Hingham, March 2, 1840.

Hon. Artemas Hale,

Dear Sir,

Our attention has been arrested in this quarter of the country by the able speech of Hon. Mr. Lincoln of Illinois made this session in the House of Representatives, and it has been a source of gratification to those bearing his name to know that the old stock has not degenerated by being transplanted. On the contrary it exhibits such vigor in the fertile soil of the West.

I have often been inquired of by persons here — as to the family from which Mr. Lincoln sprung, and having the curiosity of an antiquarian as well as of a Yankee, I have thought that gentleman would not consider it impertinent for me to ask him through you, to enable me to answer the frequent inquiries made of me concerning him, from the circumstance of my having devoted much time to the compilation of the genealogies of the first settlers of this town and their descendants — among whom we hope to be able to number Mr. Lincoln.

I have some recollection of seeing his name among the members of the Illinois legislature some years since. I believe he may be the same gentleman of whom Samuel Whitman says, had some information from an Native train some ten or twelve years ago.

May I venture to ask you to signify my wishes to Mr. Lincoln — that he would inform me of
the time I plan of his birth - the names of his father and
grandfather - their residence - and so much of his
personal history as he feels inclined to impart. I suppose
that if I can be aided by him in tracing his ancestors
for two generations, that I may be able to justify the
connecting links which connect him with the early
settlers of Massachusetts.

I remain very truly,

Your friend, Eustace,

[Signature]

Lincoln