

ABE LINCOLN AND THE COSMIC RAYS

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By George H. Honig
Rockport, Indiana

THE HOOSIER STUDENT IN SPENCER COUNTY

Before Illinois took Abe Lincoln out of Indiana, he had explored to some extent that kind of energy called "cosmic ray". His talks with friends and discussions at home with John Hanks and Dennis Hanks around his father's fireside reveals the pioneer mind was interested in the supernatural and invisible forces of energy. This mystical influence was of the simple, understanding kind--one that the Spencer County pioneer mind could grasp.

At that time, 1816 to 1830, it is not likely Abe Lincoln ever heard or read the words "cosmic rays". Scientists had not yet popularized those words--it was not a common expression.

What difference does it make to inhale the perfume of a rose under another name? It still would smell as sweet as a rose.

Abe did read about magnetic influence in nature. He had often observed the crash of great thunderbolts and fiery flashes of lightning. He had read about Benjamin Franklin's success in capturing electricity with a kite and storing it in a bottle. All of this was duly discussed, pro and con, but Abe had his own original expression for it.

The sun and the moon came in for further arguments among the Lincoln relatives in the home of their family circle. Hence, when Abe ventured out to talk with some of the best minds in Spencer County, he knew exactly what he was going to say and how he would say it.

Abe's limited knowledge of the cosmic ray is interesting because he was feeling his way on a big subject and doubly so for his own caption for it.

He had no scientific training or professional education but that does not mean he was ignorant until Illinois took him out of Indiana and Illinois did not take Indiana out of Abraham Lincoln.

Abe said that he went to school in Indiana “little by little” and his schooling could be crowded into the space of one year. That, too, does not mean that Abe had not learned much in Spencer County, Indiana.

No matter when, where or how he acquired the knowledge, he always had it, educated ideas, at the physiological moment when he needed. His vision was clear, anticipation of another’s ulterior motive and his quick, keen judgment to reply are habits acquired on Hoosier soil during the fourteen fiercely formative years and they stood him well in need when later in Illinois he tackled the experienced Douglas and preacher Peter Cartwright.

Another test was the Gettysburg Address, when delivered, received no applause. The soul touching solemn quality of that address, advocating forgiveness of the enemy, like Christ’s words on the cross, was too serious to require applause. In fact it would have been sacrilegious. The Lord’s Prayer and the benediction were sufficient. That silence admitted the success of his message. Abe thought at the moment his message had failed.

In Indiana he had learned to be calm and wait for reaction. In his soul, Abe was conscious that a message like that would be understood by every human being with honest convictions, and it turned out that way. A southern soldier on a cot, wounded, read that address and cried like child. He murmured, “The war is over.”

The man who wrote that address went to school in Indiana, “little by little”, left Indiana at the age of twenty-one, and he carried with him something his mother taught him, “Forgive your enemies like Christ did on the cross”. Illinois and the world never took that Indiana’s mother’s teaching out of Abraham Lincoln. When Abe made that address, the angel spirit of Nancy Hanks Lincoln stood by him. Cosmic Ray.

Education is intended to prepare one to be equal to the occasion when the crisis or opportunity appears. Society judges you or condemns you on your reaction. If you come out of it with flying colors, they say you are smart, educated, not necessarily cultured.

When the Honorable Stephen Douglas tested Abe’s metal in Illinois, he found Abe equal to the occasion. And Rev. Peter Cartwright, too, received a great shock of embarrassment at the hands of Abe, who in Indiana learned how to handle men with ulterior motives.

The Honorable Stephen Douglas, in a debate with Abe, charged Abe with selling liquor and elaborated upon it. Abe's turn to speak to the same audience, he said, "My opponent charged me with selling liquor and elaborated upon it. I did sell liquor in my store for a few years, but I never did drink the liquor myself. At that time my best customer was Mr. Douglas who I served over the counter, and served him too often."

The audience laughed and Mr. Douglas never brought up Abe's liquor business again in that campaign.

Honorable Ratliff Boon in Indiana taught Abe Lincoln the art of come back in a debate. Abe was an apt student. Mr. Douglas found that out and acted accordingly. Nancy Hanks Lincoln would have said, "Abe, that was divine guidance." (Cosmic Ray) It was the guarding angel Abe often spoke about.

In Illinois, Abe Lincoln and the Rev. Peter Cartwright were opponents in a congressional campaign. Rev. Cartwright was a dangerous man if you locked horns with him, ruffled his feathers, or rubbed the grain of his fur the wrong way. He had years of training, persuading sinners to get religion, reduced the system down to a science. He was the Sam Jones of his day. He knew all the tricks to put a sinner in the hole. His cunning, crafty strategy laid a plot and built up to a climax. He waylaid a sinner and rapped him on the head with a sudden lot of sound arguments, giving the sinner no chance to say no.

However, the minister never calculated that Abe Lincoln knew more about Parsons Cartwright than he knew about Abe Lincoln.

Abe had gotten the reputation, according to the minister, of being a sinner who needed salvation. He thought Abe was irreligious, a nonbeliever and charged him with being an atheist and on his way to hell.

He even dared Abe to attend his church meetings. He intimated Abe was scared to brave the lion in his den. It was a challenge. If he remained away, he condemned himself. If he attended, he would be at the mercy of his opponent. The minister never expected Abe to take up the dare.

In the meantime, Abe heard what the minister said about him, and Abe sent back the message, "Just one sermon of Brother Cartwright would freeze hell over."

That Saturday night in Illinois, Abe did a lot of thinking. He wanted to go to Congress and realized he would have to silence the preacher and meet the lion in

his den. To Abe, the preacher was the spider inviting the fly into the parlor, and Abe said to himself, "Mr. Preacher, I am no fly. You might find you have a bull by the tail and can not let go. Tomorrow night we shall see."

Sunday night the church bell rang. The glamorous minister always packed the church with believers and nonbelievers. Those nonbelievers attended anticipating excitement and entertainment--it often happened.

Unbeknown to anyone, Abe Lincoln quietly walked in and took a back seat. Brother Cartwright's hawk eye spotted Abe as he removed hat and graciously invited Mr. Lincoln to come up and take a front seat. That was not in Abe's plan and the Parson gained the first round.

However, being on the spot, Abe never flinched. That long legged gentleman, with a lumbering swing, accepted the kindly invitation and sat down on the only front seat available by the courtesy of another church member who proceeded to take Abe's back seat.

It was time to pray. Then the singers sang--the entire congregation was the singers. The regular program moved along like a well-greased wagon, with ease, no squeaking. The minister, realizing he had a distinguished gentleman present, redoubled his efforts to make the best sermon of his life, having in mind Abe's remarks about freezing hell over.

Here was a sinner badly in need of salvation, an infidel, the fact he was present was encouraging. If he could make a Christian of Abe, it would enhance his Christian reputation for saving souls. The Parson was dreaming great things for the future. At any rate he had nothing to loose and everything to gain.

It was said this particular sermon was delivered with great feeling and indeed it was such a powerful message, no atheist could resist. That sermon was so hot it would melt an iceberg.

Now the time had come to invite sinners to the mourners' bench. None came. Abe sat there as rigid and cold as an icicle, at least Brother Cartwright thought so. He said in a sad tone of voice, "Brothers and sisters, I notice that no sinners have come forward to be saved. I have thawed out icebergs before and I shall do it again, again and again. Surely, after my heart breaking sermon, some stony heart of a sinner should be melted and come forward."

Abe sat still, rigid and seemingly looking off into the distance. Cartwright's ire was aroused. He looked straight at Abe. He could see the whites of Abe's eyes, and Abe could feel the warm breath of his opponent and hear his heart beats. The congregation, knowing all the circumstances existing between the two opponents, riveted their eyes on Abe's head, protruding up much higher than the others. Abe was a tall man.

Everyone felt something must happen and they knew their leader could make it happen. Excitement was intense and the minister, disappointed but not discouraged, dropped down on his knees and shouted, "Let us pray".

It was a tremendous prayer, begging and beseeching God to perform a miracle. And Abe never moved a muscle or batted an eye.

The minister ended his prayer, shouting, "That sinner is the coldest iceberg I ever saw", and all knew who he was driving these remarks at.

Jumping up on his feet, he again shouted in his booming low base voice, "All you present who want to go to heaven and do not want to go to hell stand up."

The congregation stood up but Abe remained seated. The members knew what other sinners got in a like predicament and how embarrassing it would be for Abe, and how foolish for him to stick his head into the mouth of the lion. This was the preacher's unfailing system. All the non-believers stood up, too. They took no chance of advertising their nonbelief and get into devilment. But Abe, in their opinion, was sweating blood.

Getting no results, the minister ordered all to be seated. You could hear a pin drop. They all knew what the next question would be. Abe, too, knew what was coming.

The old keen-eyed and determined preacher glued his eye on Abe as though he intended to hypnotize him. Abe felt a sudden cosmic ray vibrating his nerve centers. Many said the minister was a hypnotist and Abe began to think it was so. Something was going wrong with Abe's control and he began to think he had not fortified himself against the cosmic ray, the opponent's tick tacks, called Hypnotism.

In the preacher's judgment, he thought his driving eye rays had penetrated his victim and in a modest tone said, "I have asked all those present who wanted to

go to heaven to stand. Mr. Lincoln, I noticed you were the only one who remained seated. Is it your intention to go to hell?"

But before he could say more, Abe Lincoln stood up, the minister waited for the reply, believing he had won a victory.

Abe drew out his big red bandana. His brow was covered with perspiration. He mopped his forehead. Folded carefully the bandana and returned it to his hip pocket.

By this time, all nerves were on edge and the minister felt Abe was embarrassed and ready to ask for salvation. He smiled and again asked Abe, "Do you really intend to go to hell?"

Abe regained his calm, which he had never lost, and replied, "Brother Cartwright, I wish to say one thing. In the past I have had no intention of going to hell. And right now I am going to Congress"

Like a thunderbolt of lightning, a burst of laughter broke out that fairly shook the church rafters over head and drowned out anything the minister could have said. The laugh was on him and he became the laughing stock in the community. It laughed him out of the campaign.

Abe Lincoln was elected. He acquired this technique, the art of debate, in Indiana, otherwise Rev. Cartwright would have gone to Congress.

In a radius of fifty miles of Abraham Lincoln's home in Indiana, there were as many as twenty-five big, able, smart men of giant mental proportions--the equal of any other section of fifty miles in any part of the United States at that time.

SOME BIG MEN AND FIRE EATERS

To visualize from whence Abe Lincoln received his Indiana training, we cite how he observed Judge Daniel Grass in political action, Judge John Pitcher, a Yale University man, Judge John A. Brackenridge, a Princeton University graduate, as well as the extraordinary debater, "a fire eater" Congressman Ratliff Boon (second cousin of Daniel Boone).

The Congressional Records reveal Boon's great ability during his twelve years of service. Boon, fighting for the four freedoms of Western Democracy, demanded protection with U. S. Militia against the Indians in the Middle West. He

demanded a national highway from Pittsburgh to Indianapolis to serve the pioneers' needs of commerce and pursuit of happiness. His bill of four freedoms for the Middle West was granted, only after organizing the western and Southwestern congressmen and informing the eastern block that they would not get their Bill establishing Annapolis until the four freedoms of western democracy was granted.

The eastern representatives wanted all monies spent on eastern roads, and said that the western pioneers were only wild men who needed no protection. You can find more of that in the Congressional Records.

Truly Boon was a fire eater and President Jackson said of him, "He was one of the few loyal friends of his administration." Boon's was big enough to make Vice-Presidential timber.

Abraham Lincoln was a disciple of these highly intellectual men. Their actions, creations and achievements, tutored Abe how to observe, how to think, how to memorize, never under estimate your opponent and be resourceful.

Abe also knew another shrewd, successful politician in the adjoining county of Warrick, who Ratliff Boon feared as a competitor, a man who later became General Joseph E. Lane, in the war with Mexico. Lane in 1860 ran as Vice-President, on the Democratic rump ticket, (rump: constituting a subsidiary or small group or the remnant of a once larger organization--Ed.) at that time he was Senator from Oregon. In that election, Abe Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

In Indiana, Abe was well-grounded on the four freedoms of western democracy which all of these mentioned Indiana leaders, with hammer and tongs supported. He ultimately became the mouthpiece for it and on that issue was elected to render public service to our country, in defending the people's rights--some like to call it the common man--we do not like that word "common"--there is nothing common or cheap about an "American citizen".

THE ARTISTIC DRESS-MAKER--NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

Abe, going in to his tenth year, attended, with his parents, the founding and public sale of lots of Rockport, Indiana.

Joe E. Lane, in 1818, clerking in Daniel Grass' Rockport store, gave Abe Lincoln a handful of lump brown sugar to keep Abe quiet while he (Lane) sold

Judge Pitcher a dress pattern for his wife. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abe's mother, was engaged that day, June 10, 1818, to make that dress for Mrs. Pitcher, "a hot house plant", cultured and from a distinguished family in Connecticut.

Abe Lincoln not only knew Judge Pitcher but borrowed a law book from him with intentions of studying law (Abe wrote his name in that book and it is in the hands of a Chicago lawyer). Abe also borrowed the Declaration of Independence from him in 1828 while staying a week or two in Daniel Grass' home called a two-story log mansion with an entryway between the two lower rooms. After December 18, 1828 (a day or so later), Abe made his first trip on a flatboat to New Orleans.

(The two Pitcher boys, born in Rockport, were about fourteen and sixteen years old when, with their father and step-mother, they moved to Mt. Vernon, Indiana. One of them went to West Point. In 1860 or a little later it was a pleasure for Abe Lincoln to sign the bills appointing the two sons of Judge Pitcher to the rank of General in the United States Army.)

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN ON DIVINE GUIDANCE

Abe Lincoln learned to read and enjoy it. He said his father taught him to work, but did not teach him to love it. Abe took his inspiration to read and love it from his mother who read the Bible to him in a musical voice, while he sat upon her knees. A mother's influence can be of great moment (moment: importance--Ed.) in leading a child to choose and cherish a worthwhile attitude toward life and enjoy the ever-present blessings of God.

October 5, 1818, she died and was buried near the Indiana cabin home. She still lives there in the form of cosmic ray beneath a humble marker. Abe, going into his tenth year, had a fine fiber of intelligence to remember his mother had a musical voice and to cherish, forever afterwards, that thought.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln believed religiously in the power of God for good. She never heard of cosmic ray but her contact with Divine Guidance was nothing less than cosmic ray and she knew instinctively that energy, magnetic influence, was the "Supreme Power of God".

She was more intelligent than the average woman of her pioneer days. Judge Pitcher said so and he knew.

There is no wonder about it that this dutiful son, Abe, hearing such explanations of divine power from his mother would be inspired and seek books for knowledge and explanation of this force in life and the universe.

What we call cosmic ray, Abe had another name for it. In Indiana he had his own idea about the origin of the oriole, and the magic rock in a magnetic sea.

ANN ROBY

We are glad that Ann Roby was a congenial companion and a good listener. We are glad she had these qualities of mind, to see, to hear, to listen and combine it with a good memory. Otherwise, we would not know how Abe Lincoln delved into the mysteries of cosmic ray.

There was no love affair between Ann and Abe. It was a platonic friendship in which each could see eye-to-eye two sides of a question. In turn each talked and laughed at the jokes they repeated.

Sometimes we wonder what would have happened if Ann Roby had fallen in love with Abe. However, Ann and Allen Gentry were sweethearts from childhood on, and on March 28, 1828 were married. Their first child was born December 18, 1828.

The flatboat trip to New Orleans by Allen Gentry, on which Abe was oarsman, was loaded and delayed a week or so until Ann's baby was born. A day or two later, that famous experience of Abe Lincoln in New Orleans, seeing slavery in its worst form, began from Rockport, Indiana. Abe's Christmas Eve was spent on the Mississippi River below Cairo, Illinois and probably was in New Orleans January 1, 1829. If so, Abe witnessed a New Year's Eve celebration, the kind he had never seen before in Spencer County.

As Abe joined Allen Gentry at the Gentry Home for this trip, and bid good bye to Ann, Allen handed the little bundle of humanity, Allen's offspring, to Abe, saying, "He is a big bounding kid and we have named him Jimmy for Dad."

Abe held little Jimmy Gentry and enjoyed the experience with the usual complimentary remarks, "Jimmy has his mother's eyes and his father's nose and will grow up to be a husky fine man", and Ann was happy to know that Jimmy would live.

Abe told Ann and Allen the story of Dennis Hanks at the time he (Abe) was born. “Mrs. Enlow, the nurse, handed me, only a day old, to my cousin Dennis Hanks, then about eight years old. I began to cry. Dennis puckered up his lips, handed me back to Mrs. Enlow, saying, ‘take Abe, take him in a hurry, I don’t think he’ll ever amount to anything’.”

This flatboat trip was one of God’s plans to educate Abe Lincoln on slavery, for the future crises in the political field of the United States. It was the Almighty’s plan, cosmic ray vibrations in evolution, and systematically taking place here in Spencer County.

Abe Lincoln firmly believed, as a boy, and for the rest of his life, “that whatever is to be, will be”, and not a dot or an iota could change that plan (Cosmic Ray works in mysterious ways). Abe said, “It is Providence’s plan, He knows best.” Some say Abe was a fatalist.

Ann Roby knew Abe’s secret dreams and desires to be a leader of men and follow the footsteps of the fiery and dramatic Ratliff Boon. Abe knew and admitted his determined and great leadership. He watched Judge Daniel Grass in honest political action. He told Ann, “I want to be like Judge Grass.” Judge Pitcher was one of the best lawyers in Indiana. He could move an audience to tears. His oratory swayed the minds of the jury until they dug deep into their hip pockets and drew out the usual red and blue bandanas.

His Shakespeare quotations and Macbeth were done with great fervor--had he chosen to be an actor, he would have been a good one.

Ann said, “Abe admired John Pitcher, with Yale University training, and hoped to be as good in speech as the Judge.”

Pitcher had a great rival at the Spencer County Bar, in Judge John Brackenridge, who belonged to the debating society and diligently studied Shakespeare at Princeton University. He too could bring tears to his audience.

Spencer County pioneers had an opportunity to witness a “Shakespeare Rascaling (Rassling? –Ed.) Match” and Abe was present to hear these two great lawyers in a contest as to who could deliver the best interpretation of the *Soliloquy of Macbeth*.

After this contest Abe asked for and received the loan of Judge Brackenridge’s Shakespeare volume, the one he used at Princeton.

Abe folded carefully his red bandana around this book and marched off proudly, putting another eighteen miles behind his feet from Rockport to Gentryville. That book is now in a Texas library and priceless. It went down there in 1852.

After this debate Abe became all steamed up, getting ready to hit the high places. Ann Roby said in less than a week he had memorized Macbeth and was entertaining the boys at Gentryville while standing on the stump of a tree.

Ann said Abe was better than either of the two Judges, because Abe made a burlesque of it, keeping the boys roaring with laughter.

From that day on, Abe Lincoln had a new hobby, which stuck to him for the rest of his life, and received this compliment in the White House from the great actor Hackett. "Mr. President, you do Macbeth with greater fervor than I do it myself. You should have been an actor."

That harks back to Spencer County where the Shakespeare hobby began.

ABE TELLS ANN ABOUT FLOATING ENERGY

According to Ann Roby, Abe thought this energy floating around the universe and into our bodies and minds was what they called the soul, and it took all of us put together to make God. In other words, we are a part and parcel of the Almighty cosmic ray. It sounds like a pretty good definition even though Abe never knew what constituted cosmic ray. Abe did understand the effect or results of thunder and lightning, he could hear and see and anticipate the cabin catching on fire if it struck.

Somewhere in books, he had read more on this subject than is generally known. Ann, of the same age as Abe, was interested as a good listener to his stories of adventure and on topics such as astronomy, explaining how the moon, too, was a magnet and influenced the incoming and out going tides of the ocean. Cosmic rays at work.

He said, "The moon has something to do with growing 'taters' and other growing crops. If you plant by the right sign of the moon, you get big 'taters'; otherwise you get little, tiny spuds--and maybe none at all. He tried to explain this invisible floating moon ray. If it fails to connect with the planted potato, it withholds the life giving energy to nourish this desire to grow."

From what Ann said and tried to describe, Abe's idea of thinking sounds like Schopenhauer, who puts it this way, and calls it "the will to live and perpetuate the species or the human race". An example of this thinking--this invisible floating "will to live" (cosmic ray) is constantly scheming and intriguing to perpetuate the race. And the boy and girl in courting are each in league with this influence, the will to live, but each acts backward and timid to prevent each discovering that each is in league with the will to live.

Schopenhauer was also a pessimist and thought it best to break up the system of courtship and thereby end it all, the race would become extinct and with it end all of our troubles and disappointments.

ABE'S NAME FOR IT

Abe thought "the moon, the stars, the sun and planets were magnets whose rays or beams came from 'A GREAT RESERVOIR, A GREAT POWER BOX, AND ONLY GOD KNOWS HOW IT WORKS' and it works to a system of rules."

He said, "Ann, THAT GREAT POWER BOX or RESERVOIR, is a great secret and I am trying to fathom it. If I can discover the hidden meaning behind God's system, I could make myself President."

ABE DREAMED OF BEING A LEADER OF MEN

Abraham Lincoln did dream of being a leader of men and maybe President of the United States in his boyhood days.

This Hoosier environment certainly was playing tricks with Abe. Even at that time, a precocious youth, he had the confidence and assurance of John Barrymore. We know that is true by statements of six different persons.

Ann Roby, Mrs. Josiah Crawford, who said Abe talked about being President, sometimes in a joking way, Henry Jones, Captain John R. Dougherty, Joseph Richardson through John Chewning and William Jones for whom Abe clerked at the Jonesboro store and post office.

William Jones said, "In 1828 I predicted, and was the first to do so, that Abe Lincoln some day would be a great man. At that time, Abe not only had read carefully the history of the American Revolution, he could visualize the heroism of

George Washington and his heroes, in the telling thereof, better than any of we older politicians.

Joseph Richardson, in 1885, repeated similar statements to his deputy assistant clerk of Spencer County, John Chewning, Sr. Richardson clerked for Wm. Jones, became a partner, and managed the Gentryville Jones Store while Jones made flatboat trips to New Orleans, during the decades of 1830 and 1840. In 1844 Captain John Dougherty was bowman for Jones on some of these flatboat trips to New Orleans, and he (Dougherty) that same year heard Abraham Lincoln's speech on the tariff at Rockport. At that time, Dougherty was about twenty years old and met Lincoln along with fifty or sixty other flatboat carpenters at the site of the old Daniel Grass sawmill on the Ohio River under the bluffs of Rockport.

In 1844, when Abe Lincoln came back for a campaign visit in the interest of Henry Clay, he spoke at the old voting place and schoolhouse called the Cross Roads (later Buffalo) near Abe's old home and the last resting place of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

A STONE MARKER FOR LINCOLN'S MOTHER

William Jones and Lincoln met at Gentryville by appointment through Lincoln's correspondence with him. They first paid a visit to Nancy Hanks Lincoln's Grave. Lincoln arranged with Jones to place a stone (sand stone) marker bearing his mother's name upon it.

That stone marker was found in 1879 at the time the iron fence and present (Peter Studebaker gift) monument was erected.

It was found by Mr. George Feltman who dug the foundation for the iron fence and was one of fifty Rockport and Spencer County citizens who contributed one dollar each to defray the expense of erecting the fence, in order to keep the livestock from harming the Studebaker Memorial.

Abe Lincoln's marker to his mother, placed by Jones, was chipped up and the pieces were carried away by souvenir hunters. Mr. Feltman said they also carried away all the rail fences on the original Lincoln farm to make canes. They called them "walking sticks".

When Mr. Feltman found the marker, he said, "I took out my pocket knife, scraped the dirt off and some green moss and found the name of Nancy Hanks Lincoln carved upon it."

JONES' PREDICTIONS AFTER THE ROCKPORT TARIFF SPEECH

For several weeks, Jones, at his Gentryville store (by this time had moved from his Jonesboro place), had announced to his customers and friends, "Abraham Lincoln, Honorable Abraham Lincoln is coming for a visit with me and I invite everybody to hear him speak on the Tariff--his new idea on how to pay the government expenses and benefit you farmers. He will make a speech at the 'Cross Roads' and here at Gentryville. We will go to Rockport and he will speak at night in the Court House."

"It has been fourteen years since Abe left here and he has made a big name for himself in Illinois. Tell all the folks back home to come and hear Abe. If you want to laugh, come. He has new and better jokes and he wrote me to meet all of his old friends."

THE LOST SPEECH OF 1844 BY LINCOLN

After the Rockport Speech, Jones told Dougherty, "Dougherty, I predicted at the time Abe clerked for me at Jonesboro (quarter mile west of Gentryville), that he would become a big man and he is now an important political leader in Illinois. Abe Lincoln will fight his way to something better and his speech on the tariff last night shows he knows what he is talking about. He makes his arguments as plain as the nose on your face. You can't miss the point. They are as outstanding as his jokes are funny. Dougherty, you a younger man, will outlive me and some day you will see Abe leading the procession and getting mixed up with national issues in a big way. Lincoln is a man of destiny."

A PIONEER ROCKPORT NEWSPAPER

The Rockport Herald, a political paper edited by (General) James C. Veatch in the issues of Friday, November 1, 1844 carried this item of news.

"Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, Illinois, addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a Protective Tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration. When he closed, Mr. J. Pitcher delivered a speech in his forcible and powerful manner. He exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light, at least we thought so."

Honig's Note: The rest of the page in small print as a footnote.

The Gentryville speech was made on Tuesday, October 29, 1844 and at Rockport, on October 30. The meeting of James C. Veatch and Lincoln started a friendship between them. Abe remembered Rev. Veatch, hearing him preach at the old Pigeon Baptist Church. This son, James C. Veatch, supported Lincoln and did more than any other Indiana man to swing the Indiana delegates in 1860, at the Republican convention, for Lincoln. That switch of votes made Lincoln's nomination a certainty. When the war came, Veatch was appointed a general.

Judge Pitcher meeting Abe Lincoln, on this occasion, must have realized that fourteen years had elapsed since their last meeting and the Hoosier youth he knew then, with ambitions, had now grown into a full fledged politician whose leadership stood as high as that of Judge Pitcher. The barefoot boy, Abe, then struggling for knowledge, now stood on high ground--the equal of the older man.

In this 1844 campaign Abe Lincoln had been placed as an elector on the Clay ticket in Illinois, and had been a representative in the Illinois legislature.

Judge Pitcher had been placed on the Clay ticket as an elector, resigned and John A. Brackenridge, of Boonville, was honored to take Pitcher's place on the Clay ticket in Indiana.

No doubt Pitcher congratulated Abe on his rapid progress in Illinois politics. And discussed Abe's future ambitions--Abe wanted to go to Congress. Pitcher was not ambitious, he declined many political opportunities, among them to run for Governor of Indiana and an appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States.

(At Rockport Abe met old friends, etc., but that story belongs to another manuscript.) I leave you to imagine, if you can, the conversation between Pitcher and Lincoln when together they left Rockport early the next morning mounted on their horses, followed the yellow banks trail, now a state road winding out from Rockport's main street to Crooks crossing over Swan Pond to the forks of the roads to Gentryville to the right and to Boonville to the left.

They took the Boonville road in a northwestern direction near Silverdale schoolhouse and General Veatch's farm. Veatch had invited them to stop there (the three mile post) and take breakfast with him. They crossed the bridge on

Little Pigeon Creek between Warrick and Spencer north of Richland to pay their respects to elector, John A. Brackenridge of Boonville.

Honig's Note: * The above a footnote in small print.

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(For another or two, possible Judge Pitcher and Lincoln addressed the Boonville Clay voters where Judge Brackenridge would have introduced them.

It is likely Lincoln and Pitcher journeyed down the Boonville to New Harmony road to the junction of the Evansville and Princeton road.

Pitcher might, and no doubt did, go to Evansville for the Saturday night meeting, a big one. The highlight was Governor Dixon, Henderson, Kentucky for the Clay meeting.

Lincoln, too, might have gone to Evansville with Pitcher. However it is more likely Lincoln went north to Princeton and Vincennes making speeches along the route and getting to Springfield by five p.m. Monday in time to vote.

Another interesting thing about the campaign of 1860, Joe E. Lane spent the night of that election in Evansville with friends on Second Street. Lane predicted that night that Abraham Lincoln would be elected and following it in a short time there would be a war between the north and south. It would be a bloody one and last four or five years.)

Honig's Note: *The above a footnote in small print

ABE LINCOLN--THE FATHER OF THE HIGH TARIFF

William Jones' praise and admiration of Abraham Lincoln was something Captain John R. Dougherty never forgot and he also remembered one paragraph of Lincoln's address made that night in 1844.

Dougherty said to me, "I was not quite old enough to vote that year and hearing Abe Lincoln on the "Protective Tariff" and what it would do for the working man, I was a laborer, and the farmer made a Republican out of me. At the next election I voted the Republican ticket, and I have been a damn tight-fisted Republican ever since. The Democrats call me a damn black Republican. But they did not beat me. I got elected to the town board."

“Yes, Honig, I fought like hell for “old Honest Abe” in 1860. I was in some damn hot places in them battle, a heap of ’em and I came back a Captain. Today (1890) I know what the high tariff did to give great prosperity, Abe Lincoln was right in 1844, he could see away a head of all of them politicians. He had a plan--sometimes when I think of it, I believe it was God’s plan.”

I said to Dougherty, “Do you think God had any thing to do with it?” (My father was a Democrat took out his first naturalization papers in 1852 in New York City and came to Rockport in 1854. He never voted for Lincoln.)

My question made the old Captain mad and if I had been a grown man instead of age fourteen, he would have cussed me out. Captain Dougherty had the largest vocabulary of cuss words and could out do the champions.

Dougherty said, “Honig, I’ll compromise with you, you are only a boy, I like boys especially you, you sit here and listen to me by the hour. I am not going to get mad, but honestly the Almighty Lord is behind the Republican Party. They gave us prosperity. Then comes along that man Grover Cleveland and look what he did. Knocked off Uncle Abe Lincoln’s high tariff and gave us the damnedest hard times we ever had. My warehouse was full of potatoes and I could not get five cents a bushel for them. Had to dump ’em into the Ohio River. Lucky, too. Just opened the doors and let ’em roll out into the river. Old Andy Stevenson, a hot Democrat, got caught with his potatoes uptown. He had to hire horses and wagons to take ’em away.”

DOUGHTERY REPEATS A PARAGRAPH OF ABE’S SPEECH

I said, “Mr. Dougherty, tell me again about Abe’s speech in 1844.” He closed his eyes and went into some tall thinking. He wanted to be sure of getting it right. Then without opening his eyes, he repeated that paragraph of Abe Lincoln’s lost speech. Here it is:

“As sure as the sun goes down in the west, this Protective Tariff will bring prosperity to the working man and the farmer of our country. The only thing I can see which will interfere with the success of this plan would be unscrupulous person or persons who would use this law for personal gain.”

Abe Lincoln in 1844 foresaw the temptation of avaricious people boosting the Protective Tariff too high and thereby frustrating the aims and purposes of this law, as he planned it, only aimed to protect farmers and labor and bring in revenue

to support the expense of the government. It was to be a law to benefit the most people.

In 1864 Lincoln again warned party leaders. He said, "The war has produced large corporations furnishing food, clothes, ammunition, etc. They will have to be watched or they will be wanting to run the government."

That paragraph on the Tariff, told to me by Dougherty later on, was printed in the newspaper, the statement coming from Luther Inco and Bartley Inco. Their father heard Lincoln make it at the Cross Road in Spencer County.

CAPTAIN DOUGHTERY MIGHT HAVE BEEN RIGHT

Captain Dougherty's statement about Abe Lincoln's tariff address that it was a revelation of God, and he believed the cosmic ray of God's system was working through Abe so that he could render public service to the people. I heard him say those things many times over a period of ten years and as late as 1900.

He thought it was the same process in which the Bible was written that it was the spoken word of God, filtering through the minds of the Apostles. You may say it is cosmic ray. However you must tune your vibrations in harmony with this unseen force -- not doing that you get negative results. As Jesus said, "Seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you."

You may call that religion, spiritualism, Christian Science or spirituality or anything else but as Dougherty said, "The only thing, in the long run which pays off is sincerity of purpose. Honesty is the best policy."

He said, "You can chalk it down on the blackboard, Abe Lincoln had a super-abundance of honesty and sincerity, due to the fact both his father and mother were sticklers for scrupulous honesty and his step-mother possessed that same high standard of morals. William Jones told me many things like that."

In fact Abe's step-mother, too, in intelligence, was above the average woman of her times. Judge Pitcher said so and he knew.

Sarah Bush Lincoln said after Abe passed away at the hands of an assassin, "Abe was a good boy, he never crossed my path." With that expression she reached for her apron, as the big tear drops rolled down her ashen colored cheeks and murmuring softly, "He was better than my own boy."

ABE DOES A GOOD NEIGHBORLY DEED

To Ann Roby, Abe Lincoln was a good natured, unselfish, over grown boy, big, yes big as a man, but retained that spirit of youth and cheerfulness and he was humble--always obliging.

From Ann we learned, Thomas Lincoln and a neighbor, Noah Gordon, each hauled a load of tobacco one hundred miles to New Albany, Indiana and were gone about ten days.

Without being told to do so, Abe visited the neighbor's home, chopped the wood, carried it into the house, fed the stock, etc.

When the neighbor returned and heard how Abe volunteered to be so obliging, he thanked Abe for his kindness.

Abe said, "Mr. Gordon that was nothing. You need not thank me. It was my duty to be a good neighbor. If Mother Lincoln needed help, I would expect you to do as much for her."

It is not necessary to say who grounded that quality of character into the heart and soul of Abraham Lincoln. When you read this Gordon story again, again and again, you will understand what the words in the Gettysburg Address mean, and where the foundation for the original thought was born.

THAT GREAT POWER BOX

Abe told Ann this story about the magnet and elaborated on its great influence on people for good and bad and believed some people are like a magnet. He said, "If I can get it, I, too, am going to be a magnet."

Ann Roby never forgot Abe Lincoln. Years passed by. Abe Lincoln, too, passed on, into that great reservoir of magnetic influence about which he loved to argue on Hoosier soil with his friends and neighbors.

His life energy was now united with the cosmic ray. He was now a part and parcel of that "GREAT POWER BOX" of cosmic ray. I suspect a great deal of that Abraham Lincoln vibration is still floating around and tingling the nerves of millions of his admirers throughout the world.

And Ann still remembered and cherished the memory of the beautiful things he told her while sitting on a log, which was used as a foot bridge for crossing that famous Little Pigeon Creek. They discussed the power of God and this invisible omnipotence.

They sat there often on this log, side by side, dangling their bare feet into the rippling water of this stream which later on March 8, 1830, the Lincoln family forded for the last time with an ox-team going to Illinois to live a new life.

Abe at this time was twenty-one years old and his own boss. He was carrying with him to Illinois a world of knowledge garnered from the Hoosier school of hard knocks, gleaned from experiences and associations mostly pleasant with friends and neighbors, and even some trivial things as an encounter with the orioles and wondered about its origin.

Abe had reached that point in his life where he felt he had exhausted his struggle for more knowledge, he had read all the books in a radius of fifty miles that were lying around loose and he could get his hands on.

The outlook in Indiana to compete with settled down politicians did not look encouraging. The law business was over done and Abe had no intentions of continuing to be a "Hewer of Wood".

Illinois was taking a lot of youths out of Indiana with the slogan "Go west to Illinois and grow up with the country" as though Indiana was too thickly populated. The fancy tales that John Hanks wrote back, "You can raise again as much corn to the acre here as you can in Indiana."

The dream of a new territory, meeting new faces, new opportunities, maybe a chance to take up the practice of law, maybe in politics he could forge ahead in Illinois--dreams have wide open spaces, no competition, everything looks rosy, at any rate, cosmic ray was filtering into his blood. Abe believed the time had come to carry out a predestined order.

He was on his way. The great state of Illinois, on March 1, 1830, took Abraham Lincoln out of Indiana. He had reached his second milestone on his way to the Capitol and White House in Washington, D.C.

WHAT DETERMINATION CAN DO

Carrying with him to Illinois a desire for a place in the sun, steadily he made progress. The politicians found Abe could write and count, they appointed him on an election board to receive and count the votes. He was made boss to build a flatboat with John Hanks and take it down the river to New Orleans, his second trip to that city. The first one made in Indiana. A company of volunteers elected him Captain to fight Indians in the Black Hawk War. In Indiana, Abe had served two years in the Indiana State Militia and Illinois gave him a promotion to Captain. Education in Indiana was pretty good.

The next experience Abe got was a half interest in a grocery business free. Finding a law book in an empty barrel and more time than customers, he began studying law. Soon his partner, Mr. Berry, walked out and never came back. Abe had to pay the entire debt. Abe went broke. Abe was broke in the first place but had no debts. Now he was broke and owed a lot of money. Abe's Indiana business training this time did not do him much good.

If Abe could run a line, they would give him a job surveying. Abe took lessons from Graham who knew Abe's father and saw Abe only once at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. That time was when Abe was about six years old. Graham, Tom Lincoln and Abe witnessed a murder scene at Elizabethtown. Abe got the surveying job and began studying grammar with Mentor Graham who had relatives at Rockport, Indiana, a Judge John W. Graham and Abe knew Judge Graham, too. The Grahams lived at Bardstown in Washington County, Kentucky. Tom Lincoln knew them all. Abe had borrowed some books from the Judge.

The surveying job put a little money in Abe's pocket and things began to look better.

ABE TAKES A LEAF OUT OF LANE'S BOOK

Then he got to thinking about the time he processed cotton for Joe E. Lane in Gentry's cotton gin. Lane told him at that time how it happened that he made Ratliff Boon mad with a terrible "case of political sickness".

Lane said to Abe, "I saved up some money on a contract with Nicholas Roosevelt the New York banker. He and Robert Fulton owned boats and built the first one on the Ohio River. They needed wood, cord wood to fire the boilers. I got this contract to supply the wood and delivered it to the Newburgh and Evansville boat landings."

“With this surplus cash on hand, I took a vacation and visited every voter in Warrick County. Sometimes I stayed two or three days with a voter and even helped on his farm work and paid for board. I was a good mixer and a good talker, too. My funny jokes helped a lot and that way I picked up new funny jokes. Those early pioneers had a way of creating funny situations which the professional joke writers could not do.”

“In about sixty days I had all of those pioneers eating out of my hands and old Ratliff Boon was a fire eater. Anyway, he just blew up like an explosion of a keg of gunpowder. Boon was smart. He moved me out of Warrick County into Vanderburgh County without me leaving my farm and that was obliging, too. He got the legislature to change the boundary line around my farm and that was a clever piece of thinking on the part of Boon. It taught me a good lesson how to outwit another man. No, I did not get mad. I took my hat off to him, he did a smarter thing than I could think of. Abe, it don't pay to get mad. You loose your balance and can't do straight thinking. To hold a grudge against another man is just slow suicide for yourself.” That idea went into the Gettysburg Address.

ABE ADOPTED LANE'S PHILOSOPHY

Abe had lost in that first election in Illinois and he recalled Joe E. Lane's conversation and said, “I will take that page out of Joe Lane's book.”

Abe did that very thing, visited every voter in his county a year before the election and his announcement he would run for the legislature. Abe was elected six times in succession.

ALFRED GRASS--AN INDIANA HOOSIER FROM ROCKPORT

Alfred Grass, son of Daniel Grass, Rockport, Indiana, was married to Susannah Snyder, October 4, 1823. Daniel Grass knew how to make friends and when his son was married, he gave a big barbecue and wedding celebration inviting every pioneer in Spencer County. Many came. It was the usual pioneer fanfare. Dennis Hanks and Abe Lincoln were there. Five years later Abe Lincoln stayed two weeks in the Daniel Grass home. He read books in the Grass library.

The year Abe Lincoln left Indiana, Alfred Hill Grass was elected sheriff of Spencer County. A few years later he had a letter from Abe about what a fine country Illinois was and cosmic ray began to filter into his blood. It ended with Illinois taking Alfred Hill Grass out of Indiana. And Grass got himself elected to

the Illinois legislature. He and Abe served in the same legislature and worked closely together. Grass was older and had more political experience in Indiana than did Abe. In Illinois, Abe had the benefit of Alfred's advice and smart politics. Grass lived to be respected and honored in his Illinois home and some of his descendents still live there. One son, Dr. John Grass, went to Denver, Colorado.

The Hoosier education and influences helped Abe a lot to make progress in his new home state. He married Mary Todd who could play the piano, sang a little, and had a high degree of culture and intelligence. The historians and gossipers have been a little brutal with her--made mountains out of molehills. Joe E. Lane was right and so was Abe, too, who said, "Overlook the faults of a man's worst nature, try and find his better nature--you will find a good angel in all of us." That, too, went into the Gettysburg Address. Not the same words but you can not separate the spirit of that thought.

Then came Abe's home coming trip to Spencer County, Indiana in 1844. Words will visualize his soul and the panorama which paraded his memory. We will let Abe tell it in his way, in poetry.

My Childhood's Home

My childhood's home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still, as memory crowds my brain,
There's pleasure in it, too.

O Memory! thou midway world
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones lost
In dreamy shadows rise.

And, freed from all that's earthly, vile,
Seems hallowed, pure and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle
All bathed in liquid light.

(This ends Honig's manuscript. The addition below completes the poem.)

As dusky mountains please the eye
When twilight chases day;
As bugle-notes that, passing by,
In distance die away.

As leaving some grand waterfall,
We, lingering, list its roar—
So memory will hallow all
We've known, but know no more.

Near twenty years have passed away
Since here I bid farewell
To woods and fields, and scenes of play,
And playmates loved so well.

Where many were, but few remain
Of old familiar things;
But seeing them, to mind again
The lost and absent brings.

The friends I left that parting day,
How changed, as time has sped!
Young childhood grown, strong manhood gray,
An half of all are dead.

I hear the loved survivors tell
How nought from death could save,
Till every sound appears a knell,
And every spot a grave.

I range the fields with pensive tread,
And pace the hollow rooms,
And feel (companion of the dead)
I'm living in the tombs.

And now away to seek some scene
Less painful than the last-
With less of horror mingled in
The present and the past.

The very spot where grew the bread
That formed my bones, I see.
How strange, old friend, on thee to tread,
And feel I'm part of thee!