



LINCOLN POLE RAISING

Portrait of the Past

NOW COMERICA BANK

It was common during an election year to have a pole raising. On August 13th, 1860 such an event occurred in Franklin. Pictures of Abraham Lincoln and his running mate Hannibal Hamlin were draped on patriotic bunting and suspended between 2 poles. The speaker podium was center stage ready for Stephen Durkee, father of Civil War vet Philip, to speak.

The setting was an apple orchard. People were eating and conversing just waiting for the cannon to be fired and the words of Durkee spoken. Unknown to the Republicans, some democrats had filled the cannon with vegetables so when it was fired, they came spewing out!

Sam Lock ran to the Congleton shop down the street to get a ramrod to clear the cannon. Down went the bag of powder. The ensuing blast shook the ground and knocked over the speaker's stand. And so, it was a celebration for both parties!



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