

Southwestern Indiana

22

December 30, 1926.

John E. Iglehart, Esq.,
Evansville, Ind.

My dear Judge Iglehart:

It was not until yesterday that I found an opportunity to read your interesting review of the work which has been done in the last few years by the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. It is an admirable statement, rounding up the activities as no one but yourself could do it, and pointing out at the same time the important power these activities have upon the fourteen years that Abraham Lincoln spent in Southwestern Indiana.

I told you before how essential to our full understanding of Lincoln I felt the work that you are doing to be. I have been long convinced that we Lincoln biographers had failed to chart the all important intellectual and ethical influences which filled the air of your part of the world in its pioneer period. You are making it possible for us to do this charting. The really important thing about the life of Abraham Lincoln between 1816 and 1830 is what the serious people in that fifty mile radius which he covered were thinking and saying. We know that it was to the superior people in that neighborhood - Judges Fitcher and Breckinridge, that he looked. His mind was always occupied with what the superior in his environment thought and to capture these thoughts and aspirations of this time in this neighborhood, is altogether the most important Lincoln quest in relation to Southwestern Indiana and, under your leadership I feel that the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society is doing thoroughly a fine and useful piece of investigation.

I was sorry not to see you again, dear Judge Iglehart, but Christmas and the grip combined are almost too much for me this year.

With the very best wishes for your health and happiness during the New Year, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,