

Dr. W. A. Burnett.

Refer to Davis

Camargo, Ill., Feb 10 1896

S S McBline  
New York

In the current "story of  
Lincoln" I wish to enquire  
if the author has struck the  
Sim Wilnot case. Old Sim  
was a very black black who  
about 50 years ago. - when Ill.  
had a law allowing slaveholders  
to bring their slaves here & work  
them for 11 months & 29 days  
after which his foot must touch  
slave soil as renewal for another  
year - was brought here from  
Ky. with many other slaves  
by "Col" Watson. Sim being a  
whisky was left to care for the place  
& when he found that he had stayed  
beyond the statutory limits he  
struck for liberty & through  
some Old time Abolitionist employers  
& B Ficklin a life-long pro-slavery  
own

Democrat to defend him.

Being a valuable piece of property, Col Watson hastened from Kentucky to recover him.

At this time Lincoln was one of the leading lawyers in this section & he, the Master of the Emancipation was employed to return Old Sim to bondage.

Ficklin was successful & Sim lived in this neighborhood until two or three years ago.

If this episode has been overlooked & it is not too late the main facts may be still gathered from some of the actors now living.

Yours

Wm Burtlett