

THE
LINCOLN LOG
ON THIS DAY,

APRIL 12, 1858

Lincoln endorses a petition addressed to Illinois Governor William Bissell regarding David Thompson. Two years earlier, a Woodford County Circuit Court jury found Thompson guilty of manslaughter and sentenced him to the Alton Penitentiary for eight years. Lincoln writes, "I was appointed by the court to defend...Thompson. I thought at the time his conviction was wrong, and I am now clearly of opinion he ought to be pardoned. I have recently been at Woodford; and the universal sentiment there seems to be in favor of his pardon."



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