

March 4, 1939

Dear Mr. Barker:

Please pardon my long delay in replying to your letter of February 3rd. I have been away from town and very busy when here.

Now as to your question - my authority for saying that Abraham Lincoln read "Yankee Notions" Back in the 1890's and again in 1922 I spent some days in Bloomington, Illinois interviewing men who as boys remembered Lincoln, as well as those who had been with him on the Circuit and in politics.

Among the former was a lawyer by the name of Capen who had grown up in Bloomington and who remembered Lincoln particularly as a story teller, had always been interested in where he got his stories. He talked with many of Lincoln's lawyer associates and told me that more than one of them had told him of Lincoln carrying a book called "Phoenixiana", also "Flush Times in Alabama.

One of Mr. Capen's neighbors was a Sheriff of the County, William N. H. Hodge, who remembered Lincoln well. It was he who told Capen that Lincoln read "Yankee Notions." Capen was sure that Lincoln got many of his stories from this paper.

I have no other authority than what Mr. Capen told me, but I can hardly believe that Lincoln keen as he was for good stories would have passed by a paper like "Yankee Notions." But you see it is one of these things you can take or leave as you wish.

You enclose notices of two or three items no one of which appeal to me, but I am always glad to know what you are offering.

With best wishes

Very sincerely yours

Mr. H. E. Barker
Los Angeles, Calif.