## Beyond the Moon

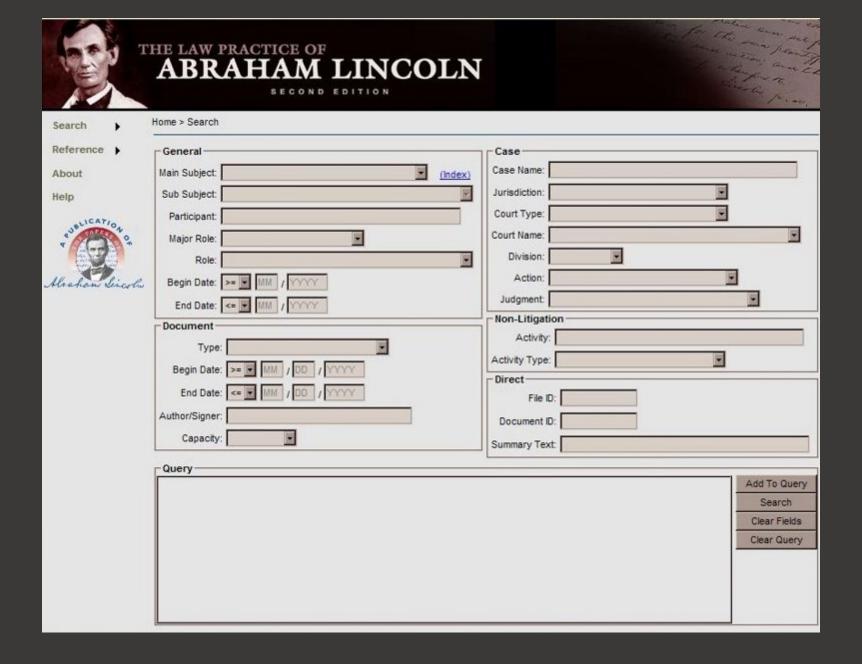
Abraham Lincoln and the Almanac Trial

Samuel Wheeler, Ph.D.

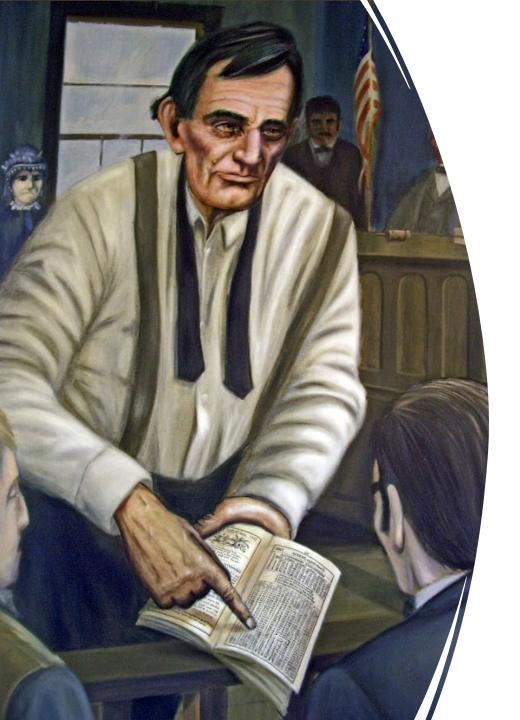
Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission







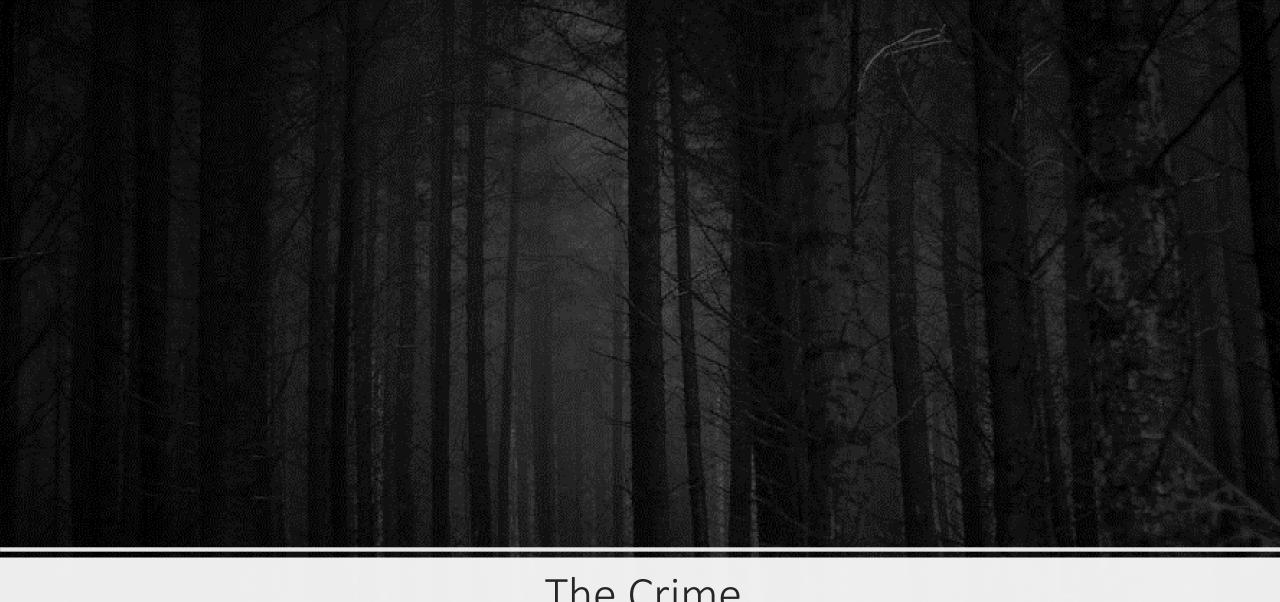
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## The Almanac Trial

People v. William "Duff" Armstrong





The Crime





#### Indictment for Murder

State of Stines I Of the Costoler Serve of the Meason State of Stines I General Sout In the year of Cur Lord on thousand eight hundred and fifty

The Grand Durors chosen selected and sworn in and for the bound, of Mason in the name and by the nuther witing of the Mason in the name and by the nuther present that Dames Ho Norus and William Armstray late of the Count, of Mason and State of Illinois not having the fear of Cock before their was but being more and reduced by the instigations of the Tevil on the two ty ninth day of August in the Gear of Cur Lord our Housand eight hundred and fifty seven with force and arms at and within the boundy of Mason and State of Minior in and upon one James Presson Morteling

of the maker of out ong it did make the assault. In the said fames to Norms, with a versain piece of wood about the feet long which he the vaid fames the torns in his right hand then and there held. The said fames the reston Motzher in and upon the bask part of the heady him the said fames I usten Motzher, then and there in lawfelly, felomously willfully, and of his maker of ore thought till, this, luming to the said fames Purin Motzher the said f

James Auston Milyter one mortal bruse, and the said Miliam Armstrong with a certain hard metallic substant Called a lling Shot which he the said Miliam Armstrong in his right hand then and there had and held the a eid James Prioton Metzker in and upon the right eye of

him the said James & uston Modzker then and there un -lawfully feloriously wilfully and o his motion afore-

# People v. James Norris Mason County Circuit Court November 5-7, 1857

<u>Prosecution</u> <u>Defense</u>

Hugh Fullerton (State's Attorney) William Walker (Public Defender)

Key Witnesses Verdict

• Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson Guilty of Manslaughter

Charles Allen
 Sentenced to 8 years hard labor

we the Jury agree to find the defend antion man Slaughter is as penalty Eight years Lewice in the State penaltin. Janiah Williams It Supham ned Seaso Isauc ON Mare



# People v. William "Duff" Armstrong Cass County Circuit Court May 7, 1858

**Prosecution** 

<u>Defense</u>

Hugh Fullerton (State's Attorney)

Caleb Dilworth, William Walker, Abraham Lincoln

Prosecution's Witnesses

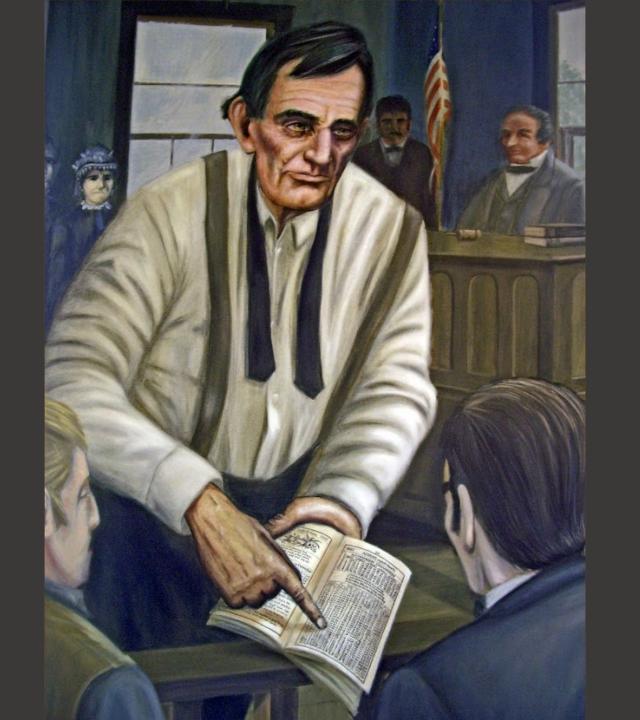
**Defense's Witnesses** 

Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson

**Nelson Watkins** 

Dr. Charles Parker

Charles Allen



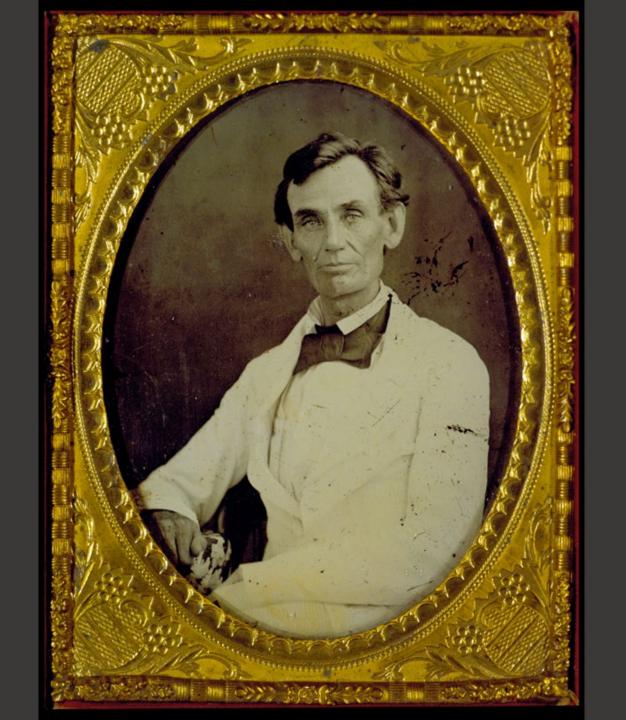


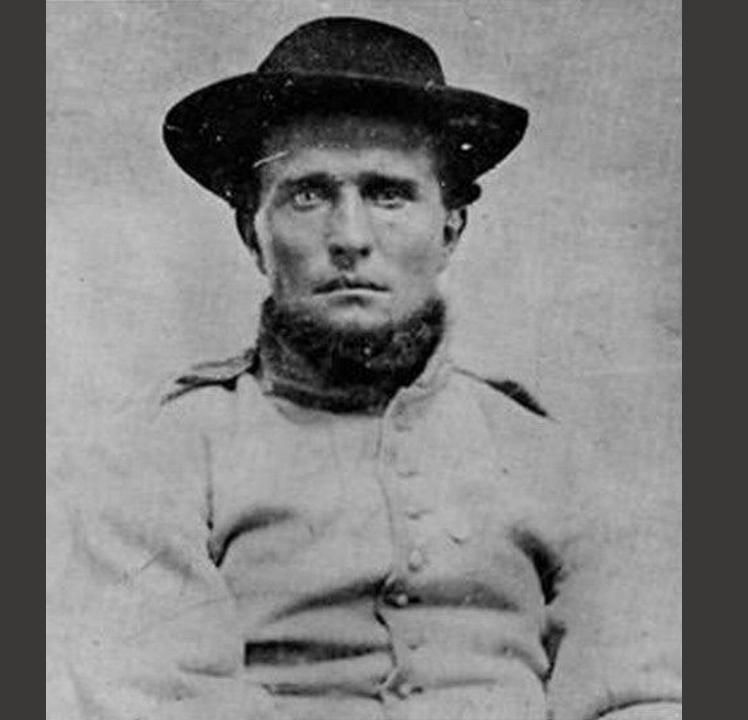
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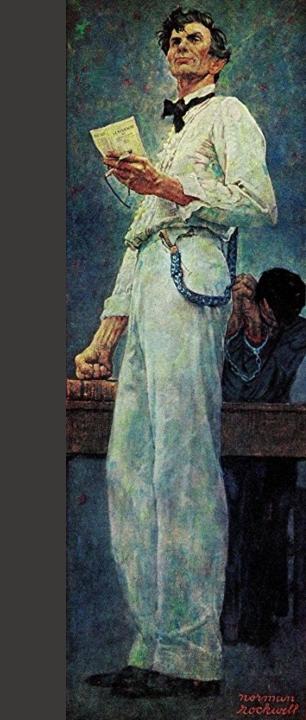
That if they have any reasonable doubt as to whather Mety have came to his death by the bloom on the back of the begge, or by the bloom on the back of the heave, they are to find the very lender to the private personable would from the privately surless they also believe from the privately surless they also believe that American beyone reasonable would that American surley and Normi active by concert, against Metyler, and that Normi stand the bloom on the back of the heave,

that if they believe from the endown that Nomi killed Prety he they are to act grit Amstroy, when they also heave began a reasonable doubt that Amstroy action on concert with Nomi on the keleng, as purpose to kill or heart Metyper-

The the Jury acquit the Defendant-from all charges prefered against him in Millon Logan forumen





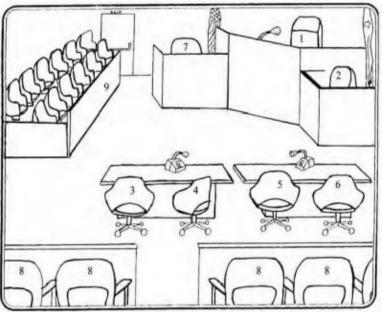


### CivicsLearning.org

American Bar Association

#### **Creating a Courtroom**

The room utilized for the mock trial should be arranged, as closely as possible, to resemble a real courtroom. The diagram below depicts the layout of an actual courtroom. Please consider these when arranging seating, tables, and placement of the participants for the mock trial at your school. The photos on the following pages are examples of courtroom set-up from past Law Day events.



#### **DIAGRAM NUMBER GUIDE**

- Judge
- Court Clerk
- Plaintiff
- Attorney for Plaintiff
- 5. Attorney for Defendant
- Defendant
- Witness
- 8. Audience
- Jury

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Thrilling Episode in the Life of "Abe Lincoln."

As a Western man, I wish space to give vent to my enthusiasm over the nomination of Hon. Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States. Mr. Lincoln, or "Old Abe," as his friends familiarly call him, is a self-made man. A Kentuckian by birth, he emigrated to Illinois in his boyhood, where he earned his living at the anvil, devoting his leisure hours to study. Having choose the law as his future calling, he devoted himself assiduously to its mastery, contending at every step with adverse fortune. this period of study, he for some time found a home under the hospitable roof of one Armstrong, a farmer who lived in a log house some eight miles from the village of Petersburg Menard county. Here, clad in home-spun, with elbows out, and knees covered with patches, young Lincoln would master his lessons by the firelight of the cabin, and then walk to town for the purpose of rec-This man Armstrong was him-

## Beyond the Moon

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Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

