I knew Mrs. Lincoln in 1847. I married Mr. Johnson. He died about 1847 or 18. Mr. Lincoln came back to KY, leaving his wife. Mr. Thomas Lincoln and myself went back to KY as soon as I knew he was here in a team. Then I moved to KY with my children. I have an old Bible dated 1819; it has Abe's name in it. Here is an early dictionary dated 1799. It has Abe's name in it, though in a much smaller writing. It is a rather rough writing. When we moved to Indiana, Mr. Lincoln had erected a good log cabin—tolerably comfortable. This is the barn. He took to Indiana in 1847, cost $45 in KY. Abe was then young—as was his father. I dressed Abe and his father up—looked more human—Abe slept up stairs—we put him in times in the logs like a ladder. Our bed steps were original creations. Some such stuff. Made of poles and clap-boards. Abe was about 9 years of age when I landed in Indiana. The country was wild and desolate. He was a good boy; he didn't like physical labor. He was delicate for knowledge. Wished to know and if pains and labor would get it, he was sure to get it. He was the best boy I ever knew. He read all the books he could lay his hands on— I
can't remember dates - soon learned about 75 years of age. She read the Bible, and, though not as much as she could, more convenient books suitable for her age. I think newspapers were had in Indiana as early as 1824 and up to 1830 when we moved to Illinois. She was a constant reader of these. I am part of this from the years of 1827 to 1839. The name of the Louisville Journal seems to sound like one. She read histories, papers, and other books. Can't name any one. She was forgetful. She had no particular religion. Didn't think of that question at that time, if he ever did. He never talked about it. She read diligently. Studied in the day time - didn't after night much. Went to bed early, got up early, and then read. Sat his breakfast. Go to work in the field with the men. She read all the books he could lay his hands on - and when he came across a passage that suited him, he would write it down on boards if he had no paper and keep it there till he did get paper. Then he would rewrite it - look at it, repeat it. He had a copy book - a kind of scrap book in which he pasted down all things and the preserved them. He copied all trades when he had no paper or no plate, and when the board would get too black he would shave it off with a drawing knife and go on again. When he had paper
he put his eyes down on it. His copy book is here now or was lately here it was shown me by Mr. [redacted]. Abe when old folks were at our house, was a silent and attentive observer—never speaking or asking questions till they were gone and then he much understood everything—even to the smallest thing. Sincerely and effectually he would repeat it over to himself again and again—sometimes in one form and then in another and when it was fixed in his mind to confide he became easy and he never lost that fact or his understanding of it sometimes he seemed destined to give expression to his ideas and get used almost by one who could explain plainly what he wanted to convey. He would hear sermons preached—come home—take the children out—get on a stump or log and almost repeat it word for word. He made other speeches—such as interested him in the children. His father had to make him quit sometimes as he quit his own words to spread and make the other children as well as the men quiet there word. As a usual thing Mr. Lincoln never made the quiet reading to do anything if he could avoid it. He would do it himself first. Mr. Lincoln could read a little and could scarcely write his name, hence he wanted, as he himself felt the uses and necessities of education, his [redacted] Abraham to learn and be
encouraged him to do it in all ways he could. He was a poor try, and I can say what scarcely one woman—a mother—can say in a thousand and it is this. He never gave me a cross word or look and never refused in fact, or even in appearance, to do anything I requested him. I never gave him a cross word in all my life. He was kind to everybody and to everything and always accommodated others if he could—would do as willingly if he could.

His mind was clear, and his intellect I had learned to run together more in the same channel. He could easily learn and long remember and when he did learn anything he learned it well and thoroughly. What he thus learned he stored away in his memory which was extremely good. What he learned and stored away was well defined in his own mind, repeated once and over again and again till it was as defined and fixed firmly and permanently in his memory. He was early—very early, not reading much after eight. He was a moderate eater and I know have no remembrance of his special dish; he ate dinner and ate what was set before him, making no complaints; he seemed careless about this. I served his meals for nearly 15 years. He always had good health—never was sick—was very careful of his person—was tolerably neat and clean.
only cared nothing for clothes so that they were clean and neat. I fashion cut no figure with him — no color — no stuff — no material — was careless about these things. He was more flesh
in Indiana than ever in Ills. I saw him every
year or two. We was here after he was elected
President of the U.S. Where the old lady stopped,
turned around and said "gentlemen here eyes and
proceeded. As company would come to our
house she was a silent listener — wouldn't
speak — wouldn't sometimes take a book and sit
and aloof go to the table or field or woods and read.
She was always fond of fun — jokes — and
jokes. He was sometimes very witty indeed. He
never drank whiskey or other strong drinks was
temperate in all things — too much so I thought
sometimes. He never told one a lie in his
life — never swore — never argumented — never
offered — never tried to avoid any
advancements or other responsibilities. He never
swore or used profane language in my presence
nor in others that I now remember of his
daily reverence old age — loved those best about
his own age — played with those under his age.
He listened to the aged — argued with his
equals — but played with the children. He
loved animals generally and treated them
kindly. He loved children well very well.
There seemed to be nothing unusual in his
love for animals or his own kind, though he treated every body and every thing kindly and humanely. But while we needed care and comfort of people, he choose his own company which was always good. He was not very fond of girls as he seemed to me, he sometimes attended church. He would repeat the sermon over again to the children. The sight of such a thing amused all and did especially tickle the children. When she was reading, my husband took particular care not to disturb him, would let him rest on and on till Alice quit of his own accord. He was useful to me always. He loved me truly, I think. I had a son, John who was raised with Abe. Both were good boys, but I must say both now being dead that Abe was the best boy I ever saw for he ever affected to see. I wish I had died when my husband died. I did not want Abe to run from President. Did not want him elected. Was afraid somehow or other fell it in my heart that something would happen to him and when he came down to see me after he was elected President I still felt that something fell me that something would befall Abe, and that I should see him no more. He and his father are in Heaven I have seen death, and I want to go there go where they are - God bless Abe.
first reach the house of Mrs. Lincoln and was introduced to her by Col. A. M. Chapman her grandson by marriage, I didn't expect to get much out of her. She seemed too old and frail; she asked me very scarce 2 or 3 times and where I lived as often - and would say, "Where Mr. Lincoln lived once, his friends too," but she looked badly at first, but she seemed to be struggling at last to answer herself or to fill her mind on the subject. Finally by introducing simple questions her attention was engaged - McKinley - Thomas Lincoln - his former home - her husband's - her children - grand children - she answered as if it were a new thing - her eyes were clear and calm; her flesh was white and fair - not coarse on material - is tall - has thin lips - gray eyes; ate dinner with her and on my right side - left A.M. ate a good hearty dinner she did.

When I was about to leave she arose - took me by the hand - wept and bade me good by - saying I shall never see you again and if you see Mrs. Abe Lincoln and family tell them I send them my best and tenderest love - Good by my good companions - fare- well.

I then went to Mr. Lincoln's grave.
(Secr. of War).