

Springfield Illinois
August 10 1882

Am J Butterfield

Comm^r of the Gen Land office

Washington City

Dear Sir

When the Land office was opened here on the 26th July last for the entry of lands which had been withdrawn from market in consequence of the Central Railroad more than one application was made for nearly or quite every tract so that a public auction had to take place. At this auction a large number of tracts were run up very high some to between nine or ten dollars per acre and struck off it being well understood at the time that the successful bidders had no intention of taking the lands and paying for them at their bids. The next day or two after the last day of this Public auction to wit on the 31st July 1882 John F Stuart who had made no application before applied to the Register to enter at the minimum price of the lands bid off and forfeited as above the South ~~East~~ half of section 28 the W^{1/2} of sec 29 the entire sec 32 and the W^{1/2} of sec 33 all in township No 20 North of Range No 2 West of the 3^d principal Meridian and tendered payment for the same. The Register refused to

allow the entry & purchase but gave Stuart a certificate
of the facts of the application and tender. No other
application was made for these lands on that day.
Some days after this these lands were again put
up at public auction and all b'd off at a
Dollar & twenty five cents per acre under a combi-
nation doublet among those who were concerned
in making and forfeiting the former exorbitant
bids. These last sales the Register & Receiver have
ratified so far as in them lies and Stuart and I
are interested with him wish to contest them legally
and to insist on Stuart's legal right to have the lands
upon his application.

Will you please do or advise in how to do what
you may be necessary to insure us a fair hearing
of our case.

Your Obedt Servant

A. Lincoln

P.S. Just to be misunderstood I wish to say I do not
intend by any thing I have said in the above letter
to cast any censure upon the Register or Receiver here.

A. L.

Again since writing the above I have been applied
to by Mr William P. Black who made an applica-
-tion and tender on the same day precisely as
Stuart did (and whose claim in all respects
is like Stuart's) for the entire Sec 27 the South
half of Sec 33 and the entire Sec 34 in the same
township & Range as Stuart's application.

I wish his case to be considered with strict
Yours
at Sincerely