(Copy of a letter from William L. Barker, of Boonville, Indiana, to William Fortune, under date of Nov. 6, 1924.)

On the eve of their departure for Illinois, in March 1830, the Lincolns loaded their movables into ox wagons and the family went to James Gentry's where they spent the night. The next morning their friends and neighbors gathered at the Jones store, where Abe had worked the previous winter, to bid them good-bye. The party was late in arriving and Abe explained the delay by saying that one of the oxen had strayed away in the night and he had found it at David Turnham's. Abe brought out from the store a bundle of merchandise, thirty six dollars worth of needles, pins, thread, buttons and other domestic necessities, which he intended to peddle along the way. He afterwards wrote to Colonel William Jones saying that he had doubled his money on the venture. Mrs. Lincoln was afraid of the water at the ford over Little Pigeon creek, near Jonesboro, and Massa (or Masterson) Clark, one of a number of friends who were awaiting the Lincolns, rode over the ford and took Mrs. Lincoln over behind him on his horse. Before leaving Spencer county Thomas Lincoln had tried to trade James Gentry his relinquishment of his eighty acres for a young horse; Mr. Gentry did not want the land but told John Romine of the offer and Romine said he would like to have the land and if Gentry would sell him the horse on credit he would take it and follow the Lincolns and trade for the land. Romine overtook the emigrants just as they were starting to go into camp at Little Zion Baptist church and the deal was consumated. Edmund Phillips, the eleven year old son of John Phillips, who lived near the church, seeing the Lincolns at the spring near the church, reported to his father who sent him down to invite them to come and stay at his house "without cost" which they did, and it was ever thereafter the boast of the Phillips family that they had entertained the president. After passing through Boonville, the next day, they went up the Petersburgh road stopping at the Sol Turpin store where Abe sold some small articles, and then on to Joseph Lankford's where they stayed all night. The following day they stopped at Arthur Thompsons for water, the Thompson farm is in Pike county and the town of Arthur is laid off on a part of it.

It is noteworthy to say that all these affiants were Baptists. In his testimony before the Lincoln Route Commission at Winslow the reverend Jefferson W. Richardson, (Baptist) said that "he believed the Lincolns went to Illinois through Boonville and by the Petersburgh road to Petersburgh because Anderson Hanks (Nicholas A. Hanks) lived at Lynnville, as also two cousins named Lincoln, and there were so many baptists along the route, and the baptists were not like other people, they stuck together."

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