

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

By: Owen Bennett



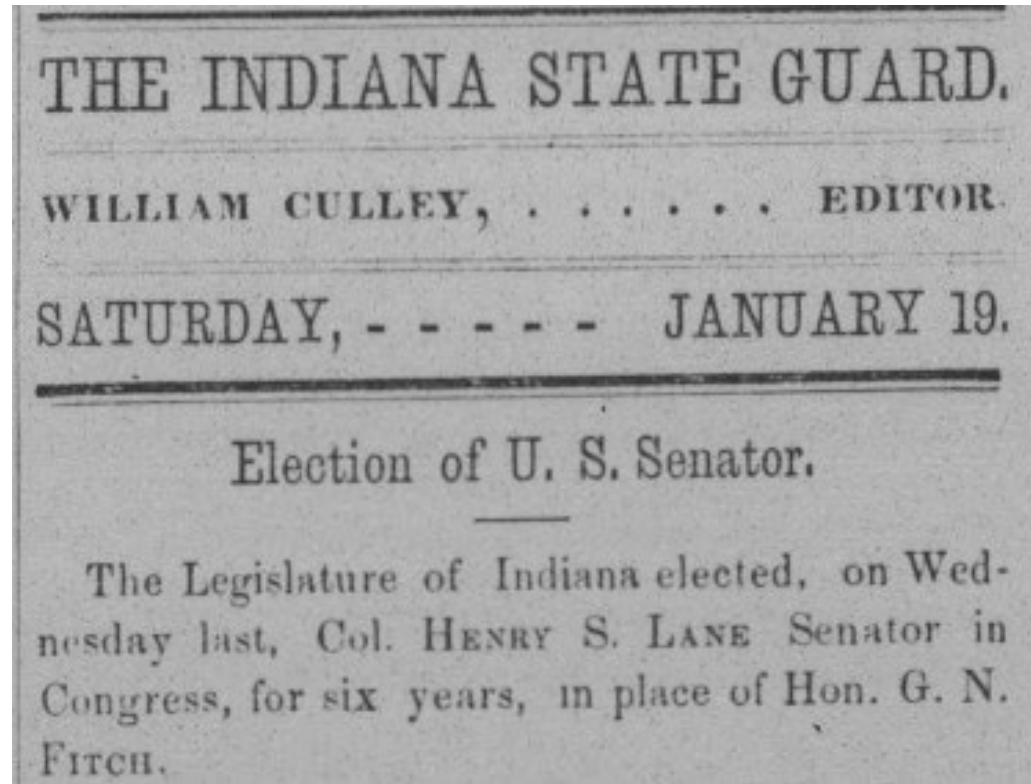
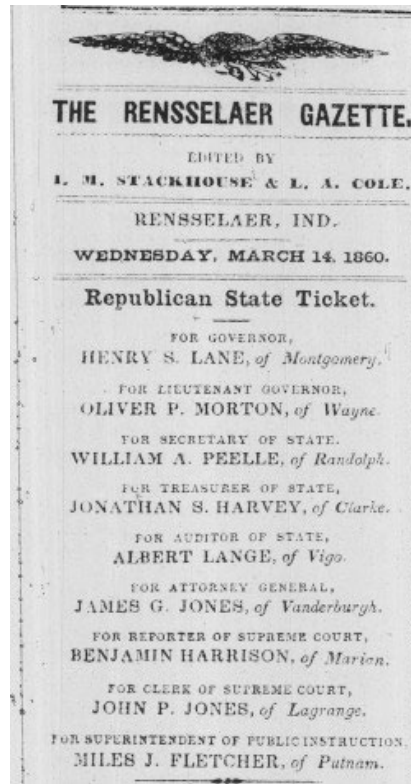


# A Story Hidden in the Shadows of Archives





# Who is Henry S. Lane?



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 ceilinged 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

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- 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.
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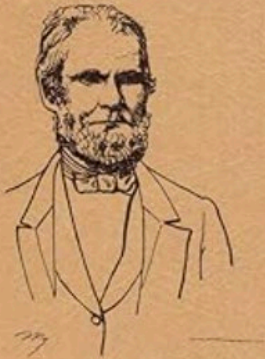
HENRY SMITH LANE.

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



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

[illegible][illegible]

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





## Freedmen's Bureau Bill (1865 & 1866)

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 Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That the act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen  
4 and Refugees, approved March third, eighteen hundred and  
5 sixty-five, shall continue in force for the term of two years  
6 from and after the passage of this act.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the supervision  
2 and care of said bureau shall extend to all loyal refugees and  
3 freedmen, so far as the same shall be necessary to enable  
4 them as speedily as practicable to become self-supporting  
5 citizens of the United States, and to aid them in making the  
6 freedom conferred by proclamation of the commander-in-chief,



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

"TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE."

## AN ACT

That all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish  
of their vindication.

the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

This act shall be in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, exercising

It is hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens,

without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary

status, 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, regu-

lation, or custom, shall subject, or cause to be subjected, any inhabitant of any State or

Territory to the deprivation of any right secured or protected by this act, or to different

punishment, pains, or penalties on account of such person having at any time been held

in condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof

the party shall have been duly convicted, or by reason of his color or race, 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 all courts of the United States, within their respective districts, shall have, whenever

named, is simply, as in some cases, dignity. And while of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offenses committed against the

under this act, and also, concurrently with the circuit courts of the United States, of

# Civil Rights Act of 1866

"THESE FEW PRECEPTS IN THY MEMORY."

Beware of entrance to a quarrel: but, being in,  
Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee.  
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice:  
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,  
But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy;  
For the apparel oft proclaims the man.

This above all, thy party shall have been duly convicted,  
And it must follow  
Thou canst not the

## N. BUTLER ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1875.

—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 14th, containing expressions of appreciation of my efforts in behalf of the Civil Rights Bill, for which accept my thanks. You further ask, "Will you be kind enough to inform me if colored men are entitled to the privileges of saloons and bar-shops under its provisions?"

### AN UNNEEDED PRIVILEGE.

To this I answer: I understand by "saloons" you

drinking saloons; and I hope no bar-keeper will ever let a colored man have a glass of liquor at any bar open for drinking. Indeed, I should be glad, whenever a colored man should go into a drinking saloon for the purpose of drinking at the bar, if somebody would at once take him and put him out, doing him as little injury as possible. He could do the colored man no greater kindness.

### PRIVACY OF A BARBER SHOP.

As to the other branch of your question, in reference to barber shops, let me say that the trade of a

barber, in public conveyances, and in inns or licensed taverns, because all such business was for the public, under special privileges granted by the government. The theatre and like public amusements were licensed by the public authorities and protected by the police. The public conveyances used the king's highway. The public inn had the special privilege of a lien or claim upon the baggage or other property of any traveler using it for his keep; and if any man was refused, while behaving himself well and paying for a seat in any place of public amusement, he would be liable to prosecution.

force that rendered effort to deprive that the Civil Bill force himself into private house, or inn, house, or eating named, is simply, as in some cases, dignity. And while of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offenses committed against the under this act, and also, concurrently with the circuit courts of the United States, of



Reconstruction and Amendments of the Constitution.

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S P E E C H

OF

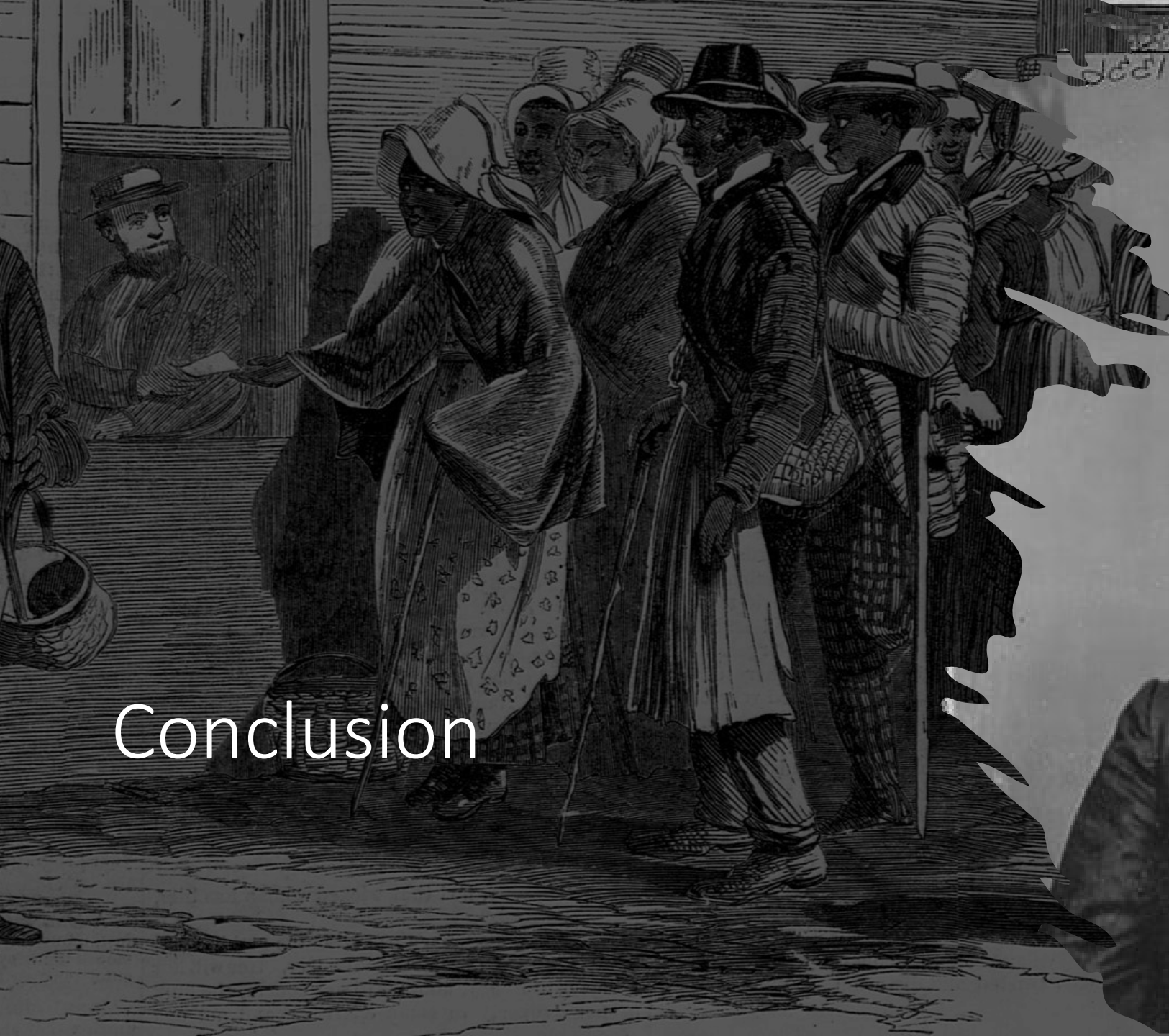
HON. HENRY S. LANE,

OF INDIANA,

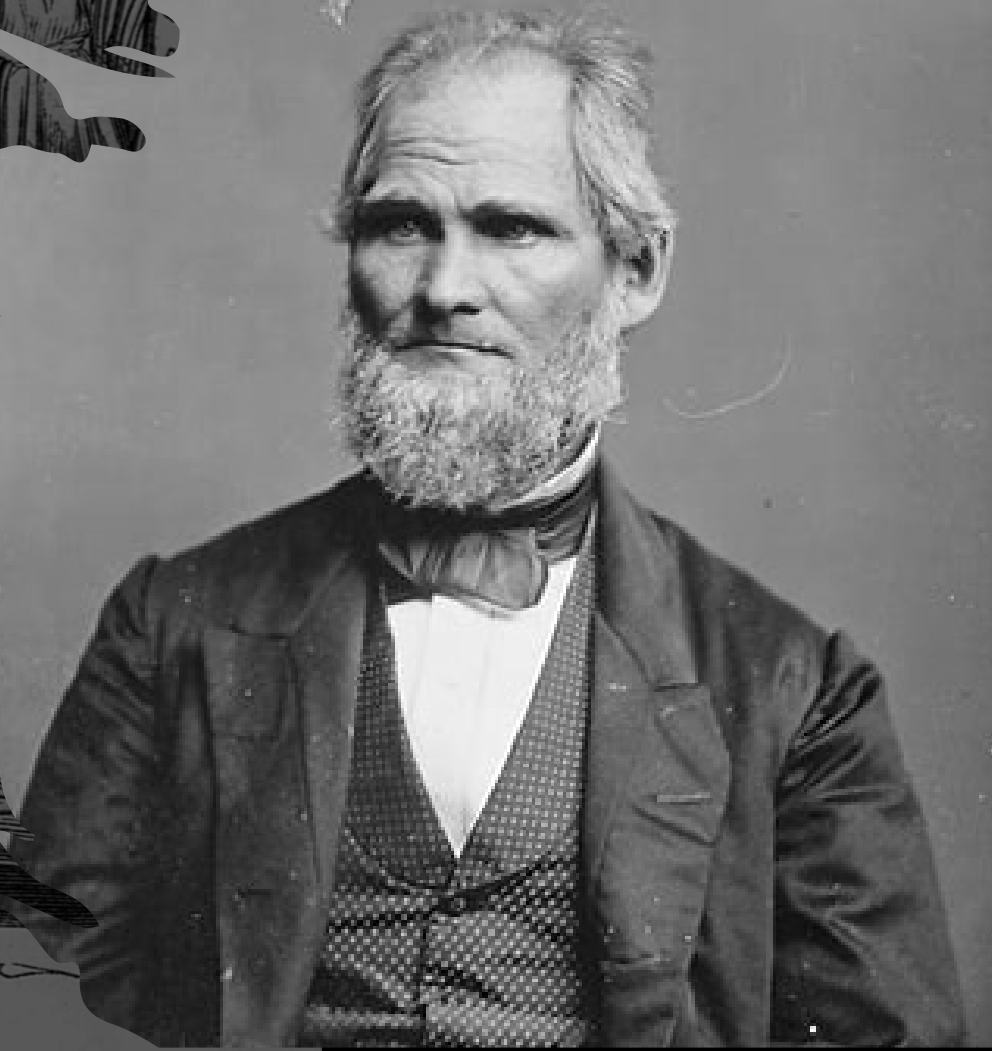
In the Senate of the United States, Thursday, February 8, 1866.

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Conclusion





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

Hon. Henry S. Lane