

Abraham Lincoln

Compiled by D. A. Sharpe



Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 on Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky. He lived till assassinated by actor [John Wilkes Booth](#), a Confederate sympathizer on April 14, 1865 at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. He died April 15, the following day, at the [Petersen House, Washington, D.C](#)

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. He is my 33rd cousin, twice removed. Our ancestors in common are Eystein Glumra Ivarsson and Aseda Rognvaldsdatter. They are ninth century Vikings of Norway who are Lincoln's 30th great grandparents and my 32nd great grandparents. Viewed another way, Abraham Lincoln is the [8th cousin, six times removed](#) of the husband of the stepdaughter of my 6th great grand uncle, [Danette Abney](#).

President Lincoln is the thirteenth cousin, six times removed to President George Washington. Lincoln is the 19th cousin, six times removed to my son-in-law, Steven O. Westmoreland. Lincoln is a 33rd cousin, once removed, to Steve's wife (our daughter), Tiffany Lenn Sharpe Westmoreland. Tiffany and Steven are 34th cousins, four times removed to each other. I'm presuming that is not too close of family relation to be a marriage problem!

According to some sources, Lincoln's first romantic interest was Ann Rutledge, whom he met when he first moved to New Salem; these sources indicate that by 1835, they were in a relationship but not formally engaged. She died at the age of 22 on August 25, 1835, most likely of typhoid fever. In the early 1830s, he met Mary Owens from Kentucky when she was visiting her sister.

Late in 1836, Lincoln agreed to a match with Mary if she returned to New Salem. Mary did return in November 1836, and Lincoln courted her for a time; however, they both had second thoughts about their relationship. On August 16, 1837, Lincoln wrote Mary a letter suggesting he would not blame her if she ended the relationship. She never replied and the courtship ended.



In 1840, Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd, who was from a wealthy slave-holding family in Lexington, Kentucky. They met in Springfield, Illinois, in December 1839^[67] and were engaged the following December. A wedding set for January 1, 1841, was canceled when the two broke off their engagement at Lincoln's initiative. They

later met again at a party and married on November 4, 1842, in the Springfield mansion of Mary's married sister.

In 1844, the couple bought a house in Springfield near Lincoln's law office. Mary Todd Lincoln kept house, often with the help of a relative or hired servant girl.

Lincoln was an affectionate, though often absent, husband and father of four children. Robert Todd Lincoln was born in 1843 and Edward Baker Lincoln (Eddie) in 1846. Edward died on February 1, 1850, in Springfield, probably of tuberculosis. William Wallace "[Willie](#)" Lincoln was born on December 21, 1850, and died of a fever on February 20, 1862. The Lincolns' fourth son, [Thomas "Tad" Lincoln](#), was born on April 4, 1853, and died of heart failure at the age of 18 on July 16, 1871.[73] Robert was the only child to live to adulthood and have children. The Lincolns' last descendant, great-grandson [Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith](#), died in 1985. Lincoln "was remarkably fond of children", and the Lincolns were not considered to be strict with their own.



The deaths of their sons had profound effects on both parents. Later in life, Mary struggled with the stresses of losing her husband and sons, and Robert Lincoln committed her temporarily to a mental health asylum in 1875. Abraham Lincoln suffered from "melancholy", a condition which now is referred to as clinical depression.

Lincoln's father-in-law and others of the Todd family were either slave owners or slave traders. Lincoln was close to the Todd's, and he and his family occasionally visited the Todd estate in Lexington.

Abraham Lincoln is the only President of the United States who was [issued a patent for an invention!](#) On March 10, 1849, he filed a patent application with the [United States Patent Office](#) for a

**No. 6,469 patent for
"Buoying Vessels Over Shoals"**



Patent Model of Abraham Lincoln's invention
at [Smithsonian Institution](#)

Creator	Abraham Lincoln
Filing date	March 10, 1849
Issue date	May 22, 1849
Location	Illinois

mechanism that would lift a boat over shoals and obstructions. This idea came to him when on two occasions the boat on which he traveled became snagged on obstructions during his trip. He was issued a patent on May 22, 1849! That's only slightly more than two months for the application to be processed. The USPO website today indicates

that issuance of a patent *might* be issued as soon as 12 months after of the application! Things certainly have changed, haven't they?

Public knowledge about this minor element in his life came to light only recently. It was discovered in 1997 by someone browsing over old files in the government office.

During his term as President of the United States of America, Mary was known to cook for Lincoln often. Since she was raised by a wealthy family, her cooking abilities were simple, but satisfied Lincoln's tastes, which included, particularly, imported oysters.

Abraham Lincoln represents the attitudes of freedom for all people and union in government. He presided over the War Between the States, the war in which more Americans lost lives than in any war in which we have been engaged. Its formal name is the War Between the States, even though most people refer to it as the Civil War. Generally, the public leans toward understanding that slavery was the issue of the war. [There are ten causes of the War](#) Between the States that are cited by constituents of the Confederate side.

"As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. He was the first candidate to run on a Republican Party ticket, and he won! Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

"Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: 'that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain --- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom --- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'"

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/al16.html>

Lincoln wrote, "I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in [Hardin County, Kentucky](#). My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families--second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course, when I came of age I did

not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/al16.html>

"Born in the town of [Hodgenville, Harden County, Kentucky](#), Lincoln grew up on the western frontier in [Kentucky](#) and in [Indiana](#). Largely self-educated, he became a lawyer in [Illinois](#), a [Whig Party leader](#), and a member of the [Illinois House of Representatives](#), in which he served for twelve years.

Elected to the [United States House of Representatives](#) in 1846, Lincoln promoted rapid modernization of the economy through banks, tariffs, and railroads. Because he had originally agreed not to run for a second term in Congress, and because his opposition to the [Mexican–American War](#) was unpopular among Illinois voters, Lincoln returned to [Springfield](#), and resumed his successful law practice.

Re-entering politics in 1854, he became a leader in building what became the new [Republican Party](#), which had a statewide majority in Illinois. In 1858, while taking part in a [series of highly publicized debates](#) with his opponent and rival, Democrat [Stephen A. Douglas](#), Lincoln spoke against the expansion of slavery, but lost the U.S. Senate race to Douglas.

"In 1860, Lincoln secured the Republican Party presidential nomination as a moderate from a swing state. Though he gained very little support in the slaveholding states of the South, he swept the North, and was [elected president in 1860](#). Lincoln's victory prompted seven southern slave states to form the [Confederate States of America](#) before he moved into the [White House](#).

No compromise or reconciliation was found regarding slavery and secession. Subsequently, on April 12, 1861, an attack on [Fort](#)

[Sumter](#) by the Confederates inspired the North enthusiastically to rally behind the [Union](#) in a declaration of war. As the leader of the moderate faction of the Republican Party, Lincoln confronted Radical Republicans, who demanded harsher treatment of the South, [War Democrats](#), who called for more compromise, anti-war Democrats (called Copperheads), who despised him, and irreconcilable secessionists, who plotted his assassination. Politically, Lincoln fought back by pitting his opponents against each other, by carefully planned political [patronage](#), and by appealing to the American people with his powers of oratory.

Lincoln's [Gettysburg Address](#) became an iconic endorsement of the principles of nationalism, republicanism, equal rights, liberty, and democracy."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln

Looking back on June 16, 1858, in Springfield, Illinois, upon accepting the State's nomination for its U. S. Senate position, Lincoln delivered perhaps his most remembered address, the "House Divided" speech. "The speech contains the quotation, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand,' which is paraphrased from the Biblical passage, Matthew 12:25. This useful illustration of a house divided was used earlier by United States Senator Sam Houston from Texas in 1850 when he said in an emotional address that 'A nation divided against itself cannot stand.'"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln%27s_House_Divided_Speech

It was on Good Friday, **April 14**, 1865, Lincoln attended the play, "[Our American Cousin](#)," a play in three acts by Tom Taylor. The play is a farcical comedy whose plot is based on the introduction of an awkward, boorish American to his aristocratic English relatives.

It premiered at [Laura Keane's Theatre in New York City](#) on October 15, 1858. The play's most famous performance came seven years later, however, at [Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.](#) on April 14, 1865. Halfway through Act III, Scene 2, the character, Asa Trenchard (the title role), played that night by Harry Hawk, utters a line that, while considered one of the play's funniest, makes little sense out of context: "Don't know the manners of good society, eh? Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, old gal, you sockdologizing old man-trap!"

During the raucous laughter that followed this line, John Wilkes Booth, an actor who received his mail at Ford's Theatre, but who was not in the cast of "Our American Cousin," shot President Abraham Lincoln with a small handgun. He chose the timing in hopes that the sound of the laughter would mask the sound of the gunshot. Immediately he leapt from Lincoln's box to the stage, and ran outside to his awaiting horse. As he leapt, Booth shouted "Sic semper tyrannis!" the state motto of Virginia. Others in the audience heard it as: "The South is avenged!"

Following the shooting, Booth fled by horseback to southern Maryland and eventually to a farm in rural northern Virginia. He was tracked down and killed by Union soldiers twelve days later. Four people were hanged in Washington, D.C., on July 7, 1865 after being convicted of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. This carrying out of the sentence is slightly under three months following the incident. It seems that capital punishment time schedules were more time-efficient back in those days!

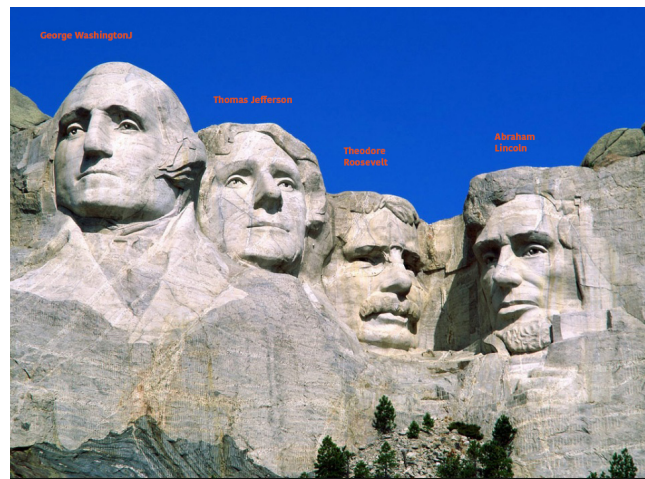
Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wilkes_Booth

Abraham Lincoln was a man of Christian faith. To reflect that, here is a quote from him about the Bible:

“The Bible is the best gift God has given to men. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong.”

Source: Abraham Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln Complete Works, ed. John G. Nicolay and John Hay (New York: “The Century Co., 1894), Vol II, P. 574, “Reply to Committee of Colored People of Baltimore Who Presented Him With a Bible,” September 7, 1864.

One of the most enduring symbols preserved of Abraham Lincoln was the inclusion of him among the four U.S. Presidents who adorned in giant sculpture on the [face of Mount Rushmore](#).



George Washington signifies the struggle for independence and the birth of the Republic; Thomas Jefferson represents the territorial expansion of the country; Abraham Lincoln stand for the permanent union of the States and equality for all citizens and Theodore Roosevelt exemplifies the 20th century role of the United States in world affairs and the industrial growth of the nation.

Abraham Lincoln’s election to the Presidency began a period of Republican government moods among voting citizens. As the nation’s 16th President, he was inaugurated in January of 1861. He was the first Republican to run for the office of President. Including his service, there have been 19 Republican Presidents out of 29 elected over the past 157 years, counting to President Donald John Trump. The Democratic Party’s first candidate to win the Presidency was Andrew Jackson, who was inaugurated in January

1829. Jackson was the first of 16 Presidents elected over the past 189 years on the Democratic Party ballot.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States

Trivia about Abraham Lincoln:

- Lincoln stood 6 feet 4 inches (193.0 cm) tall (not including his hat) and thus was the tallest president in U.S. history, just edging out Lyndon Johnson at 6 feet 3 inches (192.0 cm) tall.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heights_of_presidents_and_presidential_candidates_of_the_United_States

- Lincoln was born on the same day as [Charles Darwin](#).
- In 1853, three speculators began to develop a town 30 miles north of the capital of Springfield, on the alignment of the [St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad](#), as it advanced toward Chicago. These speculators asked Lincoln, their attorney and the attorney for that railroad, for permission to name the town in his honor. He agreed, and in August 1853, it was christened [Lincoln, Illinois](#), with watermelon juice for the onlookers. This town thus became the first Lincoln namesake town, even before he became nationally famous.
- According to legend, his opponent in the 1858 Senate election, [Stephen Douglas](#), referred to Lincoln as “two-faced.” Upon hearing about this, Lincoln jokingly replied, "If I had another face to wear, do you really think I would be wearing this one?"

- • According to legend, Lincoln also said, as a young man, commenting on his appearance one day when looking in the mirror: "It's a fact, Abe! You are the ugliest man in the world! If ever I see a man uglier than you, I'm going to shoot him on the spot!" It would be, no doubt, he thought, an act of mercy.
- • Based on written descriptions of Lincoln, it has been conjectured since the 1960s that Lincoln may have suffered from [Marfan Syndrome](#), including the observations that he was much taller than most men of his day, and had long limbs, an abnormally-shaped chest, and loose orlax joints.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marfan_syndrome

- • Lincoln is the only American president to hold a patent, described earlier in this report. The patent is for [a device that lifts boats over shoals](#).
- • Lincoln was famous for many presidential speeches and quotes, one short quote being ['No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.'](#)
- • Lincoln was the first President to wear a beard while in office.
- • Lincoln's son, [Robert Todd Lincoln](#), was returning home on a train from Harvard University, when he lost his balance, and fell between two railway cars. A fellow passenger reacted quickly, pulling him away from serious injury, or even death. The helping hand was that of [Edwin Booth](#), a brother of the man who later would assassinate the young man's father.
- • In 1865 Lincoln received a letter from the [International Working Men's Association](#), congratulating him on his re-

election, and praising his anti-slavery stance. [Karl Marx](#) penned it.

- Lincoln's death chair resides at the [Henry Ford Museum](#) in Dearborn, Michigan. The Logan County Courtroom of Illinois, where Lincoln practiced law and argued cases, has been re-located to the Henry Ford Museum.
- When Lincoln established the [Secret Service](#), its mandate did not include presidential protection. Just days after the creation of that agency, Lincoln was assonated. Obviously, those plans were changed!

Source for Trivia:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/al16.html>

One little-known fact of Lincoln's experience is that he earned a role in the [Wrestling Hall of Fame](#), from his youthful physical pursuits.

When Lincoln was asked how he liked being President, he referred to the story of the man who was carried out of town on a pole, tarred and feathered. Someone asked how he liked the ride, to which the man replied, "If it were not for the honor of the thing, he'd rather walk!"

Source: Bill Adler, "Presidential Wit," New York: Trident Press, 1966, pages 62-63.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. A. Sharpe', written in a cursive style.

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