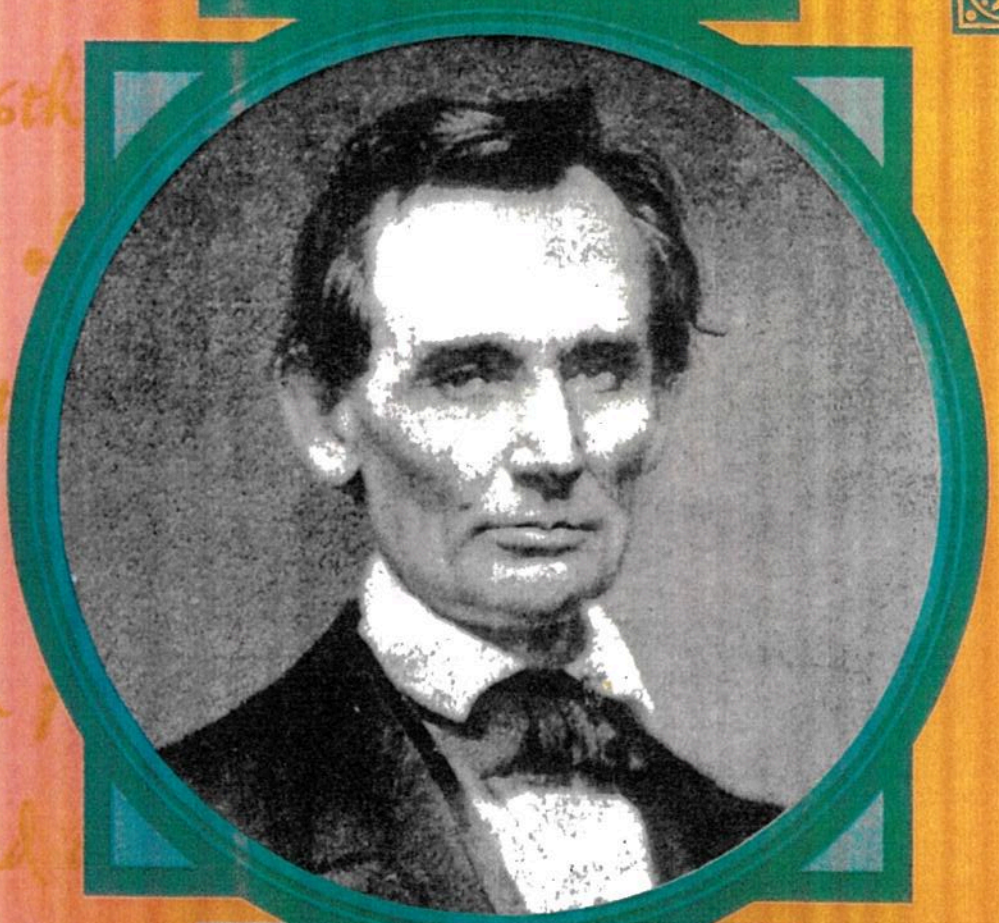
PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

David and Patricia Armentrout

Newbridge®

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WHO IS ABRAHAM LINCOLN?

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. He fought to end slavery in America. He served during the **Civil War** (1861-1865). He gave a speech known as the Gettysburg Address. Many people feel Abraham Lincoln was the country's greatest president.

This famous white marble statue of President Lincoln is in the center hall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

YOUNG ABRAHAM

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809. His parents were farmers. They lived in a one-room cabin in the Kentucky backwoods.

As young children Abraham and his older sister Sarah helped farm the fields. They spent little time going to school.

When Abraham was seven the family moved to Indiana. Abraham helped his father build a new home. He chopped down trees and split logs.

Lincoln's boyhood home in Knob Creek, Kentucky.

LEARNING ON HIS OWN

Abraham didn't go to school often, but he read all the time. He read about many things, including George Washington.

In 1818 Abraham's mother died. A year later his father married Sarah Bush Johnston. She had three children of her own. Sarah was very good to Abraham. She told him to keep reading.

Abraham Lincoln was nicknamed the "Rail Splitter."

LAW AND POLITICS

The Lincoln family moved to Illinois in 1830. After a year Abraham left home. Lincoln was a lawyer in Springfield. He met Mary Todd in Springfield. They were married in 1842. Abraham and Mary had 4 sons by 1853.

Lincoln loved **politics**. He served on the Illinois **legislature**. He was a congressman and ran for senator.

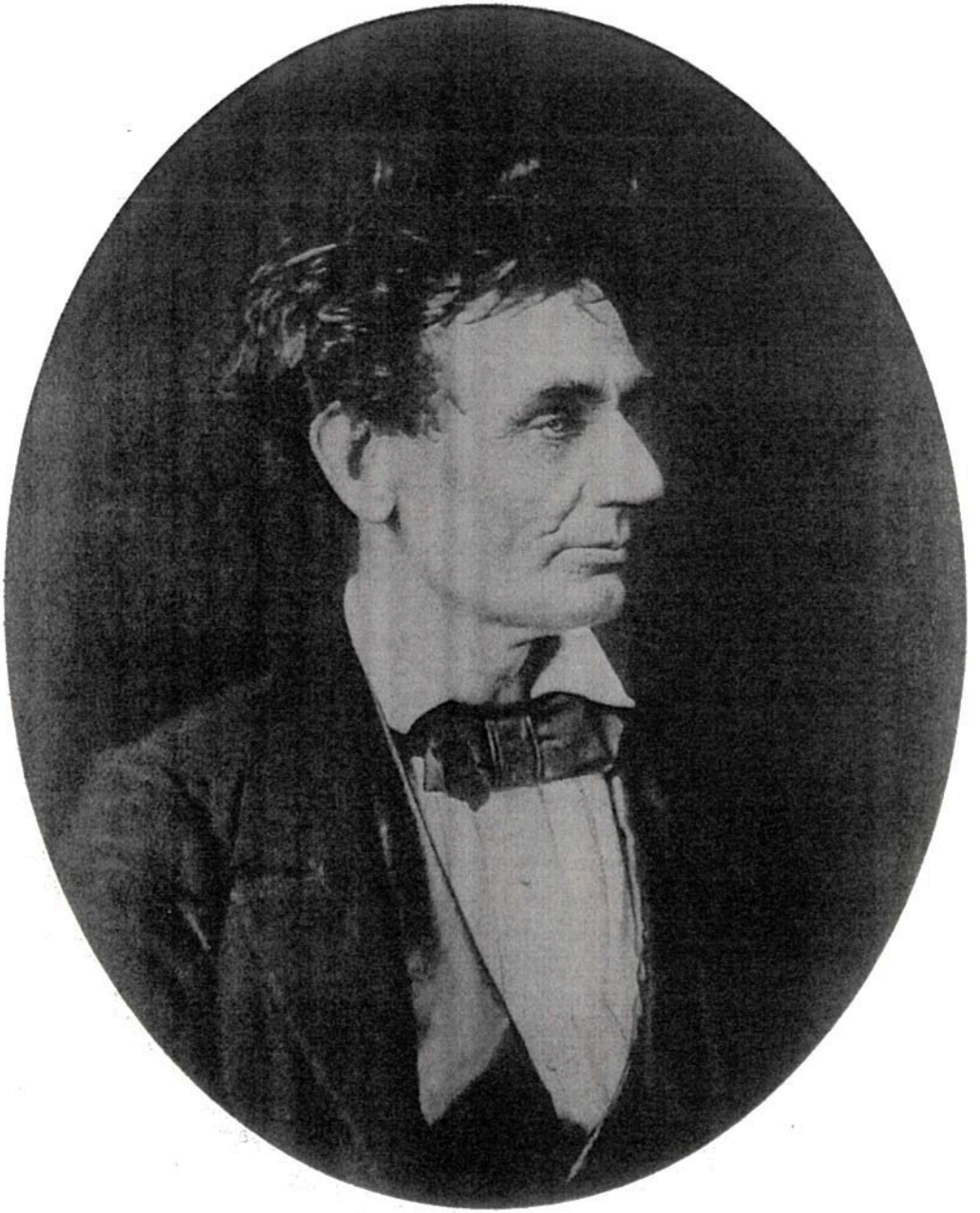
Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln were married in 1842.

LINCOLN SPOKE AGAINST SLAVERY

The United States outlawed bringing new slaves into the country in the early 1800s. However, slavery was still in some states. Southern **plantation** owners had slaves. They did not want to see slavery end. Most northerners were against slavery, including Lincoln.

Lincoln spoke out against slavery. Lincoln wanted new states to join the Union as free states and not slave states.

Abraham Lincoln was known for his honesty and was often called "Honest Abe."

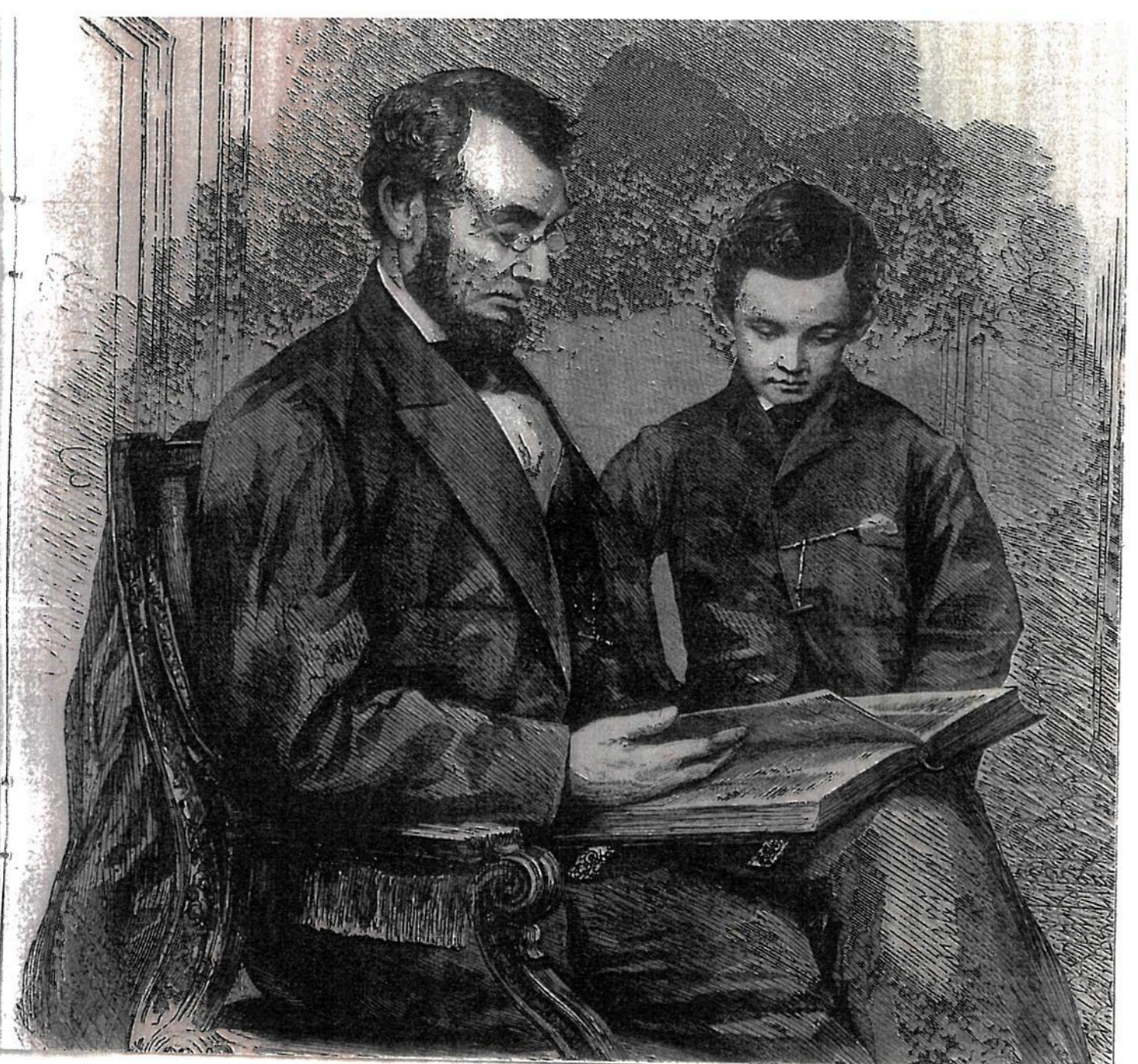


PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Lincoln ran for president in 1860 and won. He became president on March 4, 1861.

President Lincoln fought to keep the country together. However, eleven southern states left the Union. They formed the Confederate States of America. Both sides built armies, and the Civil War began April 12, 1861.

President Lincoln is shown here with his son Thomas.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Emancipation Proclamation

Whereas on the Twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States containing among other things the following, to-wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people wherof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be, then, thenceforward and forever free, and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall, on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the ARMY and NAVY of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaim for the full period of one hundred days from the day the first above mentioned order, and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to-wit:

ARKANSAS, TEXAS, LOUISIANA (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA and VIRGINIA, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth) and which excepted parts are, for the present, left precisely as if this Proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence unless in necessary self-defence, and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my name, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-Seventh.

By the President:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

NOTE.—The rest of the slaves were afterwards freed by Legislation and Constitutional Amendments.

FREED SLAVES

Slavery had split the country in two. President Lincoln could end slavery right away. However, he knew he would lose the support of some states. Lincoln thought that the southern states would leave the Union forever if he ended slavery.

President Lincoln finally created the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This proclamation said that the slaves of the Confederate states were free.

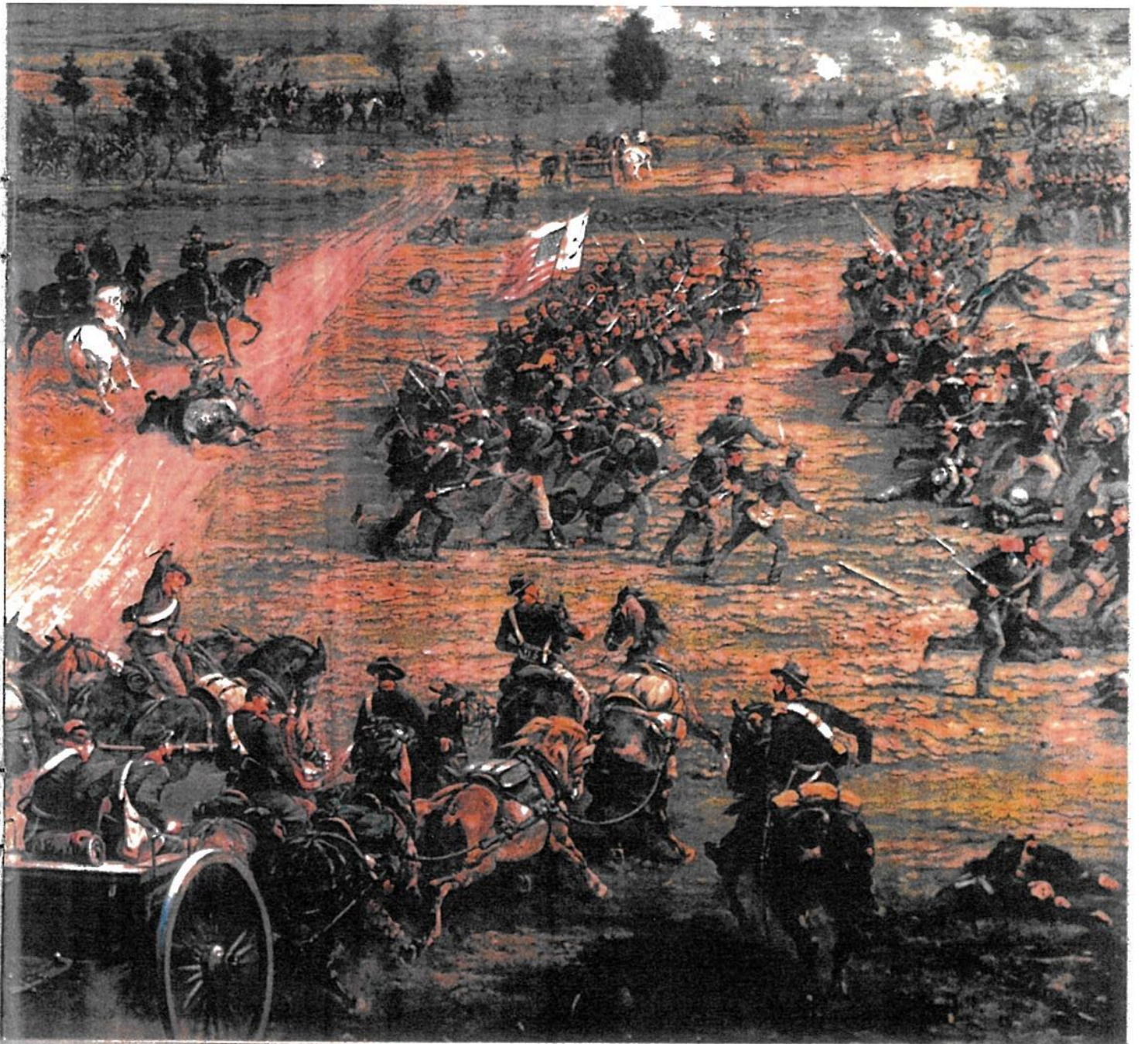
The Emancipation Proclamation was the beginning of the end of slavery in the U.S.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

The bloodiest battle of the Civil War was fought at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. When it was over, thousands of soldiers lay dead on the battlefield.

Four months later people went to Gettysburg to honor the dead. President Lincoln spoke for only two minutes. However, his speech, called the Gettysburg Address, is now a special event in American history.

A painting of the battle at Gettysburg.



LINCOLN'S DEATH

On April 14th the President and Mrs. Lincoln went to a play. John Wilkes Booth, an actor who supported the south, shot Lincoln that night. President Lincoln died April 15, 1865.

Lincoln supported an **amendment** to stop slavery across the nation. After his death, on December 8, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the **Constitution** became law.

This drawing shows John Wilkes Booth shooting President Lincoln.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

AT FORD'S THEATRE WASHINGTON, D.C. APRIL 14TH 1865.

Published by Currier & Ives, 152 Nassau St. New York.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1809	Born in Kentucky (February 12)
1816	Moved to Indiana
1830	Moved to Illinois
1842	Married Mary Todd
1861	Became president (March 4)
1861	Civil War began (April 12)
1863	Issued the Emancipation Proclamation (January 1)
1863	Gave the Gettysburg Address speech (November 19)
1865	The Civil War ended (April 9)
1865	Died in Washington, D.C. (April 15)
1865	Thirteenth Amendment became law

GLOSSARY

amendment (eh MEND ment) — a change or correction to a law

Constitution (KAHN steh TOO shen) — a list of laws

Civil War (SIV el WOR) — a war between the United States of America (Union) and eleven southern states (Confederacy)

Emancipation Proclamation (i MAN seh PAY shen PRAHK leh MAY shen) — a document issued by President Lincoln that freed, or emancipated, slaves

legislature (LEJ is LAY cher) — part of the government that makes laws and brings them into action

plantation (plan TAY shen) — a large farm that is worked by people living on it

politics (PAHL eh TIKS) — making and guiding government plans and laws

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Further Reading

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Lee, Susan. ***Abraham Lincoln.*** Childrens Press, Chicago ©1978
Freedman, Russell. ***Lincoln, A Photobiography***. Clarion Books, NY ©1987

Websites To Visit

- http://members.aol.com/RVSNorton/Lincoln2.html
- http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/

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David and Patricia Armentrout specialize in nonfiction writing. They have had several books published for primary school reading. They reside in Cincinnati, Ohio with their two children.

PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Now more then ever, readers need to know about the lives of admired Americans, past and present. The lives and fortunes of these role models provide inspiration for all young readers.

Genre	Biography, Nonfiction
Subject/Strand	Social Studies/History
Concepts	U.S. presidents, Civil War, Gettysburg
Vocabulary	marble, cabin, rail, slave, split

Level
GRL M Lexile 620L
Word Count
596

Newbridge

ISBN 978-1-4007-3371-2

820862