

# TIMELINE ABOUT THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## **February 12, 1809**

Abraham Lincoln is born in a one-room log cabin in Kentucky, the second child born to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln.

## **1816-19**

The Lincoln family moves to Indiana. Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, dies of "milk sickness." His father marries Sarah Bush Johnston within a year, and Lincoln develops much affection for his stepmother.

## **1824-27**

Lincoln plows, plants, and does work-for-hire for neighbors, attends school in the fall and winter, and borrows books and to read whenever possible.

## **1828**

Lincoln's sister Sarah dies while giving birth. Lincoln takes a flatboat to New Orleans, where he observes a slave auction.

## **1830-31**

The Lincolns move to Illinois. Lincoln makes his first-ever political speech in favor of improving navigation on the Sangamon River. He settles in New Salem, Illinois the following year.

## **1832**

Lincoln runs for the Illinois General Assembly, but loses the election. The Black Hawk War breaks out in April and Lincoln enlists in the Illinois Militia.

## **1833**

Lincoln is appointed Postmaster of New Salem, and begins a job as deputy county surveyor, which he holds until 1837.

## **1834-35**

Lincoln is elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a member of the Whig Party. In the summer, he begins to study law.

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## **1836**

Lincoln is re-elected to the Illinois General Assembly on August 1 and receives his license to practice law on September 9.

## **1837**

The Illinois state capitol is moved to Springfield. Lincoln is also admitted to the Illinois Bar. Later in the year, he travels the 8th Judicial Circuit, which he would do twice nearly every year until he becomes President. He moves to Springfield.

## **1838**

Lincoln is re-elected to the General Assembly and becomes Whig Floor Leader. Lincoln defends Henry Truett against a murder charge, resulting in acquittal after a three-day trial.

## **1839**

Lincoln is admitted to practice in the US Circuit Court. He meets Mary Todd, 21, from Lexington, Kentucky, who is visiting her sister Elizabeth Todd Edwards.

## **1840-41**

Lincoln argues his first case before the Illinois Supreme Court. He is re-elected to the Illinois General Assembly for the fourth and last time. In the fall, he becomes engaged to Mary Todd, which ends the following year.

## **1842-44**

Lincoln and Mary Todd resume their courtship and marry on November 4. Robert Todd Lincoln is born the following year. Lincoln sets up his own law practice, with William Herndon as his partner.

## **1846-47**

Edward "Eddie" Baker Lincoln is born. Lincoln elected to the US House of Representatives. He becomes known for opposing slavery during his term in the House.

## **1849**

Lincoln leaves politics to practice in Springfield, and is granted a patent for buoying vessels over shoals.

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## **1850-51**

Eddie Lincoln dies a month before his fourth birthday. William "Willie" Wallace Lincoln is born. Lincoln's father dies, but he does not attend the funeral.

## **1853-55**

Thomas "Tad" Lincoln is born. Lincoln re-enters politics to oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act and loses the election for US Senator.

## **1856-57**

Lincoln helps organize the new Republican Party of Illinois, gaining national attention. He speaks against the Dred Scott Decision.

## **1858**

Lincoln runs for Senator from Illinois. He gives his House Divided speech at the state convention, and engages in a series of seven debates known as the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

## **1859-60**

The Illinois legislature elects Stephan Douglas for the US Senate. Lincoln delivers his Cooper Union Address in New York City.

## **May 18, 1860**

Lincoln is nominated for President at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

## **November 6, 1860**

Lincoln elected 16th President of the United States, receiving 180 of 303 electoral votes and about 40 percent of the popular vote in a five-way election.

## **December 20, 1860**

South Carolina is the first of eleven states to attempt to secede from the United States.

## **March 4, 1861**

Lincoln inaugurated President on the steps of the US Capitol building.

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## **April 12, 1861**

Confederate artillery opens fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Three days later, Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion.

## **July 21, 1861**

US armies suffer a humiliating defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run.

## **1862**

William Lincoln dies at age 11.

## **April 16, 1862**

Lincoln signs an act that abolishes slavery in the District of Columbia.

## **September 17, 1862**

Confederate armies are stopped at the Battle of Antietam in Maryland. Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation five days later.

## **January 1, 1863**

Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all enslaved people in territories held by Confederates.

## **July 3 and 4, 1863**

US victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg are a turning point of the war.

## **November 19, 1863**

Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

## **November 8, 1864**

Lincoln is re-elected with 55 percent of the popular vote.

## **January 31, 1865**

Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolishes slavery when ratified by the states.

## **March 4, 1865**

Lincoln delivers his Second Inaugural Address.

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## **April 9, 1865**

Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

## **April 14-15, 1865**

Lincoln shot while attending a play at Ford's Theater. He dies the following morning at 7:22am.

## **April 19-May 4, 1865**

Lincoln's funerals are conducted in Washington DC and along the train route back to Springfield, Illinois, where he is laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

## **December 6, 1865**

The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified and slavery is abolished.