

is Nat. Lincoln then walked over the benches and over the heads of his hearers — Came rolling — took G by the hand Shook it most Cordially — Said a few words — went back — commenced his remarks where he had Stopt — finished his Speech — told G that he must stay with him all night — Slept at Col Jones' — When we had gone to bed and way in the night a Cat Commenced mewing and scratching — making a fuss generally — Lincoln got up in the dark and Said — Kitty — Kitty — Pussy — Pussy. The cat Knew the voice & manner Kind — went to Lincoln — L rubbed it down — Saw the Sparkling — L took up the Cat — Carried it to the door & gently rubbed it again and again Saying Kitty — Kitty &c — then gently put it down closed the doors — Commenced telling Stories & talking over old times —

As we were going down to Thompsons G told me this Story — which I had heard before. A man by the name of Chas Harper was going to mill — had an Extremely long wheat bag on the horse and was met by sister Gordon — who said to Bro Harper — Bro H your bag is too long — No said Bro Harper — it is only too long in the summer. They were Bro and Sister in the church — Mrs Gordon told her husband of the vulgar — Gordon² made a fuss — had a church trial — Lincoln got the Secret — wrote a witty piece of Poetry on the scenes & Conversations — The Poetry of Abe was good — witty — &c as said by all who read it.

LC: HW2357-58; HL: LN2408, 1:94

84. John Oskins (WHH interview)

Sept 16th 1865

Went to see Jno Oskins — or Hoskins — who lives about 1½ M South of Gentryville — Saw him — is about 48 ys of age — went to School with Abe in this Co — The School House is situated yonder — down there by the Spring — You see that big oak tree which is Scratched & burnt — The School House was there — The fire & Smoke Coming out of the Chimney partially Killed the tree — the School House was a Kind of hewed log house — had two Chimneys — one door — holes for windows — greasy paper was pasted over the holes in winter time to admit light &c — Swany — or Sweeny¹ Kept school here — 2 M south of Gentryville & 4 M from Abes home — Swany Kept school here in 1826 — Lincoln & myself were Schollars — Our books were Websters Spelling books — Introduction to the English reader — We would Choose up and spell as in old times Every friday night — Here is a piece of the log of the old School House — I Know that it is a piece because I tore down the old School house — removed the logs to this place — put them up in the Stable — &c — say to you that this piece of wood is a part of the old School house — Yonder is the

2. Possibly Noah Gordon, the miller. For a reference to AL's poetry about Mrs. Gordon, see §128.

1. James Swaney.