Judge Lyman Lacey's Letter, [redacted]

Judge Lyman Lacey of Havana, Ill., one of the present judges of the Appellate Court of Illinois, writes a long letter regarding the Armstrong case. At the time of the trial he was the partner of William Walker, but did not go to Beardstown to participate in the trial. He says:

"I have often seen the story in print of Lincoln changing the almanac and reading it to the jury, but I do not now and never did believe it. . . . . Mr. Walker, when he came home, talked to me about the trial and Lincoln's speech, which was very effective, but at that time or after did he ever mention the change of the almanac, as I remember. I have never believed the story. It is the same story that was current about forty years ago* told of Felix Grundy, a noted criminal lawyer of Tennessee. That Mr. Lincoln introduced an almanac is true, but I think it was one of 1857. . . . . As to Husted, I have talked with him about it, and he believes he has the almanac, but I told him I did not believe the story. . . . . I don't think J. Henry Shaw was in the case unless to select a jury."

* Probably longer ago, as Grundy died in 1840.

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