

Interview with William A. Douglas.

~~Excerpts~~ (An important witness
(Extracts) in Armstrong case.)

On the night after the trial Lincoln made a speech at the court house. The room was packed, and there was much enthusiasm ~~over Lincoln~~. He did not talk politics; he spoke of things in general, and told a good many stories. I remember a story he told after the meeting was over. ~~He said~~ It was about a fellow going around with a basket of pups for sale. On Democratic day, he called them Democratic pups; but ~~the next day~~ a few days later there was a Republican meeting, and he had the same pups for sale, but labeled "Republican pups". Somebody recognized ^{them} the pups and said: "How is that ~~just~~ only last week you were calling them Democratic pups, and now you say they are Republican pups?" "Yes", said the man, "that is true; but that was last week; the pups have their eyes open now."

I remember distinctly about Lincoln using the almanac. He didn't produce it until he got up to make his talk. Then he got permission from the judge to let the almanac go to the jury.

Lincoln was smart enough to get a jury of young men. They averaged about twenty-three years of age.

I think the trouble between Armstrong and Metzker took place about 9 o'clock at night. Several witnesses swore that the moon was shining, but Allen was the most positive; he was sure it was a full moon. Lincoln proved by the almanac that it was in the dark of the moon.

After Lincoln's speech I felt sure of Armstrong's acquittal; so sure that I bet five dollars on the result, and won.