

(Note)

Gen. John A. McClernand of Springfield, Ill., is the only survivor of Lincoln's colleagues in the Thirtieth Congress. He represented the Shawneetown district, in the extreme southeast part of the state. "Lincoln and myself," said Gen. McClernand recently,* "though of opposite political parties, were personally very friendly. Upon his invitation I came to Springfield and accompanied him to Washington. We went by rail as far as Pittsburg. There we took a boat and ascended the Alleghany river, going by water as far as Johnstown. I distinctly remember one incident of the journey. In attempting to cross a dam, our boat lodged. The bow was raised up out of the water, while the stern seemed to be sinking. The passengers were greatly alarmed, though I cannot say that Lincoln was; he had had similar experiences before. A happy thought instantly came to me. I started forward and shouted to the passengers to follow me. They obeyed, and their weight threw down the bow, and the boat slid over the dam. Lincoln's career in Congress, continued Gen. McClernand, "was a quiet one. I do not now recall any striking incident. Lincoln did not make much noise, but he impressed everybody with his ability. It should be remembered that this was ~~Lincoln's~~ his first term, and he naturally deferred much to older members. With longer service, beyond any doubt he would have risen to leadership."

--J. McCan Davis.

* Interview with Gen. McClernand
made by [unclear] for this magazine.