

Document 1-A

Springfield, Ills. Sep. 25. 1860  
J. M. Brockman, Esq  
Dear Sir  
Yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> asking  
"the best mode of obtaining a thorough  
knowledge of the law" is received. The mode is very simple,  
though laborious, and tedious - it  
is only to get the books, and  
read, and study them carefully.  
Begin with Blackstone's Commentaries,  
and after reading it carefully, though, say twice, take  
up Chitty's Pleading, Greenleaf's  
Evidence, & Story's Equity, &c. in  
succession - Work, work, work,  
is the main thing -  
Yours very truly  
A. Lincoln

Autograph Letter Signed, Abraham Lincoln to J. M. Brockman, 25 September 1860, Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois.