Lincoln as a Surveyor.

About the year 1833, for want of remunerative employment, Mr. Lincoln applied to John Calhoun, then County Surveyor of Sangamon County, for a position as deputy surveyor, which was given him. He immediately set to work qualifying himself for his new occupation and soon became very efficient and popular as a surveyor. When he got a job there was a jubilant and jolly time in the neighborhood. Men and boys would gather around ready to carry chains, drive stakes and blaze trees—but mainly to hear Lincoln's odd stories and funny jokes interspersed with foot races and wrestling matches in which Lincoln was always the victor, when persuaded to take a hand.

Whilst riding on his way from Salem to Springfield one day he was overtaken by Dr. Charles Chandler, founder of the town of Chandlerville, (entire strangers at that time,) who enquired if a man had passed him on the road to Springfield? Lincoln told him a man headed that way was about a half hour ahead of him. Chandler told him as they rode along how a neighbor had agreed with him to enter a quarter section of land together and divide it between them—and now the man was on his way to the land office to enter the land for himself. Lincoln was at once interested in defeating the plans of this dishonest neighbor of Chandler and said to him—"your horse is about tired out—take mine

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and put him through - he is fresh - and when you get there tie him up in front of the land office, where I will leave your horse and get mine" - at the same time telling Chandler how he could make a cut-off and save a couple of miles. Chandler got there and secured his land entry a few minutes before his neighbor came in a little too late.

Some time after this Dr. Chandler applied to the County surveyor to have his land surveyed. In due time there came a tall strange man to do the surveying. Chandler, after a searching look at the man, with great joy recognized him as the one who had by his kindness saved the land for him - and never, whilst he lived, ceased his devotions to Abraham Lincoln.

In 1836 Mr. Lincoln surveyed and platted the Town of Bath, which in 1841 became the County seat of Mason County in which town the writer settled ten years later and made his home for 20 years, and in whose home he entertained Mr. Lincoln in 1858, at the time he made one of his speeches that year. At dinner choice wine was served - but not a drop would Lincoln imbibe - nor is it known that he ever indulged in spirits on any other occasion.

Many stories are told by old settlers, of him and things that occured during his sojourn in laying out the Town of Bath.

Communicated by J. M. Maggles

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The boundaries he drew were never disputed; but, what is more remarkable, he seems to have always remembered the lines he had drawn and the marks that he had made. His son Robertsays that in 1858, when he was a boy of about fifteen, he drove his father once through a region in which he had done much surveying, and that several times, Mr. Lincoln stopped the horse and laughingly asked him to go a little distance into the woods and see if he could not find at a particular spot which he described, a blazed tree. He had marked that tree, he said, as a survey corner. Robert Lincoln says that he did this several times and not once made a mistake.

But surveying was only a way of earning an honest living.

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