Transcript of Contents of Note-book as written in autumn of 1881

Near what is known as Maxwell settlement was made in 1802 on each side of Anderson creek, now dividing line between Perry and Spencer counties -- part of it on site of Troy --ferry established between these two settlements ---this ferry was afterwards kept for time by Abe Lincoln. Thos. Lincoln came there in spring of 1814 or 1815 (other historical records state that Thomas Lincoln came there from Kentucky in the autumn of 1815). Abe described by neighbors as "gangliest boy they had ever seed," but good natured and universally liked.

Thomas Lincoln moved from Hardin county, Ky., and settled in Anderson creek at place known as Lincoln's ford, where Abe kept ferry until fall of 1817 when Mr. Lincoln entered eighty acres of land at what is known now as Lincoln city.

Thomas Lincoln was member of Baptist church at Little Pigeon, two miles east of Gentryville and one mile south of his farm. Church organized in 1816 and first church in this part of the country. Members began erection of "meetin'house" in 1819 -- completed in 1820/

Thomas Lincoln was carpenter and worked at trade during intervals of planting and gatheringcrops. He and Abe did all carpenter work on little log church, which was thirty feet long, twenty-six feet wide, one and a half stories high, with chimney at each end and windows 20x30 inches in size. Little change was ever made in this house and carpenter work still stands as they left it (Long ago removed)

Mr. Lincoln joined church by letter June 7, 1823 and dismissed by letter in 1831, when joined another church of same faith. In all church councils he was conspicuous.

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Thos. Lincoln described as large heavy man and of dark complexion.

He sold his farm in 1830 and moved to Illinois.

Mrs. Lincoln was of middle size, had black hair, hazel eyes and was slender. By all who knew her she was highly esteemed--was devoutly pious. She died in fall of 1818 and was buried on hill about 300 yards south of Lincoln home, covered by dense growth of forest, most of which since cut away, leaving growth of smaller trees and shrubs. She left two children --her son, Abe, and daughter, Sarah. Latter married Aaron Griggsby and died leaving no children. (Died from childbirth)

At age of eight Abe was regarded by teachers who boarded around as "prime reader" and at spellingmatches it "was 'lowed no one in all that deestrict could spell him down." At age of 15 he would study late at night by light of fire place -- for slate used poplar board ---when covered with figures shaved it.

Last bear chase in neighborhood in 1821 --"Uncle Jimmy" _____, Matthew Rogers and Col. Howell participating ---through briar thicket, wild grape vines and cow pond in Luce to ---eight or nine bears were caught --last wolf killed by Christopher Buckhart--tanned skin and made several pairs of slippers for young ladies of neighborhood.

Incident of Gen. Veatch's resentment of Robert Dale Owen insult.

Gen. Veatch's denunciation of vulgar men who relate "a story Abraham Lincoln used to tell."

Nathaniel Griggsby --as citizen older than county or state --here before state was admitted to Union --trading was done in Vincennes ---was schoolmate of Lincoln ---"he was big and I was

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little," --- many times "we et hominy and fat pork together" -- loved him as a brother ---then only two houses between here and Troy.

Mrs. Polly Egnew ---there were Indians in Patoka when her father settled here---lived first year in shanty in woods-- made with two poles against hickory trees, with peeled hickory bark on ground for floor ---were near neighbors of Tom Lincoln in Kentucky two years before we came here --knew Abraham Lincoln as far back as she could remember --he was a big, awkward boy---Lincolns were fine respectable people and belonged to Baptist church --lots of snakes and wild beasts here. Setting hen under my mother's bed made noise one night --mother made light and found large rattlesnake had taken possession of nest ---one morning Abe Lincoln found copperhead snake under his pillow ---Abe came to Grandfather Turnham's one morning when family were eating breakfast --was invited to breakfast --said "Oh, I guess you haven't any more than you can eat yourselves," ---"always full of fun and ready for joke."

Mrs. Polly Stapleton ---Knew Abe Lincoln --"was a smart industrious boy." Girls then were outdoors as much as in house. Once father wanted some blades pulled ---Lincoln was there and said he could beat me. ---Abe had long arms ---we pulled the blades ---he was lively,good hearted boy --he was kind in sickness --whenever anything happened in neighborhood he would write a piece about it --he wrote a song that he sung at his sister's wedding. It has been said Thomas Lincoln was lazy and a drunkard - he was neither.

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Joseph Richardson --- Once a parcel of us boys got into Abe Lincoln's watermelon patch. The first thing we knew he was among us. We didn't know what to do. He said, "Boys, I will let every one of you off that can repeat the multiplication table." The bent of his mind was always toward learning something. One time a neighbor hired Abe to work. At dinner time they played marbles and Abe won. His employer said he didn't like to get beat and wanted to play again. Abe said, "it's just as you say, I would just as soon play marbles as to work " -- so they played all the rest of the day and Lincoln was paid for his time.

Friends of Lincoln

David Turnham, of Dale, John W. Lamar, Buffaloville, Joseph Gentry and John Romine, Lincoln Station.

Gen. James C. Veatch --- Thos. Lincoln came to Spencer County (then Warrick County) in 1816 and settled at place now known as Lincoln station -- "squatted" on 160 acres of Congress land --on 15th Oct., 1817, entered it under credit system then in force -- afterwards relinquished east half of said tract and applied payments to west half. Patent issued to him on 6th of June, 1827, signed by John Quincy Adams, President. He left that place in February, 1830, for Illinois -- farm passed into hands of Chas. Griggsby, Sr.

"One of the few, the immortal names
That were not born to die."

Halleck/

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Nativity of Settlers

Dr. Milner and Gen. Veatch erected iron fence around grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Ground - half acre - owned by Lin.

Grave Stone

Nancy Hanks

Lincoln

Mother of President Lincoln

Died

Oct. 5, 1818

aged 25 years

Erected by a friend of her son

1879

Large oak tree marked place , which was felled two years ago (1881) Stone erected 1879 fence following May.

Committee in charge of Lincoln grave. --Gen. Veatch, Pres. -- Lewis & Co. stockholders in R. R., Louisville ----deeded the ground to coms. of Spencer Co. for people of United States - coms. appointed com. without compensation to take charge of it.

Forest in primitive state -- (huge trees)

Incident of steer

Old apple trees

Gentry -- Lincoln home stood until after A. L's death -- removed by Wm. Reams and duplicated.

_____ David Caseben (?)

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Lincoln's Chronicles -- some never [illegible] published.

Gentry -- Lincoln's father taciturn --Englishman. --

Cupboard, table made by Lincoln --one of the gawkiest boys ever knew-- good boy at school -- read great deal at night -- well liked -- knew him twelve years and good man -- wasn't history in this part of [illegible] country -- lived largely on game -- L. never [illegible] got mad but once -- man of fine sense --honest but not industrious-- when left not worth fifty dollars --started out peddling --helped father work some at carpentering -- characterized by absolute truthfulness and honesty.

N. Grigsby -- Brother Chas. bought L. farm short time before T. L. left for Ill. and immediately occupied 25 acres of cleared land lying north and west of Lincoln cabin --orchard north of cabin was planted by Thos. Lincoln --old Lincoln log cabin -- only one room and one story high -- 10 ft. to top -- had one door in west side --one window in north end --size of cabin 16x18 from outside to outside-- was covered with 4 ft. clapboards --door made of split pieces of timber -- floor 'puncheon" - then split of logs 8 ft. long -- then hued with axe and laid on 3 sleepers --pne on side, one in middle --chimney was made by sawing 6 ft. out of one end of cabin --then put in split piece of timber until 6-ft/ high -- then took dirt and made jamb to prevent fire burning timber --chimney built of sticks and dirt.

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When Adam was created

He dwelt in Eden's shade
As Moses has recorded
And soon a bride was made

Ten thousand times ten thousand
Of creatures swarmed around
Before a bride was formed
And yet no mate was found

The Lord He was not willing
The man should be alone
And caused a sleep upon him
And took from him a bone

Then closed the flesh instead thereof
And then He took the same
And of it made a woman
And brought her to the man

Then Adam he rejoiced
To see his loving bride
And part of his own body
The product of his side

This woman was not taken
From Adam's head we know
To show she must not rule him
It is evidently so

This woman was not taken
From Adam's feet, we see
So he must not abuse her
The meaning seems to be

This woman she was taken
From under Adam's arm
So she must be protected
From injuries and harm.

I'll tell you a joke
About Jabell and Mary
'Tis neither a joke nor a story
For Rueben and Charles
has married two girls
But Billy has married a boy.

The girls he had tried on every side
But none could he get to agree
All was in vain and he went home again
And since that he was married to Nattie.

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Mrs. Josiah Crawford-- Knew Lincoln well ---was a smart, honest and mighty good boy --studied hard and worked about --was at our house a great deal and my husband helped him in studies-- a history says my husband, Josiah Crawford was his school teacher. Mistake, Andy Cufford was his teacher --husband loaned Lincoln (Weem's) "Life of Washington," which we brought with us from Virginia and was only book around here -- L. took home and ladd on shelf and it rained that night and rain beat through house and wet it. Lincoln came to him and was awfullest plagued boy I ever see. He offered to pay for it. My husband told him he mighthave it if he'd help him pull fodder day or two. He studied arithmetic in that corner --pointing -- no pencils here then or slates -- he used shaved board and marked on it with red keel --when got it full washed it and commenced over -- best scripture scholar ever knew and Bible was almost only book he had --you see, warn't any bookssaround here then and people didn't have much of anything. My husband would loan what books we had. Abe was always fullof fun and his jokes. He was gettin off some of his rhymes one day and his sister said "Abe what will become of you?" He answerd "Well, I can tell you. I intend to be President before I die." His sister was a good girl and pretty much like Abe in her character. She staid with me about a year before she married. She said there were enough at home. She was good girl and her and her fellow done their sparking at our house. She died and is buried in old graveyard at Little Pigeon church.

Lincoln's were very poor folks. First time I called on them I remember it all seemed mighty funny to me. They scraped sweet potatoes and passed 'em round.

Lincoln's mother was mighty Lovart woman. She could read and write. Abe told me that she often read Bible to him.

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Abe once wrote Chronicles which all settlers knew by memory. He was always writing some rhyme.

Thos. Lincoln was a good man---He was a carpenter and I've got a cupboard in there that he made. When about to move away from here he wanted me to buy it. I told him I would take it to accommodate them if he would take trade. I gave him a quilt.

I want a history written that is all true.

Lincoln would never quarrel and would slaugh others out of it. His step brothers were quarrelsome and fractious. Abe would do all he could to please them. I always liked the boy and was a good friend to him.

L. was leader even when a boy -- stories of his powers of memory --Steam wagons --- first to know about them- his essays on cruelty --even composed poetry before he knew anything about the principles of poetry --"natural genius."

Grave of A. Lincoln's sister unmarked and unknown (1881)

Silas Richardson -- Lincoln cut down large tree and whip-sawed to make my floor --the smoothest and best floor I ever saw -- good floor yet --once got Abe to make rails -- rails afterward carried away and made into canes --when heard that Lincoln was nominated for President so surprised that we just shouted --first time saw his likeness knew it in a moment --once ran race with Abe in pulling fodder --his arms too long that he could reach up and pull 'em off, and I would have to bend the stalk, but I kept up with him --no market nearer than Rockport and Troy -- Abel Crawford great hunter -- all kinds of wild game -- some "painters" (panthers) and bear -

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was a wilderness --only three farms in three or four miles -- "Old Man"Lincoln was a bad manager -- Abe made several trips down Ohio in flat-boats --used to sing revolutionary songs -- one was "John Adkinson's Lamentations" -- heard Lincoln say he was "well-wisher" of religion -- remembers Tom Lincoln sitting up late and got to talking about married people disagreeingm, married people's places and rights -- Tom Lincoln good counsellor, very particular and honest and Abe was brought up that way -- Abe never paid attention to young company -- would always have with him a book at log raisings -- he would study anywhere and everywhere -- hardly had any books in the country like now -- some few histories -- Abe worked out -- was good wrestler -- never went to parties like other youngesters -- people in that day played marbles a heap -- Sarah Lincoln and child died in midwifery -- Grigsbys and Lincoln were never good friends -- went with Lincoln family part/way of when left country -- had big frolic -- all the family left together -- ate dinner with Lincoln in August, 1844-- last time ever saw him --Abe went with boys some, but not much of hand to go around to parties -- Abe would go off and go to reading --Scriptures only book we had about -- also Webster's spelling book and some few little histories.

David Turnham -- A. was very civil and well behaved -- no polish -- well respected -- good memory -- was good at running, jumping, hopping and wrestling -- wasn't active, but was strong and in some things excelled -- have seen him stand on his feet and touch head to ground -- saw him pick up barrel of whiskey and suck out of bung -- all classes drank to some extent -- never knew him to be intoxicated -- awkward but sharp -- frequently wrestled with him -- we met at log rollings -- always read at leisure time -- was sociable -- his father was ordinary man, but very good -- had only one eye -- never"heard any harm of Mrs.

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Lincoln -- only few settlers -- Abe one of first boys git acquain with -- two of books were "Life of Washington" and Bunyan's "Pilgr Progress" -- last part of his life here read a little law and was constable -- borrowed copy of Indiana Statutes -- when Abe was about 17 years old wrote Chronicles -- before left here worked down river -- thinks trees at right of Lincoln house were planted since they left.

Henry Bruner -- Three of us boys had been to Gentryville -- coming back it was getting dark and cold -- drunk man fell off his horse- we put him on again -- Abe rode behind and took care of him -- ~~Abe was behind and took care of him~~ -- Abe was very kind-hearted -- he was a wonder dressed in buckskin pants and hickory shirt -- buckskin too short to meet his socks -- "mind makes the man" -- would sometimes repeat a sermon to the boys that he had heard the day before -- he was a peace-maker among the boys -- took Abe with him when constable to make arrest -- fellow got mad and drawed back to strike Abe -- Abe said "You better stick your head in the fire before you strike me" -- saw him but once since he left when he made a speech. -- would hunt on Sundays ~~sumkin~~ sometimes -- remember we were out once hunting and church member called to him "Abe, the devil will get you" -- Herndon's assertion that L. held his finger on political pulse was false.

Henry Beeler -- went to mill a good deal together -- ate and slept together often -- always sociable and friendly -- old fiddle story- Abe didn't look much like either his father or mother -- he learned to read right good before he was eight -- he carried a book with him generally and would read when idle -- borrowed books whenever he could -- his sister was about like other girls -- never any rowdyism in Abe.

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Grave -- few other interments -- only trace slight sinkin ground -- iron picket fence over child of railroad laborer 3 ft. near -- stumps, ground, clump of logs cleared away by Gen. Veatch in May, 1880-- Gen. Veatch 's intention to purchase hill and enclose -- will ultimately be cleared -- owned by Cin. speculators -- cleared "so sun may shine on it" -- land owned by Lincoln.

Gen. Veatch chosen from his old Indiana home to welcome Lincoln to state when on his way to Washington to become President -- Lincoln's inquiries about old friends, stories about them, seemed to remember all and messages to all living, etc., etc.

Nathaniel Grigsby, Gentryville -- Books -- Dilworth's spelling book -- Bible -- received letter from Lincoln in 1860

(N. Grigsby
from memory)

Springfield, Ill., Sept 20,1860

Nathaniel Grigsby, Esq.,

My dear Sir:-- Your letter of July 19th was received only a few days ago, having been mailed by yourfxrkkxx brother at Gentryville, Ind., on the 12th of the month. A few days ago Gov. Wood, of Quincy, told me he saw you and that you said you had written me. I had not then received your letter.

Of our three families who removed from Indiana together my father Squire Hall and John D. Johnston are dead and all the rest of us are yet living. Of course the younger ones are grown up, marriages contracted and new ones born. I have three boys now, the oldest of which is seventeen years of age.

There is now a Republican electoral ticket in Missouri so that you can vote for me if your neighbors will let you. I would advise you not to get into any trouble about it.

Give my kindest regards to your brother Charles.

Within the present year I have had two letters from John Gorden who is living somewhere in Missouri. I forget exactly where and he says his father and mother are both still living near him.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

(Since published)

N. Grigsby --King's Jester -- book read to boys in woods.

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