

YLS ISSUE

See
President's
message
regarding
LAWPAC.
Page 369

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Springfield, March 24th 1836

172

*70 E. C. Blanchard vs. Plaintiff
vs. M. L. Hunt Defendant
On Demurrer to the first plea,
Gen. Assn.*

*This day came the parties by their attorneys and
the Court being sufficiently advised of the opinion that the
demurrer to the three first pleas of the defendant be sustained.
And thereupon the defendant obtained leave to amend his plea.*

*It is ordered by the Court that it be certified that Abraham
Lincoln is a person of good moral character.*

*Regrina Talbot vs. Plaintiff
vs. John Dickinson Administrator of the estate of Henry Talbot
On Petition to sell real estate.*

*This day came the administrators
and filed their petition for the sale of the real estate of said
deceased; also exhibit from the Court of Probate, and notice*

LINCOLN'S ADMISSION TO THE BAR—SEE P. 423

THE MAGAZINE OF ILLINOIS LAWYERS

About The Cover

Lincoln's Admission To The Bar

This month's front cover features a photograph of an entry in Circuit Court records of 1836 attesting to Abraham Lincoln's good moral character as a step in his admission to the bar. Actually, three steps were involved in his admission.

The first was an order by Judge Stephen Trigg Logan, entered in the Sangamon County Circuit Court Record, Volume C, Page 173, in Springfield, Illinois, on March 24, 1836, which stated: "It is Ordered by the Court that it be certified that Abraham Lincoln is a person of good moral character." The precious volume is now kept in archives at Sangamon State University in Springfield.

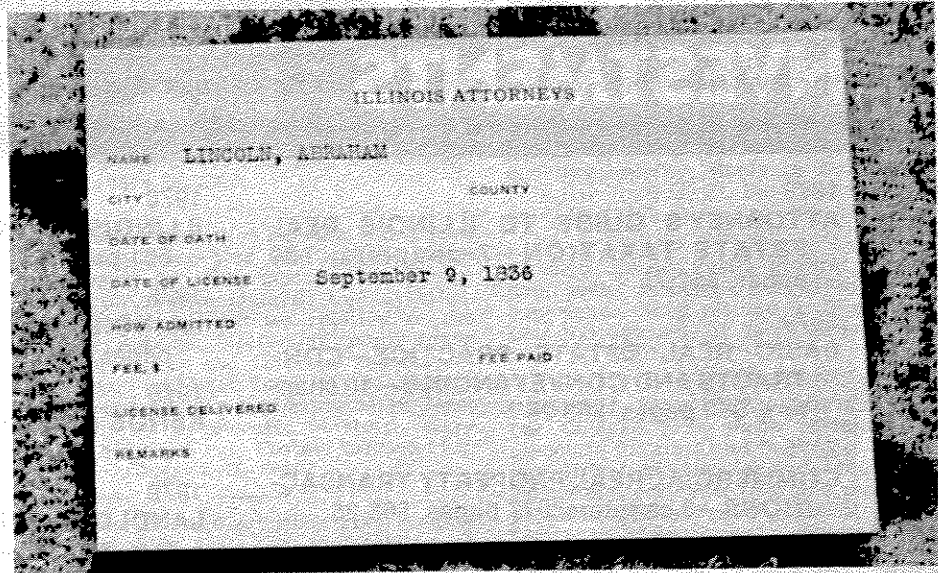
Lincoln's next step was to pass the bar examination on September 9, 1836, in Springfield. Historians generally agree that a very informal oral question and answer procedure was followed in administering the examination.

The final step to admit Lincoln to full standing as a member of the bar occurred March 1, 1837 when his name was written down on the roll of attorneys in the Supreme Court office at Vandalia, then the state capital. Lincoln's name is listed today in the Supreme Court Clerk's office in Springfield in two places, a simple card file containing his name and date

of admission, and in a bound volume record (see accompanying illustrations). The original record containing Lincoln's name disappeared many years ago, according to Clell Woods, present Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Two days after receiving his license,

Lincoln participated in his first case, in Springfield. According to biographer Benjamin Thomas, the case actually was three related suits, docketed as *Hawthorn v. Wooldridge*, which involved failure of the defendant to furnish the plaintiff with two yoke of oxen to break prairie, and refusal to permit access to a tract of land on which he had granted the right to raise a crop. Lincoln lost on one count and settled the other two out of court.



Name	Date
Lockwood, Samuel B.	November 10, 1834
Leland, Lorenzo	November 18, 1834
Leland, Cyrus	December 14, 1834
Leslie, Myron	December 11, 1834
Linder, Usher F.	October 19, 1834
Loren, Richard	September 27, 1834
Lavinis, William T. S.	September 9, 1834
Lincoln, Abraham	March 1, 1837
Leary, Albert Green	
Little, Thomas J.	January 10, 1837
Little, Sidney H.	December 3, 1836
Lanphers, George C.	February 25, 1837
Loop, James L.	January-1838
Lincoln, William B.	