ESSEX

Marshall Ill. Jan 11
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Editors McClures Magazine

Dear Sirs:

I have been reading with interest your "Abraham Lincoln," do not know that the following will be of interest to you. I am 73 years of age. My father Jas A. Mitchell moved to Charleston Ill in 1838, my age at that time was 10 years. The town had perhaps 200 people. My uncle, Wm. Colton kept the Hotel, the only one for years. Mr. Lincoln attended court at Charleston

regularly from 1835 to 1844, and stayed, as all the Lawyes did, at my uncles Hotel. They all came on horseback, and went from one county to another. My uncle had one large room which he reserved for the Judge & Lawyers. I used to steal into a corner of the room in the evenings, and sit on the floor and listen to them discuss law points, and tell stories. I recollect Mr. Lincoln took the lead in the discussions and story telling. I recollect Judge Justin Dadland, O. B. Ficklin, Cantebery Dunbar, Judge Thornton, and Judge Wilson who was Circut Judge at the time, and for many years.

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One peculiarity about Mr. Lincoln, I noticed was that he payed no attention to sidewalks in passing from one part of town to another, but was as likely to walk in the middle of the street as on the walks, taking near cuts across streets. But at that time there were but few paved streets, only a few rough planks or slabbs layed along the square and principle dwellings.

Denis Hanks who you give as the sone of Mr. Lincoln's Father's second wife, lived in Charleston Ill., during this time, and

was a Shew-maker. He lived in a log house, or cabin of one room, and a lean to for a kitchen, in the west of the town, - now the center of the city. He made many a pair of Shews for my Fathers family. Many a time have I waited at his house for him to finish my shews. He used to relate to me, a near boy, about the abilities of Abe, and point to him as an examble of what a poor boy might accomplish. Mr. Hank's daughters were noted for their buty. One of them married a Mr. Gus. Chapman, an Editor, another a Mr. Shoafe, also an Editor, another, Mr. Chas Dorman - all made their mark in the world - L.D. Mitchell M.D.

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