

(Note)

Extract from a letter from Davis Meridith, who is still a resident of Sangamon County, to R.W. Diller, Secretary of the Old Settlers' Society of Sangamon County, dated July 21, 1898:

"Well, Rella, as you are always asking questions, you would like to know what became of the old Whig party. We were holding a convention in Joel Johnson's hotel. We had met and were waiting for our chairman, Abraham Lincoln. Finally he came in and said: 'Well, I come in to bid you farewell; I am going over to Bloomington to help start one of the greatest parties ever known. Farewell, boys!' It took us two years to see what he saw then, and to know what he meant. The last talk I had with Lincoln was soon after his election. In Springfield one day I was on one side of the street, and he on the other. He said: 'Come over here, Meridith; I want to know what my old friends think of me since the election.' I said: 'You are all right; they think you will make a good President.' We walked on over to the state house. The room was full of men ready to congratulate him. They had made a wooden log-chain; had it stretched across the room and would swing it and have the President jump over it. That is the last I saw of Lincoln. ~~That~~" x x x