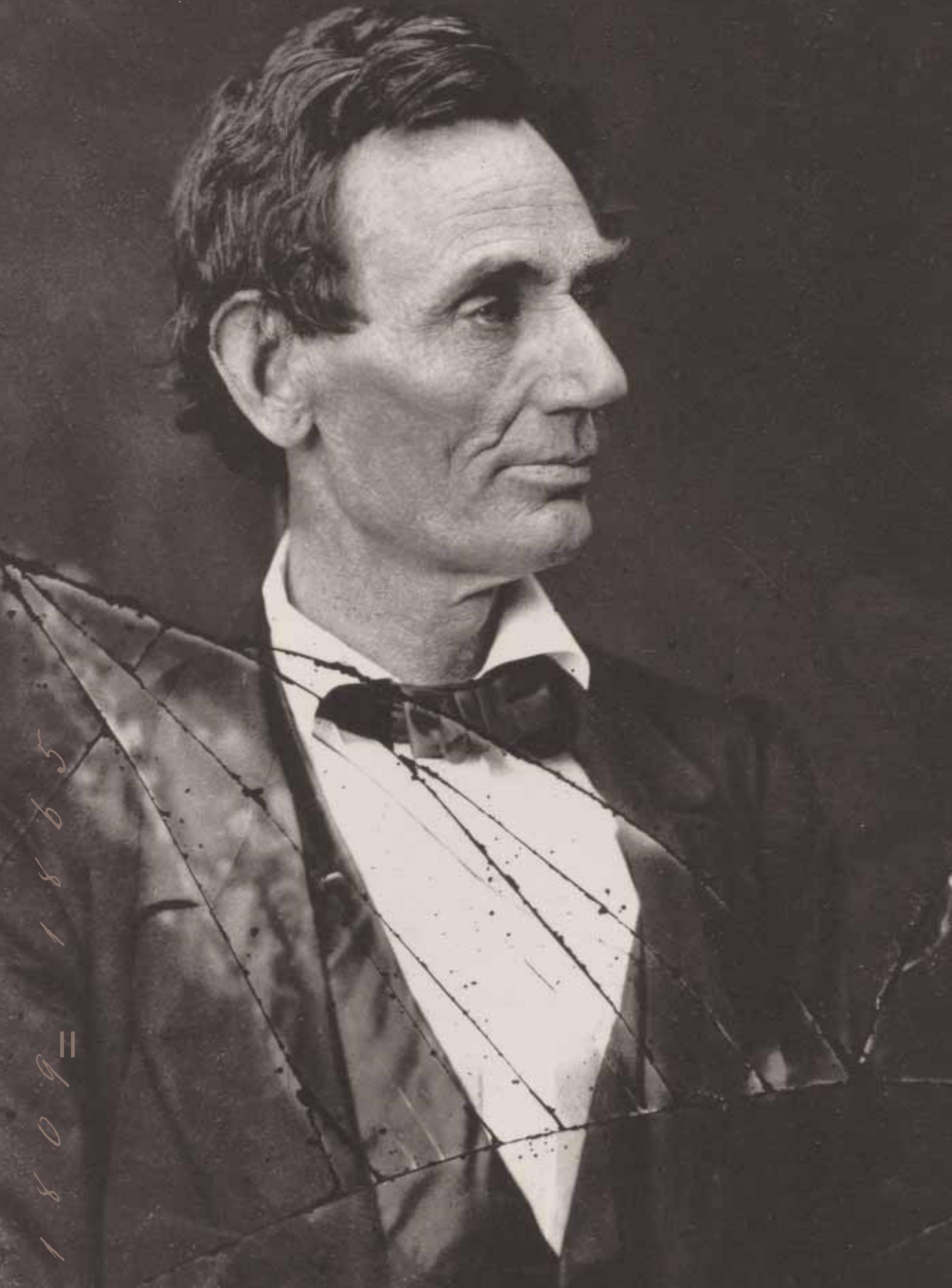


ABRAHAM LINCOLN

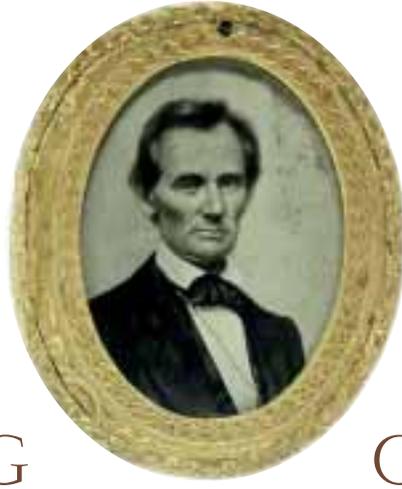
Admission



1809 = 1865

Abraham

STARTED LIFE
FRONTIER LOG



Lincoln

LIVING IN A
CABIN AND

FINISHED LIFE LIVING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

His 1860 election to the presidency triggered the Civil War between the slaveholding South



and the non-slave North, the most terrible ordeal in United States history.

Under his leadership

the North defeated the South, the United States was preserved as one country, and slavery in the United States was abolished.



Along the way, Lincoln reinvented American democracy by reemphasizing the idea in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal” and by raising the status of the fed-



eral union firmly and finally above the

individual states. Assassinated just as the Civil War was ending, Abraham Lincoln remains a beloved president because of his compassion and humanity. ☀



of Lincoln by George Clark, after Lincoln outside his pioneer home; with troops at Antietam, Maryland,

From top: Ambrotype, dated 1860, Mathew Brady; 1890 depiction of Lincoln campaign badge; Lincoln in 1862 after the battle there; the key to the front door of the White House during Lincoln's residence. Bottom: Civil War-era U.S. flag with 36 stars representing 36 states.

of Lincoln by George Clark, after Lincoln outside his pioneer home; with troops at Antietam, Maryland,

1809

On

Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a one-room, dirt-floored log cabin in Kentucky. His family started over twice, clearing more land of trees and rocks to farm the wilderness in Indiana and then Illinois. Lincoln's mother died when he was nine, and his sister, a few years later. Lincoln's father remarried a widow with children who took a special interest in young Abraham, who called her his, "angel mother."



all and lanky, Lincoln built a strong body splitting logs for rails and plowing fields. With a little formal schooling and a little nurturing from his stepmother, he developed his mind reading and rereading the few books he could borrow. Like his father, he showed talent for telling jokes and stories.



Eager to leave farming, Lincoln set out at age 21 and settled in the wilderness village of New Salem, Illinois. He won admiration there for storytelling, debating, and wrestling the leader of the village's gang of toughs to a draw.

When villagers formed a militia to join the Black Hawk War campaign against a Native Indian tribe, they elected Lincoln captain; he saw no

military action but found the adventure exhilarating. Back in New Salem, Lincoln built a reputation for honesty and integrity. After working as a postmaster, surveyor, and general store clerk, he joined with a partner to open a new general store. After the partner died and the store failed, Lincoln assumed all the debts—\$3,000, a staggering sum at that time. Over 15 years he paid back every cent. ✦

Above: The one-room, one-window, dirt-floor log cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky, where Lincoln was born. Left: Lincoln's step-mother, Sara Bush Lincoln, the woman he called his "angel mother," about 1860.



the Frontier



At left, interior of the Kentucky log cabin where Lincoln was born, showing fireplace and spinning jenny. Below, map of New Salem, Illinois, where Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837.



Above: Interior of general store owned by Lincoln and partner William Berry. Right: Illustration of young Lincoln studying by the fireplace in a chromolithograph by Eastman Johnson, 1868. Far right, top: Color lantern slide, circa 1890, showing Lincoln's raft trip down the Mississippi before settling in New Salem, Illinois; far right, bottom: Lincoln's arithmetic practice book, c. 1824–1826.

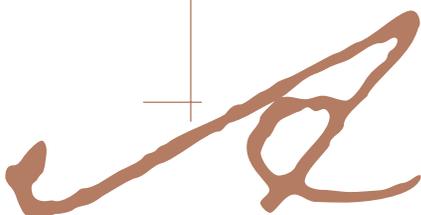


1836.

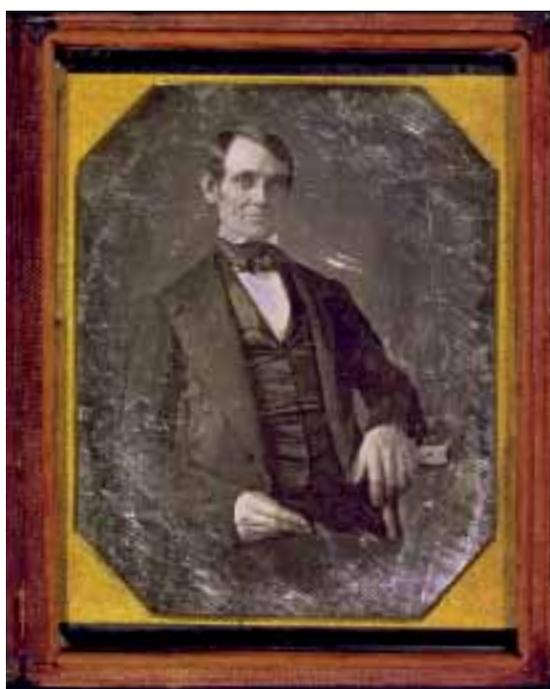
Law

Lincoln had ambitions to make money and get involved in politics. He did both.

He studied law books on his own and gained admission to practice law. Every spring and fall Lincoln rode on horseback as the Illinois court traveled a circuit from village to village, handling thousands of mostly small cases over the years.



After running for the Illinois state legislature in 1834 but failing, Lincoln won election in 1836, 1838, and 1840. A member of the Whig Party, which supported government dominated by the legislative branch and economic development, he vigorously promoted state government projects to improve river transportation for his rural constituents. In 1836 he moved his residence to Springfield, which was the new Illinois state capital.



In 1846 Lincoln was elected as a Whig to serve a single two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Little noticed in Washington, he nevertheless angered his constituents by opposing the Mexican War. Although he decided against seeking re-election, he had proven himself a conscientious political risk taker.



Lincoln and a woman 10 years younger than he, Mary Todd, fell in love. She came from a prominent slaveholding Kentucky family. After a difficult courtship—Lincoln broke off their engagement once—

the two married in 1842. The following year their first son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was born; of the four Lincoln children only Robert survived both parents.

Quitting politics for a time, in the 1850s Lincoln built a law firm with railroad companies as major clients. As he began to accumulate modest wealth, he moved his family into a big new house. Yet he always retained his folksy ways and backwoods drawl. ✦

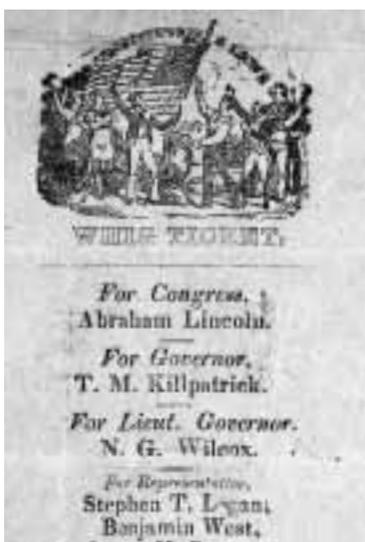
Above: Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, circa 1846-1847. Left: Lincoln with sons Willie and Thomas, nicknamed Tadpole or Tad, on the porch of their Springfield, Illinois, house in 1860. Opposite panel, lower left: 1846 Whig Party election ticket led by Abraham Lincoln, candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives; Lincoln reading to son Tad, 1864.



and Politics



At far left, lawyer Lincoln's business card, circa 1850. Left, Lincoln's sons, from left to right, Robert Todd, William (Willie), and Thomas (Tad).



Center: Street scene, possibly showing Lincoln law office in Springfield, Illinois. Above: portrait of Lincoln in 1857, shown after winning acquittal for his client in a murder case. Left: Illustration of Lincoln riding the Illinois court circuit; and below, illustration from "Leslie's Weekly" of his Springfield law office in 1860.



“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently *half-slave* and *half-free*. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other.”

Springfield, Illinois, June 16, 1858

Nearly since the first African slaves were imported to Virginia in 1619, opposition to slavery simmered.



Each time the United States added territories the issue of expanding the number of slave states flared anew. New states joining the federal Union in the 1850s threatened the balance of political power between the slaveholding South and non-slave North. Both sides assumed that slavery would somehow gradually disappear without expansion into new territories. Lincoln's anger over slavery led him back to politics.

As a member of the newly formed Republican Party, which was committed to halting the spread of slavery, Lincoln ran in 1858 against U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas. In seven famous debates around Illinois, Douglas and Lincoln, both powerful orators, argued about slavery. Douglas would let voters in each state decide whether to allow slavery in that state.

Lincoln would restrict expansion of slavery but not abolish it where it existed. Lincoln won the popular vote but lost the election because of the election rules of the day. Still, newspaper coverage brought him national attention and prominence within the young Republican Party as a man who could stand up to Douglas, perhaps the most feared and respected politician of his day.

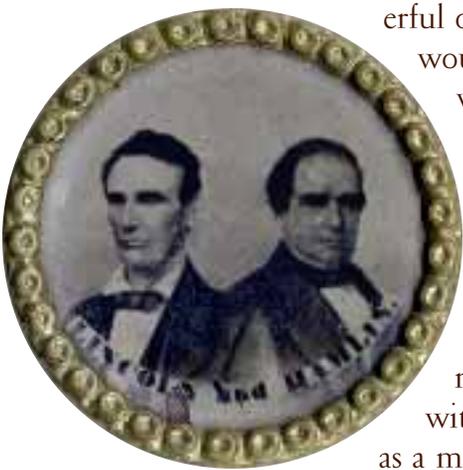
Passions over slavery ran hot during the 1860 presidential election. Republicans nominated Lincoln as their candidate. The Democratic Party split in two: Northern Democrats nominated Douglas, and pro-slavery southern Democrats had their own candidate. A hastily formed



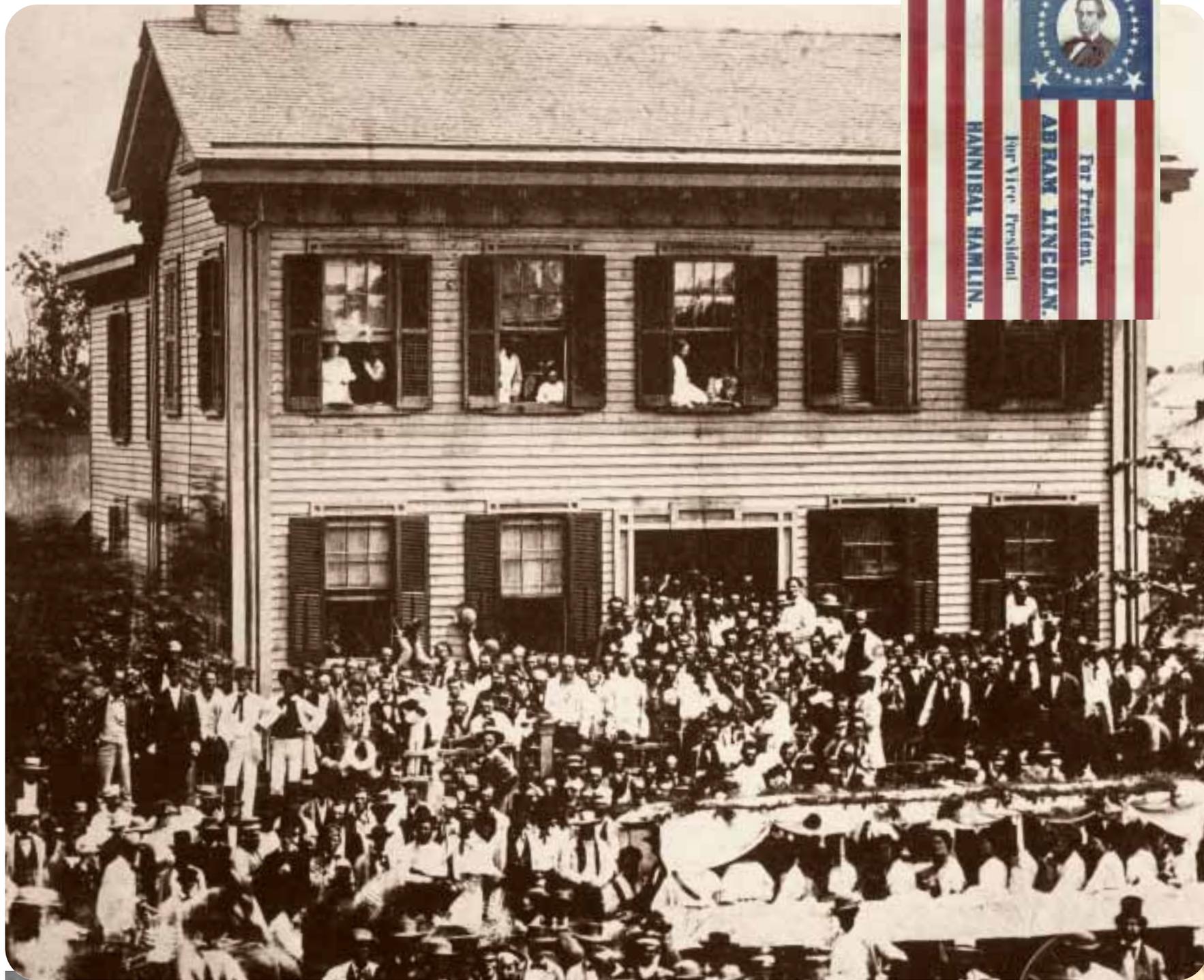
political party, which aimed to win by taking no stand on slavery, fielded a fourth candidate.

With the electorate so divided, Lincoln easily won the election, nearly sweeping the states in the North and West. In reaction, seven Deep South states seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. Civil war was approaching. ✪

Above: Abraham Lincoln on February 27, 1860, the day he argued against slavery in a famous speech at Cooper Union in New York. Left: An 1860 campaign button portrays Republican Party presidential candidate Lincoln and vice presidential candidate Hannibal Hamlin, a U.S. senator from Maine. Opposite panel, bottom: Painting depicting one of the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates in election for U.S. Senate seat.



Emerging Conflict



THE QUESTION
IF LINCOLN
will be elected or not, is one which interests all parties,
North and South. Whether he
IS ELECTED
or not, the people of
SOUTH CAROLINA
believe they have cause for a number of years (excepting
some) have the advantage of supplying themselves with
CLOTHING, at the well-known CAROLINA CLOTHING
DEPT., 448 King-street, at such prices as
WILL LEAD
them to be satisfied that the reputation of this Establishment
will be best.
BOLDLY
and bravely maintained
FOR A
number of years, supplying the
SOUTHERN
Customers with all the Latest Styles, and at as low prices
as any Clothing Store in the South.
CONFEDERACY
of all the States.
Thankful for the liberal patronage extended, the Proprietors
desire merely to inform their customers and the
public generally, that their present STOCK OF CLOTHES
IS COMPLETE in all its departments, and are now
prepared to offer Goods on the most reasonable and satis-
factory terms. A call is therefore respectfully
EXTENDED TO ALL WILLING TO VISIT.
WILLIS & BARNETT,
November 4, 1862.



Top inset: Campaign poster for Lincoln and Hamlin. Top: Presidential candidate Lincoln (in white suit to right of front door of his Springfield house) with local supporters in August 1860. Above, left to right: Slaves picking cotton on Georgia plantation; clever advertisement opposing 1860 election of Lincoln and promoting Carolina clothing store; slaves in South Carolina in 1862.



1861

Civil

“In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend it.’”

First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

aking office in 1861, as the federal Union was unraveling, Lincoln was still urging its preservation. He called secession an unconstitutional rebellion and pledged to protect federal property in the South. But he also said federal troops would not invade the South or free any slaves.

Hostilities started when Confederates fired on and captured Union-held Fort Sumter in the Charleston, South Carolina, harbor. Determined to recapture U.S. forts seized by Confederates, Lincoln

asked states to recruit 75,000 volunteers for a 90-day term of military service. That decision led four Upper South states—including Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Wash-

ington—to join the Confederacy.

Exhibiting political savvy, Lincoln placed his Republican Party rivals in his Cabinet, where they were forced to cooperate in the war effort. Despite



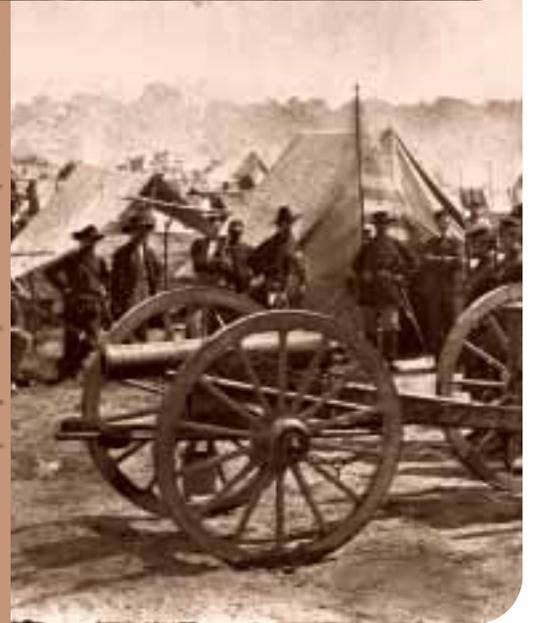
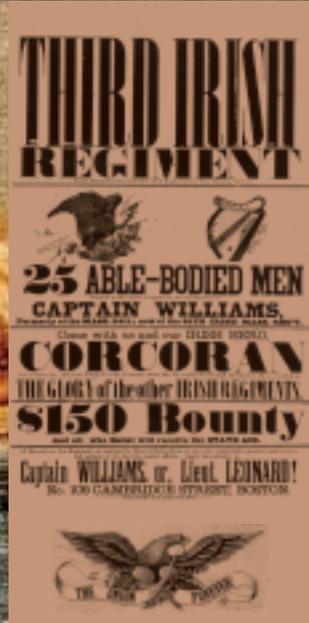
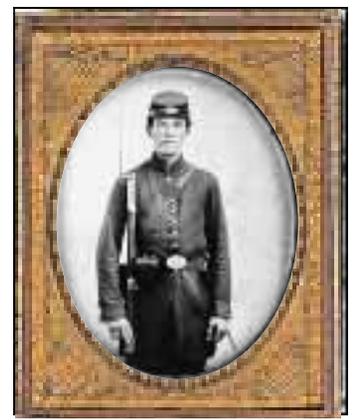
lack of military experience, Lincoln determined the overall war strategy, often overruling and replacing his army commanders. Under his command Union forces quickly defended Washington, took control of northern Virginia plus some slaveholding states that were still part of the Union, and launched an embargo against Southern ports.

Lincoln took controversial emergency wartime actions to suspend constitutional protections: He briefly authorized shutting down some opposition newspapers, imprisoning some Southern sympathizers without trial, and suspending the writ of habeas corpus. ✦

Above: Lincoln's inauguration March 4, 1861; the now-familiar Capitol dome was still under construction. Left: Volunteers protected Washington, including the White House, until loyal Union army regiments from the North arrived. Background right: Union recruitment poster for volunteers in Indiana. Opposite panel, bottom: Pro-Union volunteers in western Virginia enlisting to fight their secessionist state government.



War Begins



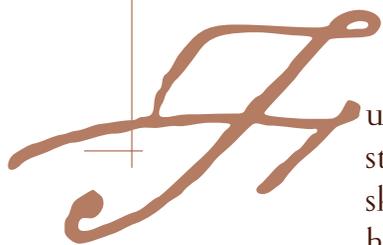
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS



Top left: Ruins of Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina, where war began. Top right: Union soldier from Ohio. Center: Union troops from Vermont at Camp Griffin, Virginia, near the beginning of the war. Above left: Illustration, c. 1861, of the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Above center: Union recruitment poster for ethnic Irish volunteers in Boston, Massachusetts. Above right: Confederate howitzer gun captured by Union troops in 1862 in the main eastern theater of the war in Virginia.

“In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth.” *Second Annual Message to Congress, December 1, 1862*

Lincoln wanted a quick, aggressive assault to break the Confederacy, but Union forces were inadequately prepared and cautiously led.



Full of fury, North and South engaged in a bitter struggle involving hundreds of battles and skirmishes, mostly across the South. Lincoln had expected a short, decisive conflict, but the deadliest U.S. war was just beginning.

After a series of victories in Virginia, Confederate General Robert E. Lee led his army into the border state of Maryland in an attempt to seize Washington. On the bloodiest day in U.S. history, September 17, 1862, Union forces at the Battle of Antietam blocked Lee's troops from advancing.

Lincoln had insisted that the war's aim was to preserve the Union, not to abolish slavery. But after victory at Antietam, Lincoln seized the opportunity to issue the

Emancipation Proclamation, previously drafted but withheld so as not to appear a desperate gambit of a dying nation. The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves as of the following January 1 in any Confederate state still in

rebellion. By making the war a moral crusade, Lincoln discouraged any European powers from siding with the cotton-rich South and encouraged freed slaves to fight for the Union. Meanwhile, the Republican Congress passed and Lincoln signed legislation that the now-absent Southerners had previously blocked: higher



tariffs, a national banking system, low-cost sale to settlers of government-owned land in the West, government grants for agricultural colleges, and infrastructure improvements, including support for the first transcontinental railroad.

The death of a son from illness added a profound personal burden to the monumental and tragic issues with which Lincoln had to wrestle as president.

Above: Lincoln confers with Union General George McClellan on October 3 or 4, 1862, at Antietam, Maryland, after the blood-drenched battle there. Left: Depiction of Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet officers on July 22, 1862. Right: 1864 lithograph of the Emancipation Proclamation.



ncipation



A Proclamation

Top inset: Two unidentified African American Union soldiers. Top: Rare photograph taken by Matthew Brady during Battle of Antietam September 17, 1862. Center: Painting of Union troops crossing bridge over Antietam Creek. Bottom row, left: 4th U.S. (Colored) Infantry, African American troops at Fort Lincoln in Washington, D.C., 1865; middle: Workers laying track in Nevada in 1868 for the transcontinental railroad; right: Freed slaves in wagon seeking refuge behind Union Army lines January 1, 1864.

1863

Turn

“...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” *Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863*

July 1863 was a turning point. Lincoln walked daily over to a new telegraph office to read reports from the warfronts.



In the West, Union forces finished a long campaign against Vicksburg to control the strategically vital Mississippi River. At the same time, more than 50,000 soldiers were casualties in three days of bloodshed at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, as Union forces turned back Confederate General Lee's second invasion of the North.

The following November Lincoln came to Gettysburg for dedication of a military cemetery. In 10 powerful sentences Lincoln redefined the purpose of the Civil War. No longer simply about preserving the Union, the war represented

“a new birth of freedom,” fulfilling the idea in the 1776 Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal.

In 1864 the Union Army's new lead commander, Ulysses S. Grant, started a year-long campaign to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia—a bloodletting of unprecedented proportion that emboldened anti-war Democrats and threatened to cost Lincoln re-election. Meanwhile, Union General William T. Sherman's troops battled their way toward taking Atlanta, Georgia, a major southern industrial and railroad city.



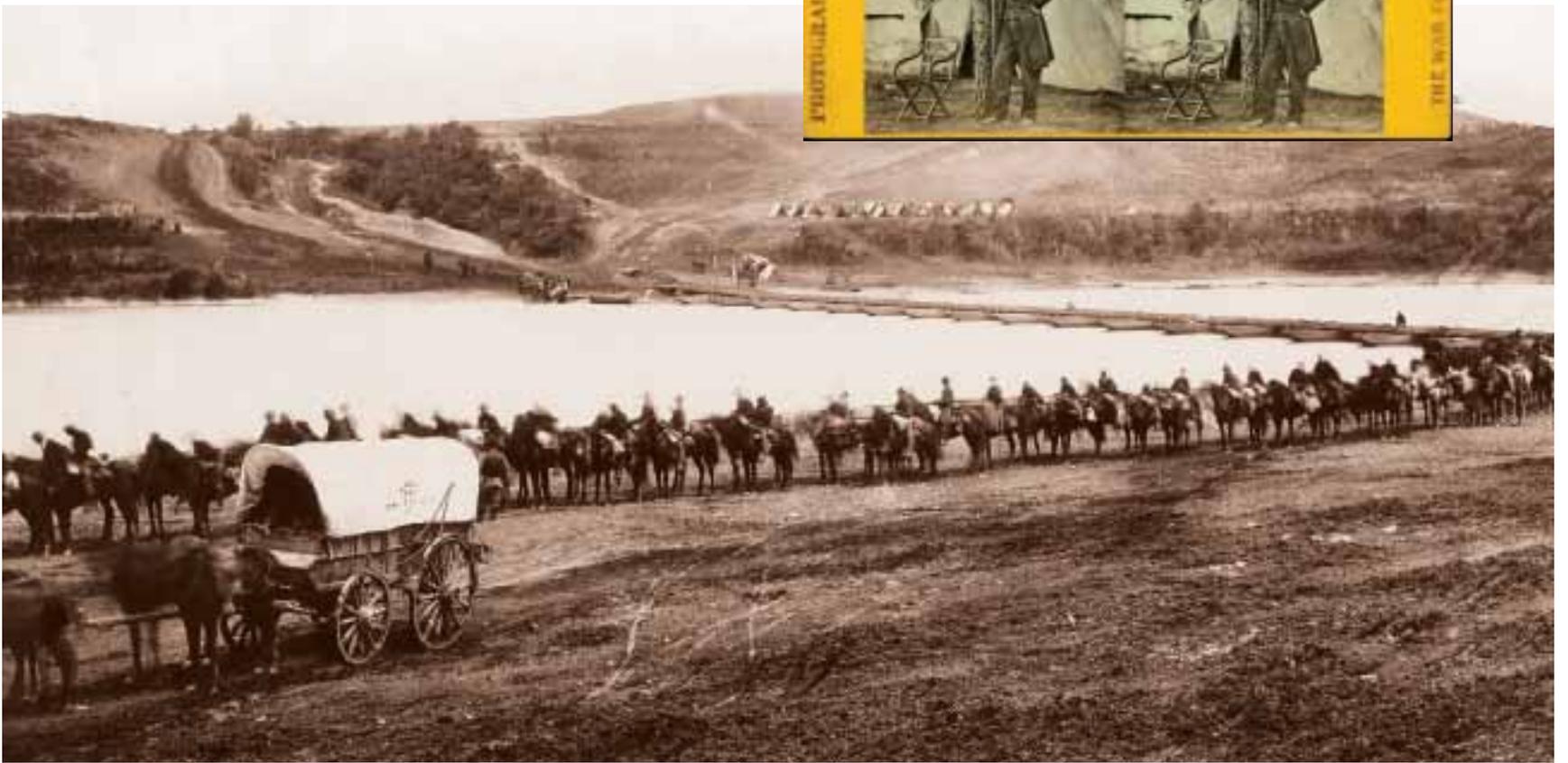
Republicans renominated Lincoln for a second term as president. As a symbol of national unity, he selected as his vice presidential running mate Andrew Johnson, a pro-Union southern Democrat. With Sherman having captured Atlanta and the war situation improving by November, Lincoln won re-election easily over Democrat George McLellan, a former Union army commander whom Lincoln had dismissed.

Sherman's troops, under Lincoln's orders, waged total economic destruction—seizing livestock and crops, destroying houses and railroads—in a wide swath from Atlanta to the ocean. ✦

Above: Lincoln in a portrait by Alexander Gardner, November 8, 1863, about the time he was writing the Gettysburg Address. Left: 1864 campaign poster for re-election of Lincoln as president with vice presidential candidate Andrew Johnson, a pro-Union U.S. senator from Confederate Tennessee.



ing Point



Top inset: Stereograph of Union General Ulysses S. Grant in 1864 or 1865 at his headquarters in City Point, Virginia. Top: Union cavalry cross Rappahannock River in Virginia, June 1863. Center: 1870 illustration of Confederates' failed Pickett's Charge at Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania July 3, 1863. Above left: Ruins of Charleston, South Carolina, in April 1865, near where the war began four years earlier. Above, right: Union troops mass along Rappahannock River before attacking Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December 1864. Near right: Rare photograph of Lincoln at the Gettysburg dedication, November 19, 1863. Far right: Confederate soldiers in Richmond, Virginia, above; ruins of Richmond in 1865, below.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ∞ NOVEMBER 19TH, 1863



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before

us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—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.



FOUR SCORE AND FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN

SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR ON THIS CONTINENT A LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. ✱ A GREAT CIVIL WAR, TESTING

WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT WAR. WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD, AS A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS. ✱ BUT, IN A LARGER SENSE, WE CAN NOT DEDICATE—WE CAN NOT CONSECRATE—WE CAN NOT HALLOW—THIS GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN, LIVING AND DEAD, WHO STRUGGLED HERE, HAVE CONSECRATED IT, FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT. THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE, NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS FOR US THE LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US—THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION—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.

1865

“With malice toward none;
with charity for all; with firmness
in the right, as God gives us to see
the right, let us strive on to finish
the work we are in; to bind up
the nation’s wounds...”

Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

After re-election in November 1864, Lincoln pushed Congress to act quickly to pass an amendment that would end slavery.



Nearly 100 years later poet and Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg said, “Not often in the story of mankind does a man arrive on earth who is both steel and velvet, who is as hard as rock and soft as drifting fog, who holds in his heart and mind the paradox of terrible storm and peace unspeakable and perfect.”

Above: Photograph of a careworn Lincoln, taken by Alexander Gardner in February 1865 in Washington after nearly four years of war. Left: The assassination at Ford’s Theatre the evening of April 14, 1865. Below: Illinois’ official delegation of mourners in front of Lincoln’s Springfield home May 4, 1865, before the funeral procession to Oak Ridge Cemetery.

B

y January 1865 Congress had passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution banning slavery throughout the United States and sent it to the states for ratification. Inaugurated for a second term as president March 4, Lincoln was looking ahead to war’s end. He condemned the evil of slavery in the harshest terms yet but sought to prepare the reunited nation for compassionate treatment of the vanquished South.

Exhausted Confederate troops abandoned their capital, Richmond, and finally surrendered to Union forces in Virginia on April 9. Other scattered Confederate forces surrendered in the following weeks. By June four years of civil war were over.

Lincoln did not live to see the peace, however. Worn with grief from the war and seeking distraction, he and his wife, Mary, attended an April 14 performance of a new comedy at Ford’s Theater in Washington. Into the president’s box snuck actor John Wilkes Booth, a fanatic Confederate sympathizer, who shot Lincoln through the head. Attendants moved Lincoln to a boarding house across the street where he died the following morning.

The nation mourned. Often reviled in life, Lincoln was revered in death. After a White House funeral, tens of thousands of people filed past the coffin at the Capitol and then on board the funeral train, which stopped at major cities on the way back to Springfield, Illinois, where he was buried.





“...IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION, THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS ENSHRINED FOREVER.”

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL WASHINGTON, D.C.