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1844

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 78 years of age. My father, Joseph Workman, moved to Charleston Ill in 1838, my age at that time was 10 years. The town had perhaps 200 people. My uncle, Wm. Collom, kept the hotel. The only hotel. The only one for years. Mr. Lincoln attended court at Charleston regularly from 1835 to 1844, and stayed as all the lawyers did at my uncle's hotel. They all came on horseback and went from one county to another. My uncle had one large room which he reserved for the Judge & 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 discussion and story telling. A recollect Judge Justin Noland, O.B. Dicklin, can testify. Dumber, 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 stakes laid along the street and principle dwellings.

Dennis Banks who you give as the son of Mr. Lincoln's father's second wife lived in Charleston all during this time and was a Shew-Maker. He 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. He made many a pair of shears for my father's family. Many a time David and Mother watched him, house for him to finish his shears. He used to deplete to me a certain boy about the abilities of his boy and point to him as an example of what a poor boy might accomplish. Mr. Bank's daughter was noted for their beauty. One of them married Mr. Gus Chapman, an editor. Another a Mr. Houze also another Mr. Chas. Pomeroy all made their mark in the world—L.D. Mitchell M.D,