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Lincoln the Lawyer

I had studied the law and removed to Springfield to practice it.
- Abraham Lincoln

While running for the Illinois legislature in 1834, Lincoln met John Todd Stuart, a fellow Whig also running for office, who loaned Lincoln some law books. Lincoln studied enthusiastically. He got his law license in September 1836 without attending law school or passing the bar as it is known now. Instead, he was declared to have a "good moral character" and was examined by the Illinois Supreme Court. The Court issued Lincoln a license to practice law in any state court in Illinois. He came to Springfield to work with John Todd Stuart in April 1837. Four years later, Lincoln became junior partner to Stephen Trigg Logan. By 1844 he was the senior partner with William Herndon.

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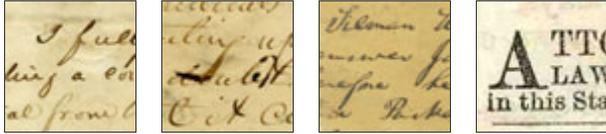
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