemn occasion? As he heard the measured footsteps of the citizen militia, the boom from out the distant battery and the noise of the platoon firing over the grave of his friend, did his prophetic mind hear from out the future the solid tramp of armed legions, the thunder from thousands of hoarse-mouthed cannons, the wild tornado of rattling musketry and the mighty rush of contending hosts in the yet unfought war for the Union? Did his eye far down the vista look upon the terrible panorama of war and desolation, of triumph and victory? Did he see the full fruition and outcome of the work so devotedly commenced by the illustrious dead and his associates? If so, then his sad face on that day wore a more sombre tinge, and the tears that he shed for his friend and co-worker in the cause of justice and human freedom were commingled with those he shed for the coming woes and calamities of his beloved country.

In conclusion, let me say that it was my desire and intention to refer to other distinguished citizens of this State with whom I was acquainted, but I find it impossible to attempt to do so in the circumscribed time allotted for this address. I regret it, for there are several others whose memory I fondly cherish with sentiments of esteem, admiration and affection. When I read the history of my native State, my heart swells with pride and satisfaction at the marvelous work of her people and her long line of great and illustrious characters. Other states have produced great and distinguished men, but in the world's annals of human action is recorded that in the greatest achievements performed in behalf of humankind in the 19th century, Illinois stands pre eminent.

AN INQUIRY.

Dr. J. F. Snyder.

Among several old newspapers I secured at Jacksonville a short time since, was a copy of the *Illinois State Journal* of Nov. 25, 1857, published at Springfield, Ill., by Bailache & Baker, in which appears the following communication written by Prof. John Russell, dated "Bluffdale, November, 1857."

"For the *Illinois State Journal*—The School Advocate—An Essay on the Human Mind and its Education.

"Such is the title of a work of 118 pages, fresh from the pen of our fellow-citizen, ex-Governor Reynolds. He and his writings are too well known to the people of this State for it to be needful to offer a single comment upon that little volume. Deposit a letter in any postoffice of Illinois, however remote or obscure, with no other superscription than these three words—"The Old Ranger"—and it would go straight to him at Belleville. As an author, his great personal popularity has rather been a drawback to him, than otherwise, for few are disposed to give to his writings the severe but salutary criticism which other writers find so beneficial, though not always very agreeable.

"There is hardly an office within the gift of our people which he has not filled, and with distingished honor. For several years past he has declined all public employment, and with an ample fortune retired to the shades of private life, but not of idleness. The mind of Governor Reynolds, both by nature and habit, is much too active to content itself with listless inanity. During the period of his retirement he has written and published several valuable works, of which the one whose title is placed at the head of this article, is the latest. Space in which to analyze the contents of that volume can be afforded only in the ample pages of a monthly or quarterly *Review*. It is useless to attempt it in the columns of a newspaper. The title itself, however, discloses the scope of the author. It is philosophical as well as practical, and rich in well matured and original thoughts. No one will read the work without feeling himself abundantly paid for its perusal.

"It is said that Governor Reynolds is already engaged upon another work, which will appear in the course of a few months. With his "*Life and Times*," the reading public is already familiar. Notwithstanding the haste with which it went through the press, un-

avoidably carrying along with it many typographical and other not very important errors, that volume of 600 pages has been pronounced by competent judges the best work that has yet been written upon the early history of Illinois.

"It is a remarkable fact, that St. Clair county contains the only two living writers of the State, whose productions have the slightest chance to outlive the passing hour, and descend to other times. The Rev. Dr. Peck and ex-Governor Reynolds, each in his own appropriate field, has collected, and in part published, a series of important facts connected with the history of this State, which, but for their labors would have perished forever. For this, if for nothing else, the future sons and daughters of Illinois will hold them in grateful remembrance."

A native of St. Clair county, Ill., myself and reared in Belleville, the home of Governor Reynolds, I was intimately acquainted with him from my boyhood until his death in 1865. Familiar as I am—or imagined myself to be—with his writings I never, before reading this communication of Professor Russell's, heard of the book he calls public attention to, and his account of it is the first I have yet seen in print. That book, or essay, is not mentioned by any of Governor Reynolds' numerous biographers. My inquiries of his few remaining contemporaries in St. Clair county have failed to discover anyone there who ever saw, or before heard of it. It is not in the public library at Belleville, or in what is left of Professor Russell's library, though his son, Mr. S. G. Russell, of Bluffdale, thinks his father must have donated the book, after writing this notice of it, to the Chicago Historical society whose collections were later all destroyed in the great fire of 1871.

My object in transcribing and calling attention to this communication of Professor Russell's is to institute a general public inquiry for this forgotten work of Governor Reynolds, and, if it is not completely out of print and lost, to secure, if possible, a copy of it for the Illinois State Historical library.

Mr. Edward W. West, a resident of Belleville for 80 years, suggests that Professor Russell may have been mistaken in attributing the authorship of the book to Governor Reynolds. That, however, is not probable. This "School Advocate, or Essay upon the Human Mind and its Education," appearing in 1857, was doubtless written by the Old Ranger, and perhaps for an ulterior purpose, as less than a year later he was nominated, in 1858, by the anti-Douglas wing of the Democratic party—of which he was a conspicous champion—as its candidate for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Or, in justice to the Governor, it should be presumed that his treatise on Schools and Education of the Human Mind, disseminated in the fall of 1857, made so profound an impression on his party, without design on his part, as to influence his nomination the next spring.

The Douglas faction of the Democracy at that time nominated for the same office ex-Gov. A. C. French. At the election following both

ex-Governors were defeated by Newton Bateman, the Republican candidate, whose majority over Reynolds, however, was only 2,143 in the total of 252,100 votes cast.

Anyone knowing of the existence of a copy of the book referred to in this inquiry will confer a valuable favor by communicating that fact to the librarian of the Illinois State Historical library at Springfield, Ill.

Ill State Hist Library, Publication # 9 , 1904

ILLINOIS IN THE WAR OF 1812-1814.

By Frank E. Stevens, author of the "Black Hawk War."

IMPROMPTU.

At this moment, with the United States and England united by ties of closest friendship, it may appear highly impertinent to disturb their tranquil contemplation by turning over pages of the past to a time when English subjects on this side of the Atlantic found their greatest gratification in inciting Indians to lift the scalps of our forefathers. But I shall not use unfortunate complications of former days malevolently. They are past and forgotten and the man of today cares very little about them anyway. In fact, I may say that the average man of today bothers his busy brain very little with affairs which concerned his forefathers, or even his father. They are "charged off" his mind, if he ever had them there, pretty much as he charges off his bad accounts at the end of the year and, apparently, he does not care to get them back.

The events which I am called upon to relate have been set down by others at different periods, but in books, periodicals and pamphlets now so rare as to be practically obsolete; therefore, I am constrained to admit that this paper is little more than a collation of those recondite items.

In general, where quotations are used with no note of reference, the item should be credited to the "American State Papers."

At the conclusion of our war for independence, it was stipulated in the treaty that all frontier posts* of the northwest then occupied by British garrisons were to be surrendered, but they were not The Jay treaty followed, and even that did not secure their evacuation until 1796.†

Had the British remained tranquil‡, the occupation of those posts, though unlawful, had not materially injured the officers of the United States in arranging their Indian policy; but neither British officers nor traders remained tranquil. From the moment the war terminated, those individuals offensively meddled with the Indians and the schemes introduced to keep them peaceful and contented—a most delicate task when environments were most auspicious.§

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*Michillmackinac, Detroit, Niagara, Oswegotché, Point Au Fer, Dutchman's Point and Prairie du Chien.

†Burnet's "Notes on the early settlement of the Northwest Territory."

‡The conduct of the British up to this date, and during all the long years which followed, may be said to have had a three-fold object—resentment, a desire to retain the trade already established with the Indians, and a desire to keep the American settlements confined to the Atlantic seaboard by making life west of it as uncomfortable as possible.

§Armstrong very aptly mentions the treaty of Paris, 1783, as "virtually a truce, not a pacification; a temporary and reluctant sacrifice of national pride to national interest; not a frank and honest adjustment of differences."

ILLINOIS IN THE COUNCILS OF THE NATION.

(Mrs. John A. Logan.)

When Illinois was a part of the great Northwest Territory she had her intellectual giants who made themselves heard at the capital. It is not the purpose of this paper to go into a minute history of Illinois or to attempt to give sketches of all her illustrious men. Though long familiar with the history of the most conspicuous characters, there are many whom I have not known personally, for you must remember that Illinois was admitted as a State in 1818. Long before admission, however, Illinoisans had made profound impressions in the councils of the Nation by their superior abilities, acumen and political wisdom.

Among the early settlers in the great Northwest Territory, who cast their lot in that part subsequently included in the boundaries of Illinois, there came from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and North Carolina some remarkable men of collegiate education and rare mentality. These, together with the large number of French colonists, followers of LaSalle, who first settled in Southwest Illinois were without question, in advance in intelligence and erudition of any of the pioneers who had ventured beyond the Alleghanies. Among them we find such conspicuous names as Shadrack Bond, Sr. and Jr.; John Rice Jones; Pierre Menard; William, James and Samuel Morrison; Israel Dodge; John Hay; James McRoberts; Robert Reynolds; Dr. Geo. Fisher; the Andersons, Thompsons, Erwins, McDonalds, McBrides, Clarks, Edgars, Popes, Jenkins, Logans, Marshalls, Beggs, Thomas, and a score of others who have in one way and another contributed to the glory and prosperity of Illinois and made their own names immortal.

The scandals that had been brought upon the Northwest Territory through the dishonest speculations and frauds perpetrated on the Indians and earliest settlers by the connivance of St. Clair, the first governor of the Northwest Territory, and his friends, were very grave; his action being so flagrantly wrong that both Washington and Jefferson severely rebuked him. Consequently the movers of the proposition to organize the Territory of Illinois were seriously embarrassed. It required much sagacity, consummate diplomacy, indubitable evidence of sterling integrity and public spirit to secure favorable action by Congress and the government.

It was intended to make not less than three, or more than five states out of the great Northwest Territory, therefore it was a matter

of no small moment that all prejudice should be removed from the movers of the proposition so that the various interests of the new territory should be properly protected.

Shadrach Bond, Sr., the delegate sent to Washington to secure the passage of the bill authorizing the organization of the territory had to exercise much skill in every move he made. He proved himself equal to the commission. He was a farmer originally from Maryland, was a man of unusual ability without much education, but in the matter of managing difficult problems remarkably skillful. He was genial and affable and made a most favorable impression, accomplishing much more than was expected and quite as much as could be done today by the most astute representative from any of the territories that have recently been admitted as states. His only desire was to secure a government that would protect the pioneers and original settlers of the rich territory that was only waiting to be colonized to make it one of the most productive of the Union. The people rewarded him by making him the first Governor after the admission of Illinois as a State in 1818.

The advancement of the Territory from the first to the second grade was naturally rather slow, notwithstanding the activity of the people and marked ability of the delegates in Congress. However, in January, 1818, Nathaniel Pope, the delegate in Congress at that time, introduced a bill providing for the admission of Illinois as a state. Few territories have been so fortunate as Illinois was in their delegates in Congress at the time of their petition, for admission as states. To his far-seeing statesmanship we are indebted for the present prowess of Illinois, commercially, politically and geographically. He appreciated that in all republics there was ever danger of dissolution, should one member of the confederated states have advantages independent of the others. He understood the importance of the commanding position Illinois would occupy through her geographical situation if the proper boundaries were established and maintained. No petitions were placed in his hands setting forth the important points to be incorporated in the bill establishing boundaries and fixing the status of the State and her relations to other states.

In the fertile brain of Nathaniel Pope was conceived the wonderful provisions of the bill under which Illinois was admitted. The clause extending the boundaries "north of the southern bend of the lake" giving extensive coast line on Lake Michigan; extending the western boundary 50 miles west to the Mississippi river, establishing the boundaries on the east and southeast along the Ohio river to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, giving us 150 miles coast on the Ohio river, was a masterful stand evermore as silent barriers against any movement for the dissolution of the Union.

The area included within its boundaries is of such a character that it will continue to furnish support for a population of millions and will also provide channels for the commerce of the world. Nathaniel Pope watched with jealous care, vigilance and fidelity every interest

of the new State so favorably launched through his wise statesmanship. His son, Maj. Gen. John Pope, rendered conspicuous service to his country in the Civil war and thereby added laurels to the name of Pope so prominently identified with Illinois.

Ninian Edwards and Jesse B. Thomas were elected United States Senators by the first Legislature. Two more dissimilar men could not possibly have been found. Senator Edwards was a lawyer by profession. He had been on the bench in Kentucky before he came to Illinois. He brought with him to his new home where he was destined to be so fortunate, all the dignity of the judiciary which well befitted him for the Senate. He was a man of imposing appearance, always well dressed, tactful and intelligent, he soon became an important member of the Senate acquiring a national reputation. Mr. Monroe appointed him, on the expiration of his term in the Senate, Minister to Mexico. He became, however, involved in trouble through partisanship in the presidential campaign of 1824, on account of charges of corruption he made against W. H. Crawford, then Secretary of the Treasury. He was called before an investigating committee and failing to prove his charges, feeling ran high against him, and he resigned his mission to Mexico; returning to Illinois to continue his warfare on dishonesty in public affairs by attacking the banking system which had wrought such financial disaster to the new State. Albeit the banking influence was against Mr. Edwards he was elected Governor of the State and was inaugurated with much pomp and ceremony, appearing before the General Assembly, wearing a gold lace cloak over a suit of fine broadcloth, short breeches, long stockings, top boots, he delivered his inaugural address with much dignity and eloquence.

With the prejudice then existing against dress and display it was curious that Governor Edwards should have always succeeded in his campaigns notwithstanding he invariably canvassed, decked out as above described, and was driven from place to place in one of the finest carriages of the times, drawn by four magnificent horses with two colored servants on the box. He would not descend to the low electioneering arts of the times or cater to the mob by providing free whiskey on every occasion as many good men did. In Congress and as Chief Executive of Illinois, Governor Edwards was a potent influence in all that was done for the advancement and development of his State and country.

Senator Jesse B. Thomas was also a large and liberal minded, good natured man, in no sense cultured or a good speaker, but a most adroit and winning man. It was a maxim with him that "no man could be talked down with loud and bold words, but any one might be whispered to death," which is indicative of the frank and honest man that he was. He had no secrets, but won the support of Congress for the measures he desired to pass by his honesty of purpose and sincerity of manner.

Daniel P. Cook, member of the House of Representatives from 1819 to 1826, was one of the most talented representatives Illinois

has ever had. He was accomplished, consistent, morally courageous, a fine speaker, astute in judgment, gracious and sincere in manner, his personality gave him great power in the house. He rose to the chairmanship of the ways and means committee. He secured the donation of 300,000 acres of land for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal. His name has been perpetuated by naming the county of Cook for him.

Almost all the counties in the State are named for men who have distinguished themselves in the service of the State and it is to be regretted that there are not more counties to be named for other illustrious Illinoisans.

Daniel P. Cook was succeeded by Governor Duncan, who was an honest, agreeable man of sound convictions, but little education, and from annals consulted does not seem to have equalled Mr. Cook in ability, statesmanship or effectivness in securing legislation in the interest of his State.

John McLean, of Shawneetown, was also a prominent figure from Illinois. He served one term in the House, and was twice elected to the Senate, but did not live to serve out his last term. He died in 1830. He was one of the leaders in both Houses. The county of McLean was named in his honor.

Elias K. Kane, originally from New York, one of the ablest lawyers of his time, was also twice elected to the United States Senate, but died in Washington during his second term.

Brilliant, finely educated and endowed by nature with all the qualities of head and heart that go to make a manly man, he was enabled to render important service to his State in the Senate as he had in the Constitutional Convention.

Judge Sidney Breese, a college graduate, fine logician and a man of genuine qualities, was also a United States Senator from Illinois. To him belonged the credit of having first agitated the question of railroads. He was not so brilliant or eloquent as some others, but was a prodigious worker and gained many points in Congress for Illinois.

In 1837, Stephen A. Douglas was elected to Congress from the Peoria district. "The Little Giant," as you remember he was called, had occupied his seat but a brief time when he attracted universal attention by his brilliancy and readiness in debate. He knew nothing of reticence, but was a dashing, daring, aggressive man, who would have accomplished more if he had been less impulsive. He was an intense partisan and would probably have followed the Democratic party in its advocacy of slavery but from the fact that he represented a free state and it would have cost him his position. The joint discussions between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln will ever stand as the most remarkable exposition of political questions and principles that has ever occurred, developing abilities in both men previously unknown to their most ardent partisans.

Mr. Douglas won the prize of election to the United States Senate, but Mr. Lincoln won the popular vote. Douglas' victory did not stay the swelling tide that was carrying the Nation to the conflict of the "impending crisis." In the Senate Mr. Douglas quickly attained the leadership of his party. It is doubtful if the records of Congress have preserved more eloquent speeches than those of Mr. Douglas on the questions he espoused. "The Missouri Compromise," "Kansas Nebraska Bill," "Popular Sovereignty" and other questions of vital national importance, he advocated with all the vehemence of his intense nature. His appeal for the adoption of the Crittenden Compromise as the last hope of averting the Civil War is still ringing in my ears, though 43 years have come and gone since I listened to his burning words as he stood in the Senate pleading for peace at any cost save the dissolution of the Union. His personal magnetism and the earnest words were of no avail, and he had to bow his head in submission to another disappointment, having been defeated for the Presidency in 1860. He was loyal to his country and when he could hold his party no longer, he arrayed himself on the side of the Union and was among the most sincere patriots who hailed Mr. Lincoln's coming to Washington with unfeigned joy, believing that he would save the Union from dismemberment.

Many of the southern Senators, personal friends of Senator Dougglas, had left Washington before the 4th of March, 1861, to join the secession movement. I can never forget his deep grief over the state of affairs. Night after night he came to the house where John A. McClernand, P. B. Fouke and John A. Logan and their families lived, to talk over the approaching conflict; or how during the struggle over the Crittenden Compromise he would send for the above named to come to his residence on "I" street, where they met many other loyal democrats who could not follow their party to the destruction of their country and the dissolution of the Union. No man could have done more than Douglas to undo the mistakes he had unwittingly made. Could he have lived a few months longer he would have been a great power in support of Mr. Lincoln and the war measures that had to be adopted. Illinois is indebted to him for much that marked her advancement and gave her power and influence in the Nation, not the least of which was securing legislation that resulted in the building of the Illinois Central railroad.

Lyman Trumbull, that patient, astute, faithful Senator was the antipode of Douglas, in every respect. He was always deliberate, cool and calculating, a good lawyer, able debator. He labored incessantly in the interest of Illinois but within much narrower lines than Douglas. He served his State, however, for 18 years in the United States Senate with great credit and fidelity.

O. H. Browning, his colleague, appointed by Governor Yates to succeed Senator Douglas, was a ponderous sort of a man but one who wielded great influence. After his term expired he was secretary of the interior and for a brief time secretary of the treasury.

During the eventful years between '56 and '61 Illinois had some of the ablest men in the House of Representatives that have ever served in that body. E. B. Washburne, Owen Lovejoy, the great champion of human rights, Wm. Kellogg, his friend and co-worker, I. N. Arnold, I. N. Morris, John A. McClernand, Samuel Marshall, John A. Logan and many others. These men differed in politics, but were earnest patriots. Washburne was long considered the "watch dog of the treasury" because of his vigilant scrutiny of everything that came before Congress asking appropriation of public money. His New England traits of character never deserted him and made him one of the most careful of legislators. His great abilities, methodical mind and intense devotion to his country caused him to be indefatigable in his duty and enabled him to exert a marvellous influence in the House. After General Grant's inauguration, March 4, 1869, Mr. Washburne was made secretary of state for a short time, before going to Paris as our American minister. Mr. Washburne belonged to the Galena coterie who exercised so much power in State and national affairs. He is said to have been the discoverer of U. S. Grant. Be that as it may, General Grant was indebted to Mr. Washburne for the potent influence he used in his behalf before General Grant had achieved a reputation which placed him beyond need of influential friends.

Mr. Washburne was one of Mr. Lincoln's faithful supporters, advocating with much earnestness every measure and movement suggested by Mr. Lincoln for the salvation of the Union, and freedom of the slaves. Of his brilliant career as a diplomat it is not for me to speak on this occasion. Suffice to say, everything he ever did reflected honor and glory upon Illinois.

Hon. I. N. Arnold, one of the most refined, conscientious and accomplished of men, labored assiduously during his term in Congress for every measure for the development and progress of the varied interests of Illinois.

To him belongs the honor of introducing and causing to be adopted the first resolution in Congress advocating the entire abolition of slavery in the United States. On the 15th of February, 1864, Mr. Arnold moved the adoption of his resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Constitution should be so amended as to abolish slavery in the United States wherever it now exists and to prohibit its existence in every part thereof forever.

The resolution when first introduced provoked much discussion by the foremost men in the House and it was a signal triumph for Mr. Arnold to have passed it. His record is one of unblemished integrity, alike creditable to his State and to himself.

The fearless Owen Lovejoy was the great leader against slavery. It is doubtful if his impassioned defense of himself and his friends in the protection of fugitive slaves has ever been equalled in eloquence and pathos. He devoted his whole life to the advocacy of the emancipation of slaves and left a glorious record as one of the first and most brilliant advocates for human freedom.

Hon. John A McClernand, a lawyer, a student and an indefatigable worker, made an enviable reputation in the House of Representatives. In the trying months preceding Mr. Lincoln's inauguration there was no more loyal man than General McClernand. He cooperated with Douglas and the "war Democrats" of the House, declaring all the time that if the threats of the south of secession were carried out that he would shoulder his musket to have Mr. Lincoln inaugurated and would join the army to put down the rebellion. He kept his word and was among the first to leave the halls of Congress for the tented field.

Close on to Mr. Lincoln's inauguration came the rumbling sound of the firing on Sumpter, when every man who represented Illinois in Congress arrayed himself on the side of his country and either went to the front to fight for the preservation of the Union or remained to vote for men and measures with which to put down the rebellion.

Mr. Lincoln, as chief executive of the nation, had no cause to grieve over the disloyalty of members and senators from his own State. Those who came to take the places of those who went to the front dared not dishonor Illinois and themselves by affiliating with, or by aiding or abetting, the enemies of the Union.

During the long, sad years of that unhappy conflict, Trumbull and Browning, in the Senate; Washburne, B. C. Cook, S. W. Moulton, A. C. Harding, and many others without regard to party affiliations, loyally and ably represented the great Prairie State which had given to the nation its chief executive in its most trying hour of need.

Immediately following and since the war no state in the Union has been more eminently represented. There has been no time when members of her delegation did not stand in the front rank of American statesmen.

Among the most illustrious was the invincible war governor of Illinois, Hon. Richard Yates, whose keen intuitions, unwavering republicanism, sagacity, genial disposition, kind heart and native eloquence made him the statesman and peer of any man in the United States Senate. Charles Sumner once told me that Senator Yates, in his opinion, "was one of the greatest men who had ever been in the American Senate."

It seemed that the great civil war, with its prodigious events, had developed a race of giants who were destined to be as distinguished in peace as they had been in war. The men who had fought the battles of their country and those who stood on the watch towers at home to protect the government from insidious foes in civil affairs were keenly alive to the possibilities and interests of the State and Nation.

The people, anxious to reward them, elected the genial, honest, loyal, intrepid General Oglesby, first as Governor, then as Senator of the United States. He was as faithful in the Senate as he had been in other high positions.

Gen. John M. Palmer, the gallant soldier and conscientious, able, upright executive, was also promoted to the Senate, where he added lustre to his already illustrious name.

Hon. David Davis, Mr. Lincoln's appointee on the supreme bench, deemed it the crowning glory of his life that he should be chosen to represent Illinois in the United States Senate, where his long experience as an associate justice enabled him to render inestimable service as a member of the Senate judiciary committee.

Shelby M. Cullom, General Logan's colleague at the time of his death, came into the Senate unusually well fitted for the distinguished position of a United States Senator on account of his long experience as a legislator and speaker of the House in the Illinois legislature, governor of Illinois and member of Congress. During the 21 years of his peerless service in the Senate no man has done more for his State or acquired a higher national reputation as a statesman and incorruptible man. Time forbids an enumeration in detail of the important legislation in which he has taken active and conspicuous parts.

Hon. A. J. Hopkins, Senator Cullom's present colleague, is destined to be prominent in all legislation for his State and country. His 20 years in the House of Representatives, where he was a most valuable member, qualifies him to take a high place at once in the Senate. His great pride in his native State, pre-eminent abilities and unswerving integrity are guarantees of his future potent influence in that august body.

I trust it may not seem unfitting in me to speak briefly of that other native Illinois Senator, Gen. John A. Logan. From his majority to the day of his death, his whole life was devoted to the public service, either on the field or in the forum, into which he threw with intensity the whole weight of his gigantic abilities, indomitable energy, dauntless courage, honesty of purpose and loyalty to his country. After serving in the Illinois legislature he entered Congress in 1858, commanding much more attention than would have been expected for one of his age. Resigning after his election to a second term to enlist in the defense of the Union, he followed the flag of his country for more than four years. Immediately after the surrender at Appomattox and peace was declared, he was called to resume his seat in the House. March 4, 1871, in compliance with the behest of his State, he took his seat in the Senate. For evidence of his achievements for Illinois and his country I have only to point you with pardonable pride to the magnificent statue of enduring bronze which was erected by his State, which stands in Lake Park, Chicago, silhouetted by the shimmering waters of Lake Michigan; and to the no less superb one of him in one of the finest parks in Washington, erected by Congress and his devoted friends and admirers. To recapitulate the measures of legislation of which he was the author and active supporter would require more time than is allotted to this paper.

Those chosen to represent the people in the House were, for the most part well equipped for the herculean task of legislating upon the stupendous questions of reconstruction, adjustment of the problems that were the fruit of the Rebellion, and for the carrying out of the many progressive enterprises for the development of the resources of the country and the extension of the boundaries of civilization.

Hon. S. M. Cullom, Gen. John F. Farnsworth, Gen. S. A. Hurlburt, Horatio C. Burchard, Gen. Thos. J. Henderson, Hon. John Wentworth, General J. L. Beveridge, Capt. John R. Thomas, Col. B. F. Marsh, Honorables Wm. M. Springer, S. S. Marshall, Richard W. Townshend, Norman B. Judd, Adlai E. Stevenson, Samuel W Moulton, David J. Baker, Jehu Baker, Wm. R. Morrison, John B. Hawley, B. F. Funk, Eben C. Ingersoll, John A. Logan, Joseph G. Cannon, A. J. Hopkins, R. R. Hitt, Vespasian Warner, C. B. Farwell, and many more illustrious men, have each in his own way contributed to the progress of Illinois and the advancement of the nation.

There have been times when a crisis in national affairs seemed imminent. Illinois has always on these occasions had some one who could step into the breech and help avert the difficulties. I can not forbear mentioning one that occurred during Mr. Johnson's administration when he undertook to eject Mr. Stanton from the war department.

General Logan was then a member of Congress from Illinois at large and also Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. He at once assembled the "Civil Army of ex-union soldiers," stationed his pickets, took up his abode in the war department with Secretary Stanton and protected that officer in the discharge of his duties until the crisis had passed. All of which was done so tactfully that very few knew of General Logan's action. Had Mr. Johnson carried out the schemes his perfidy had planned there is no prophesying what might have happened.

This is only one of the many instances in which Illinois took conspicuous part in the solution of national problems.

Of this galaxy of statesmen many have gone to their reward, but they left behind them immortal names that reflect undying glory upon Illinois as well as themselves.

Of those who remain in Congress to honor Illinois are Hon. Shelby M. Cullom, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Hon. A. J. Hopkins, Hon. J. G. Cannon, Speaker of the House, Hon. R. R. Hitt, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, Col. B. F. Marsh, Hon. H. S. Boutell, Col. Vespasian Warner, Hon. George E. Foss, Chairman of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, Col. James R. Mann, Geo. W. Prince, James R. Williams, and Geo. W. Smith.

No words of eulogy would be too much to speak for them as men and legislators. The high positions they occupy, their long service in Congress, the influence they have in legislative matters, the benefactions they have secured for Illinois, tell in stronger words than I

could utter of their achievements and usefulness. As long as Illinois sends such men to Congress she will not be dislodged from her exalted position as one of the most important states in the Union.

Had I not already trespassed too long, I would gladly mention the names of many more who have honored Illinois and demonstrated that they are "superior men" as the name Illinois signifies. Of those who were given an opportunity by an indulgent people to make for themselves imperishable names and a chance to add lustre to their State, but who have failed to improve their opportunities, it were better to leave in the nitch of oblivion into which they have passed.

Illinois Historical Library, Publication # 9, 1904

THE COUNTRY LAWYER.

(Hon. James A. Connolly.)

The subject assigned me—The Country Lawyer—has its limitations, but I will assume that it relates to all but metropolitan lawyers, inasmuch as it is the fashion of the day to speak of the country as including every place outside the boundary lines of a metropolis.

While the country lawyer might be classically termed "Rusticus" yet if we take him as a class he will be found anything but a "rustycuss," when it comes to a dexterous use of the "nice sharp quillets of the law."

His clothes may not fit him like those of his city brother, but that is the fault of his tailor. His hair and beard may not be trimmed in "fashion plate" style, but that is the fault of his barber.

His office may not be swept and dusted daily; the "Horn Books" may not be bright and clean as in the library of his city brother, and smart clean volumes of reports and digests may not be so numerous, but what are there look like old soldiers just returned from a long campaign—they show that they have seen service.

While Hale, Coke, Blackstone, Chitty, Stephens, Story, if they could return, would feel like unnaturalized foreigners in the offices of his metropolitan brother, they could drop into the country lawyers' office and feel at home, for they would find the cream of their life work holding the place of honor on his book shelves and their names household words in his unpretentious home.

The country lawyer loves "old friends, old books," and before the advent of the reformers, he loved the other member of the famous trinity—old wine—preferably of the Kentucky brand.

The country lawyer is a ruminant animal.

He don't swallow his legal food hastily, but he loiters in the rich fields of the "Horn Books," knee deep in juicy legal provender, and filling himself, retires to leisurely chew it over, until healthy digestion enables him to assimilate it and make it a part of himself.

He don't have to hurry. He don't have to eat, sleep, think, according to a time-table made by some street or steam railroad company. He makes his own time table, changes it to suit his own convenience, and is, therefore, always on time.

He never runs to catch up, and he never waits at the station, but he makes the trip from sun to sun once every 24 hours just as

GEORGE NELSON BLACK.

Transactions ~~of Ill. Hist~~ Soc. 1909

By Jessie Palmer Weber.

To the Illinois State Historical Society there are a few names which will be enrolled among the list of its immortals. Their children and grandchildren will die, their names will be heard no more on the streets, in the church, in their places of business, but when the history of this society is written or read, these names must be among the first as the fathers and founders of the society. If this society should die, another would be founded and in writing the history of the new endeavor they would be obliged to tell of other attempts to build up an historical society for the State of Illinois, and as we tell of John M. Peck, James Hall, Cyrus Edwards and others, who were our predecessors in the field of State history, so future workers would be obliged to tell of the work and efforts of Hiram Williams Beckwith, Dr. John F. Snyder, David McCulloch, J. H. Burnham and George Nelson Black.

I wish to offer today a few words of appreciation of that good and modest man, that loyal friend, that generous and indulgent husband and father, George Nelson Black.

Those of us who worked in close relation to Mr. Black know how near to his heart was the interest of the Historical Library and the Historical Society. During the wearing and wearying days of his last illness he never lost interest in their work. The Society owes a debt of gratitude to him which will never be forgotten or repaid.

George Nelson Black was born in Berkshire county, Mass., March 15, 1833, the son of Wm. M. Black and Persis Fuller Black. He was on his mother's side of the family, a descendant of John Alden, and of Dr. Samuel M. Fuller, both of whom came over in the Mayflower. His grandfather, Captain James Black, was a native of Scotland, but came to America, previous to, and served the colonies as a captain in the War of the Revolution, and was commissary general of the State of New York, through the later years of the struggle for independence.

It is claimed that the government made large grants of land to this Capt. James Black, in the vicinity of the city of Albany, New York, to which the family have never been able to acquire title. George N. Black studied in such schools as there were in his native village in Massachusetts, and he has often told me of sweeping out the school rooms in the old academy, where he received instruction. He also said he rang the

school bell, and that as long as he lived a peculiar tone in a church or institution bell would bring back vividly to his mind the tone of the old bell of the academy. He was in after years able to give substantial gifts to the old town of his boyhood.

When about 15 years of age, he came West to Vandalia, Illinois, where his older brother and sister had already settled, and where the brother, Wm. Black, was conducting a general store. George N. Black immediately began his mercantile career, by clerking in his brother's store. Vandalia had already begun to lose its importance as a center of business. Ten years before Mr. Black went there the capital had been removed to Springfield, and many business and professional men had followed it, including the newspaper, the *State Register,* so in October, 1850, Mr. Black came with the family of his sister to Springfield. He procured a position as a clerk in the general store of Col. John Williams at $15.00 per month. He remained a clerk for Colonel Williams for six years and then, though very young, he was admitted as a partner in the business. He said he tried to think how he could take more interest and do more work when he became a member of the firm, but he was unable to do so, as he had thrown all his energy into the service of the business as a clerk, he was unable to take more interest when it became in part his own business. This business connection was continued for a quarter of a century and was very profitable.

Mr. Black was soon very much interested in his adopted city, and the State of Illinois. He said that he soon became a veritable "Sucker" and while he loved New England and her traditions, Illinois and Springfield were home to him. He had great and abiding faith in the future of Springfield.

When a very young man he lived for a time as a neighbor to Abraham Lincoln, and while he had no remarkable Lincoln stories to tell, he always spoke of Mr. Lincoln's kindness to and interest in him. He had a great admiration for the character of Mr. Lincoln, and he made a study of the mass of literature written about him. He was like Mr. Lincoln, very fond of poetry, and he often recited Mr. Lincoln's favorite poem "Oh why should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud," and he would say "who would not admire those noble and melancholy lines." In the Historical Library he urged the collection of Lincolniana, but sometimes objected to pictures, such as lithographs or chromos which were poor art and poor taste, though he would usually consent to such pictures having a place in the collection on the ground that it was the object of the library to collect everything good or bad that related to Mr. Lincoln. He had a great admiration for another favorite poem of Mr. Lincoln's, Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard."

He was not a story teller, in the sense that many of his contemporaries were, perhaps because most of the early settlers of the community were of southern birth or ancestry, and were more given to talking and gossiping, while he with his New England training felt that he could not waste precious time in chatting, but he was a good listener and enjoyed the conversation of his friends. During the latter part of his life his office was the meeting place of a coterie of his old friends, and

while they chatted, and chaffed each other and told stories, he stood at his high old fashioned desk, always busily writing, only pausing to interject some apt, but dry remark into the flow of conversation.

George N. Black has always been spoken of as a business man, and in the sense that he was a man of affairs this is true, but he was by no means simply a business man, caring only for profit in a material way. He was a successful business man because he worked hard and studied the nature and details of the affairs in which he was engaged. The same effort, the same study would have, in another direction, made of him a suceessful professional man. It seems to me that he had the very qualities of mind that would have made of him an excellent teacher, but destiny or circumstance threw him early upon his own resources and he became a business man, a merchant, a manufacturer, and railroad official. In every public undertaking he took an active part. Within the last few weeks several men have said that Springfield business men lack a leader, that the younger men had depended upon a few of the older ones for mapping out campaigns, and that these older men had one by one dropped away and no one had been found to fill their places. One said, "When we had George N. Black, B. H. Ferguson, F. K. Whittemore and those men, we younger ones were willing to do the work but we depended upon them for advice." This gentleman did not realize how young Mr. Black had been when he began the leadership of which he spoke.

He was very active in assisting in bringing railroads to Springfield, and was a power in the building of the Pana, Springfield and Northwestern railroad, now the Springfield branch of the Baltimore and Ohio, and was one of its directors, and for several years the secretary of the company. He was one of the citizens of Springfield, who built the Gilman, Clinton and Springfield railroad, now the Springfield division of the Illinois Central railroad, and was a director in the company. He was also one of the most important movers in building the Springfield and Northwestern railroad, and operated the road for some years as receiver and general manager until it became a part of the Wabash system. He also was a director and one of the promoters of the St. Louis, Peoria and Northern railroad which has since become a part of the Chicago and Alton system. Thus it is seen that his activities along the line of railroad building, the principal means of development of the country, have been unexcelled by any other citizen of Springfield. He believed that a town must encourage this work to attain any prosperity and growth. In 1861, he was appointed by Mr. Lincoln receiver of the United States Land Office at Springfield, which office he filled for sixteen years.

He was for many years the owner and operator of extensive coal mines, and was very enthusiastic in regard to the development of the Sangamon county and Central Illinois coal fields, and he was associated with nearly all of the important business enterprises, of the town between 1865 and 1898 or later, a period of more than thirty years. It is not possible for me to estimate the value of Mr. Black's services and influence in the upbuilding of Springfield. A gentleman who knew Mr. Black for years,

said, "When Geo. N. Black was in health, I would rather have had him for me than all the other local leaders combined, either on a business or a political proposition."

Many instances of his influence and untiring energy for the good of the capital city may be mentioned, the more important of which are the location of the State Fair, the remodeling of the Lincoln monument, the organization and founding of our beautiful park system, and the organization and management of the city library, and his interest in the Bettie Stuart Institute. Mr. Black was active in politics, and was an ardent Republican. He was chairman of the county central committee for many years, but he was not an office-seeker. The position of receiver of the land office already mentioned, and that of member of the city council, were the only public positions which he ever held, but he was a valued and influential leader for many years in the councils of his party in this State.

By these instances of his business life will be seen that untiring industry and perseverance were the chief characteristics of George N. Black, but there were other sides to the nature of this modest man. The son of an old Vandalia friend wrote to Mr. Black within the last few years, and in the letter said: "Very well do I remember the long walks over the prairies and bluffs which you and I and my father used to take, especially on pleasant Sundays. I remember, too, how you used to carry me when I grew tired, and how you showed me the flowers and told me the names of many of them, and pointed out the birds and the squirrels to me, and helped me to make whistles." This was when Mr. Black was himself only a boy or a very young man. I think his love of reading developed very early for he said when reading Andrew Carnegie's account of his own thirst for books, that he believed that nearly all poor American boys had suffered those pangs and resolved to help other boys to have books to read. At any rate he became a real book lover. He did not care to skim through a book and throw it aside and never see it again. A good book was to him a friend and he loved to buy and own books. He had a large private library, which contained some very rare volumes. He was a lover of pictures, too, and he gave a good deal of time to the study of artists and their work, and owned a number of rare paintings and etchings.

He was appointed in 1897 by Gov. John R. Tanner a member of the board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library, and he at once threw himself into the work of the Library with his accustomed energy and began working in the field of State history, a taste for which had been growing in his mind for some years, and it continued to grow and bear fruit, and until his death there was hardly a day during which he did not give some part of his time to the affairs of the Library. He was one of the founders of the Illinois State Historical Society, and signed the call for the meeting at Champaign in May, 1899, out of which grew the organization of the Society. He read a paper at the first annual meeting of the Society, held at Peoria, in January, 1900. In November, 1906, he met with a serious accident, a fall over the banisters in the

high stairway of his residence. He was badly injured, and it was thought at first, fatally, but he recovered to some extent and lived a number of months, but did not regain his health.

These, then, as I have said, were some of the activities of the busy life of the man, George Nelson Black, but there was the social and domestic life. In physique he was very slender, almost frail looking, but he was very wiry and had most excellent health up to two or three years before his death. He worked so hard and he had worked so long that he did not know how to rest, and so in spite of warnings by his physicians, his family and his friends, he kept in the harness until the serious accident already mentioned occurred.

He had dark blue and very expressive eyes, which always showed his emotions. His hair was a very dark brown, nearly black, and he had a particularly winning smile. He was orderly in all his work, very systematic and painstaking, but exceedingly conservative. He did not readily take up with new ideas, especially in literature. He was very quiet, although a good and interesting talker upon topics in which he was interested. In 1859 he was married to Miss Louisa Iles Williams, the daughter of his employer and partner, Col. John Williams, and they founded a beautiful home. Here Mr. Black stored his books and his pictures, planted his flowers and shrubs, and made of his house and grounds things of beauty. To them were born four children, two of whom survive, a son and a daughter, John Williams Black and Anna Louise, the wife of Dr. George F. Stericker. The youngest child, George, was drowned while swimming in the lake at his school, Shattuck College, Faribault, Minn. This promising boy was about 13 years of age, and his tragic death was a shock from which his parents never recovered. George N. Black had his faults — who of us has not? — but he was an honest man, a good citizen, a more than ordinarily loyal friend, and he was charitable. For many years he made a practice of visiting all his friends, rich or poor, who were in affliction. He was for many years a member of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, and was an officer of the church. After his illness he was confirmed in the Episcopal Church, of which his family were members. He died April 22, 1908, and was buried in beautiful Oak Ridge cemetery nearly under the shadow of the tomb of the great Lincoln, whom he had so loved and admired.

When we sum up what it is that makes a good citizen, it is the attempt to do one's part in upbuilding and promoting the interest along righteous lines of the community of which one is a part. Mr. Black did his duty, and did it well. What makes a religious man? To do right by your fellow man, to visit the sick and the poor, to give of your store, be it much or little. This he did in a full measure and without ostentation. He had those virtues which make the life of a people. He was industrious; he had a purpose in life from which he was never diverted. He was hospitable and he was kind. By his fidelity to every trust, by his love for his family and his friends, he won the respect of the people with whom he lived, and he achieved that measure of success that comes to those who do well their part.

"You may be tiller of the soil, or toiler by the day,
Remember then he does the best, the best in every way
Who has a single aim in view, determined from the start
In whatso'er he shall pursue, to truly do his part
Though doctor, lawyer, teacher, priest, learn this command by heart
They never fail but all succeed who simply do their part."

RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGE N. BLACK BY MR. GAIUS PADDOCK, AN OLD FRIEND.

My first acquaintance with Mr. George N. Black was in the early '50s—am not quite sure but think it was 1851; at that time he entered the employ of Col. John Williams, who was the leading merchant in Springfield. It was not long before his business talent and his many attractive qualities gave him a prominent place in the growing business of Col. Williams and in the leading industries in the city of Springfield, filling many positions of trust. His superior financial ability justly entitled him to the consideration of the banking interests of the city.

He appeared to grasp the opportunities and the conditions which surrounded the business problems quickly and with correct judgment, and he gained the confidence and respect of the leading citizens. It was not long before he won the most favored and gifted of Springfield's daughters, Miss Louisa I. Williams, the eldest daughter of Col. John Williams, whose many accomplishments and winning graces made the home life most delightful, in the beautiful place he provided for his family.

It is not often that a business career of over fifty years, amid the changes that occur, requiring sound judgment with faith in the future, should remain throughout the entire period free from any stain or tarnish of selfishness or greed. Mr. Black's memory will long remain with us for fair and honorable dealing, and his loss will be felt by the many associates with whom he was closely endeared.

I cannot close this brief tribute to Mr. Black's memory without referring to the guiding hand that shaped the successful career of many young men—Col. John Williams, who was ever foremost in all the enterprises that made Springfield what it is,—one of the pioneer merchants who did more than any man to build up the city and develop the many industries here located.

It was my good fortune to serve for a short time as a summer clerk in this store, and whatever success has come to me I attribute the larger part to his guiding hand and counsel. He was ever glad and willing to help the young men to sow the seeds of good business habits, of honesty, integrity, and economy.

George N. Black.

Passing Of Old Utilities Company Recalls Notable Men Who Served On Boards

The passing out of existence of the Springfield Gas & Electric company and the Springfield Consolidated Railway company yesterday, came on the sixty-eighth anniversary of the foundation of the first-named company. The properties of the companies passed to the control of the Illinois Power company, with a capital stock of $5,025,000.

The original corporation was formed on January 14, 1854 by John Todd Stuart, Stephen T. Logan, Ninian Edwards, Benjamin J. Edwards and William J. Black. These five men, two days later petitioned the general assembly of Illinois for a charter for the Springfield Gas Light company.

In those days permits for utilities companies came neither from the Illinois commerce commission, nor from the secretary of state, but were granted by the legislature.

The statute creating the Springfield Gas Light company and giving it the right to construct and operate a gas plant and distribution system was passed Feb. 27, 1854. On that day the bill was signed by Hon. John Reynolds as speaker of the house, and by Lieut. Gov. Gus Koerner as speaker of the senate. Late that afternoon the act was approved by Gov. Joel A. Matteson.

Stock in the corporation found ready sale, among the larger subscribers being Nicholas Henry Ridgely, Joseph W. Clark, George Odiorne, Redick M. Ridgely and W. W. White.

Stuart First President.

John Todd Stuart was elected president of the gas company, which was among the pioneers of its kind in the central west. At the time of his election, John Todd Stuart was 46 years of age, and one of the formost men in the state. He was a great lawyer and a distingulshed statesman, serving three terms in congress. In one of his campaigns for congress his defeated opponent was Stephen A. Douglas.

But with all his brilliant achievements, John Todd Stuart's larger fame rests in the fact that he was the man that persuaded Abraham Lincoln to study for the bar—the man who first taught law to the immortal son of the wilderness and thus started him on his career toward the presidency.

Law Partner of Lincoln.

Lincoln later became, the law partner of his former tutor—Springfield's first utilities magnate.

The first gas plant was opened Feb. 1, 1856, at First and Washington streets, on ground still used for gas manufacturing purposes.

The original rate for gas to the people was $3.25 a thousand cubic feet, but during the Civil war the price was raised to $3.45 a thousand, which, however, was 55 cents a thousand lower than the rate then charged in St. Louis.

During the Civil war period wooden gas mains were used in all extensions made in the Capitol City and the records of that day show that there was constant complaints of poor service. In 1866, the $3.25 rate was restored. In 1873 the rate was reduced to $2 a thousand, which remained the schedule throughout nearly all the eighties.

Also First Street Car President.

Springfield's first "gas magnate" also was its first street railway president. John Todd Stuart formed the Springfield City Railway company, Feb. 1, 1861. Associated with him in petitioning the general assembly for a charter were Jacob Bunn, Stephen T. Logan, Christopher C. Brown, Benjamin S. Edwards, Thomas S. Mather and George Carpenter.

The charter was granted by the general assembly eighteen days later and, the following morning, the bill was signed by War Governor Richard Yates.

On account of the stormy times then prevalent, the street railway was not put into operation until July 1, 1866. It was a single-track horse car line running from Fifth and Monroe street to "Foster's switch," near Enterprise street. The fare was 10 cents.

First Electric Company.

Springfield's first electric company, which later was merged with its first gas company, was organized Jan. 4, 1881, by A. L. Ide, Rheuna D. Lawrence, Samuel H. Jones, Thomas B. Needles, George N. Black, Samuel D. Scholes and R. W. Miller.

The original electric plant was located at the Ide foundry at Fifth and Madison streets, but later a more imposing central station was placed in the old church at Seventh and Adams streets, on the site now occupied by the Johnston-Hatcher building.

Acquired in 1903.

All the gas, electric and street railway properties of Springfield were acquired by Hodenpyle Hardy & company of New York in 1903 and the names of the corporations later were changed to the Springfield Gas & Electric company and the Springfield Consolidated Railway company, the corporations whose requiems were sung yesterday in the transfer of all the properties to the Illinois Power company.

Under the Hodenpyle-Hardy regime the properties were rebuilt and greatly extended and the modern central station, at Tenth and Capitol, erected.

Other Distinguished Names.

In addition to the notables already mentioned, among the other distinguished names which, at one time or other, were signed as directors to the minutes of the companies which passed out yesterday, are:

John W. Bunn, C. W. Clark, Clinton L. Conkling, Charles and William Ridgely, Charles E. Hay, R. N. Bayliss, G. Van Ginkel, Frank W. Tracy, A. C. Eastman, George Brinkerhoff, Isaac Keys, George and Frank Reisch, J. K. Dubois, Alexander Starne, Shelby M. Cullom, Dr. W. A. French, Col. John Williams, D. L. Phillips, J. H. Schuck, Henson Robinson, J. N. Reece, O. F. Stebbins, A. H. Saunders and George C. Rippey.

It is unlikely that any other corporations in the state can boast of having had quite so many distinguished men on their directorates than those that now have ended their notable, if somewhat stormy, careers.

LINCOLN AND THE FRANCIS FAMILY

Compiled by HERBERT WELLS FAY, *Custodian Lincoln's Tomb*

For the past dozen years we have been constantly asked about the Francis family. Their connection with affairs and prominent in the councils of Abraham Lincoln has inspired these requests. Their pictures were wanted for the centenary edition of the Journal, then for the list of mayors of Springfield, then as members of the legislature, then as the signer of the $16,000 note with Lincoln, then Maiden Jones, local student of affairs, wanted Francis material for an article and Allen F. Edgar, historian, a Francis descendant is writing a history of the family and its connection with Lincoln. We have written hundreds of letters running down clews and have secured a lot of data and pictures of all but Josiah. We have had pictures from Long Island to Vancouver but fail to get a picture of Josiah, and he was the last to live in Springfield.

From the Sangamon County history published in 1881 on pages 214-217, we gleam the following facts about the Francis family:

Simeon and Josiah Francis established the Sangamo Journal, Nov. 10, 1831. The partnership continued until Feb. 21, 1835, when Josiah retired and Simeon became the sole proprietor. April 28, 1838, he admitted Allen Francis and J. Newton Francis, his brothers, into partnership. Nov. 10, 1843, J. Newton was accidentally killed while hunting. The partnership then became Simeon Francis and Allen Francis until Sept., 1847, when Albert T. Bledsoe succeeded Allen Francis.

Simeon Francis

In 1856 Simeon Francis sold out his interest in the paper which had in the meantime become the Illinois State Journal and edited a farm paper for three years and then moved to Portland, Oregon, where he conducted the Oregon Farmer. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln paymaster of the U. S. Army with headquarters at Ft. Van couver, Washington territory, resigning in 1870. He returned to Portland, Oregon, where he died Oct. 25, 1872.

Josiah Francis

Josiah Francis was born Jan. 17, 1808. After leaving the Journal he located in Athens, Illinois. He was a member of the legislature in 1840. Returning to Springfield, he was elected sheriff, 1850, and Mayor of Springfield, 1853. He signed note with Lincoln for $16,666.67. He died in 1867.

Allen Francis

Allen Francis was born April 12, 1815, served as member Springfield city council, and was appointed by Lincoln as consul at Victoria, Vancouver Island.

Signed With Lincoln

On March 22, 1835, Simeon Francis, Josiah Francis and C. B. Francis signed a note with Mr. Lincoln for $16, 666.67.

When Springfield secured the state capitol, its citizens were to furnish the site and a bonus of $50,000 payable in three installments. The first two were paid but on account of a depression in 1837 it was found necessary to borrow the money from the State Bank and a hundred citizens signed the note for $16,-666.67.

The picture of Josiah Francis is wanted very much for the collections of members of the legislature, mayors of Springfield, one of the men to sign a note for $16,-666.67 with Mr. Lincoln.

Lincoln Gives Receipt to Josiah Francis June 12, 1841

One of the leading citizens of Sangamon county was Josiah Francis, who had settled in Springfield in 1831. Soon after his arrival Francis founded the "Sangamo Journal",, which he owned and edited until 1835. At the time the following receipt was given he was living in the Village of Athens, fifteen miles northwest of Springfield.

Paul M. Angle, Lincoln, 1930, page 9.

(The two brothers should have been included.)

June 12, 1841.

This may certify that I have this day received of Josiah Francis four notes, hereafter described, upon the following condition that I am to keep them forty days unless the makers of any of them call and pay, and at the end of that time or any time afterwards am to return to them or so many of them as remain unpaid, when said Francis may demand them of me at my office; and any money I may receive upon said notes is to be applied to one or the other or both of two judgments obtained against said Francis in one case and against him and others in the other, before Thomas Moffett a justice of the peace of Sangamon county. The constable who has the executions in those cases, if they will expire before the said forty days, may return them and take out new, and if they will not so expire, he may suspend acting upon them for that length of time.

The notes are as follows:

1 on Westey Eads for 73.58.
1 on Wliliam Boyd for $34.06.
1 on William Ramsey for $20.00.
1 on Bondurent & Primm for $12.37.

A. Lincoln.

On the back of the same in Lincoln's hand, signed by Francis is the following:

All responsibility of A. Lincoln on this receipt is discharged by receipt and application of money and by return of notes.

Nov. 17, 1845. Josiah Francis.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 1 (1850)

Hon. Thomas Corwin: This will introduce to your acquaintance my friend, Simeon Francis, editor of the "Illinois Journal." He will desire an interview with the new Secretary of the Interior, with whom I am not acquainted. I shall be greatly obliged if you will procure him a favorable introduction to that gentleman, and show him any other attention which the press of your duties will permit.

Your Ob't Serv't,

A. Lincoln.

Alexander H. H. Stuart, a Virginia Whig, was appointed by President Fill-

over

Donnegan, George
Duncan, Mrs. Phoebe

Descendants of Lincoln's barbers

Springfield, Ill.

Colored Barber Revealed as One of Lincoln's Two Confidants in Early Springfield Days

By BRUCE CATTON

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 12 — Before Abraham Lincoln left Springfield to go to the White House, this home town of his held just two men who could claim to be his confidants.

One was his law partner, the famous William A. Herndon.

The other was a colored barber, William de Fleurville, known to the Springfield of that day as "Billy the Barber" or "Billy Rex."

A search of the yellowed old files of the Illinois State Journal and a series of talks with Springfield antiquarians established Billy the Barber's position as an unsung but picturesque character in the Lincoln drama.

Met in the Woods

Born in Haiti and raised in a Baltimore orphanage, Billy came to Illinois in the early '30s. Tramping through the woods on a hunting trip one day he ran into Lincoln, engaged in a similar errand. Lincoln took him back to the Tavern at New Salem, where Lincoln then lived, gave him a dinner, and then, learning that Billy was a barber, put him to work cutting the hair of all the nearby males.

With the money thus gained Billy moved to Springfield, at Lincoln's suggestion, and opened a barber shop there—the first, it is said, in the state of Illinois. Later, when Lincoln moved to Springfield, Billy became his barber — and his confidant.

The ancient files of the Illinois State Journal contain Billy's ads. They were breezy and refreshing, like the following:

"Billy the Barber most respectfully begs leave to inform the public that he has recommended the old trade of reaping chins and clipping fore-tops."

And this:

"In addition to his business as barber, Billy Fleurville carries on that of scouring coats and pantaloons, which he does in the best manner."

He also referred to himself as "Billy Rex", spoke of his shop as his "kingdom" and referred to one Mayberry, his negro assistant, as his "chancellor."

Jacob C. Thompson, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, is one of the state's foremost Lincoln authorities. Here is what he says about Billy the Barber:

"There were just two men in Springfield, who really knew Lincoln in those old days, and Billy was one of them. Knew Lincoln? Say, when a man goes to the same barber, week in and week out, for 15 or 20 years, that barber gets to know him, doesn't he? Billy knew Lincoln.

"For instance: Billy always insisted that Lincoln had no especial love for the colored man. He said Lincoln often told him he was not an abolitionist. In the presidential campaign and war years Lincoln was called a black Republican, a fanatic — but Billy always knew better."

Mrs. Phoebe Duncan is Billy the Barber's granddaughter. Her father, as a boy of 10 or such a matter, used to help in the barber shop.

"My father used to tell us how he and grandfather were responsible for Lincoln's beard," she says. "Lincoln asked grandfather's advice about trimming it, when he first raised it; so they put Lincoln in the chair, and my father got up on a box and blocked the beard out. He and grandfather fixed it so that it would make Lincoln's face look less thin."

Billy the Barber was a good violinist; and Mrs. Duncan remembers hearing her father tell how Lincoln would come to the shop in the evening, to sprawl out in a chair and listen to the colored barber play.

* * *

There is another barber in the Lincoln story. Spencer Donnegan also a colored man, cut Lincoln's hair at times; and his nephew, George Donnegan, can tell you about him. George Donnegan was a small boy in Lincoln's day; but he can remember seeing Lincoln in the chair of Donnegan's shop.

"I remember, in August of 1860, Lincoln made a big speech here one day," he says. "Afterward he came in to get shaved, and while he was in the chair my uncle said, 'Say, Mr. Lincoln, I was surprised at that speech today.' And Lincoln asked him what it was that surprised him, and my uncle told him, 'Why, you said if you were president and Congress passed a law declaring the black man the equal of the white, you'd be the last man on earth to sign it.'

"Well sir, Lincoln just threw back his head and laughed, and he said, 'Spence, you're as big a fool as the Democrats are.' And Spence asked him why, and Lincoln said: 'Suppose a law like that is passed. First the House passes it, and then the Senate, and then the cabinet deliberates over it, and last of all it goes to the president. Well, if I were president, I'd be the last man to sign it, wouldn't it?' And he laughed and laughed and laughed."

* * *

Those old Illinois State Journal files make interesting reading. You find in them mention of Lincoln as a young man; his first announcement of candidacy for the legislature, a paragraph telling of his departure for the Blackhawk war, letters from him to the editor, accounts of his adventures.

One such letter, printed in 1832, sets forth Lincoln's platform in his campaign for the legislature. It was being proposed then to connect Springfield with some Illinois river port by railroad, at a cost of some $290,000. Lincoln, remarking that there was "a heart-appalling shock accompanying the account of its cost which causes us to shrink from our pleasant anticipations," thought this too expensive, and proposed instead that the Sangamon river be widened, deepened and straightened instead so that steamboats could come to Springfield.

Lincoln was beaten in that campaign. A great many years later an engineer employed by the state of Illinois took the trouble to make a careful estimate of the cost of Lincoln's economy project. He found that the whole thing would have come to more than $10,000,000.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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ILLINOIS CONTEMPORARIES OF LINCOLN—BIBLIOGRAPHY

In this series of bulletins on publications which might properly find their way into a collateral Lincoln library, no compilation of books will be looked upon with more favor than the published biographies, diaries and reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln's Illinois friends. Of course, there have been many books on Lincoln himself written by Lincoln contemporaries in the West, but no titles which properly belong in a collection of exclusive Lincolniana are included in the collateral division of a Lincoln library.

While this series of bibliographies continues, it is apparent that there will be some overlapping of the groups, and we find instances in the list presented this week where the same titles might have appeared under the military sections.

Included under the names of Lincoln's contemporaries will be found two classes of titles: books written by them, and books written about them.

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Albert T. Bledsoe

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Orville Hickman Browning

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Gustave Koerner

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Usher F. Linder

Linder, Usher F., *Reminiscences of the Early Bench and Bar of Illinois*, 406pp., 1879.

Stephen T. Logan

Logan, Stephen T., *Moments of the Life and Character of Stephen T. Logan*, 87pp., 1882.

Annual Speaking Itinerary of the Editor of Lincoln Lore

Lincoln students living in the cities to be visited by Dr. Warren on his fifteenth, annual lecture itinerary may secure the schedule of his local engagements at the offices of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, in the following cities where he is to speak.

Louisville, Ky., January 27, 28; Charleston, W. Va., January 30, February 1; Roanoke, Va., February 2; Norfolk, Va., February 3; Richmond, Va., February 4; Baltimore, Md., February 7, 8, 9; Washington, D. C., February 10, 11, 12; St. Louis, Mo., February 15, 16; Kansas City, Mo., February 17, 18; Lincoln, Neb., February 21, 22; Des Moines, Iowa, February 23; Davenport, Iowa, February 24; Peoria, Ill., February 25.

Owen Lovejoy

Lovejoy, Owen, and W. M. Dunn, *Remarks of Messrs. Owen Lovejoy and W. M. Dunn on Bill to Authorize the President to Enlist Soldiers of African Descent*, 8pp., 1863.

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Lovejoy, Owen, *Das Barbrechen der Slaverei*, 8pp., 1860.

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Lovejoy, Owen, *Human Beings Not Property*, 8pp., 1858.

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Life
March 2, 1959

LINCOLN'S NEIGHBORS

Sirs:

I was delighted to read the article on Lincoln's neighbors in Springfield ("Lincoln's Neighbors: A Dramatic Find," LIFE, Feb. 9) but disappointed that Mrs. Kunhardt did not have any pictures of Allen Francis, my great-grandfather, and his brother Simeon.

Simeon and Allen Francis were Connecticut Yankees who founded the *Sangamo Journal*, a Whig paper, in 1831. They were Lincoln's friends almost from the inception of the newspaper. Lincoln's first published article appeared in the *Journal*.

When Lincoln had ambitions to enter public life, the Francises encouraged him, and after hearing him speak, Allen Francis said, "Abe, that's a pretty good speech for a rail-splitter; you could be President of the U.S. and I mean to work for you."

ALMINA EDGAR NAGEL
Staten Island, N.Y.

ALLEN FRANCIS

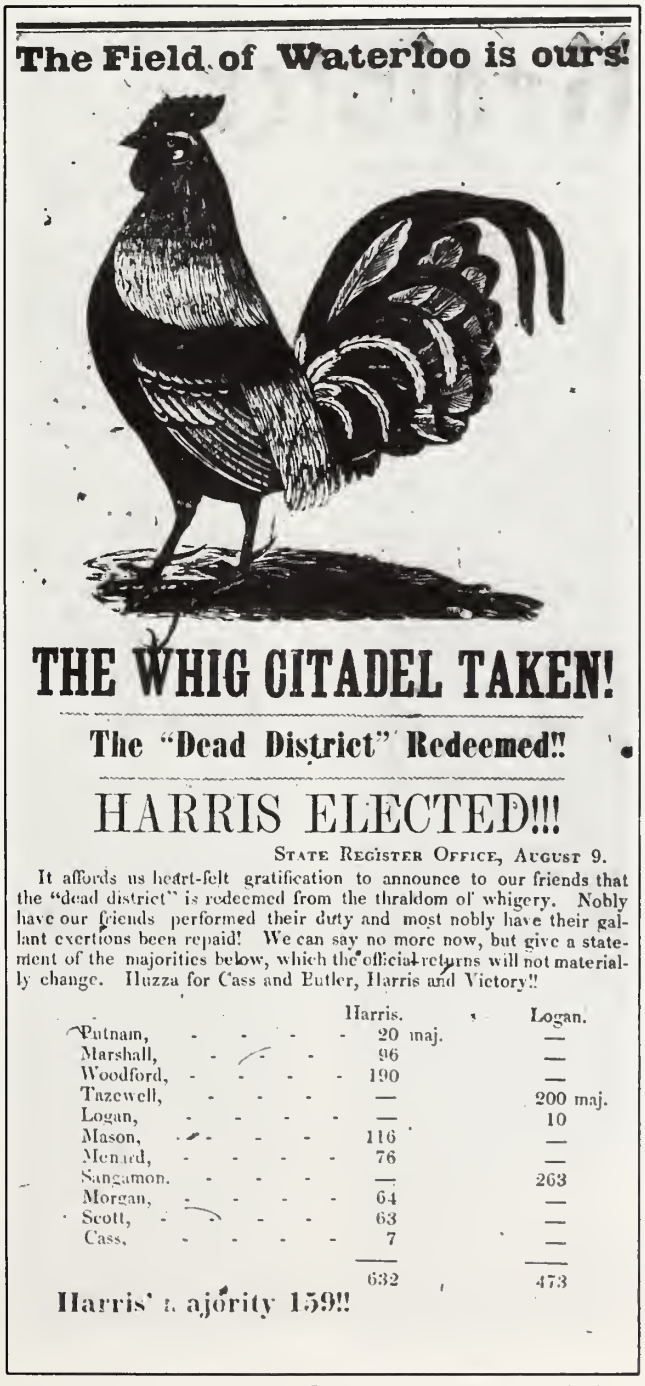
Lincoln Lore

June, 1976 Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation...Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801. Number 1660

DID LINCOLN CAUSE LOGAN'S DEFEAT?

Until the birth of the Republican party, Illinois was a Democratic state. When Abraham Lincoln served in the United States House of Representatives (1847-1849), he was the lone Whig from Illinois, and his Seventh Congressional District gained the reputation of being the banner Whig district in the state. In the next Congress, Illinois again sent only one Whig, but this man, Lincoln's friend Edward D. Baker, won in another district. The Seventh fell to the Democrats in the congressional election following Lincoln's election. Another friend of Abraham Lincoln, former law partner Stephen Trigg Logan, was the Whig candidate who went down to defeat in the Seventh Congressional District, and many historians have said that the burden of Congressman Lincoln's unpopular record of opposition to the Mexican War doomed Logan's chance of victory.

The dates involved in this problem are confusing to the modern reader and should be explained here before discussing the election. Doubtless many a modern voter gasped when television announcers reported, along with the results of the recent Presidential primary in Pennsylvania, that there were no less than twenty-two primaries to go before the November elections. Nineteenth-century American voters experienced a similarly endless churning of the political cauldron *every year*. There were no Presidential primaries, of course, but election dates were not systematized and elections were occurring at all times somewhere in the United States. The elections



The Field of Waterloo is ours!

THE WHIG CITADEL TAKEN!

The "Dead District" Redeemed!!

HARRIS ELECTED!!!

State Register Office, August 9.

It affords us heart-felt gratification to announce to our friends that the "dead district" is redeemed from the thraldom of whigery. Nobly have our friends performed their duty and most nobly have their gallant exertions been repaid! We can say no more now, but give a statement of the majorities below, which the official returns will not materially change. Huzza for Cass and Butler, Harris and Victory!!

	Harris.	Logan.
Putnam,	20 maj.	—
Marshall,	96	—
Woodford,	190	—
Tazewell,	—	200 maj.
Logan,	—	10
Mason,	116	—
Menard,	76	—
Sangamon,	—	263
Morgan,	64	—
Scott,	63	—
Cass,	7	—
	632	473

Harris' majority 159!!

Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

which sent Lincoln and his colleagues to the House of Representatives were held over a period of a year and three months. Lincoln's was one of the earliest. He was elected early in August of 1846, but he did not take his seat in the House until December of 1847. Louisiana, by contrast, held its election for representatives to the same Congress in November of 1847, just a month before Congress convened. There were not even standardizations by region. Though Lincoln was elected in August of 1846, neighboring Indiana chose Lincoln's Hoosier colleagues a full year later, in August of 1847.

Stephen Logan's ill-starred election day, then, was August 7, 1848. Three months later Illinois voters returned to the polls to select a President of the United States, either Democrat Lewis Cass or Whig Zachary Taylor. Congressman Abraham Lincoln remained in Washington after Congress adjourned on August 14, 1848, to help the Whig Central Committee with the national Whig campaign. Illinois Whigs chose him as an Assistant Elector on August 23, 1848. This meant that he had been chosen to make speeches in Taylor's behalf in Illinois. Despite the choice as Assistant Elector, Congressman Lincoln remained in Washington throughout August and travelled to Massachusetts in September to campaign for Taylor. Time was growing short to fulfill his duties as Assistant Elector in Illinois, so Lincoln went directly to Albany from Massachusetts, and then to Buffalo, from which he took a steamer across the Great Lakes to Illinois. By October 6, he was delivering a

speech in Chicago. On October 10, 1848, he arrived in Springfield to campaign for Taylor in his own district. By the first week in December, Congressman Lincoln had returned to Washington to attend the short (or lame-duck) session of Congress. This session met before the President (elected in November) took office on March 5, 1849 (normally, the date was March 4, but in 1849 that day was a Sunday and therefore unsuitable for the inaugural ceremonies).

The local Democrats were jubilant when Logan lost to Thomas L. Harris. Immediately, they crowed that Lincoln's record was unpopular with the people of central Illinois. Referring to Lincoln's so-called Spot Resolutions, which had demanded that President Polk point out the specific spot of allegedly American soil on which American blood had been shed to initiate the Mexican War, the *Illinois State Register* claimed that the "spot" was at last "wiped out." "When Lincoln was elected," said the Democratic newspaper, "he made no declaration of principles in regard to the war before the people, as he himself tells us in his first speech in Congress. Therefore the people of the seventh Congressional district are not responsible for the anti-war speeches and anti-war votes" of their Whig congressman. "But," the *Register* went on, "it was otherwise in relation to Logan. He had committed himself in the legislature against the war, and his sentiments were well known to the people, — and they promptly rejected him. This proves that. . . they are patriotic, true lovers of their country."

Abraham Lincoln did not interpret the results that way, of course. Writing on August 28, 1848, to William Schouler, the editor of the Boston *Daily Atlas,* Lincoln said:

> I would rather not be put upon explaining how Logan was defeated in my district. In the first place I have no particulars from there, my friends, supposing I am on the road home, not having written me. Whether there was a full turn out of the voters I have as yet not learned. The most I can now say is that a good many Whigs, without good cause, as I think, were unwilling to go for Logan, and some of them so wrote me before the election. On the other hand Harris was a Major of the war, and fought at Cerro Gordo, where several Whigs of the district fought with him. These two facts and their effects, I presume tell the whole story. That there is any political change against us in the district I cannot believe; because I wrote some time ago to every county of the district for an account of changes; and, in answer I got the names of four against us, eighty-three for us. I dislike to predict, but it seems to me the district must and will be found right side up again in November.

In a debunker's rush to judgment, historians have called this letter evasive and concluded that Lincoln was the cause of Logan's defeat.

"In the Seventh District," Albert Beveridge declared flatly, "Logan ran on Lincoln's record and was badly beaten." It "would have hurt Logan had he taken the stump for him at that time; for, . . . Lincoln's popularity at home had been seriously impaired, if indeed it were not for the moment destroyed." His reception when he did come to work for Taylor was, according to Beveridge, dismal:

> Finally he reached home, but no mention of his arrival was made in any paper. What further part he took in the campaign in Illinois does not appear, except that at one meeting in a small town in Sangamon County, just before the Presidential election, the crowd was unfriendly and a Democratic speaker handled him roughly. As we have seen, Logan had been overwhelmed in the August elections. The result of Lincoln's first session in Congress had been a political revolution among his constituents, and, . . . he returned to Washington a dispirited man.

The atmosphere of rejection and isolation which Beveridge conjured up by saying that Lincoln's arrival went unnoticed, that only one recorded speech was made (and that in a "small" town), and that Lincoln was "a dispirited man" became even more pronounced in Donald W. Riddle's *Congressman Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1957). He called the election "the ultimate repudiation of Lincoln's stand on the Mexican War—not by Democrats only, as might have been expected, but by Whigs." Although Riddle noted that Lincoln made many speeches for Taylor after his return to Illinois and the Seventh Congressional District (these had somehow escaped Beveridge's notice), he read political disaster into their reception. After giving two speeches near Springfield (in Jacksonville and Petersburg, the county seats respectively of Morgan and Menard Counties), Lincoln "beat a strategic retreat," concluding "that no good purpose was served by his continuing to speak in this part of the district." Riddle added:

> What is most curious of all he made no speech in Springfield. The conclusion is inescapable. Lincoln was so unpopular in Springfield and its environs that although he was an official party spokesman it was inadvisable for him to speak there.

Lincoln left for the northern part of the district where third-party Free Soil sentiment was strong.

Why did Lincoln retreat from the Springfield area? This is Riddle's explanation:

> . . . he made only two speeches in his home neighborhood. In these he was roughly handled. He spoke at Beardstown on October 19. Two days later he spoke in Jacksonville. There his platform opponent, Murray McConnel, attacked Lincoln for his war attitude, asserting that Lincoln had misrepresented his constituents. Lincoln was sufficiently stung to reply. He refused to believe that a majority of his constituents had favored the war. This was an extremely vulnerable defense, and McConnel pounced upon it: how, then, did Lincoln explain his party's defeat in the recent Congressional election? The *State Register* was informed by its Jacksonville correspondent that Lincoln was "used up" by McConnel. "Lincoln has made nothing by coming to this part of the country to make speeches," the Morgan County writer concluded.
>
> Lincoln spoke in Petersburg, the county seat of Menard County while attending court there on October 23. This time the *State Register* claimed he was "used up" by William Ferguson. It appears that Lincoln concluded that no good purpose was served by his continuing to speak in this part of the district.

Riddle judged that Lincoln had very little clout in the north as well:

> It was no encomium of his success as an Assistant Elector [that Illinois went for Cass instead of Taylor]. The vote in Putnam County [in the northern part of Lincoln's district] was despite his major argument—that slavery restriction would be furthered by electing Taylor. In view of what had occurred in Jacksonville and Petersburg Lincoln could not easily have concluded that he had won many votes for his candidate.

It should make us suspicious to find the same conclusions buttressed by the opposite evidence. Beveridge's claim that Lincoln was unpopular was based on Lincoln's delivering so few speeches for Taylor in his district. Riddle found that Lincoln did deliver many speeches in his district but concluded, if anything more tenaciously, that Lincoln was unpopular with his own constituents.

To cling to Beveridge's conclusion, then, Riddle had to do two things. First, he had to say that the speeches which newspapers reported were reported unfavorably. Second, he had to say that the unreported speeches had no political effect or the opposite political effect from that intended by Lincoln. Thus the reader learns that Lincoln was "used up" at Beardstown and Jacksonville and that he failed to stem the Free Soil tide in the north, especially in Putnam County.

The first contention is based on a hostile witness; Riddle referred to reports of speeches in Democratic newspapers. Democratic newspapers *without exception* reported that Whig speakers were "used up" by Democratic ones; Whig papers always found precisely the opposite to be the case. It was Lincoln's misfortune that only the Democratic report of his speech survived.

Riddle could still plead that he used the *only* evidence available. Such would also be his plea in the case of the speeches in the northern part of the district. There are no reports, hostile or friendly, of these speeches, so the historian must rely on the only evidence available: the results on election day as ascertained from the election statistics. The figures for the two elections are printed below:

CONGRESSIONAL (AUGUST) PRESIDENTIAL (NOVEMBER)

COUNTY	HARRIS (Dem.)	LOGAN (Whig)	CASS (Dem.)	TAYLOR (Whig)	VAN BUREN (Free Soil)
Cass	656	650	724	761	11
Logan	399	417	369	465	4
Marshall	341	244	322	304	41
Mason	452	336	403	391	7
Menard	648	570	488	605	1
Morgan	1,322	1,264	1,309	1,372	139
Putnam	238	219	185	266	299
Sangamon	1,386	1,649	1,336	1,943	47
Scott	662	616	649	798	15
Tazewell	678	899	593	1,097	96
Woodford	419	231	309	166	52
	7,201	**7,095**	**6,687**	**8,168**	**712**

Lincoln did not stem the Free Soil tide in Putnam County, which went for Van Buren. However, it should be noted that all the northern counties, Putnam, Woodford, and Marshall, had the Free Soil virus, that Lincoln visited *all* of them as well as Tazewell, that Marshall and Woodford went for Cass by smaller majorities than they had gone for Harris, and that Tazewell went for Taylor by a much greater majority than it had turned out for Logan. In other words, it seems only fair to say that, whereas Lincoln may not have helped much in Putnam, he certainly did not hurt anything in Tazewell, Marshall, or Woodford.

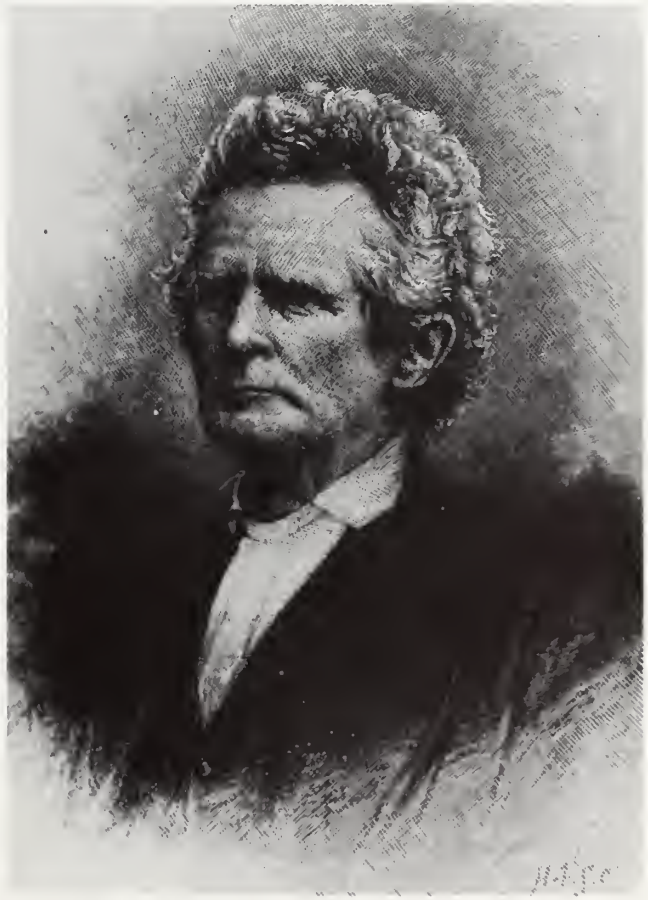
It also seems fair to apply the same test of election results to Lincoln's speeches which were reported as disasters by the Democratic press. The fullest report stemmed from the Jacksonville speech, which was reported in this way by the *Illinois State Register:*

> Mr. McConnel then took up a copy of the journal of the House of Representatives of Congress, of January last, and showed that Mr. Lincoln *had refused to vote for a resolution of thanks to General Taylor and his brave comrades for his and their conduct at the battle of Beuna Vista, until he had first voted an amendment thereto,* that this battle was fought in a war *unconstitutionally and unnecessarily* begun by the President. He then turned to Mr. Lincoln and compared his conduct in that vote with his conduct and speeches in favor of the war, and for carrying it on with spirit and vigor before he left home and while canvassing for the office of representative in Congress. He asked if Mr. Lincoln did not know when he gave that vote that he was *misrepresenting* the wishes of the patriotic people of this district, and did he do so by the influence of Mr. Polk or some whig leader. In the midst of the shower of fire that fell around him, Lincoln cried out, "No, I did not know it, and don't believe it yet." As quick as thought McConnel pointed to the August election as an evidence that he had so misrepresented his people, and to that most foul slander upon our district was mainly owing Logan's defeat for Congress. The people were tired of having their patriotism and love of country so shamefully misrepresented by whig Congressman and misunderstood by the American people, and they rose in their might and cast aside the men that disregarded the wishes of those who put them in power. Lincoln crouched in silence beneath the blows that fell thick and fast around him, and his friends held down their heads in shame.
>
> Lincoln has made nothing by coming to this part of the country to make speeches. He had better have stayed away.

Riddle agreed in substance with the Democrats, though not to the extent of saying that a "shower of fire" fell around Lincoln or that he "crouched in silence."

What, though, would happen if one applied the same test to this speech that is used for Lincoln's northern tour? Jacksonville was in Morgan County. The Whigs always had factional problems in Morgan. It was the only possible challenger to Sangamon's leadership in the Seventh Congressional District, turning out only about 350 - 500 fewer votes than Sangamon's whopping 3,000 or so votes. When Harris beat Logan in August, Morgan County, which had gone for Clay over Polk in 1844, went for the Democrat by 58 votes. Lincoln visited Morgan, and it went for Taylor by 63 votes in November. It would be a *post hoc ergo propter hoc* fallacy to say Lincoln caused the change, but it at least deserves mention and the same weight assigned to the vote in Putnam after Lincoln's appearance in that county.

Ignoring all partisan evidence from Democratic newspapers and disregarding the charges of Beveridge and Riddle, one could draw a very different picture of Lincoln's relation-

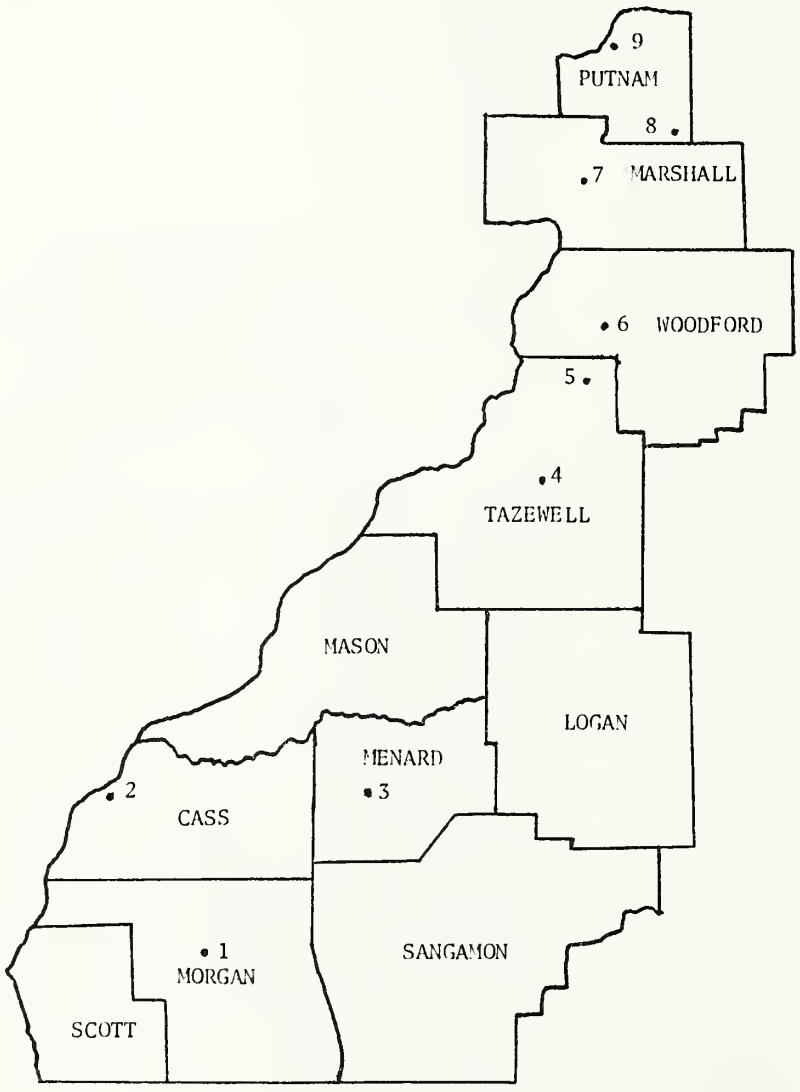


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Stephen T. Logan was, according to William Herndon, "small—short—thin—and squarely put up and angularly built, running in figure and features to sharp keen points, lance like . . . . He is fraily built—a froth network—nervous—quick—uneasy—restless . . . . his voice is sharp and shrill—'squeaky & squealy.'"

ship with his constituents. Stephen T. Logan lost the congressional election in August to war hero Thomas L. Harris. Thinking him on his way after Congress recessed on the 14th, local Whigs chose incumbent Congressman Abraham Lincoln on August 27 as Assistant Elector to make speeches in November for Zachary Taylor. Lincoln chose to work for the national campaign first and then came home in October to help out the Taylor cause in his own district. He made about eight speeches in Taylor's behalf in the district. Every county except Woodford that Lincoln visited turned out more Whig voters for Taylor than it had for Logan three months earlier. This is not necessarily proof of Lincoln's prowess as a campaigner, but it is proof of his political acumen. He had predicted in August that the upset of Logan by Harris did not indicate any permanent reversal of political fortunes for the Seventh District's Whig majority. He knew and stated flatly that the district would be found in Taylor's column in November. What role his own speaking efforts played in this is impossible to determine, but they could hardly have been a detriment.

It is even harder to say what role Lincoln's reputation played in Logan's defeat than to say what role his presence and political activity played in Taylor's victory in the Seventh Congressional District. All that can be said, within the confines of *Lincoln Lore's* limited pages, is that there is no indication that Lincoln's physical presence in the district had any dampening effect on Whig political fortunes in October or November, 1848. One must wonder, then, how Lincoln could have been more dangerous to Whig success just three months earlier while he was hundreds of miles away in Washington.



THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lincoln Campaign Speeches for Taylor, October, 1848

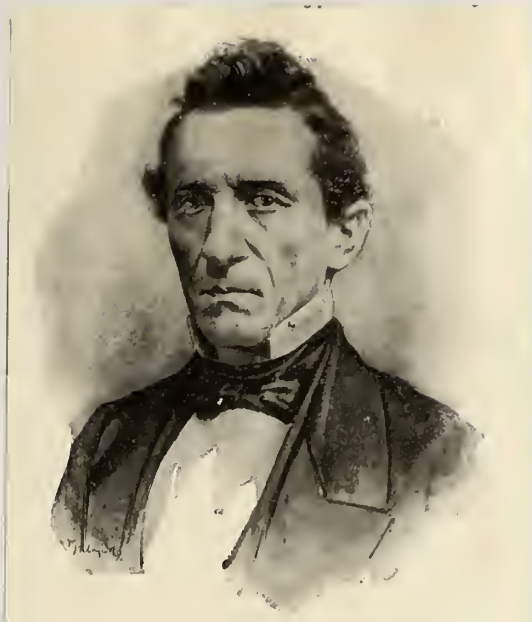
1. Jacksonville (MORGAN)
2. Beardstown (CASS)
3. Petersburg (MENARD)
4. Tremont (TAZEWELL)
5. Washington (TAZEWELL)
6. Metamora (WOODFORD)
7. Lacon (MARSHALL)
8. Magnolia (PUTNAM)
9. Hennepin (PUTNAM)

REV. CHARLES DRESSER.

From a daguerreotype owned by his son, Dr. T. W. Dresser, Springfield, Illinois. The Rev. Charles Dresser, who was the officiating clergyman at the wedding of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, was born at Pomfret, Connecticut, February 24, 1800. He was graduated from Brown University in 1823, and went to Virginia, where he studied theology. In 1829 he became an ordained minister in the Protestant Episcopal Church. He was married in 1832 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, to Louisa W. Withers. Upon his removal to Springfield, Illinois, in 1838, he became the rector of the Protestant Episcopal church there, and remained so until 1858, when failing health caused his retirement. In 1855, Jubilee College elected him Professor of Divinity and Belles-Lettres, but he held this position only a short time. He died March 25, 1865.—*J. McCan Davis.*

GENERAL JOHN J. HARDIN.

After a portrait owned by Mrs. Julia Duncan Kirby, Jacksonville, Illinois. John J. Hardin was born at Frankfort, Kentucky, January 6, 1810; was educated at Transylvania University; removed to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1830, and there began practising law. He at once became active in politics, and in 1834 was a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney, an officer at that time chosen by the legislature. He was defeated by Stephen A. Douglas, then a recent arrival from Vermont. In 1836 he was elected to the lower branch of the General Assembly, and served three terms. In the session of 1836–37, he was one of the few members who opposed the internal improvements scheme. He was elected to Congress from the Sangamon district in 1843, and served until 1845. For some time he was a general in the State militia. In the Mexican War, he was colonel of the First Illinois Regiment, and was killed at the battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847. General Hardin was a man of brilliant parts. He was an able lawyer, and at the time of his death had risen to the leadership of the Whig party in his State. It was through his intercession, aided by Dr. R. W. English, that the unpleasantness between Lincoln and Shields in 1842 was amicably settled and a duel prevented.—*J. McCan Davis.*

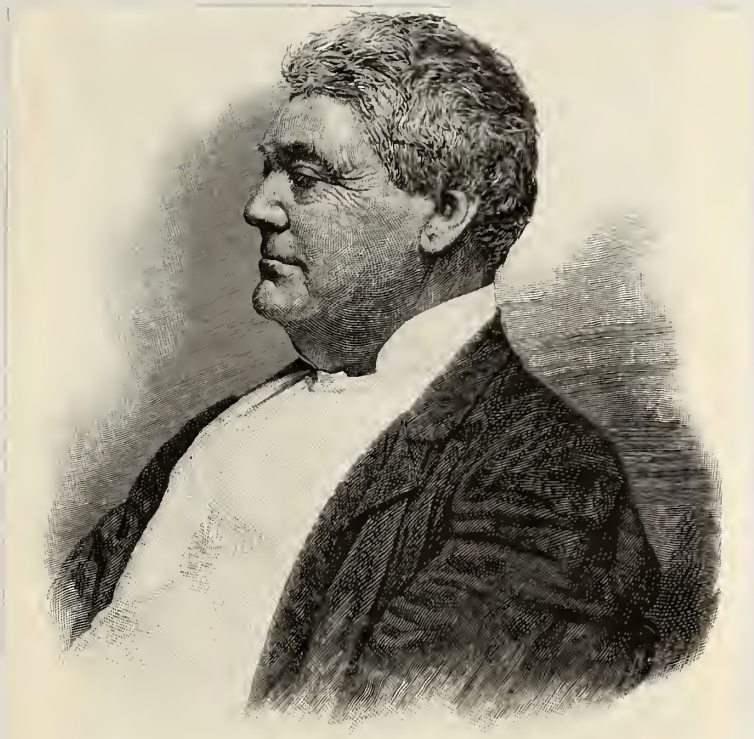


WILLIAM BUTLER.

From a photograph owned by his grandson, Hon. William J. Butler, Springfield, Illinois. William Butler was a native of Kentucky, being born in Adair County, that State, December 15, 1797. In the war of 1812, he carried important despatches from the Governor of Kentucky to General Harrison in the field, travelling on horseback. He went to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1828. In 1836 he was appointed clerk of the Circuit Court by Judge Logan, whom he had known in Kentucky. In 1859 he was appointed by Governor Bissell State treasurer of Illinois, to fill a vacancy, and in 1860 was elected to that office. He was married to Elizabeth Rickard, December 18, 1863. He died in Springfield, January 11, 1876. Soon after becoming a resident of Springfield, Lincoln went to William Butler's house to board. There he was like a member of the family. He lived with Mr. Butler until his marriage in 1842. The two men were ever the warmest personal and political friends.

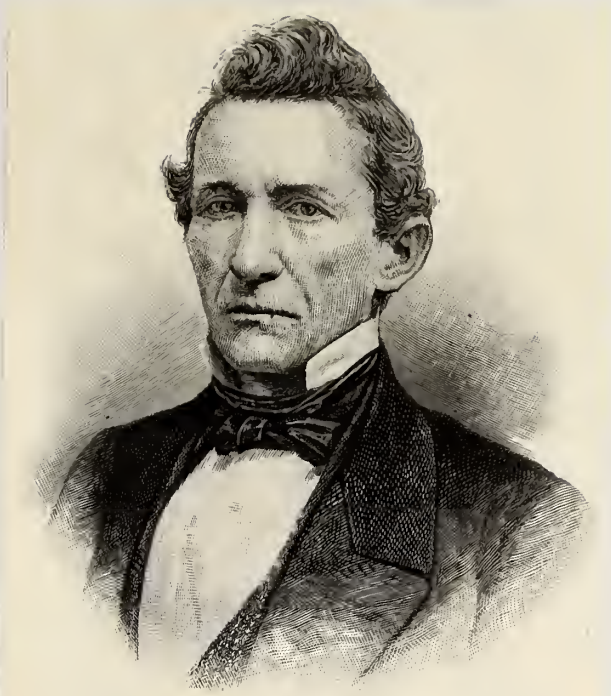
JOHN REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS 1831–1834.

After a steel engraving in the Governor's office, Springfield, Illinois. John Reynolds, Governor of Illinois from 1831 to 1834, was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1788. He was of Irish parentage. When he was six months old his parents moved to Tennessee. In 1800 they removed to Illinois. When twenty years old, John Reynolds went to Knoxville, Tennessee, to college, where he spent two years. He was admitted to the bar at Kaskaskia in 1812. In the war of 1812 he rendered distinguished service, earning the title of "the Old Ranger." He began the practice of law in the spring of 1814. In 1818 he was made an associate justice of the Supreme Court; in 1826 he was elected a member of the legislature; and in 1830, after a stirring campaign, he was chosen Governor of Illinois. The most important event of his administration was the Black Hawk War. He was prompt in calling out the militia to subdue the Black Hawk, and went upon the field in person. In November, 1834, just before the close of his term as Governor, he resigned to become a member of Congress. In 1837, aided by others, he built the first railroad in the State—a short line of six miles from his coal mine in the Mississippi bluff to the bank of the river opposite St. Louis. It was operated by horse power. He again became a member of the legislature in 1846 and 1852, during the latter term being Speaker of the House. In 1860, in his seventy-third year, he was an anti-Douglas delegate to the Charleston convention, and received the most distinguished attentions from the Southern delegates. After the October elections, when it became apparent that Lincoln would be elected, he issued an address advising the support of Douglas. His sympathies were with the South, though in 1832 he strongly supported President Jackson in the suppression of the South Carolina nullifiers. He died in Belleville in May, 1865. Governor Reynolds was a quaint and forceful character. He was a man of much learning; but in conversation (and he talked much) he rarely rose above the odd Western vernacular, of which he was so complete a master. He was the author of two books—one an autobiography, and the other "The Pioneer History of Illinois."



MILTON HAY, 1886. (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY W. F. TRUESDELL.)

MRS. LUCY G. SPEED, MOTHER OF JOSHUA SPEED. (FROM A PAINTING BY JOSEPH BUSH. ABOUT 1834.)



WILLIAM BUTLER. (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ABOUT 1850, IN POSSESSION OF HIS DAUGHTER, MISS SALOME BUTLER.)

LINCOLN AND HIS NEIGHBORS

RETURNING from his single term in Congress (he would not consider re-election because he believed in "giving the other boys a chance"), Lincoln thought his public career was ended for good and all. So he returned to his law practice with greater zeal than ever. Many characteristic stories are told of him in this period of his career.

The Lincolns had three living sons, Robert, William and Thomas, whom his father nicknamed "Tadpole," which was afterward shortened to "Tad." Little Eddie, another son, had died in infancy. William died in the White ouse, in February, 1862, and "Tad" lived six years after his father's death, until 1871, when he as eighteen years old. Robert Todd Lincoln, the eldest son, now lives in Chicago, having served s country as Secretary of War under President Garfield and as Minister to England during Benmin Harrison's administration.

While at home it was a common thing to see indulgent Mr. Lincoln striding up the street with boy on each shoulder and one clinging to the skirts of his long coat. One neighbor told of ushing to the street door of his own house to see what the matter was, for there was a loud outcry. Looking out he saw Mr. Lincoln passing, followed by two of his boys, both of whom were crying loudly.

"Why, Mr. Lincoln, what is the matter with them?" exclaimed the neighbor.

"Just what's the matter with the whole world," laughed Mr. Lincoln. "I've got three walnuts and each wants two."

A Springfield lady told of the following experience she had with their tall neighbor when she was a little girl in the following words (as related in Miss Tarbell's "Life of Lincoln."):

My first strong impression of Mr. Lincoln was made by one of his kind deeds. I was going with a little friend for my first trip on the railroad cars. It was an epoch of my life. I had planned for it and dreamed of it for weeks. The day I was to go came, but as the hour of the train approached, the hackman, through some neglect, failed to call for my trunk. As the minutes went on, I realized, in a panic of grief, that I should miss the train. I was standing by the gate, my hat and gloves on, sobbing as if my heart would break, when Mr. Lincoln came by.

"Why, what's the matter?" he asked, and I poured out all my story.

"How big's the trunk? There's still time, if it isn't too big," and he pushed through the gate and up to the door. My mother and I took him up to my room, where my little old-fashioned trunk stood, locked and tied.

"Oh, ho!" he cried; "wipe your eyes and come on quick." And before I knew what he was going to do, he had shouldered the trunk, was down stairs, and striding out of the yard. Down the street he went, fast as his long legs could carry him; I trotting behind, drying my tears as I went. We reached the station in time. Mr. Lincoln put me on the train, kissed me good-bye, and told me to have a good time. It was just like him.

"It was just like him"

FRIENDSHIPS OF LINCOLN

BY FRANCIS WIERMAN

NEXT to his honesty, perhaps the most noticeable trait in Lincoln's character was his faculty for winning friends and and keeping their affection through life. This was an almost necessary attribute to an ambitious young man who had no money, no social standing, and whose appearance and manner were against him. To say that Lincoln possessed "magnetism" does not explain his numerous and valuable friendships. The word "win" is used advisedly, for Lincoln seldom impressed people favorably at a first meeting; he compelled a respect and regard for his qualities and these in time grew into friendship. Sometimes he wrested love from those who were prejudiced against him before a meeting or who, upon their first encounter, disliked his careless dress and homely ways.

Every man who rises, as Lincoln did, from a lowly position to the highest, must often reach places in his career when he cannot do certain things for himself, but must depend on the offices of others. It is at times like these that friends prove their metal, and it is interesting, in studying the life of Lincoln, to note the occasions on which he could only mark time till some friend came forward with indispensable aid.

His Stepmother Took Him to Her Heart Almost at Once

LINCOLN'S first friend was his stepmother. In spite of the fact that she ught three children of her own into the e, when she married, she was soon by the obedient and willing Abraham. She took the lonely little boy to her heart and made no difference between him and her own. She was the first person to recognize in him a superior nature; though she was without education or knowledge of the world, she realized that her stepson had precocious talents. She not only made him happy, but she encouraged him to observe and study as much as his limited chances allowed. She always spoke of Abraham as her "good boy" and he remained that to her dying day.

Lincoln.

When Lincoln was almost grown, he looked about for some way to earn money. Wages were low, often paid in "trade" and opportunities scarce. He applied to Denton Offutt, who owned flatboats which he sent up and down the Mississippi with produce. Offutt needed a man badly and on a venture took Lincoln, who knew nothing of business, running a flatboat or selling goods; he was acquainted only with rude forms of farming. But he proved himself to be an ideal employee, working hard, doing well whatever he was set at, and—above everything else—absolutely honest. Offutt appreciated this last, as he had suffered from dishonest help. He promoted the new man to be his clerk and his respect and admiration ripened into deep friendship.

His Employer Boasted of Lincoln's Knowledge and Prowess

OFFUTT boasted that Lincoln "knew more than any man in the United States' and could "whip and outrun any man in the county." He talked about his clerk as if the latter were a favored son and it was Offutt who first called Lincoln "Honest Abe," a sobriquet that helped to make him famous and still clings to his name.

Offutt's bragging about the virtues and prowess of his beloved clerk finally brought some trouble upon Lincoln and this in its turn was the beginning of another lifelong friendship. A gang of country "toughs" heard of Lincoln's reputation for fearlessness and strength and their leader, Jack Armstrong, determined to put an end to Offutt's bragging. Armstrong was big, heavy, squarely built and "strong as an ox." Backed by his gang he attacked Lincoln, but much to his surprise, the latter picked him up by the neck, held him out as if he had been a small boy and shook him till he was thoroughly cowed—"shook the bully out of him"—to use Lincoln's own words.

Shook Out the Bully and Made a Lifelong Friend

THIS may seem a strange foundation for a friendship; but Jack Armstrong knew no other way of judging a man than by physical standards. Lincoln had proved himself cooler and stronger and Armstrong admired him for it. He offered his hand and from that day was a devoted friend to Lincoln. When Lincoln was out of work, Armstrong gave him board and lodging and offered his purse. To this lowly friendship Lincoln devoted the same unswerving loyalty as to any other. Years after Jack Armstrong died, and Lincoln had become famous, he saved his old friend's son from a conviction and his widow from want.

A little later, after meeting Armstrong, he enlisted in the militia for three months and became a captain. This was his real start on his political career, for in that short period he made so many friends among his comrades that they nominated him for the State Legislature. He was defeated because he was unknown. But his townsmen voted for him enthusiastically and this aroused

his ambition and revealed his powers to him and gave him an inkling of a possible high destiny.

But the young man realized that he could not advance politically without a good knowledge of law. He was then 23 years old and had read but one law book—a second-hand "Blackstone's Commentaries" he bought at an auction. He had no money for books and did not know how he was to overcome this handicap.

Maj. Stuart's Law Library Great Help to Lincoln

DURING his short military service Lincoln's fidelity and unfailing good humor attracted the notice of Maj. John Stuart, who became much attached to him. At this crisis in his affairs, when Lincoln could not do the thing necessary, if he were to progress. Maj. Stuart supplied the lack. He owned what was, in those days an extensive law library and offered Lincoln the use of his books. What a Godsend this was to the eager young man! He thought nothing of the fourteen-mile walk to this friend's house, and he devoured the contents of every book there and was always grateful for that timely aid.

Everyone who knows the life of Lincoln is aware of his love for Ann Rutledge and of her death, which wrought a profound change in his whole nature. But before Ann and Lincoln loved each other, they were friends. The young girl first respected and then liked him and finally gave him her friendship, which he was wise enough to cherish until almost unknown to himself, Ann had grown to love him. Lincoln proved as true to that beautiful trust as he had to his friendships with men. It was to him that the girl first confided the details of her unhappy affair with McNeill; and it was to Lincoln that Ann first revealed her knowledge that McNeill was using an assumed name.

That a girl who felt unhappy over a lover who had apparently flown, should turn in her trouble to a young man rather than to an older person, was an unusual situation. It proves more than any other of his experiences, his genius for friendship, and his respect for it as a precious possession. For he took no advantage of her confidences, to press his own suit, until he felt sure Ann had ceased to care for her former lover; and this was certainly a severe test for a young man who was deeply in love!

The tragic death of Ann Rutledge affected her lover so deeply that for a long while his companions considered him insane. He undoubtedly showed many signs of insanity He sank into a melancholy state, made no attempt to work and gave but little response to kindly efforts of friends to rouse him. He had reached another great crisis in his life and if he ever needed a devoted friend, it was during that time. He was in such a condition mentally that he was unable to make a move on his own behalf.

Bowlin Greeen was the friend who came forward then and proved his worth. He took Lincoln into his own home, followed him miles through the woods, and finally talked him back into a sane condition. Then he discussed the future and held up before Lincoln the prospect of a possible exalted career, in which Lincoln himself believed. Who shall say that Bowlin Green, the devoted and unselfish friend, did not save the great Emancipator for his task?

Later on, Lincoln suffered from a revival of this melancholy. It was soon after he became engaged to be married. Memories of Ann overwhelmed him and he sank into an alarming condition, brooding silently and oblivious to all his own interests. That time another friend, Mr. Speed, did for Lincoln what Bowlin Green had done bofore. He devoted himself to making Lincoln again normal and even went so far as to sell out his business and take Lincoln to Kentucky. For almost six months he watched over Lincoln and was finally rewarded by seeing him return to sanity and resume his rightful place as a leader of men.

Lincoln's Business Partner Often Protected Him

HERNDON, his legal partner and daily companion for years, was never called upon to help Lincoln in any great crisis. But he was faithful in all the small ways that give endurance to intimacy. Herndon possessed tact and discernment almost of a feminine type. The welfare and happiness of Lincoln were more important to him than business considerations or his own wishes. On the days on which Lincoln's unhappy home-life reached some minor climax, Herndon read the story in his partner's troubled expression. He asked for no confidences and received none. But he kept callers away and sometimes locked the doors upon Lincoln and went away for several hours, while his friend recovered his spirits in solitude.

It was the memory of such simple but oft-repeated kindnesses that made a strong bond between the two; so that, when Lincoln left to become President, he asked Herndon to leave the name of Lincoln on the sign above their office.

It is said that some men have a "genius for being friendly.' But this was not all of Lincoln's secret; neither could the devotion of so many be explained by "magnetism." The friendships that he made lasted because they were built, not upon the sand of merely superficial attraction; but upon the rock of real merit in his character. He kept his friendship free from all taint of dishonesty or infidelity; he never failed a friend in need and he never forgot a kindness.

ASSOCIATES OF LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

DRAWER 3 MATURITY - SPRINGFIELD