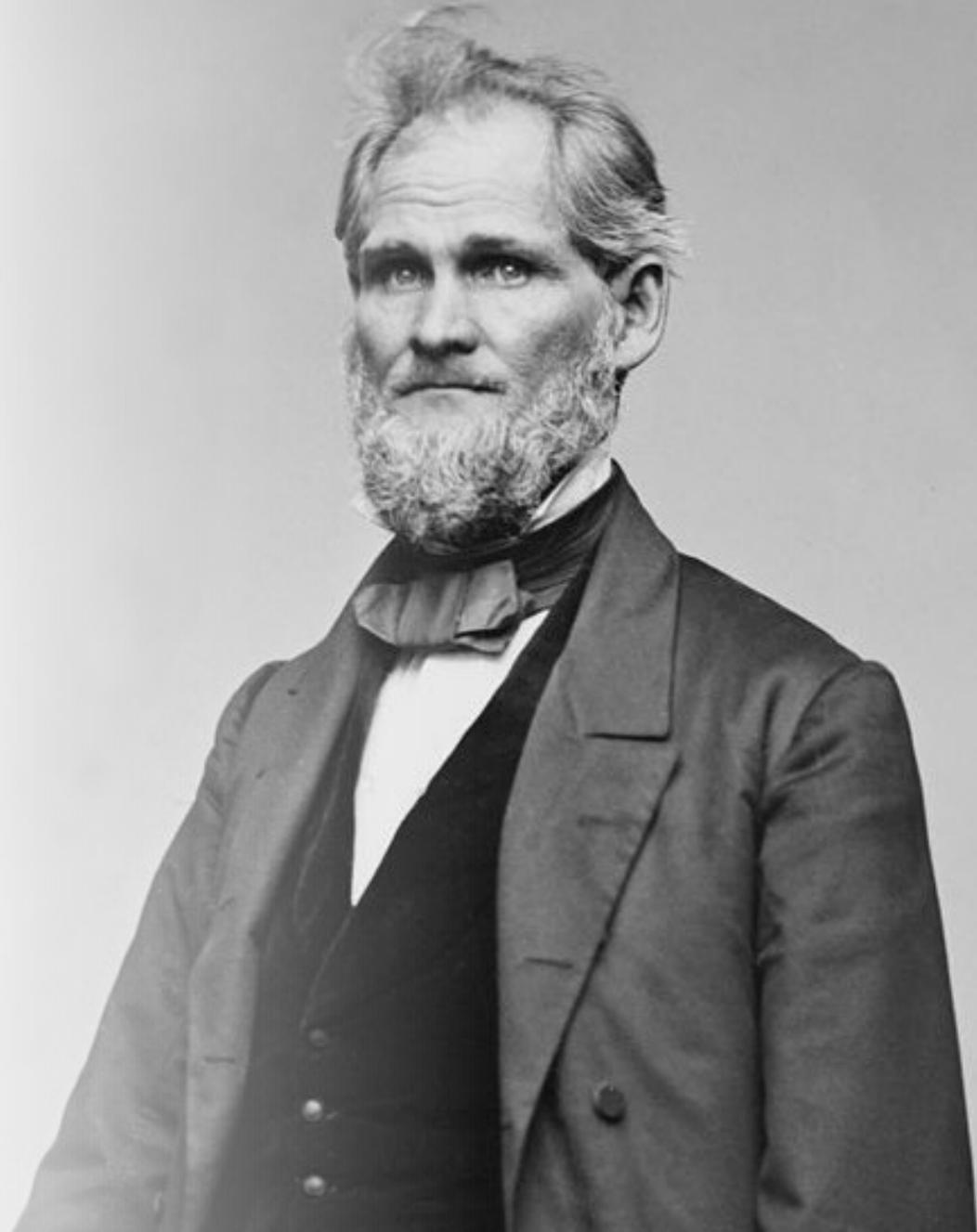


Reconstructing
Henry S. Lane:
Redefining Political
Legacy Amidst
Reconstruction
Ambiguity

By: Owen Bennett



A Story Hidden in the Shadows of Archives



Who is Henry S. Lane?



THE RENSSELAER GAZETTE.
EDITED BY
L. M. STACKHOUSE & L. A. COLE.
RENSSELAER, IND.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1860.

Republican State Ticket.

FOR GOVERNOR,
HENRY S. LANE, of *Montgomery*.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
OLIVER P. MORTON, of *Wayne*.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE,
WILLIAM A. PEELLE, of *Randolph*.

FOR TREASURER OF STATE,
JONATHAN S. HARVEY, of *Clarke*.

FOR AUDITOR OF STATE,
ALBERT LANGE, of *Vigo*.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL,
JAMES G. JONES, of *Vanderburgh*.

FOR REPORTER OF SUPREME COURT,
BENJAMIN HARRISON, of *Marietta*.

FOR CLERK OF SUPREME COURT,
JOHN P. JONES, of *Lagrange*.

FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
MILES J. FLETCHER, of *Putnam*.

THE INDIANA STATE GUARD.
WILLIAM CULLEY, EDITOR.
SATURDAY, - - - - - JANUARY 19.

Election of U. S. Senator.

The Legislature of Indiana elected, on Wednesday last, Col. **HENRY S. LANE** Senator in Congress, for six years, in place of Hon. G. N. **FITCH**.



HON. HENRY S. LANE.

JULIUS A. COLEMAN.

Among the able men whom Indiana has given to the public service, who proved themselves eminently the right men in the right places, for earnest patriotism, burning eloquence and most assiduous labors, stands conspicuous Henry S. Lane. Born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, on February 24, 1811, he received a good common school education, some knowledge of the classics, studied law under the direction of Col. James Sudduth, of Bath county, and was licensed in 1833 to practice in the Circuit and Superior Courts of that State. Soon after this he removed to Indiana and commenced the practice of his profession at Crawfordsville.

He entered the political arena early in life, became an active member of the Whig party, and in 1837 was elected to the Indiana Legislature, serving one session. In 1840 one of the most exciting political struggles ever known in Indiana occurred. Harrison and Van Buren had been nominated by their respective parties, and in

SENATOR HENRY S. LANE

By THEODORE G. GRONERT

Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana

Just across the way from the new city building is a park, recently acquired by the City of Crawfordsville. The park decorated with shrubbery, old fashioned gardens and shaded by stately old trees is beautiful in its own right, and would be notable for this appeal to nature lovers if no other attraction existed.

There is however a center of interest in the park that is even more appealing, especially because it combines the aesthetic and traditional in a form that recaptures for us the traditions of another day. Surely no inheritor of the frontier tradition could look upon Lane Place without experiencing a wistful hope, that in this day of machine made turmoil we might recapture something of the spirit of those who heard in the marching songs of the pioneer the deathless music of democracy.

Henry S. Lane, builder of Lane Place, was one of those pioneers who came to Indiana from his birthplace in Montgomery County, Kentucky. The roll-call of the Indiana pioneer society is studded with the names of those who give their place of origin as Kentucky and to this day there persist in many parts of the Hoosier state social traditions that came into the state by way of the Blue Grass Region of Kentucky. The Lane Home is one of the tangible expressions of the Kentucky tradition, that through the work of the Montgomery County Historical Society and the generosity of the City of Crawfordsville has been preserved for posterity. It was modeled after a plantation home of the Blue Grass and its balustraded porch, central balcony and wide entrance recall the architecture so notable as a feature of Kentucky. The interior of the house with its winding staircase, high ceilings, rooms, and numerous fire places are all in the plantation tradition. Contemporaries declared it the most beautiful building in Montgomery County, Indiana, and present day Crawfordsville has no residence to equal the exterior lines of this old homestead, as they are set off by the natural beauty of its surroundings.

The man who gave his name to Lane Place was born February 24, 1811, near Sharpsburg in Montgomery County, Kentucky. The Lanes were of English descent and had come to Kentucky by way of Virginia. William Lane, great grandfather of Henry S. Lane, received a grant of land in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1754. It was in this county that the grandfather of Henry S. Lane was born.

James Hardage Lane I was a comparatively wealthy man for that section of Virginia evidenced by the fact that he held a number of slaves, and at the

Historiographical Analysis: Unveiling Historical Ambiguities

- Coleman, Julius A. "Hon. Henry S. Lane." *The Wabash Magazine*. Vol. X. No. 1., December 1869.
- Woollen, William Wesley. "Henry Smith Lane." *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana*. 120-129. Indianapolis: Hammond & Co., 1883.
- Gronert, Theodore G. "Senator Henry S. Lane." *Register of Kentucky State Historical Society*. no. 112. 260-264, 1937.
- Wernle, Robert F. *Henry Smith Lane the Old War Horse*, Montgomery County Historical Society, 1988.

HENRY SMITH LANE.

HENRY SMITH LANE, for two days Governor of Indiana, was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, February 11, 1811. He was well educated, and when eighteen years old commenced the study of the law. Soon after reaching his majority he was admitted to the bar, and in 1835 came to Indiana and settled at Crawfordsville. He had a winning address, abounded in anecdote, and was fluent in speech. He soon obtained a good legal practice, particularly in criminal cases. He became very popular, and in 1837 was elected to the State Legislature from his county.

In 1840 the Democracy of Indiana nominated General Tilghman A. Howard, then a member of Congress from the Seventh District, for Governor of the State. General Howard resigned his seat in Congress to make the race, and Edward A. Hannegan and Henry S. Lane became candidates to fill the vacancy. In many respects they were alike. They were both wonderfully eloquent, but neither very logical. Mr. Lane was elected, defeating his competitor some 1,500 votes. The next year he was again a candidate for Congress, and defeated John Bryce by an immense majority. He never was elected to Congress after this.

In 1844 Mr. Lane stumped Indiana for Henry Clay, and none mourned the defeat of the Kentucky statesman more than he. On the breaking out of the Mexican war he engaged earnestly in the work of raising troops and stimulating the war spirit among the people. In May, 1846, he attended a war meeting at Indianapolis and participated actively in its proceedings. He was a member of the committee on resolutions, and assisted

Henry Smith Lane *the Old War-Horse*



ROBERT F. WERNLE

39th CONGRESS,
1st Session. **H. R. 613.**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 30, 1866.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia.

JUNE 11, 1866.

Reported by Mr. WILSON with amendments, viz: Strike out the parts in [brackets] and insert those printed in italics.

AN ACT

To continue in force and to amend "An act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees," and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 2 That the act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, approved March third, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, shall continue in force for the term of two years from and after the passage of this act.
- 3 *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the supervision and care of said bureau shall extend to all loyal refugees and freedmen, so far as the same shall be necessary to enable them as speedily as practicable to become self-supporting citizens of the United States, and to aid them in making the freedom conferred by proclamation of the commander-in-chief,*

Freedmen's Bureau Bill (1866)

Dec 10 1866
Thirty-ninth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Began and held at the City of Washington, on Monday, the fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

AN ACT

To protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish the means of their vindication.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, residing within the United States, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States, and each of them, of every race and color without regard to any former condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States, to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains and penalties, and to none other, any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding. Sec 2. And be it further enacted, That any person who under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, shall attempt to deprive or to obstruct any individual of any right secured or protected by this act, or to deprive any individual of his property, or to hinder or obstruct any individual from exercising the rights secured by this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court. Sec 3. And be it further enacted, That the district courts of the United States, within their respective States, shall have jurisdiction of the courts of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offenses committed against the provisions of this act, and also, concurrently with the district courts of the several States, of all crimes, civil and criminal, affecting persons who are denied or cannot enforce in the civil or judicial tribunals of the State or Territory, where the same be any of the rights secured to them by the first section of this act; and of any suit or prosecution, civil or criminal,

Civil Rights Act of 1866

Reconstruction and Amendments of the Constitution.

SPEECH

HON. HENRY S. LANE,

OF INDIANA,

In the Senate of the United States, Thursday, February 8, 1866.

APPROPRIATION OF REPRESENTATION.

The Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the joint resolution (H. R. No. 51) proposing to amend the Constitution of the United States, the pending question being on the amendment of Mr. HANCOCK to the amendment proposed by Mr. SCHALES.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana. Mr. President, I need not assure you that I approach the investigation of the grave subjects now before the Senate with constraint and embarrassment. No graver subjects have ever been submitted for your deliberation. I have demanded, and which my profound respect for this high body under other circumstances would have prompted. I shall not be able to rise to the height of this great argument, which I hope I feel and appreciate its dignity and importance. We approach the Constitution of the United States upon a proposed amendment, and I feel the full force of the injunction of the Hebrew prophet, "Take the sandals from off thy feet, for the ground upon which thou treadest is holy ground." I hope that on this occasion I shall be enabled to merge the partisan in the patriot. This Chamber is no arena for political combat, and I feel that the great questions to which we now address ourselves invoke our greatest calm and careful consideration and deliberation. An Athenian orator was wont to invoke the heathen gods, before he addressed the people of Athens, to enable him to say nothing but what the people of Athens desired to hear. My most humble and fervent prayer upon this occasion is to the Christian God that I may say nothing which shall be unbecoming in a Senator of the United States to speak to his fellow-Senators and to the people of the United States.

What, then, are the grave considerations to which our attention is invited? I shall speak, in its order, of the present proposed constitutional amendment and of each of the pending modifications and amendments now before the body as a series of measures which form the congressional plan of restoration and reconstruction. But before I approach that subject it will be proper to look at the present condition of the States lately in rebellion. What is their condition? A portion of the people of the country and a portion of the Senate of the United States take the ground that the States lately in rebellion are still States in the Union, existing and subsisting States, and entitled to all their rights and privileges under the Constitution of the United States. To Senators entertaining this opinion, I mean to address no argument. If they are at present existing States, the terms "restoration," "rehabilitation," and "admission to representation," are idle and unmeaning words. If I understand the position of those who advocate this doctrine, it is thus: that no action upon the part of the President and no action upon the part of Congress is necessary to restore these States to their natural and constitutional relation to the United States. How does that position agree with the present historic position of affairs in the country? For four years these rebel States have sought to overthrow and subvert the Government of the United States. They have been unable to accomplish that object. The Government of the United States has triumphed over them in the assertion of its unity and nationality and the supremacy

Reconstruction and Amendments of the Constitution (Feb. 8, 1866)



Freedmen's Bureau Bill (1865 & 1866)

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Reconstruction and Amendments of the Constitution.

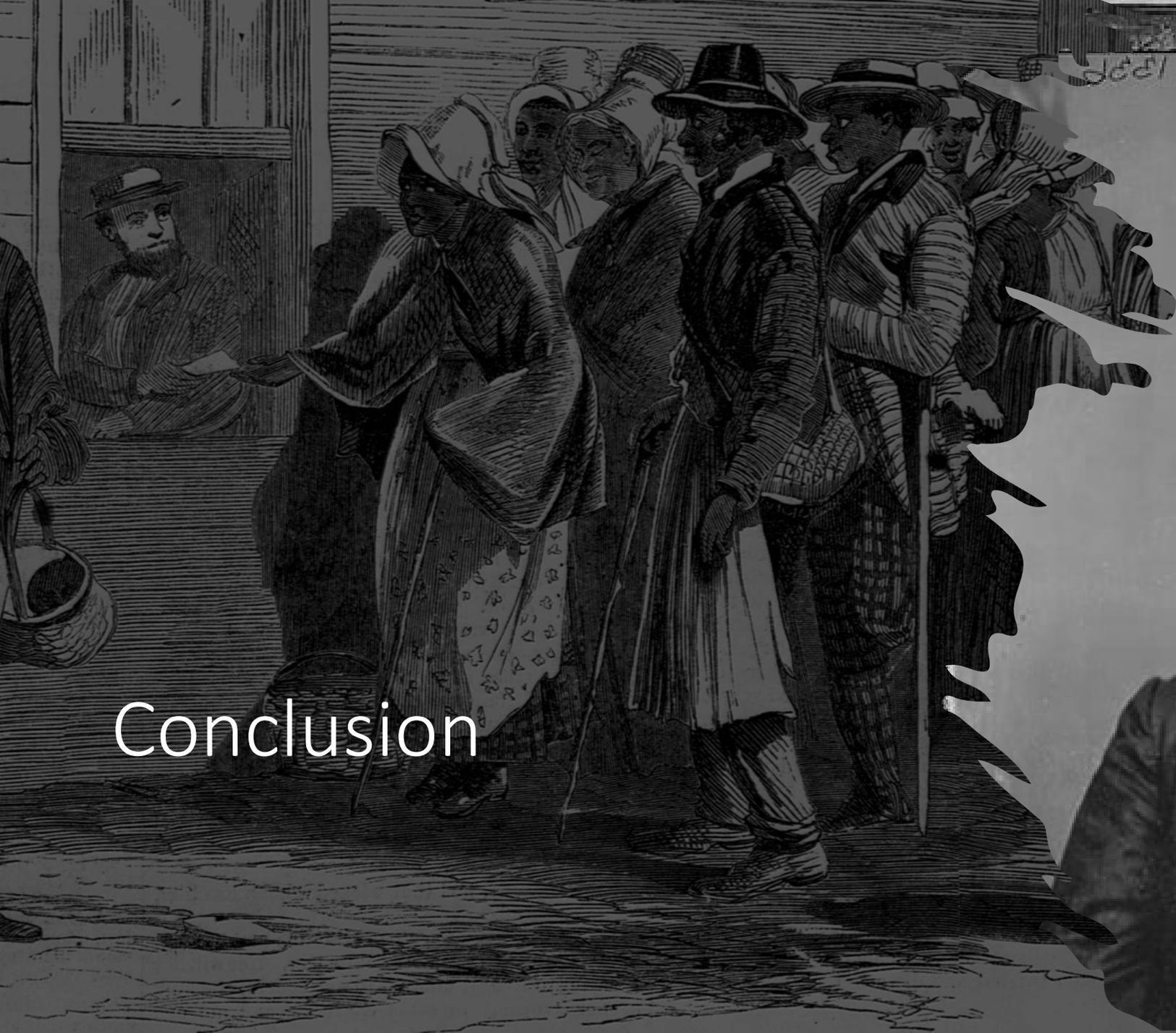
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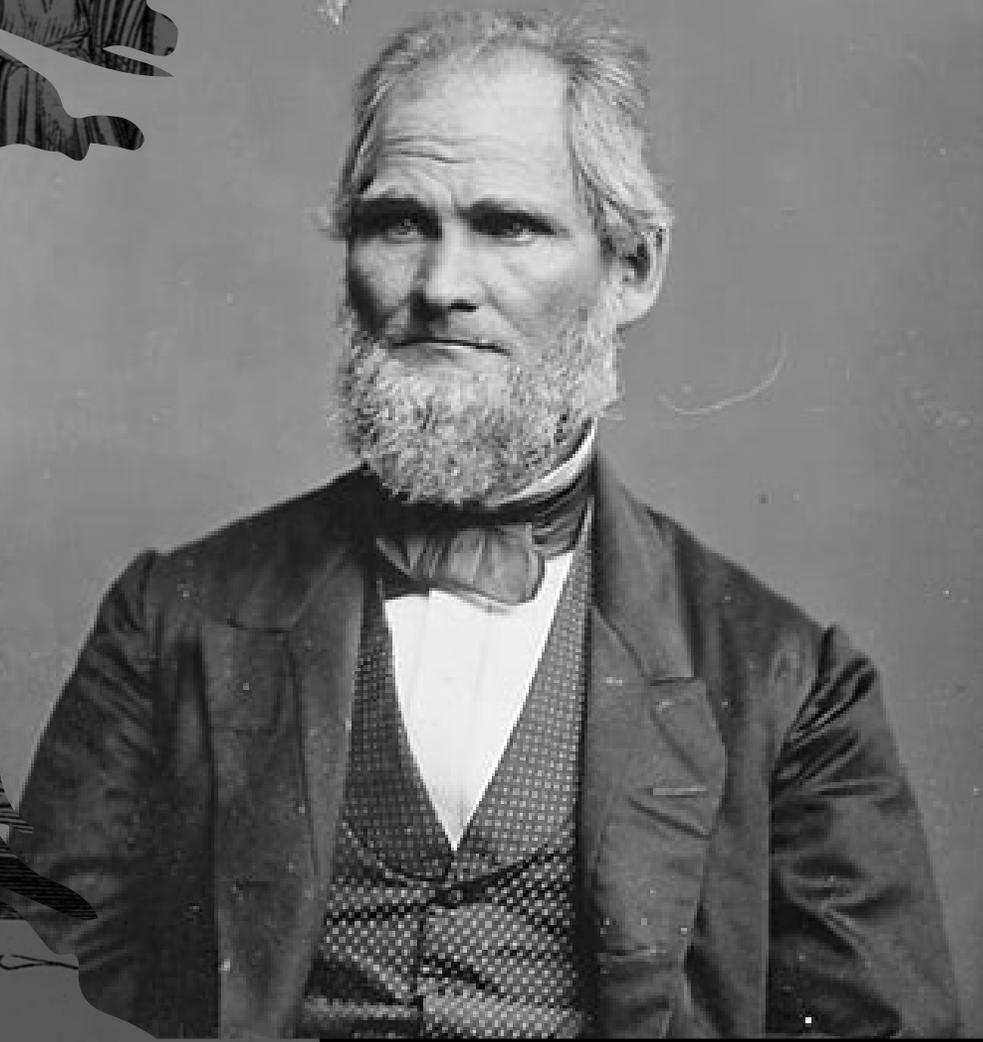
HON. HENRY S. LANE,

OF INDIANA,

In the Senate of the United States, Thursday, February 8, 1866.



Conclusion



“I prefer a grave in the land of freemen to
life in the midst of slaves.”

Hon. Henry S. Lane