I was born in KY. on the 9th day of Feb. 1842 in McLean Co. in 4 miles of Beardstown. My father moved to Illinois in 1806. I knew Abraham Lincoln in KY. Abraham was known among the boys as a bashful, somewhat dull and placable boy; he was not a brilliant boy but worked his way by trial; to learn was hard for him, but he walked slowly, but surely. He went to school to a man by the name of Hazel; the school was but a short distance. Lincoln lived on the Bank of Rock Creek, about 1/2 mile above the Rolling fork, which empties into Salt River which empties into Ohio River. Abraham's Lincoln'smother and I were cousins. Abe and I are 7th cousins. I knew Mrs. Nancy Lincoln - or Nancy Hanks - before marriage. She was a tall, slender woman. Hair trimmed - black hair and eyes. Her face was sharp and angular.
forever high. She was beyond all doubt an intellectual woman rather extraordinary of any
thing. She was born in Mercer Co., Ky., about
1780. Her nature was kindness, sweetness, tender
ness, obedience to her husband. Abi was
like his mother very much. She was a Baptist
by profession.

My recollection, in fact Abin's father
told me so, that his great grand father was an
Englishman -- came from England and settled
in Virginia. Here is the family reputation. When
I was in Ky. in 1864 I was shown a house
in Mercer Co. which was said to be the house
that Abin's grand father had built. I doubt
the house, but don't the farm -- about 10 miles
from the south of Kentucky river -- about
10 or 12 miles from Harrisburg -- south east
from Harrisburg.

I knew Thomas Lincoln in Ky.,
knew him well. He was cabinet and house
Carpenter -- farmed after he got married. Still
working at his trade. He was a man about
5 feet 10 inches high, weigh about 180. Eyes
dark gray. Hair black -- a little stoop shoulders -- good
humored man -- a strong brave man -- a very
pliant man -- loved fun jokes and equalled
like in telling stories. Happiness was the
end of life with him. He, too, was older
than his wife -- say about 8 years -- being
Thomas was born in Virginia, so was his wife—she was 6 years of age when he came to Ky. His father was killed by the Indians as Dennis Iantos has said. The Indian story of Dennis Iantos is generally correct as told you by Dennis—so is Chapman's story generally correct. Thomas told me so. My father and Lincoln were born in Old Virginia in what is called the Raphahamoo area. We knew each other in Virginia. That is the families that Abins mother was my first cousin. Abins great mother was my father's sister. Abins grand father and sister are his sister's side. They lived in Mercer Co. Ky. about 10 miles south of Abins grand father on his father's side. The one killed by the Indians. Abins great and I are cousins. Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Sparrow never came to ILL. They lived in Ky. in Spencer Co. Sparrow married my father's sister. Henry Sparrow was his name. Lived and died in Spencer Co. Some came to Indiana. They came from Old Virginia. All but families came from about the same county—can't say what Co.

Thomas Lincoln moved to Indiana in 1818—probably 1816 and settled in Spencer Co. near what is now called Centerville Indiana. I lived in Ky. did not come out when Dennis Iantos died—Dennis Iantos came.
and in about 1818—Mrs. Lincoln died—say in 1818, I think, and was buried south east of the Lincoln farm about 1/2 mile, on a rise—down on hill. She was buried by the side of Mr. Bell and his wife, as I understand it. Came out to Indiana in 1822 after this. Lincoln had married his 2nd wife and stayed in Indiana near to and with Thomas Lincoln for 4 years. I remember Abii well in Indiana. He was born 14 years of age then, and 4 years when I left Indiana and went back to Ky. I was in 1822, 20 years.

Abii was farming when I got there and when I left and went to Ky. He went to school but little; he went to school to Coney or Dunbar; I can't recall any school Old Man's town.

Lincoln's house there was a rough, rough log one— not a hewed one—he'd 65 one was. Four hewed, but is gone—never standing in 1860. The 75 one was hewed logs; that one was never occupied by Lincoln; it was up but not inhabited. The house stood east and west and faced the south. Chimney in east end, it was— is about 1/2 mile to center pile from the Lincoln farm. D. of east a little—the house stands on a round hill—knob or knob. Lincoln's farm was on the forks of big Riecon and little Riecon. The big Riecon is north and the little Riecon is south.
When Lincoln came and I returned to the house from work, he would go to the cupboard, snatch a piece of corn bread, take down a book, sit down on a chair, cross his legs up as high as his head and read. He would barefooted, grubbed it, placed second and crawled together, placed corn, gathered it and shucked corn. Also, read constantly when he had an opportunity. So unless papers then, his monthly meetings at church sometimes at private houses. Also went to church generally not always. I knew he read Weems' 'Washington' when I was there. Got it wet. It was on a kind of bookshelf close to the window. The bookshelf was made by 3 pins in the wall and a clapboard on them. Books on that. Lincoln got it of Crawford. Bill Crawford and paid it in pulling fiddler by 2 or 3 days work. He frequently read the Bible. He read Robinson, Bunyan, 'Pilgrim's Progress.' Lincoln devoured all the books he could get on lay his hands on; he was a constant and voracious reader. I never could get him in company with woman; he was not a timid man in this particular, but did not seek such company. He was always full of his stories as much so in Indiana as Illinois. He would go and in the woods and gather
history back - bring it home and keep a light by it and read by it. The sun lamp was to be had - grease lamp - bottle to it which stood in the crevice of the wall. Sallie was scarce. Then was a good hearty eater - loved good eating. His own mother and step mother were good cooks for those days and times. In the summer he wore tow linen pants and flax shirt and in the winter he wore linsey woolley - that is during the time I was there. I have seen Lincoln Abe make speeches to his step-brothers - step-sisters and younger sons that would come to see the family.

I moved from Ky. to Ill. in the fall of 1832, and settled where I now live 4 miles north west of Decatur, and built the first house in Decatur. I wrote to Mrs. Lincoln what kind of a country it was. He came to this State the 16th day of March 1830 - to my house. He then built 10 miles west of Decatur - and about 100 steps from the W. # of Sangamon River and on the North side of it are a stack of cliffs. He built the house of it. I built myself in 1829 and gave them to old man Lincoln. The house was east and west fronted south chimney at west end - the same house which was blown in Chicago. Lincoln broke up 15 acres of land alone and myself
split the rails; he owned 4 yoke of oxen - broke
prairie in the summer - broke 30 acres for
my brother. He broke prairie for others, 3
yoke belonged to Thomas Lincoln and 2
yoke to my brother. Thomas Hanks's came
out at the same time. Mr. & Mrs. Hall. Tom-
son Hanks married Abe's step-sister. So did
Hall. Abe, during the winter of 1830-31
conducted 3 miles and made 1,000 rails for
Maj. Warrick.

I knew Abe's own sister Sarah; she
was a short build woman - eyes brown-gray, hair
good brown; she was a good woman, kind,
tender and good natured and is said to have
been a smart woman. That is my opinion.

After Abe got to Decatur, rather to
Macon - Daylac, a man by the name of
Jossey came into our neighborhood and made
a speech; it was a bad one and I said Abe
would beat it. I turned down a box on tap,
and Abe made his speech. The other
man was a candidate - he wasn't. Abe beat
him to death - his subject being the navigation
of the Sangamon River. The man after the
speech was through both Abe acidic and
acrid him to think he had learned so much
and what he did so well. Abe explained,
explaining his ignorance and method of read-
ing need what he had read; the scene
encouraged, induced to persevere.

Offutt came to my house in Feb'r 1831, and wanted to hire me to run a flat-boat for him—saying that he had heard that I was quite a flat-boatman in Ky. he wanted me to go badly. I went and saw Abe and Mr. Johnston. Abe's step-brother introduced Offutt to me. We made an engagement with Offutt at $50.00 per day and $70.00 to make the trip to St. Orleans. Abe and I came down the Sangamon River in a canoe in March 1831. hailed at what is now called and known as Jamestown, 5 miles east of Springfield. Once called Juday's Ferry. We left and canoe in charge of Mr. Manwaring a fort to Springfield and found Offutt. He was at the tavern in the town—probably Elliot's; it was Elliot's. Mr. Offutt expected to find his book according to contract, at the mouth of Springfield 5 miles south of Springfield. Got disappointed. Abe Johnkon and myself went down to the mouth of Spring Creek and there cut the timbers to make the boat—we were about 2 weeks cutting our timber. Suppose it was on Kangaroo land. Abe walked a fort to Springfield—hence to Juday's Ferry—got the canoe and floated it down the mouth of Spring Creek where the timber
was cut; we then started the logs down to Sangamon River to what is called Sangamon Town 9 miles N. W. of Springfield. We boarded when we were working at the mouth of Spring Creek—walk 1 mile, eat 2 meals a day. When we got to Sangamon Town we made a shelter shed. We were elected cook. We saved our lumber at. Dr. Patrick's Mill on Prairie Creek about 1½ miles S. W. of Sangamon Town. We found and scored the timber at the mouth of Spring Creek. We finished making and launching the boat in about 4 weeks. We loaded the boat with barrel firks, corn and fire logs and left Sangamon Town. I remember a juggler show at Sangamon Town. Abe went 6th. Abe was full of jokes during all this time—kept us alive. Moffatt was a wily—so was Lincoln, but he could not hear Jackson wrongly abused—especially where a lie and malice did the abuse. I can say that Abe never was a Democrat, he was always a Whig—so was his father & some his.
One rolled the barrels forward - bored a hole in the end of the boat over the dam - water ran out and thus we got over on the dam part of day and one night. We then went on down to the Yellow Bank or Blue Bank on the Sangamon River near Squire Godby's about 1 mile above the mouth of Salt Creek. We purchased some hogs of, I think, Squire Godby, am not sure - tried to drive them, couldn't - saw them back in the pen - caught them. We held the head of them - I the tail - and Offutt raised up their eyes - wouldn't drive - and put them in a cart - carried them to the boat about one mile to the river - we seck the hogs out of the - Johnson - and I hauled them to Abe -

We then proceeded - Offutt, John Johnston, Abe Lincoln and myself, down the Sangamon River - hence into Ill., we stock our victuals and in fact slept down in the boat - at one end - went down by a kind of ladder through a scuttle hole. We used plank as seats and cloth - sometimes must - ed through Beardstown in a hurry - people came out and laughed at us - crossed Alton - Cairo - and stopped at Memphis - Wyattburg - Vlatkes V.C. Here is nothing worthy of being known going down the river. I can say we soon - lay in Slery
we landed in N. C. There it was we saw Negroes chained—maltreated—whipped and scourged—Lincoln saw it. His heart bleed. Not much was silent from feeling was as
tired bad felt bad was thoughtful and
abstracted. I can say returning that it
was on this trip that he formed his opinion
of slavery; it saw its iron in him then
and there. May 1831. I have heard him
lay—often and often—offutt—Johnston. He
and myself left N. C. in June 1831. We
came to St. Louis on the steam boat to get her—wander
to Edwardsville 35 miles N. E. St. Louis. He,
Johnston and myself. He and Johnston went to
St. Louis. and I to Springfield. Sangamon Co.
Thomas Lincoln had moved to Colbert Co. in 1831.
in July.

I came near forgetting some facts. I
was in the Black Hawk war—was in
Stillman's defeat—which was on the 14th day
of May 1832. Lincoln was out in that war. I
went in March 1832—Lincoln started as Capt.
Tunis of the New Salem Company about the same
time. Lincoln was at Dixon's ferry at the
time of Stillman's defeat. I did not go to
the battle of the Bad Axe. Lincoln I think was
there, though not in the action, as I understand
it. I was out about 4 or 6 months. So
was Lincoln. Lincoln went with us.
Henry, I know. I was discharged at Ottawa and Lincoln at Rock Island on their way. Also at Dixon's Ferry—after the Stillman's defeat. Lincoln went on with Henry. We were ordered to build a fort at Ottawa to protect the People. The Stillman defeat affair grew out of the drunkenness—folly—cowardice. The fight with Black Hawk was about run down—1 hour by run at on near Eyaman Creek—about 700 Indians—and about 200 whites.

Saw Abe in Springfield in 1838 summer; he was in town on business and so was I. I saw him frequently from this time—every year from this time—till he was elected President. He practiced Law in the city. He came out to my house frequently, leaving court in the evening and after court was over—and I ate dinner with him after he was elected President. He wrote me a letter that he was going to see his mother—came by the city—I went with him—saw his father's grave. He stayed with his mother one. We ate dinner at Washington. Very woman here that took his eyes—I assure you.

We then went back to Charleston and came to Springfield. I saw him in
Washington when he was inaugurated was in his rooms several times. Never saw him again till I saw his dead form in the City of Springfield.

I served in the Army of the U. S. in 1861 and toiled there 3 years to preserve and defend what he loved.