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May 20th, 1896.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

Care of S. S. McClure, Lim.,

30 Lafayette Place, New York City.

Dear Madame:

Your favor of the 12th inst. came duly to hand. I have often heard my father, Mr. T. D. Lincoln, speak of his having been opposed to Abraham Lincoln in The Effie Afton case at Chicago Illinois, but I do not know that he ever gave me any details that would be of interest to you in the life that you are writing. I have made search for the briefs in that case in hopes of finding the brief of Abraham Lincoln, but cannot find either that or my father's, or in fact any of the papers connected with the case. The suit was one brought by Capt. Jacob Hurd owner or one of the owners of The Effie Afton against the owner of the Rock Island Bridge, whose title was, I believe, the Mississippi & Missouri Railroad Company. This was only one of a number of cases growing out of the defective construction of the Rock Island Bridge, one of the piers of which was in the channel of the river and was constructed at an angle to the current which rendered navigation extremely dangerous for boats navigating the river.

After a number of suits had been brought by the owners of various steamboats that were wrecked at the pier, an action was

brought by James Ward against the Missouri & Mississippi R.R.Co. for the abatement of the bridge as a nuisance. In this latter case Abraham Lincoln was not of counsel. I do not know that he was of counsel in any of the cases except the Effie Afton case. I, ~~however~~, mention the Ward case because I have the briefs and records in that case and appended to one of them is the report made April 15th, 1858 by Hon. E. B. Washburn to the House of Representatives from the Committee on Commerce, which Committee was ~~appointed~~ ^{directed} to investigate into the construction of the bridge. In the course of their report they give what purports to be a condensed account of the trial in the Effie Afton case, as reported by a stenographer and published in the Missouri Republican. In glancing through this account I find it consists simply of an abstract of the testimony of the witnesses on ~~their~~ ^{both} side and it does not contain any thing which would be of interest to you. It contains the statement, however, that the jury could not agree and were discharged. I do not presume you are interested in the result of the litigation for the abatement of the claimed nuisance in the construction of the pier as Mr. Abraham Lincoln was not connected with that case.

During my father's life-time I remember that a gentleman by the name of Lincoln, I believe his name was Jerome Lincoln, and that he was connected with the Clyde Steamship Co. in New York

sent my father a printed pedigree of the Lincolns, which purported to trace all the persons of that name back to Hingham, Massachusetts and the year 1636, at which time it appears that there were four Thomas Lincolns living there and also a Samuel Lincoln. The pedigree carried down the descendants of these Lincolns to about the year 1750 and, I remember, made some statement about the descent of Abraham Lincoln from one of these families. I have been able with the assistance of one of my uncles to connect my father's family with one of these. Since my father's death his books have been moved ^{about} considerably and it would probably be difficult for me to find this printed pedigree, but if you have not seen the same I will see what I can do in the way of finding it. Have you corresponded with Solomon Lincoln of Hingham or Boston? Though I am not personally acquainted with him I understand that he, if living, is great authority on the genealogy of the family and could probably give you some information as to the genealogy of Abraham Lincoln.

Yours respectfully,

Ledford Lincoln