From. Geo. W. Armstrong - Seneca, Ill.

"In reply to your enquiry about the joint debates of Lincoln and Douglas in 1858. - They were both candidates for the United States Senate and I think had a joint discussion in each Congressional district. This district was held in Ottawa. I was the Douglas Democratic nominee for Congress and Dr. LeRoy of Morris was the Buchanan nominee and Lovejoy the Whig or Republican nominee. I received a little over 16 000 votes, LeRoy 15, 000 and Lovejoy 20, 000.

The issues were Popular Sovereignty the most good to the greatest number on the Democratic side, - and Restrictive Legislation on the other side. It was really the Slavery Question. Douglas had assisted in repealing the Missouri Compromise. - the line that prohibited slavery from going north of a certain line agreed upon the admission of Missouri into the Union. Lincoln's principle argument was an attack upon Douglas his action in Congress in repealing the compromise line and the admission of Negroes into Kansas. Douglas had to defend himself. While Douglas was successful as a majority of the Legislature approved Douglas's course and elected him to the Senate yet

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that debate made Lincoln President in 1860.

I remember a little incident in the discussion of a personal character. Douglass alluded to Lincoln when he knew him tending bar in a saloon near Springfield. Lincoln said yes you attended bar on the outside while I attended on the inside, which made a tremendious roar in the audience which was large.

I knew both Lincoln and Douglass in 1834 at Vandalia. Lincoln was a member of the house of Representatives from Sangamon County and was called one of the Long Nine. The shortest of "the nine" was over 6 feet. He, L., took an active ~~interest~~ part in measures to commence the Ill. and Michigan canal (which I was there in the interest of). Douglas was there a candidate for Prosecuting Attourney and beat J. J. Harden, who was then occupying that position. Douglass too took an active interest in the Canal question. My first acquaintance with Douglass was not very flattering but when I found him helping me I thought better of him and our relations were cordial all his life afterwards. My relations with Lincoln were always good. I have dined at his house and

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attended several party meetings at his house. He came into the Hall in 1844 and took me by the hand and thanked me for a speech I had made in favor of an assessment of a two mill tax to pay interest on the Public Debt of the State in 1838.

I saw Lincoln jump out of the Presbyterian Church in Springfield in 1839 or 40. The Govenor had called a special session to provide for the interest on the Public Dept. The State Bank had suspended payment and the Democrats had determined to make it resume and were about passing a resolution to that effect and the Republicans opposed it and had determined to break up the quorum and Lincoln had stayed in but when he found out that he made a quorum, the door being closed, he thrust a window and stuck his long legs out and jumped out 6 or 8 feet to the ground.

I have all the debates in a pamphlet or book but where it is now I do not know as I have so many pamphlets, books &c and the boys have carried away many. I have a cart load I documents left and will endeavor to find the debate and if I succeed I will send it to you."

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From Mrs William Crotty (Miss Millie Armstrong)

"I was too young to remember the Lincoln + Douglas joint debate. I only now recall one fact, that I felt so sorry for Lincoln while Douglas was speaking and then to my surprise I felt so sorry for Douglas when Lincoln replied."

My dear Miss Tarbell,

These few facts may not be of interest or use to you. Grandpa thought he was writing to me merely, so there is a good deal of the personal in it. I left it just as he had written in order that you might better understand the opportunities for knowing what he had written. I dare say if you were able to question him he could tell you a great deal more of Lincoln's political life.

The little quotation above is from my mother who heard the Ottawa debate in company with grandfather. She used to tell us about the debate but seems to have forgotten it at this time.

I ask Miss Pugh to send these on to you. Yours Truly

Gertrude C. Davenport

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