

Springfield Ills. May 10th 1849
Hon. Secretary of the Interior

Dear Sir



I request

you so often in relation to the Land Office
here, but I hope you will perceive the necessity of
it, & excuse me. On the 7th April I wrote
you recommending Turner R. King for
Register, and Walter Davis for Receiver -
Subsequently I wrote you that, for a private
reason, I had concluded to transpose them.
That private reason was the request of an
old personal friend, who himself desired to
be Receiver, but whom I felt it my duty to oppose
a recommendation - He said if I would transpose
King & Davis he would be satisfied. I thought it
a whim, but anxious to oblige him, I consented -
Immediately he commenced an assault upon
King's character, intending as I suppose, to defeat
his appointment, and thereby secure another ch-
ance for himself - This double offence of bad faith
to me, and slander upon a good man, is so
totally outrageous, that I now ask to have King &
Davis placed as I originally recommended - That is
King for Register and Davis for Receiver -

An effort is being made now to have

Mr. Barret the present Register retained. I have
^{already} said he has done the duties of the
Office well, and I now add he is a Gentleman

in the true sense. Still he submits to be the instrument
of his party to injure us - His high character enables
him to do it more effectually - Last year, he
presided at the Convention which nominated the
Democratic Candidate for Congress in this District,
and afterwards ran for the State Senate himself,
not desiring the seat, but avowedly to aid and
strengthen his party - He made Speech after Speech
with a degree of fire & impetuosity and Courtness against
Genl. Taylor not quite consistent with his hitherto
gentlemanly deportment -

At least one (I think now) of those who are
now trying to have him retained, was himself
an applicant for this very office, and failing to
get my recommendation now takes this turn.

In writing you a third time in relation
to these offices I stated that I supposed charges
had been forwarded to you against King, and
that I would enquire into the truth of them - I now
send you herewith what I suppose will be an ample
defence against any such charges - I ask attention
to all the papers, but particularly to the letter of
Mr David Mack, & the paper with the long list of
names - There is no mistake about King's
being a good man. After the unjust assault
upon him, and considering the just claims of
Tazewell County, as indicated in the letters I send
you, it would in my opinion, be injustice, and
wilful, a blunder, not to appoint him,

at least as soon as any one is appointed to
either of the offices here -

Your Obedient Servt
A. Lincoln

Copy of
Letter to Mr.
Furness May
10th 1849