
Mitchell, L.D.

http://hdl.handle.net/10456/30603

This item is in the public domain

All materials in the Allegheny College DSpace Repository are subject to college policies and Title 17 of the U.S. Code.
Essex

Marshall St. Jan 17

1894

Editors Mc. Clure's Magazine

Dear Sirs:

I have been reading with interest your "Abraham Lincoln," do not know that the following will be of interest to you. I am 73 years of age. My father, J. Mitchell moved to Charleston Ill in 1838, my age at that time was 10 years. The town had perhaps 200 people. My uncle, Rev. Collom kept the hotel, the only hotel for many years. Mr. Lincoln attended court at Charleston regularly from 1835 to 1844 and stayed at all the lawyers did, at my uncle's hotel. We all came on horseback and went from one county to another. My uncle had one large room which he reserved for the judges and lawyers. I used to steal into the corner of the room in the evenings and sit on the floor and listen to them discuss law points, and tell stories. I recollect Mr. Lincoln took the lead in the discussions and story telling. I recollect Judge Luttrell, L. B. Dickson, Elijah Cutbey, Dummer, Judge Thornton and Judge Nelson who was Circuit Judge at the time, and for many years.
One peculiarity about Mr. Lincoln, I noticed was that he paid no attention to sidewalks in passing from one part of town to another, but was as likely to walk in the middle of the street as on the walks, taking near cuts across streets. But at that time there were but few paved streets—only a few rough planks or stumps laid along the square and principle dwellings.

Ben's Banks, who gave us the home of Mr. Lincoln's father's second wife, lived in Charleston all during this time and

was a house-mother. She lived in a log house or cabin of one story and a lean-to for a kitchen, in the west of the town, now the center of the city. She made many a pair of shoes for my mother's family. Many a time David and I would stand at this house for him to finish my shoes. He used to declare to me a young boy about the abilities of boys and point to him as an example of what a poor boy might accomplish. Mr. Banks's daughter was noted for their beauty. One of them married to Mr. Gus, Chapman, an Editor. Another a Mr. Hough also an Editor, another Mr. Chas. Pounder—all made their mark in the world. — L. D. Mitchell M. A.