

Lincoln's Rail-Splitting.

From the "Illinois State Journal", Aug. 14, 1860:

"Old John Hanks.—While Mr. Oglesby was speaking at the grand rally on Wednesday (Aug. 8), the following incident is described by the editor of the Alton "Courier" to have taken place:

"The enthusiasm which all the while had been running high reached its height when the speaker called for John Hanks and drew ~~from~~ him from the crowd onto the stage. Cheer after cheer went up as the old man, swarthy and toil-worn by the labors of many years, stood up and showed his honest face to the thousands standing on tip-toe to catch a glimpse of it. The speaker, in his peculiarly loud voice, then addressed him as follows:

"Now, John Hanks, in the presence of his vast multitude, I ask you, did you not split three thousand rails with Abe Lincoln in Macon County and navigate one flat-boat from near Old Salem to New Orleans?"

"We certainly did", replied John Hanks.

"Who shall describe the outburst of applause which spoke out from the mouths of the thousands who had now gathered around the speaker's stand? It is indescribable, and can only be appreciated by those who had the good fortune to hear it. Old John Hanks at once became a favorite, and thousands took his ~~hand~~ hard and horny hand in theirs with a pleasure greater, no doubt, than they would feel in clasping that of any pampered scion of royalty, however worthy."

J. McCan Davis.