

To the Editor of the New York Times

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

I have just read your editorial article on Abraham Lincoln and your comments on the recent book by Miss Ida M. Tarbell, and, thinking that some history of the Tennessee branch of the Lincoln family might be interesting, I give you the following. Abraham Lincoln had an uncle named Isaac who lived in the far famed Watauga Valley of Tennessee where the first settlements were made in the State. Isaac Lincoln was a large land owner, also a slave owner. The records in the Carter County Court House attest this. The will of Isaac Lincoln is on record and it shows he owned large bodies of land, and in it he mentions several slaves by name. He gave most of his property to his wife, Mary Ward Lincoln. The will of Mrs. Lincoln is also on record and was drawn up by the famous lawyer, Thomas S. R. Nelson who was one of the great lawyers of his day. In this will Mrs. Lincoln mentions thirty four slaves by name, and she gave most of her property to her nephew, William Stover, son of Daniel and Phoebe Ward Stover, and brought him up as their own child - The Lincolns mingled in the highest social circles, and numbered among their friends some of Tennessee's leading families. Isaac Lincoln was a man of splendid ability and accumulated large bodies of land and was one of the rich men of that section. Mrs. Lincoln was also a woman of remarkable ability and after the death of her husband added to her possessions, both real and personal and was one of the wealthiest women of her section. William Stover married Miss Sarah Drake of the well known and prominent Drake family of Virginia, and to him were born three sons, Daniel, Samuel Murray and David Lincoln and strange to say, Daniel married Miss Mary Johnson daughter of Andrew Johnson, and thus in a way

connected the Lincoln and Johnson families. Samuel Murray married Miss Carrie Brooks of the prominent Brooks of South Carolina and David Lincoln married Miss Josephine Gaines, a first cousin of Miss Brooks, who was also of a prominent South Carolina family. When the great war between the States burst forth ^{David} David Stover cast his lot with his distinguished father in law, Andrew Jackson Johnson, and joined the Federal Army and was made colonel of the Second Tennessee Infantry, and died of disease at Gallatin Tenn. Samuel Murray Stover cast his lot with the Confederate States and was a physician in the Army of Gen. Lee. The Watauga Valley was the home of several of Tenn. most distinguished families, among them the illustrious Carter family, one of whom Admiral Samuel Carter held both the title of Admiral in the Navy and General in the Army and is the only American citizen who has held both of these titles. Here lived the prominent Taylor family that has given Governors, Congressmen and United States Senators to Tenn. Here lived the well known Lipton family, who have always figured prominently in Tenn history. It was in this valley that lived that distinguished lawyer, ^{Thomas A. R. Nelson} whom Andrew Johnson selected as one of his Counsel in the celebrated impeachment trial. I mention these families to show the prominence of the Lincoln family as they were friends and associates of all these families.

James D. Jenkins

Brooklyn Feb. 12, 1924

P. S. Will you please return this after reading for me files -
S. W. D.