

A very interesting episode in Mr. Lincoln's early Indiana history comes from John M. Lockwood born in 1809 and yet living. Mr. Lockwood relates that in his boyhood he was employed to operate a wool-carding machine for a man in Princeton, Indiana. In August 1827 while so engaged one whom he describes as a "long legged beardless boy dressed in country-made, home-spun clothes ~~saddled~~ with shoes of plain-cut leather" rode into the village, dismounted from his horse ~~litter~~ and carried into the carding factory a beautiful pack of wool. Approaching young Lockwood he asked to have his wool carded and inquired when it could be done. "You must wait your turn" answered the former. "But I think you can have it by three o'clock." Lockwood, whose business it was to keep separate and ~~label~~^{mark} each individual's wool asked the late stranger his name. "A. Lincoln" was the response and it was so recorded on the label. He then announced that he had ridden in from Gentryville a distance of over thirty-five miles. Meanwhile he sauntered about the village, watched the idlers patch horse-shoes and the other

unemployed youths took the ball returning now and then
to talk with Lockwood and observe the operations
of the carding machine. At length after a saunter from
the village store nearby, he called Lockwood aside and
with an expression of deep interest if not admiration
inquired who a certain young lady, ^{at the same time} ~~properly describing~~
pointing her out, was. "That is Miss Evans" was Lock-
wood's ready answer. The tale stranger thereupon expressed
a decided admiration ^{for her.} intimating that he hoped some day
to meet ^{and see more of her.} ~~and make her acquaintance.~~ What impression
^{or whether she even noticed him} he made on the girl, has never been ~~made~~ ^{learned}, but we know
that before dusk his rolls of wool were made ready for
him and, ^{behind him} tying them on the horse, he set out on his
return through the wilds to Gentryville without having
made the acquaintance of the village beauty. It does
not detract materially from the interest of this incident to
add that shortly after young Lincoln's visit Miss Evans
was married and that thirty three years later he told a
friend that for over two years after following his return to
his Spencer county home her image was almost constantly
in his heart

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