May 22, 1934

Dear Mr. Calkins:

Please forgive my long delay in replying to your letter of May 1st. I have been out of town and came back to an over-crowded desk. I am ashamed of the delay for of course your inquiry interests me deeply.

I know of no authority for believing that the first suggestion of Lincoln as a candidate for President came from Knox County, but it may well have been. I am inclined to believe that Republicans in Illinois began to consider him as a future possibility in 1856 after the Bloomington speech which unquestionably made him their Illinois leader. I think this is a fair inference from such an expression of the effect of that speech as Joseph Medill gave. You will find it in full in my "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" Pages 331 to 337.

All that I have been able to find on the subject and the first use of his name* I condensed in the same book, Pages 382, sq.

I had never seen the statement you quote from the Old History of Knox County, by C. C. Chapman. I am glad to have it. I fancy there may have been more than one such episode in more than one county, the scene differing of course. I should be delighted to see Lincoln tied still closer to Galesburg and Knox and I shall be grateful if you will let me know of any new connection that you unearth.

And again, dear Mr. Calkins, please forgive me for this long delay in answering your letter which interested me sincerely and left me wishing that I could go at the search myself.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Earnest E. Calkins
247 Park Avenue
New York City

*In print

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