

OFFICE OF
A. L. BEALL
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
OF HENDERSON COUNTY

Oquawka, Illinois.
January 9, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 E. 19th Street,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I am writing a history of Henderson County for use in our schools. I did some work along this line two years ago, but I would like to revise it and correct some inaccuracies in it at this time.

Lincoln is said to have been in this county, as a soldier during the Black Hawk War, as a lawyer and as a candidate for the Presidency. The first time in 1838, and the last time in 1858. He is said to have camped a few days with the rest of the soldiers at Oquawka (Yellow Banks) while they were waiting for supplies to come up the river from St. Louis. Then in 1858, October 4th, Judge Douglas spoke in Oquawka and on the 9th Mr. Lincoln spoke in Oquawka. But it is to clear up the point regarding the story that that both of them used to stay at the old Pioneer hotel, while attending court in this county. One of the Professors in the Teachers' College says he can find no evidence that Mr. Lincoln ever attended court in the county, but the old histories of the county say he did, and that he made a speech in the old courthouse.

He was a close friend of S.S. Phelps, who founded the town of Oquawka. The files of the old "Oquawka Spectator" which began publication in the thirties might shed some light on this matter, but I do not have the time just now to see if anyone knows where the old files of the paper are.

An old lady who lives across the street from our home has lived in the county since 1838. She has not a very good memory, but some years ago they said they did not see Mr. Lincoln, although they lived within ten miles or so of Oquawka, and did not hear Mr. Douglas, but they would drive the entire length of the county to hear Peter Cartwright preach.

Perhaps you have a bit of time you could spare to suggest some things that might be included in the county history.

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Have you ever heard the "knife" story, that Mr. Lincoln is said to have told Mr. Phelps? And do you know that the room in which Mr. Lincoln slept in Mr. Phelps' home in Oquawka, is kept as near as they can keep it, just like it was at that time? *W-1* *picture*

If I can be of any help to you at any time in assisting to dig up some of the bits of the story of Mr. Lincoln as he came to this county, I will be pleased to do so. I just missed you a few days - I understood you were at Springfield a short time ago. I have met the Mr. Edwardus, now deceased, who had charge of the Lincoln home in Springfield. He wrote a history of our family and I was able to get a copy from him. He brought it down to my great-grandfather.

I do not know that we will have money enough to print the history- we got it out in mimeograph form two years ago, but if I do, I will send you a copy, if you care for it.

I am,

Very sincerely,

A. L. Beall.

*I live in Media, but have my office
at the county seat.)*

Edwardus