A NATION DIVIDED THE U. S. CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln, who had declared "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free..." is elected president, the first Republican, receiving 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

December 20, 1860 - South Carolina secedes from the Union. Followed within two months by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas

February 9, 1861 - The Confederate States of America is formed with Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Army officer, as president.

March 4, 1861 - Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as the 16th President of the United States of America.

Fort Sumter Attacked

- April 12, 1861 At 4:30 a.m. Confederates under General Pierre Beauregard opened fire with 50 cannons on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina and the Civil War begins.
- April 14, 1861 Fort Sumter was captured after over 300 shells bombarded the fort. The Rebel flag "Stars and Bars" now flies.
- April 15, 1861 President Lincoln issues a Proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen, and summoning a special session of Congress for July 4th. Robert E. Lee, son of a Revolutionary War hero, and a 25 year distinguished veteran of the United States Army and former Superintendent of West Point, is offered command of the Union Army. Lee declines.
- April 17, 1861 Virginia secedes from the Union, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union will soon have 21 states and a population of

- my hand against my birthplace, my home, my children." Lee then goes to Richmond, Virginia, is offered command of the military and naval forces of Virginia and accepts.
- **April 19, 1861** President Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Blockade against Southern ports. For the duration of the war the blockade limits the ability of the rural South to stay well supplied in its war against the industrialized North.
- July 4, 1861 Lincoln, in a speech to Congress, states the war is..."a People's contest...a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men..."The Congress authorizes a call for 500,000 men.

First Bull Run

- July 21, 1861 The Union Army under General Irvin McDowell suffers a defeat at Bull Run 25 miles southwest of Washington. Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson earns the nickname "Stonewall," as his brigade resists Union attacks. Union troops fall back to Washington. President Lincoln realizes the war will be long. "It's damned bad," he comments.
- July 27, 1861 President Lincoln appoints George B. McClellan as Commander of the Department of the Potomac, replacing McDowell
- September 11, 1861 President Lincoln revokes General Fremont's unauthorized military proclamation of emancipation in Missouri. Later, the president relieves General Fremont of his command and replaces him with General David Hunter.
- November 1, 1861 President Lincoln appoints McClellan as general-inchief of all Union forces after the resignation of the aged Winfield Scott. Lincoln tells McClellan, "...the supreme command of the Army will entail a vast labor upon you." McClellan responds, "I can do it all."
- November 8, 1861 The beginning of an international diplomatic crisis for President Lincoln as two Confederate officials sailing toward England are seized by the U. S. Navy. England, the leading world power, demands their release, threatening war. Lincoln eventually gives in and orders their release in December. "One war at a time," Lincoln remarks.

- January 31, 1862 President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 calling for all United States naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22, George Washington's birthday.
- **February 6, 1862** Victory for General Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry, and ten days later Fort Donelson. Grant earns the nicknams "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.
- February 20, 1862 President Lincoln is struck with grief as his beloved eleven year old son, Willie dies from fever, probably caused by polluted drinking water in the White House.
- March 8/9, 2861 The Confederate Ironclad 'Merrimac' sinks two wooden Union ships then battles the Union Ironclad 'Monitor' to a draw. Naval warfare is thus changed forever, making wooden ships obsolete.

Shiloh

- April 6/7, 1862 Confederate surprise attack on General Grant's unprepared troops at Shiloh on the Tennessee River results in a bitter struggle with 13,000 Union killed and wounded and 10,000 Confederates, more men than in all previous American wars combined. The president is then pressured to relieve Grant but resists. "I can't spare this man; he fights," Lincoln says.
- April 24, 1862 17 Union ships under the command of Flag Officer David Farragut move up the Mississippi River then take New Orleans, the South's greatest seaport. Later in the war, sailing through a Rebel mine field Farragut utters the famous phrase. "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"
- May 31, 1862 The Battle of Seven Pines as General Joseph E. Johnston;s Army attacks McClellan's troops in front of Richmond and nearly defeats them. Johnston is badly wounded.
- June 1, 1862 General Robert E. Lee assumes command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee then renames his force the Army of Northern Virginia. McClellan is not impressed, saying Lee is "likely to be timid and irresolute in action."

- June 25 July 1 The Seven Days Battles as Lee attacks McClellan near Richmond, resulting in very heavy losses for both armies. McClellan then begins a withdrawal back toward Washington.
- July 11, 1862 After four months as his own general-in-chief, President Lincoln hands over the task to General Henry W. (old brains) Halleck.

Second Battle of Bull Run

August 29/30, 1862 - 75,000 Federals under General John Pope are defeated by 55,000 Confederates under General Stonewall Jackson and General James Longstreet at the second battle of Bull Run in northern Virginia. Once again the Union Army retreats to Washington. The president then relieves Pope.

Sept 4-9, 1862 - Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederates and heads for Harpers Ferry located 50 miles northwest of Washington. The Union Army, 90,000 strong, under the command of McClellan, pursues Lee.

Antietam

September 17, 1862 - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Armies are stopped at Antietam in Maryland by McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men are dead, wounded, or missing. Lee then withdraws to Virginia. The Confederate dead lay in a Comfield at Antietam where the intense rifle and artillery fire cut every corn stalk to the ground "as closely as could have been done with a knife."

September 22, 1862 - Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves issued by President Lincoln.

November 7, 1862 - The president replaces McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside as the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln had grown impatient with McClellan's slowness to follow up on the success at Antietam, even telling him, "If you don't want to use the army, I should like to borrow it for a while."

Fredericksburg

December 13, 1862 - Army of the Potomac under General Burnside suffers a costly defeat at Fredericksburg in Virginia with a loss of 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier remarks. Confederate losses are 5,309. "It is well that war is so terrible - we should grow too fond of it, " states Lee during the fighting.

January 1, 1863 - President Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates and emphasizes the enlisting of black soldiers in the Union Army. The war to preserve the Union now becomes a revolutionary struggle for the abolition of slavery.

January 25, 1863 - The president appoints General Joseph (Fighting Joe) Hooker as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Burnside.

January 29, 1863 - General Grant is placed in command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg.

March 3, 1863 - The U.S. Congress enacts a draft, affecting male citizens aged 20 to 45, but also exempts those who pay \$300 or provide a substitute. "The blood of a poor man is as precious as that of the wealthy," poor Northerners complain.

Chancellorsville

May 1-4, 1863 - The Union Army under General Hooker is decisively defeated by Lee's much smaller forces at the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia as a result of Lee's brilliant and daring tactics. Confederate General Stonewall Jackson is mortally wounded by his own soldiers. Hooker retreats. Union losses are 17,000 killed, wounded and missing out of 130,000. The Confederates, 13,000 out of 60,000. "I just lost confidence in Joe Jooker," said Hooker later about his own lack of nerve during the battle.

May 10, 1863 - The south suffers a huge blow as Stonewall Jackson dies from his wounds, his last words, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." "I have lost my right arm, " Lee laments.

- June 3, 1863 General Lee with 75,000 Confederates launches his second invasion of the North, heading into Pennsylvania in a campaign that will soon lead to Getysburg.
- June 28, 1863 President Lincoln appoints General George G. Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Hooker. Meade is the 5th man to command the Army in less than a year.

Gettysburg

- July 1-3, 1863 The tide of the war turns against the South as the confeerates are defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.
- July 4, 1863 Vicksburg, the last confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrenders to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union now in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy is effectively split in two, cut off from the west
- July 13-16, 1863 Antidraft riots in New York City include arson and the murder of blacks by poor immigrant whites. At least 120 persons, including children, are killed and \$2 million in damage caused, until Union soldiers returning from Gettysburg restore order.
- July 18, 1863 'Negro troops' of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment under col. Robert G. Shaw assault fortified Rebels at Fort Wagner, South Carolina. Col. Shaw and half of the 600 men in the regiment are killed.
- August 10, 1863 The president meets with abolitionist Frederick Douglass who pushes for full equality for Union Negro Troops.
- August 21, 1863 At Lawrence, Kansas, pro-Confederate William C. Quantrill and 450 proslavery followers raid the town and butcher 182 boys and men.

Chickamauga

September 19/20, 1863 - A decisive Confederate victory by General Braxton bragg's Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga leaves General William

S. Rosecrans' Union Army of the Cumberland trapped in Chattanooga, Tennessee under Confederate siege.

October 16, 1863 - The president appoints General Grant to command all operations in the western theater.

November 19, 1863 - President Lincoln delivers a two minute Gettysburg Address at a ceremony dedicating the Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

Chattanooga

November 23-25, 1863 - The Rebel siege of Chattanooga ends as Union forces under Grant defeat the siege army of General Braxton Bragg. During the battle, one of the most dramatic moments of the war occurs. Yelling "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" Union troops avenge their previous defeat at Chicamauga by storming up the face of Missionary Ridge without orders and sweep the Rebels from what had ben throught to be an impregnable position. "My God, come and see 'em run!" a Union soldier cries.

March 9, 1864 - President Lincoln appoints General Grant to command all of the armies of the United States. General William T. Sherman succeeds Grant as commander in the west.

May 4, 1864 - The beginning of a massive, coordinated campagin involving all the Union Armies. In Virginia, Grant with an Army of 120,000 begins advancing toward Richmond to engage Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, now numbering 64,000, beginning a war of attrition that will include major battles at the Wildemess (May 5-6aa), Spotsylvania (May 8-12), and Cold Harbor (June 1-3). In the west, Sherman, with 100,000 men begins an advance toward Atlanta to engage Joseph E. Johnston;s 60,000 strong Army of Tennessee.

Cold Harbor

June 3, 1864 - A costly mistake by Grant results in 7,000 Union casualties in twenty minutes during an offensive against fortifi d Rebels at Cold Harbor in Virginia. Many of the Union soldiers in the failed assault had predicted the outcome, including a dead soldier from massachusetts whose last entry in his diary was, "June 3, 1864, Cold Harbor, Virginia. I was killed."

June 15, 1864 - Union forces miss an opportunity to capture Petersburg and cut off the Confederate rail lines. As a result, a nine month siege of Petersburg begins with Grant's forces surrounding Lee.

July 20, 1864 - At Atlanta, Sherman's forces battle the Rebels now under the command of General John B. Hood who replaced Johnston.

August 29, 1864 - Democrats nominate George B. McClellan for president to run against Republican incumbent Abraham Lincoln.

September 2, 1864 - Atlanta is captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," Sherman telegraphs Lincoln. The victory greatly helps President Lincoln's bid for re-election.

October 19, 1864 - A decisive Union victory by Cavalry General Philip H. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley over Jubal Early's troops.

November 18, 1864 - Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president, defeating Democrat George B. McClellan. Lincoln carries all but three states with 55 percent of the popular vote and 212 of the 233 electoral votes. "I earnestly believe that the consequences of this day's work will be to the lasting advantage, if not the very salvation, of the country." Lincoln tells supporters.

March to the Sea

November 15, 1864 - After destroying Atlanta's warehouses and railroad facilities, Sherman, with 62,000 men begina a March to the Sea. President Lincoln on advice from Grant approved the idea. "I can make Georgia how!" Sherman boasts.

December 15/16, 1864 - Hood's Rebel Army of 23,000 is crushed at Nashville by 55,000 Federals including Negro troops under General George H. Thomas. The confederate Army of Tennessee ceases as an effective fighting force.

December 21, 1864 - Sherman reaches Savannah in Georgia leaving behind a 300 mile long path of destruction 60 miles wide all the way from Atlanta. Sherman then telegraphs Lincoln, offering him Savannah as a Christmas present.

- January 31, 1865 The U.S. Congress approves the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, to abolish slavery. The amendment is then submitted to the states for ratification.
- February 3, 1865 A peace conference occurs as President Lincoln meets with Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens at Hampton Roads in Virginia, but the meeting ends in failure the war will continue. Only Lee's Army at Petersburg and Johnston's forces in North Carolina remain to fight for the South against Northern forces now numbering 280,000 men.
- March 4, 1865 Inaguration ceremonies for President Lincoln in Washington. "With malice toward none; with charity for all...let us strive on to finish the work we are in...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations," Lincoln says.
- March 25, 1865 The last offensive for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia begins with an attack on the center of Grant's forces at Petersburg. Four hours later the attack is broken.
- April 2, 1865 Grant's forces begin a general advance and break through Lee's lines at Petersburg. Confederate General Ambrose P. Hill is killed. Lee evacuates Petersburg. The confederate Capital, Richmond, is evacuated. Fires and looting break out. The next day, Union troops enter and raise the Stars and Stripes.
- April 4, 1865 President Lincoln tours Richmond where he enters the confederate White House with a "serious, dreamy expression," he sits at the desk of Jefferson Davis for a few moments.

Lee Surrenders

April 9, 1865 - General Robert E. Lee surrenders his Confederate Army to General Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Grant allows Rebel officers to keep their sidearms and permits soldiers to keep horses and mules. "After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources," Lee tells his troops.

April 10, 1865 - Celebrations break out in Washington

Lincoln Shot

- April 14, 1865 The Stars and Stripes is ceremoniously raised over Fort sumter. That night, Lincoln and his wife Mary see the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater. At 10:13 p.m., during the third act of the play, John Wilkes Booth shoots the president in the head. Doctors attend to the president in the theater then move him to a house across the street. He never regains consciousness.
- April 15, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln dies at 7:22 in the morning. Vice President Andrew Johnson assumes the presidency.
- **April 18, 1865 -** Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders to Sherman near Durham in North Carolina.
- April 26, 1865 John Wilkes Booth is shot and killed in a tobacco barn in Virginia.
- May 4, 1865 Abraham Lincoln is laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery, outside Springfield, Illinois. In May the remaining Confederate forces surrender. The Nation is reunited as the Civil War ends. Over 620,000 Americans died in the war, with disease killing twice as many as those lost in battle. 50,000 survivors return home as amputees.
- **December 6, 1865 -** The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, is finally ratified. Slavery is abolished.

Prepared by Kaye England - Civil War Study Group Special Thanks to the History Place

Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln spoke these words November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the soldier's Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on 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 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 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.



Abraham Lincoln

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Abraham Lincoln



No other American President had more humble beginnings than Abraham Lincoln. Born in a log cabin near Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, young Abe's family were farmers who lived on the edge of poverty all of his childhood. When Abe was nine, his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died of milk sickness. His father remarried within a year to provide a mother for his children, and the newly-blended family settled in Pigeon Creek, Indiana. Abe's new mother sent him and his sister, Sarah, to school so that they could at least read, write, and multiply to 5, which was all the formal schooling Abe ever had.

As a young man, Abe worked as a ferryman on the Ohio River taking cargo down to New Orleans. He took a job as a clerk in a general store in New Salem, Ohio, in 1831. His quick wit and self-effacing humor won him many friends. When the Black Hawk War broke out in 1832, Lincoln enlisted in the Army and was made captain of his company. His men saw no action, and he returned to New Salem.

Lincoln failed at his first political election and at his dry goods business. While serving as postmaster for New Salem, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives from 1834 to 1842. In 1836, he studied law, obtained his license, and set up an office in New Salem.

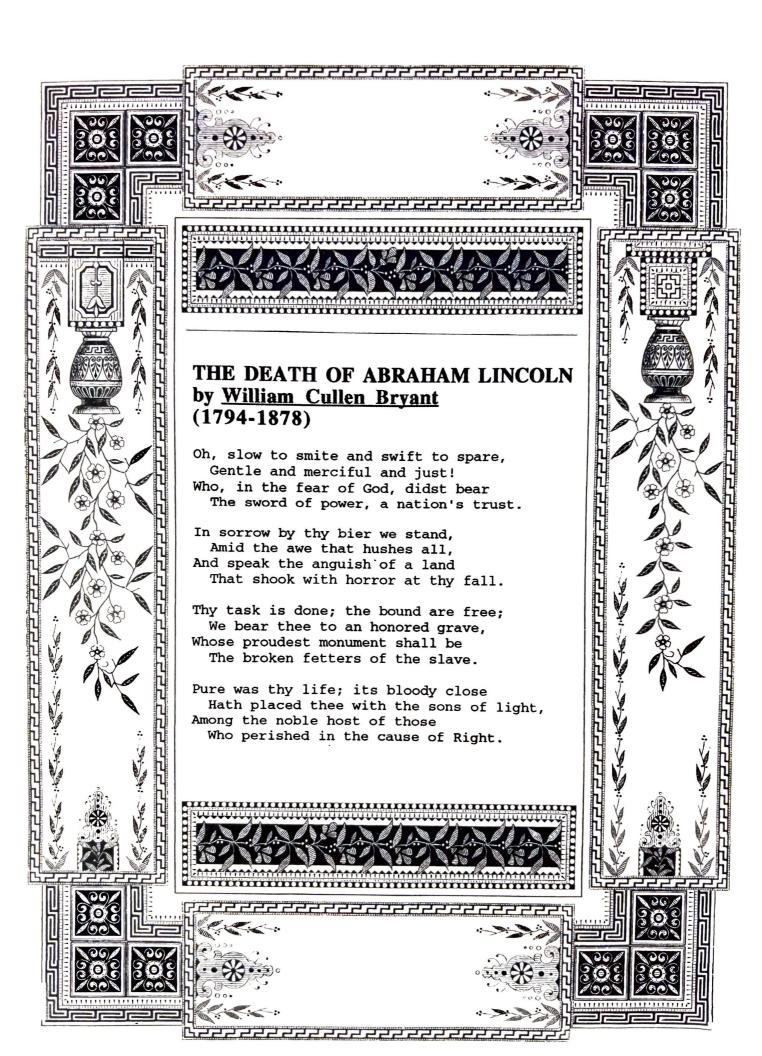
The following year Lincoln moved his practice to Springfield, Illinois, where he met Mary Todd, a temperamental, socially ambitious woman, whom he married in 1842. The Lincolns had four sons, but only Robert Todd Lincoln lived to adulthood. A private sorrow occurred to the Lincolns when their eleven-year-old son, Willie, died from a fever during the Civil War in 1862.

Lincoln became a United States Representative from Illinois in 1847. When his term ended in 1849, he returned to Springfield and resumed his law practice. The issue of free states versus slave states was the controversy of the day. Lincoln was not in favor of slavery, but he was not an abolitionist, either. He was a "Free Soiler," believing that states entering the Union should be free, not slave states. His main opponent on the issue was Senator Stephen Douglas. In 1858, Lincoln accepted the nomination to run against Douglas for the United States Senate. Lincoln challenged Douglas to public debates, which detailed their positions for and against slavery. Douglas won the Senate seat, but the debates made Lincoln a national figure.

Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Party for President in 1860, and won the election easily. However, Southerners who disagreed with Lincoln's stand on slavery were horrified when he carried all the Northern states in the election, and soon a block of ten Southern states followed North Carolina in seceding from the Union. The Confederacy was formed, and the Civil War had begun.

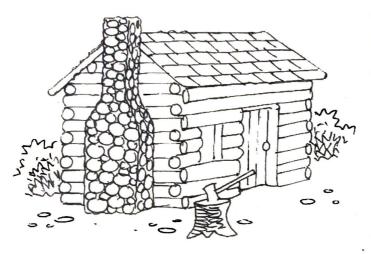
Lincoln's goal throughout the terrible four years that followed was to bring the Southern states back into the Union. He had plenty of soldiers and weaponry, but lacked strong military leadership of the army until General Ulysses S. Grant took command. On April 8, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant, and the Civil War was over.

But was it? Not in the minds of some Southerners. On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in the back of the head in Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C. Lincoln died the following morning at 7:22.



Biography Crossword

Most of the clues and answers are about Lincoln, people and events from the Civil War period. Be careful, though, because there are a few general knowledge clues and answers. Don't let them trick you!



Across

- 1. Lincoln's party
- 7. Honest _____
- 8. ____ cabin
- 10. Domiciled animal
- 11. Its capital is Nashville (initials)
- 13. Walt Whitman's profession
- 14. Region below the Mason Dixon Line
- 16. Bigger than a town
- 17. Small _____ a mouse
- Lawyers and the IRS work on this (two words)
- 23. Short for Abraham
- 24. Ford's ____
- 25. Mining product
- 26. One of Abe's favorite pastimes

Down

- 1. Woodchopper synonym (two words)
- 2. Author of Charlotte's Web (first initials)
- 3. Government of, by and for the _____
- 4. John Wilkes _____
- 5. Lincoln-Douglas debates' state
- 6. Johnson's birth state (initials)
- 9. Has a famous address
- 12. New Hampshire (abbreviation)
- 14. State of Civil War's first shot (initials)
- 15. Honeybee state (initials)
- 17. Rail splitter's tool
- 18. "As I would not be a _____, so I would not be a master"
- 20. First Secretary of State (initials)
- 21. A preposition
- 22. Unwanted garden plant
- 25. Off's opposite