

You ask me for further criticisms on your Life of Lincoln.

I now think of nothing, except one verbal error, and in that you agree with others. The true name of the crop raised on the Lincoln farm in Macon County (p. 100) was "Sod corn." It means the first crop raised on newly plowed prairie, which was called "sod ground." It was not called either sowed, or sown corn. That would mean broadcast sowing or planting, which would, also, be incorrect, as corn was not then so planted. The crop of sod-corn was, usually, not very good as to quality, and being frequently planted rather late, it was sometimes frost-bitten. Hence, among the drinking men, poor whiskey was called "sod-corn whisky." And, when very poor the sentence was emphasized, by saying: "It is sod-corn whisky, and frost-bitten, at that!" That is the precise vernacular, as I well remember it.

I am exceedingly pleased with your treatment of the
Lincoln-Todd wedding. I spent the years 1846-7 in Springfield;
saw Mr. Lincoln, the Edwardses and others almost daily; and had
frequent long talks, with Mr. Herndon, but never heard a word of
the horrible story which he afterwards published in his book.
I did not believe it, but then living in Kansas I have had no
opportunity of investigating the matter.

John Davis
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