Statement of Edward Levis,Sr.,relative to the Lincoln--Shields duel near Alton,Ill.,September 23rd.,1842.

Among the few citizens of Alton who were here on the 23rd day of September,1842,perhaps there is no one who so well remembers the events pertaining to the Lincoln--Shields duel as does Mr. Edward Levis,Sr.,Vice-President of the Illinois Glass Company. Mr. Levis' version of the affair is as follows:---"In the latter part of September, 1842,(I think it was the 23rd) Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Shields arrived here overland from Springfield,accompanied by a party of frineds. The principals in the prospective duel rode in carriages while the followers satisfied themselves with wagons of various kinds and descriptions. The happy termination of the duel came about in this way: Lincoln stated to some of his friends that he had not written the poem ridiculing Shields but that a young lady in Springfield was the author thereof. This statement was made no doubt so that in case he was killed the world should know he had not stooped to deride a fellow politician. This news was carried to the Shields party and a settlement was easily arranged. The point of meeting was on the Missouri shore. I repeat this because I have read in Holland's "Life of Lincoln" and in other places that the men met on "Bloody Island". This island is 25 miles down the river and now forms part of East St Louis. There was then no island directly opposite the levee at Alton,but Bayliss' or Alton Island was below. However the men went above the island and landed on the bar which formed part of the mainland,all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. Naturally there was great excitement in the city that day and the duel was talked of for weeks and months".

L.D.Yager.

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