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From Lincoln Lore - August 15, 1932

L gossip

The editor of Lincoln Lore found in an old paper, unfriendly to Lincoln in the campaign of 1860, still another statement about Lincoln's business transactions with Jones. It was alleged that when Lincoln left Spencer county "he purchased \$16.00 of steel pins at William Jones' Store" that "Abe had slid" without paying for the pins and "the people expected it." The story further stated that Jones accused Lincoln of running off with his goods and pursued him "regaining the goods by legal process."

On September 5, 1860, William Jones wrote the following letter to the editor of the paper publishing this charge:

"In the columns of your paper I have read a comment signed "Valentine" charging A. Lincoln with running away indebted to me and that I followed him and recovered goods for which he was owing me. I can only say that there is not one word of truth in the assertion.

"Such efforts to electioneer with, are too mean and contemptible to notice, were it not that silence might be construed into an acknowledgment of their truth. As to the offer of proof by some of the good old citizens of this county by affidavit, that is all stuff, I defy any such proof.

"W. Jones."