April 25, 1923

Miss Helen B. Osborn,
1627 Hampshire St.,
Quincy, Ill.

My dear Miss Osborn:

How kind of you to take so much trouble for me, and how ungrateful I must seem to you for having let your letter lie so long. The truth is I have been badly crowded since I saw you in Quincy, letting every possible letter go unanswered that I could. Your letter interested me very much.

I am of course glad to have my beloved Abraham Lincoln cleared of the charge of "riot and rout" though how, with his disposition to be in the middle of things, he ever kept out of at least one such prosecution, I have never been able to understand.

What you tell me about his defending a man in Hancock County in 1839 interests me very much. I do not know about this case. How could I get a copy of whatever there is in Lincoln's handwriting? Do you know whetherit has ever been photographed or any use made of what he left there? If there has been some report of the case, where could I get it?

If there is no report, I suppose by writing to the Clerk of Hancock County, the records could be copied for me; but if there is a printed report it would of course be simpler. I dislike to bother you again, but if you will just drop me a line with this information I shall greatly appreciate it, as, believe me, I do what you wrote in this long neglected letter.

Sincerely yours,

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library