

(Note)

~~Lincoln and the "Game of Fives".~~

~~At the age of fifty years Mr. Lincoln joined in the popular sports of his day with as much spirit as if yet a boy. The "game of fives", or "hand-ball", as many called it, was the favorite out-door diversion.~~ ^{in his time} Prof. Andrew M. Brooks of Springfield, ^{Illinois} now superintendent of the Sangamon County schools, ^d remembers the game well. It required a high dead wall, with a black line drawn horizontally across it about twenty feet from the ground and another line near the bottom. In front of this wall were two ranks of men--a front and a rear rank, five men in each rank. A man in the front rank would start the ball, throwing it against the wall, between the black lines, in any way that pleased his fancy. As the ball rebounded it was the business of the rear rank to knock it, with their hands or feet, back to the wall; and as it again rebounded the front rank had to put it back in the same fashion. The process alternated until the ball fell to the ground, or failed to strike the wall between the black lines. This was a "hand-out", and ten "hands-out" on either side decided the game.

Prof.
"About 1858 and '59", says ^A Mr. Brooks, "I often saw Mr. Lincoln engaged in this game. He appeared to enjoy it immensely. The game required a well-trained eye, quickly-responsive nerves, and great agility and strength of muscles; but, although fifty years old, there was no better player at the "game of fives" in Springfield than Mr. Lincoln."--

~~J. McCann Davis.~~