

# A. Lincoln Lifeline

1810

1809

On Feb. 12, Abraham Lincoln is born on his parents' farm near Hodgenville, Ky., in a log cabin that became symbolic of his hardscrabble early years. He will become the first president born outside the original 13 states.

1816

Lincoln's family moves to southern Indiana and carves out a farm near Little Pigeon Creek.

*A re-creation of the log cabin that served as Lincoln's boyhood home.*



1831

The Lincoln family moves again, but Abraham strikes out on his own in New Salem, a village on a bluff above the Sangamon.

1820

1830

The Lincolns move to land along the Sangamon River near Decatur in central Illinois.

1833

Lincoln is appointed postmaster of New Salem.

1830

1834

At age 24, Lincoln is elected to the first of four successive terms in the Illinois General Assembly as a member of the Whig Party. He also begins studying law by reading books in the offices of a friend, John T. Stuart.

1832

When the Black Hawk War breaks out in March, Lincoln is elected captain of his rifle company. On Aug. 6, he loses an election for the Illinois General Assembly.

1836

On Sept. 9, Lincoln receives his license to practice law.

1839

Lincoln is admitted to practice before the U.S. Circuit Court.

1840

1841

Lincoln forms a new law partnership with Stephen T. Logan.

1842

On Nov. 4, Lincoln marries Mary Todd in Springfield.

*Mary Todd Lincoln as photographed by Matthew Brady in 1861.*



1837

Lincoln moves to Springfield, the new state capital, and becomes Stuart's law partner.

*Lincoln's Springfield home, where he lived from 1844 to 1861.*

1844

Lincoln dissolves his partnership with Logan and opens a practice with William H. Herndon. Lincoln & Herndon becomes one of Springfield's leading firms.

1846

On a second try, Lincoln is elected to Congress and earns some notoriety by speaking out against the Mexican War.

1849

Lincoln returns to his law practice in Springfield after serving one term in Congress.

1850

1843

Lincoln fails to win the Whig nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives.

1858

Lincoln gains acquittal of William "Duff" Armstrong on murder charges. Republicans nominate him to the U.S. Senate.

1859

The Illinois General Assembly selects Stephen Douglas as senator.



1860

*Button from 1860 campaign, with running mate Hannibal Hamlin.*

1861

By the time Lincoln is sworn in on March 4, seven states have seceded from the Union. The Civil War begins when Confederates fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C.

1862

On Sept. 22, Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

1863

On Nov. 19, Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address, calling for "a new birth of freedom."

1860

1860

Advised by an inner circle of lawyers and judges, Lincoln, the Republican nominee, is elected president on Nov. 6 with 40 percent of the popular vote.

*1868 This photo is thought to be one of the last of Lincoln without a beard.*

1865

1864

Lincoln wins re-election against Democrat George B. McClellan, a former commander of the Army of the Potomac.

1865

On April 9, Lee surrenders his forces to Grant at Appomattox Court House, essentially bringing the Civil War to a close. On April 14, Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth while watching *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre. He dies at 7:22 the next morning.