1627 Hampshire Street
Quincy, Illinois March 25

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

When you were in Quincy recently, I spoke to you of the record of a case in the Adams county Circuit court, in which one Abraham Lincoln was a defendant in a prosecution for riot and rout. I was, at that time, anxious for you to see the signature to the papers, to find whether it was really our Abraham Lincoln.

Since that time, by means of the Hancock county records, where the case was originally brought, being sent to Adams county on a change of venue, I find that the Abraham Lincoln referred to was a first cousin of the President. His father, Mordica Lincoln, came to Hancock county in an early day, settling with his family near Fountain Green, a small village in the eastern part of the county. There were three sons in this family, Mardica Jr., Abraham, and James.

It was found, however, in searching the records, that Abraham Lincoln, the President, once defended a man in Hancock county for murder. The man was found guilty, and was convicted and hanged on the 18th of May, 1839. He was the first and only man ever

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hanged in Hancock county. Fraime killed a man in Schuyler county, by the name of Neathammer on Nov.7, 1838, and got a change of venue to Hancock county, where Lincoln helped to defend him. Lincoln's own handwriting appears as part of the record in this case, wherein he petitions the court for a new trial for Fraime. His motion was over ruled, for lack of sufficient cause.

Which clears THE Abraham Lincoln from the charge of riot and rout which appears to stand against him in Adams county.

Sincerely yours,

Helen B. Osborn

Miss Helen B. Osborn.

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