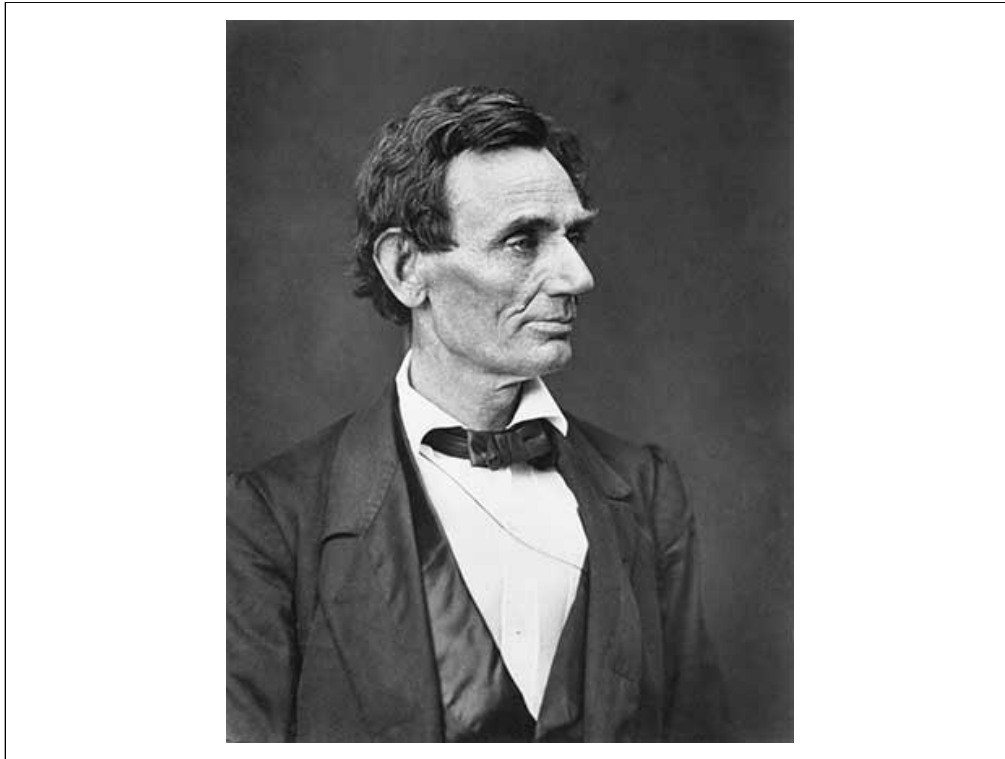


This book, *Lincoln: Through the Lens*, is a unique book that follows Lincoln through a time in history when photography was in its infancy and the country was torn apart.



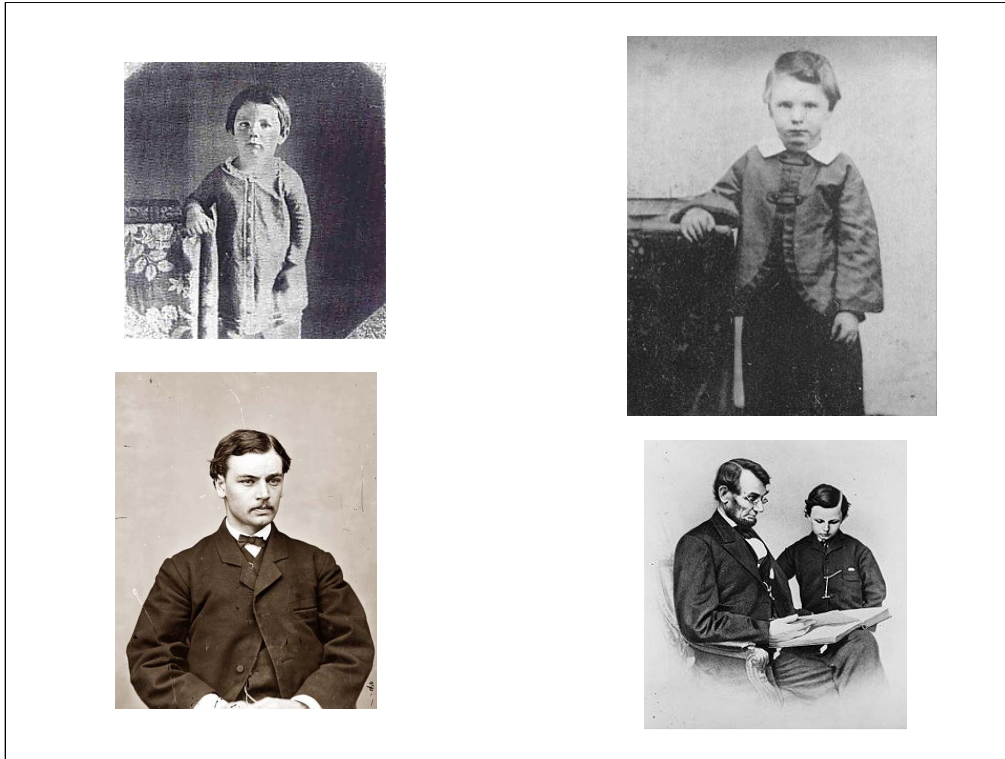
Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Illinois in 1809. From these beginnings he would never have guessed that he would become the most photographed man of his time, let alone the President of the United States.



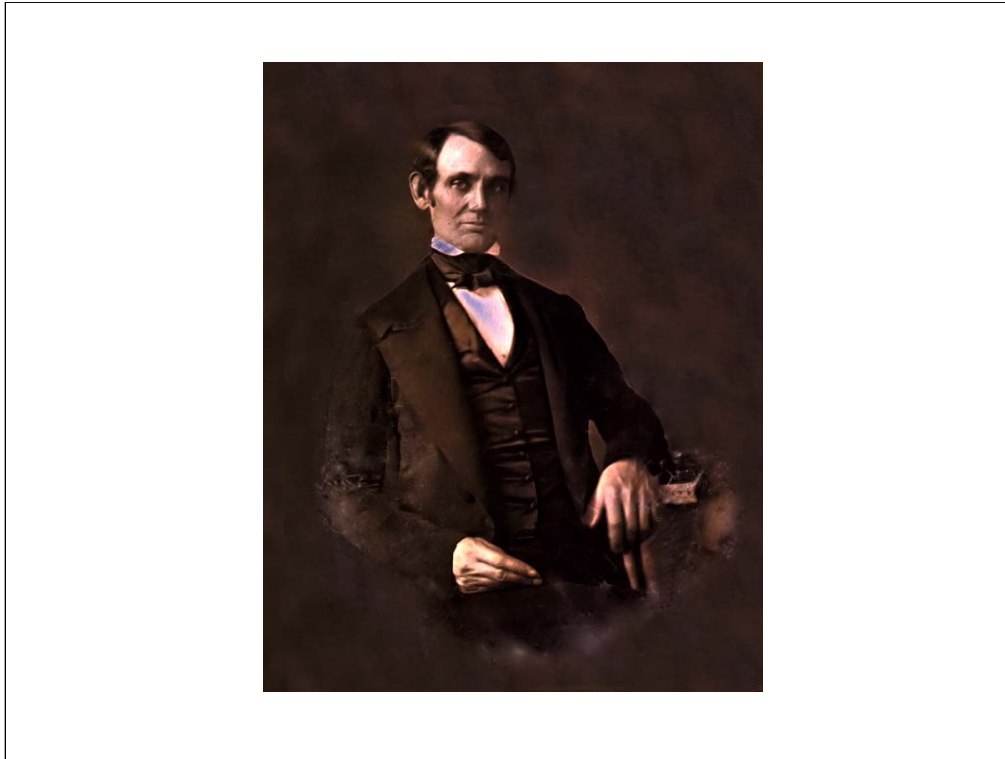
An early sketch of Lincoln shows him in his early twenties as he began his career in politics. While serving 4 terms in the Illinois legislature Lincoln became interested in law and studied to become a lawyer. He was admitted to the Bar in 1837 and began practicing law. While in Springfield Illinois in the state legislature he met his future wife Mary Todd.



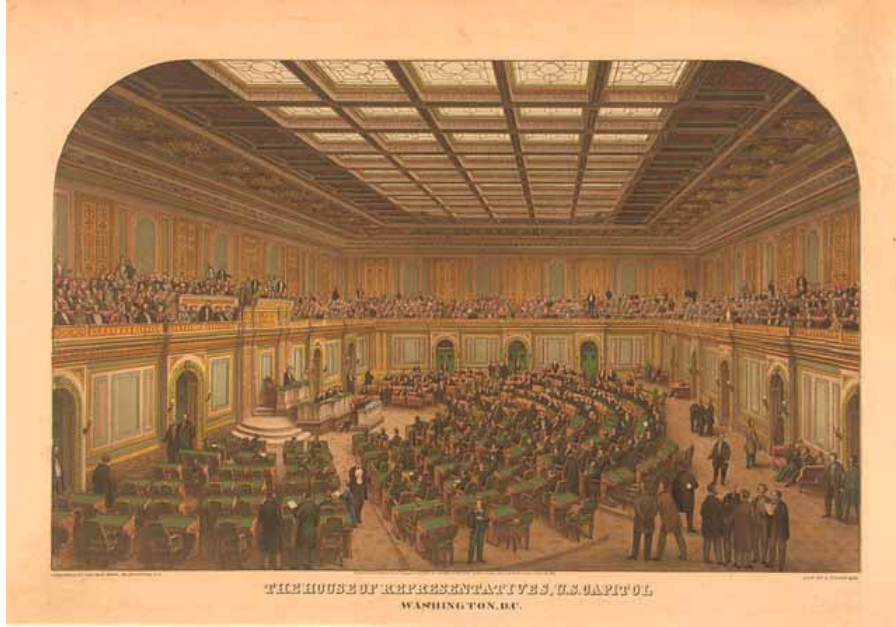
Lincoln married his wife Mary in 1842 and they had 4 boys.



Lincoln's children (Clockwise): Edward, Willie, Tad, Robert



This is the earliest known photo of Abraham Lincoln. It was taken in 1846 just after he was elected into the House of Representatives.



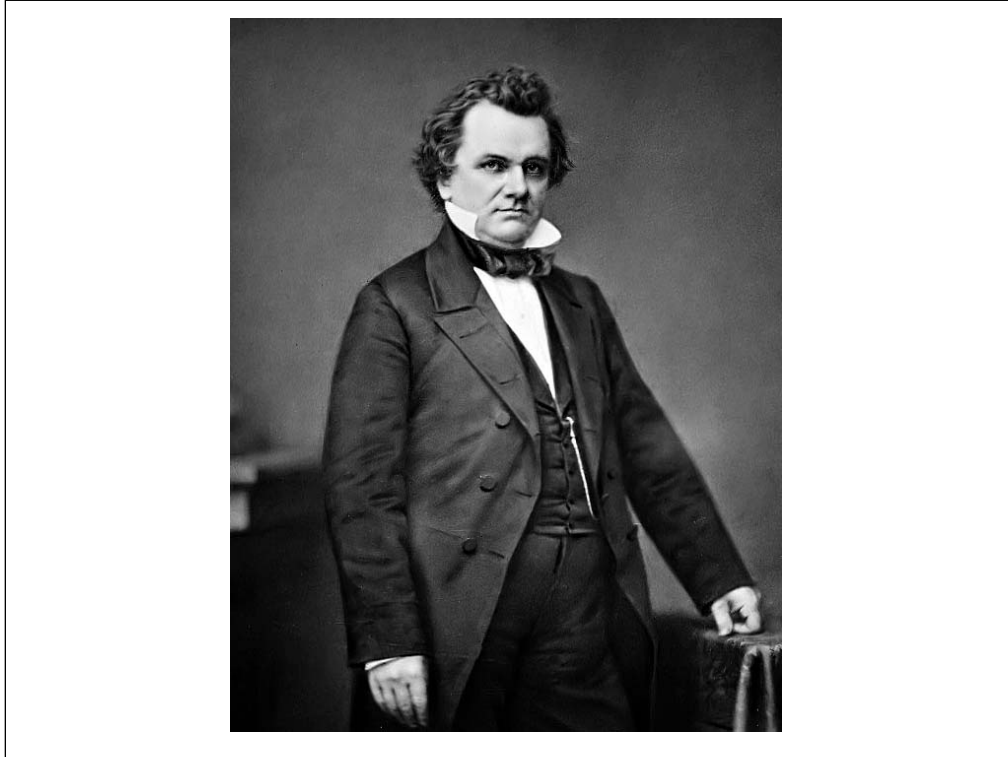
In 1846 Lincoln was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from his home state of Illinois and he and his family left for Washington D.C. By the time Lincoln's 2 year term was up his wife had returned home to Illinois. Lincoln did not seek reelection because he felt that the issues that he was ruling over were trivial and uninteresting as well as he missed his family.



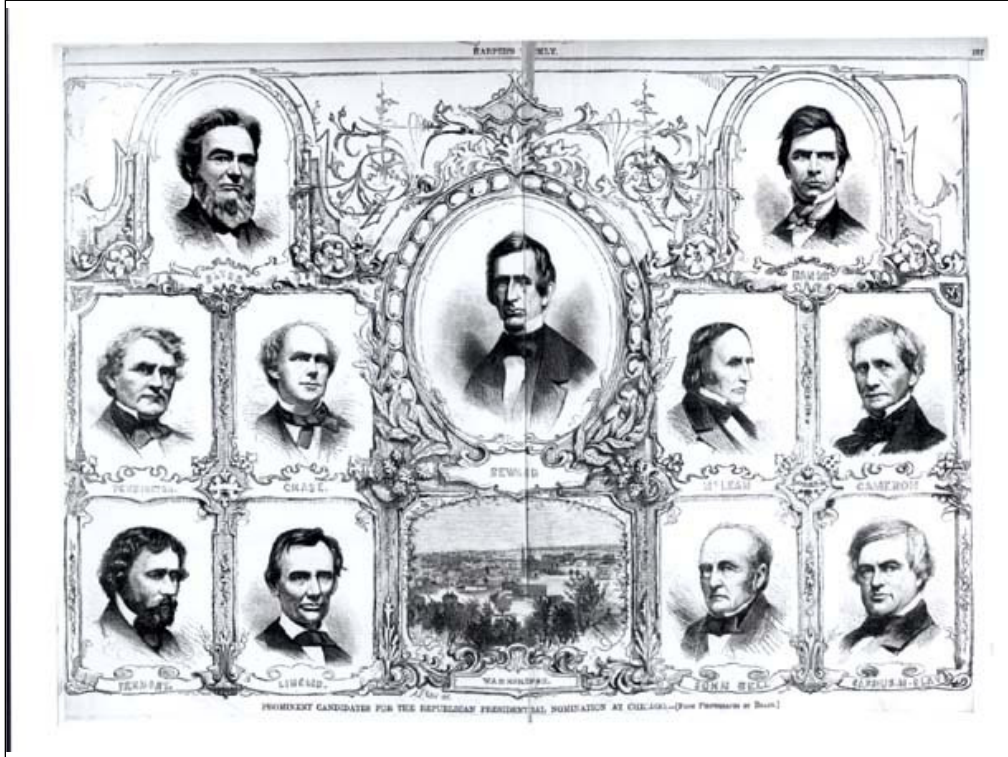
Lincoln returned to Illinois where he practiced law in his own law firm. He is seen here wearing a white suit that he became known to wear while in the court room.



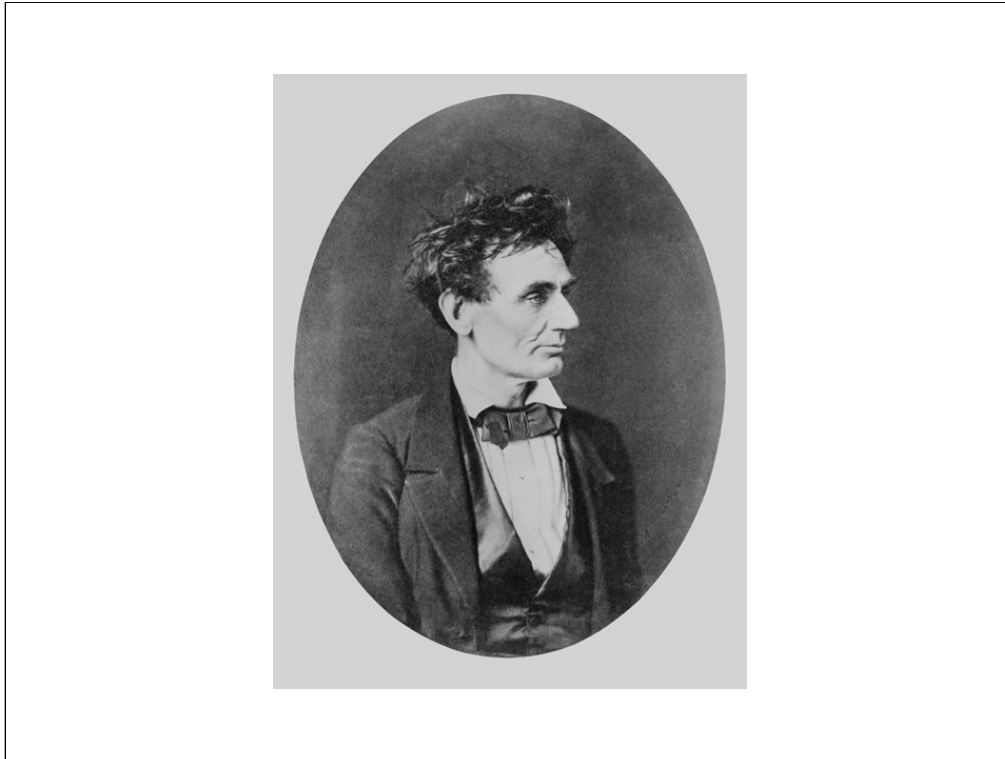
While Lincoln was practicing law he became very concerned with the idea of slavery. He thought it to be wrong and immoral. He knew that Senate was torn between the legality of slavery. So he decided he would run for a seat in the U.S. Senate.



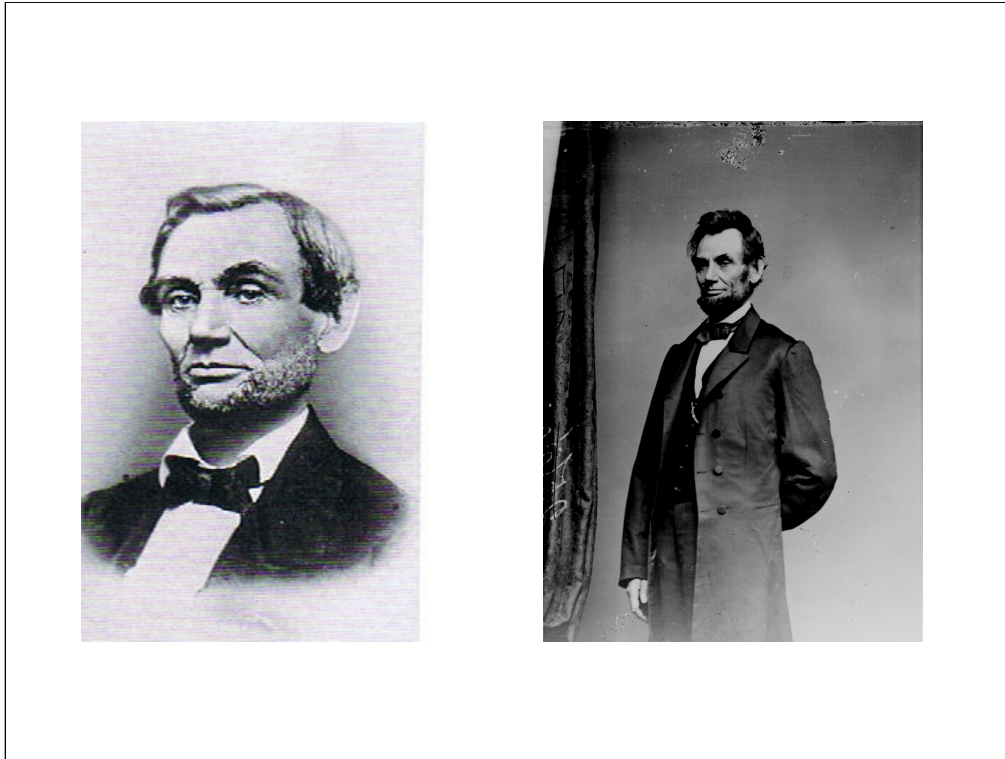
Lincoln was defeated by Steven A. Douglas in his bid to become part of the U.S. Senate. The debates held between the two were watched nationally.



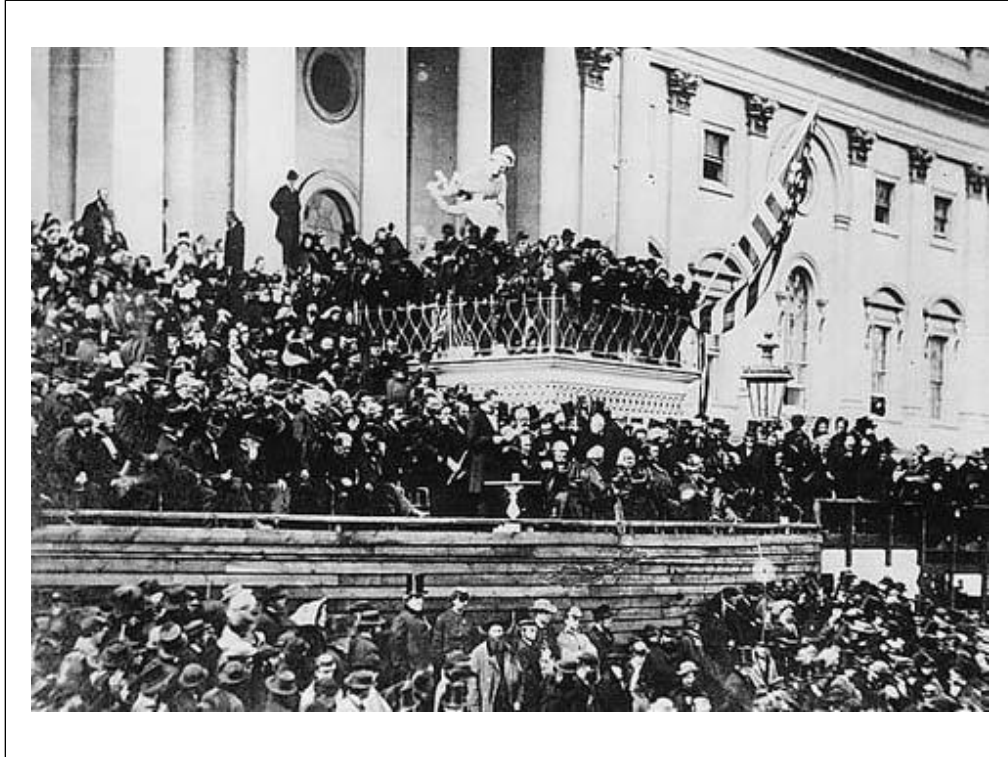
In his debates with Douglas, Lincoln had made a name for himself within the Republican party and was asked to run for the office of President in 1860. Lincoln ran against several candidates, shown in the photos along with Lincoln, who were more favored to win. However after the convention had convened Lincoln was the Republican nominee for President.



Lincoln learned to use photographs to his advantage. In this picture, which he claimed to be his favorite, he was trying to relate to the common man by messing up his hair before the picture was taken.



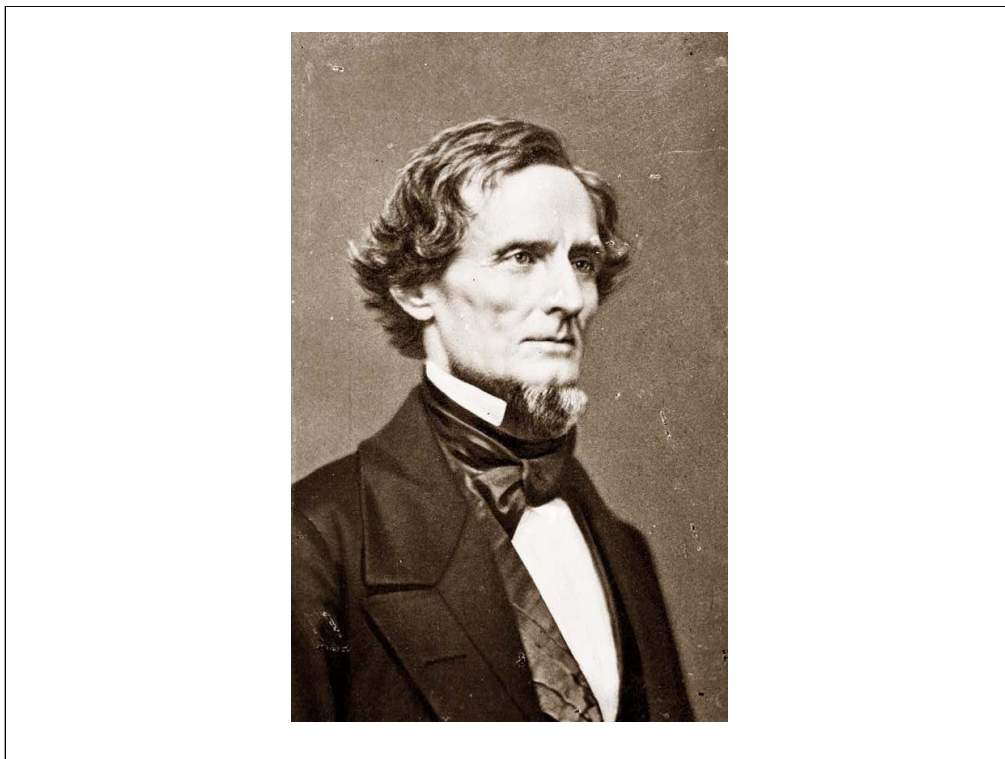
While campaigning for the presidency Lincoln was pressured by advisors to grow a beard as was common among men at the time. Lincoln is said to have received a letter from a young girl telling a tale of how here siblings would surely vote for him if only he would grow a beard. Lincoln is said to have taken the advice of the little girl rather than the advice of the political advisors. By the time he took the oath of office in 1861 he had a full beard.



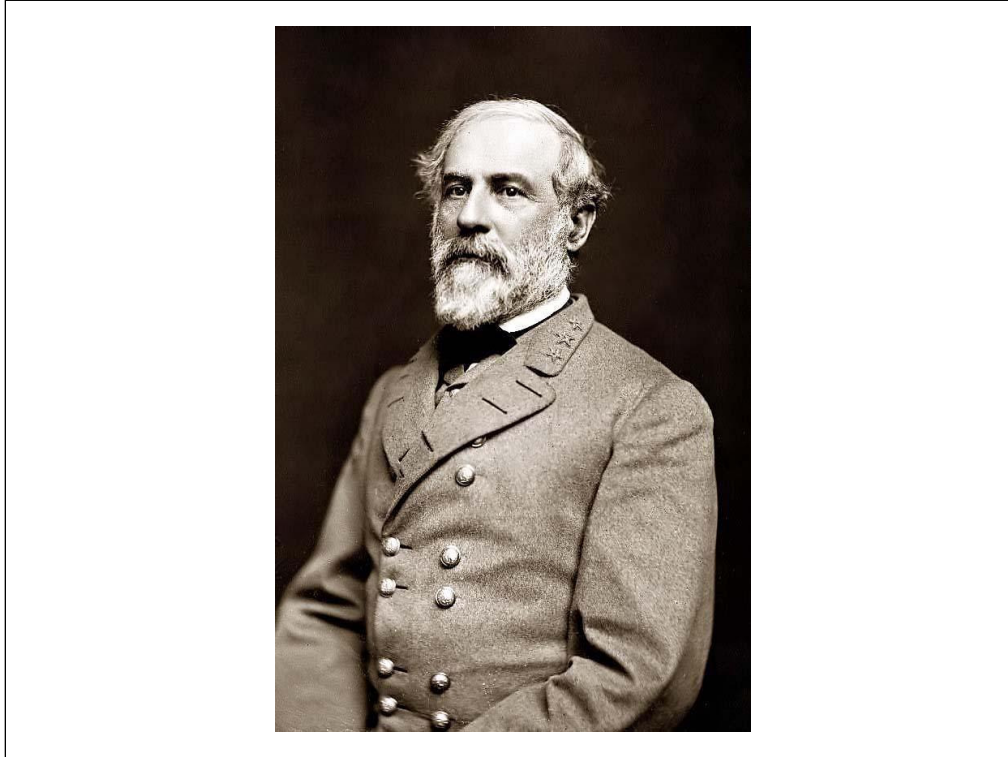
As Lincoln took office the south had begun to separate from the Union. During his inaugural speech Lincoln assured the south that he was not intending to abolish slavery in the states that it already existed. But it was too late.



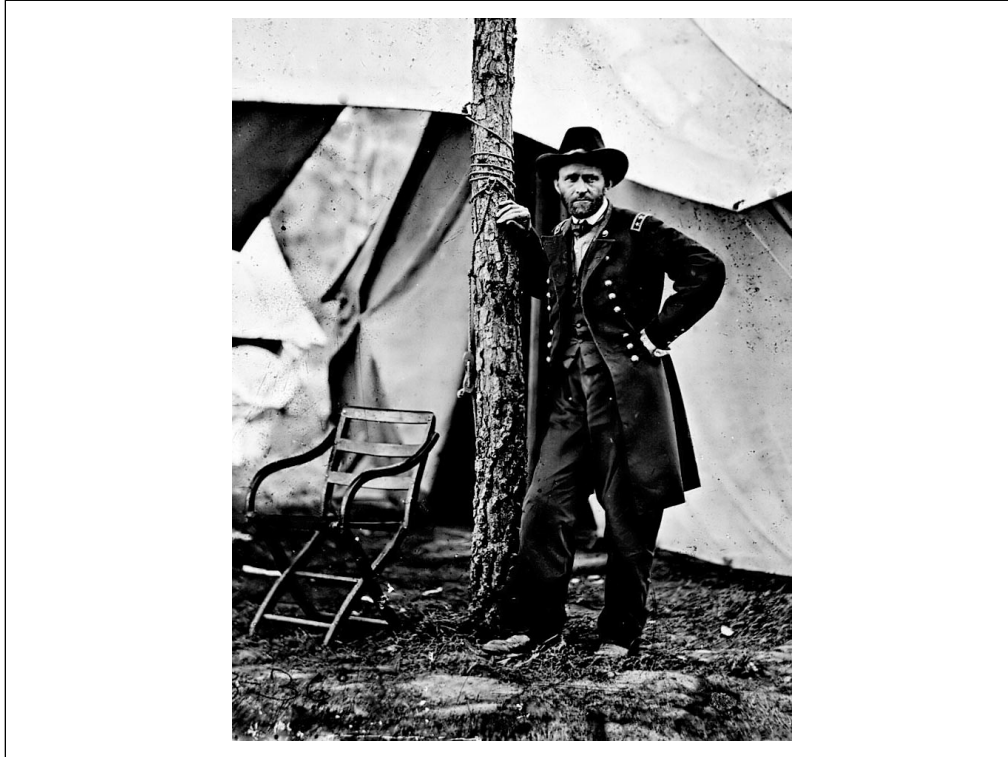
The separation between the North and South had grown too large. Within two weeks of becoming President Lincoln would have to deal with the south as they succeeded from the Union. He viewed the succession as an illegal act and when the south attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina he declared war. A Civil War.



Jefferson Davis served as the president of the confederate states.



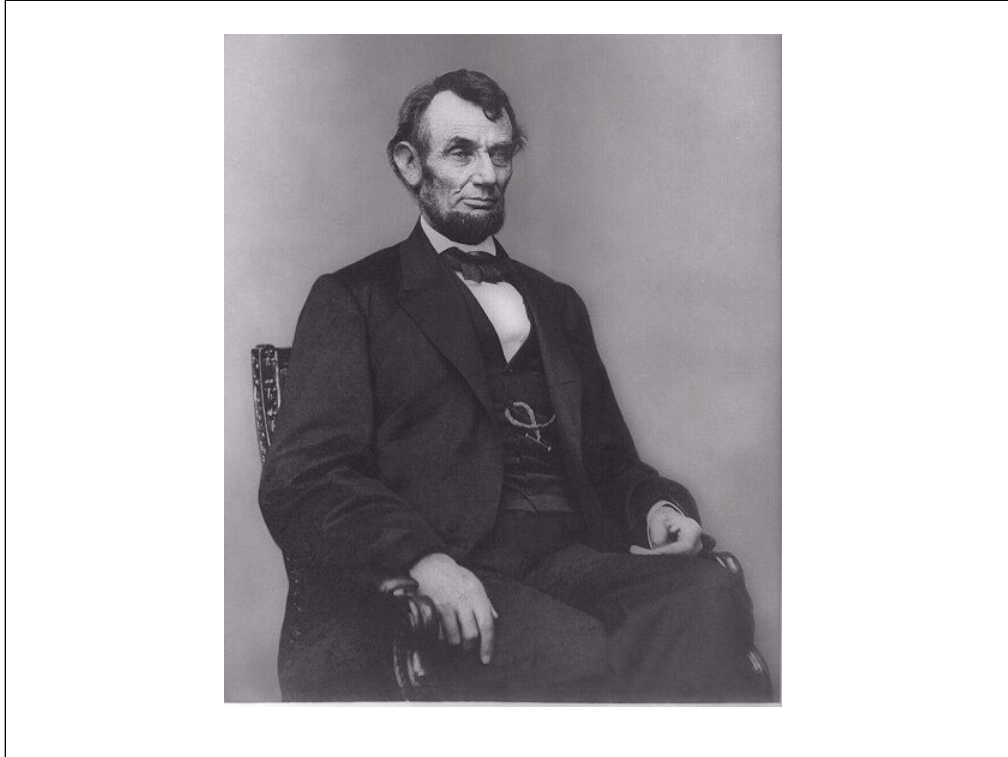
General Robert E. Lee was offered the command of the Union troops but instead felt he owed his allegiance to his home state of Virginia and so accepted the command of the Confederate army instead.



Ulysses S. Grant was then assigned the duty of leading the Union soldiers. Ulysses had since been described as the best general of his time and one of the best strategists of all time.



During the Civil War Lincoln had been known to say that his goal in winning the war was to save the Union. If he thought that he could save the Union by not freeing any slaves then he wouldn't free any slaves but if he could win the war while freeing the slaves he would. After hearing that the North had fought back against Lee's armies as they marched north, and in fact drove them south, he felt he was able to do something that was in his heart. In December of 1862 President Lincoln, in his annual address to Congress, he informed the nation of the historic step he was about to take. As of January 1st, 1863 "all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." The war to save the Union had also just become the war to free the slaves. This became known as the Emancipation Proclamation.



It was time for reelection and the nation was torn apart in a Civil War. Lincoln was quoted with saying at this time, "I have not permitted myself, gentlemen, to conclude that I am the best man in the country: but I am reminded, in this connection, of a story of an old Dutch farmer, who remarked to a companion once that 'it was not best to swap horses when crossing streams.'" (Note: this is the photo of Lincoln used on the 5 dollar bill)



The war had reached a turning point just before the election. The union troops had marched to Atlanta, GA and destroyed the south's method of transportation by tearing up the railroad tracks. This turned the election to Lincoln's favor and he was reelected in 1864. Soon after, in early April of 1865 the Civil War had ended. Lee had surrendered to Grant and the north had won.



Lincoln was happy that it was over and was looking forward to going to Ford's Theater a few days later to see the play *Our American Cousin* with his wife.



In the play was an accomplished actor named John Wilkes Booth. Booth, a slavery supporter, had been plotting to kidnap the president as a means to end the war in favor of the South. But the war had ended and the slaves had been freed. Booth and his fellow conspirators then felt that kidnapping was much too soft a punishment and that Lincoln must die.



Near the middle of the play Booth snuck up to the presidential box and shot Lincoln in the back of the head. He then leapt from the box to the theater floor and escaped out a side exit.



Lincoln was carried next door to the theater and placed in a bed of a boarding house. 9 hours later Lincoln was pronounced dead. Abraham Lincoln became known as "the last great casualty of the Civil War". (This is the last photo ever taken of Lincoln)



Booth was followed to a barn where he took cover and hid. The soldiers surrounding the barn set it on fire but he still wouldn't come out. A soldier shot into the barn striking Booth. Booth was then drug out of the burning barn where he then died. It was found that Booth didn't act alone. An investigation turned up 4 coconspirators that helped Booth in plotting the kidnapping and eventual assassination of President Lincoln. They were convicted and sentenced to death for their participation in the assassination.



Nearly every day of Lincoln's Presidency was during the Civil War. Even though he had this burden he still managed to accomplish other great goals for our country that included approving the construction of a trans continental railroad and the Homestead Act which encouraged the settlement of the western land of the U.S. These two things brought the country into a new age of immigration and settlement that helped make our country what it is today. Abraham Lincoln is in no doubt one of the greatest Presidents that the United States has ever had.