

Chapter 1 : The Accomplishments of President Abraham Lincoln

Why President Lincoln Spared Three Lives Within the fortress whose debris inspired the lines of Key's immortal national anthem three Confederate spies awaiting execution in the closing year of the Civil War.

In his eulogy on the slain president, he called the Gettysburg Address a "monumental act. The battle itself was less important than the speech. Nicolay, Hay, Everett, Bancroft and Bliss. Two copies apparently were written before delivering the speech, one of which probably was the reading copy. The remaining ones were produced months later for soldier benefit events. Despite widely-circulated stories to the contrary, the president did not dash off a copy aboard a train to Gettysburg. Lincoln carefully prepared his major speeches in advance; his steady, even script in every manuscript is consistent with a firm writing surface, not the notoriously bumpy Civil War-era trains. Additional versions of the speech appeared in newspapers of the era, feeding modern-day confusion about the authoritative text. Bliss Copy Ever since Lincoln wrote it in , this version has been the most often reproduced, notably on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers see "Bancroft Copy" below. It is the last known copy written by Lincoln and the only one signed and dated by him. Today it is on display at the Lincoln Room of the White House. 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 battle-field 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. The second page is written on different paper stock, indicating it was finished in Gettysburg before the cemetery dedication began. Lincoln gave this draft to Nicolay, who went to Gettysburg with Lincoln and witnessed the speech. The Library of Congress owns this manuscript. 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 battle field of that war. We come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. 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 hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here. It is rather for us, the living, we here be 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 these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, 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. Hay accompanied Lincoln to Gettysburg and briefly referred to the speech in his diary: 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. We are met here on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. 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 can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. 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 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. 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. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate we can not hallow this ground. 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. Bancroft Copy As noted above, historian George Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers. When Lincoln sent his copy on February 29, , he used both sides of the paper, rendering the manuscript useless for lithographic engraving. So Bancroft kept this copy and Lincoln had to produce an additional one Bliss Copy. The Bancroft copy is now owned by Cornell University. 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. 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. Source for all versions:

Chapter 2 : Assassination of Abraham Lincoln - Wikipedia

Excerpt from Why President Lincoln Spared Three Lives Adhering to the original program, the presidential party, including Mrs. Lincoln and her sons, Robert, Willie, and Tad. Went from Harrisburg to Baltimore, where their train was greeted by an immense crowd which rolled in about it like a vast tidal wave.

His example is universal and will last a thousand years. He was bigger than his country—bigger than all the Presidents together—and as a great character, he will live as long as the world lives. With the election finally decided, our thoughts now move to Abraham Lincoln, widely regarded as the greatest president in American history. Of course, even before seeing the film, we already know that, just six days before being assassinated, Lincoln succeeded at all these stunning ambitions. That Lincoln was one of the most effective leaders in world history is a notion fully supported by his extraordinary accomplishments. My many hours of reading proved well spent. The profound lesson to be drawn from this book is that Lincoln led brilliantly, not just from his mind, but also his heart. At a time when employee happiness and engagement has reached an all-time low in the U. Molded By Loss advertisement Born in a log cabin in rural Kentucky, Lincoln grew up in abject poverty. His father never learned to read or write, working as a hired hand with little ambition. Routinely lent out to farmers needing workers, Lincoln had virtually no formal schooling. While still a boy, he witnessed the death of his infant younger brother and, later, his beloved older sister. Exercising incomparable drive and determination, he was a voracious reader who used literature to transcend his circumstances. Prior to being elected a U. Congressman in his thirties, he learned the trades of boatman, clerk, merchant, postmaster, surveyor and country lawyer. He pored over newspapers, and taught himself English grammar, geometry and trigonometry. Instead, he read and re-read borrowed law books until he understood them thoroughly. But perhaps his greatest inspiration came from an intransigent belief that he had a purpose to fulfill. If it did now exist amongst us, we should not instantly give it up. But, just as important, Lincoln was a masterful writer and speaker who consistently moved people through his humor and kind personal presence. He also was not afraid to display his own humanness. On more than one occasion, he traveled long distances to visit weary troops on the battlefield. Simply by demonstrating to them that their work mattered to him, he earned their unmitigated support. Engagement and performance are mostly influenced by feelings and emotions. Through kind and encouraging words, and authentic gestures of exceptional thoughtfulness, he assured people of their individual significance. He was most essentially a human being who identified with the challenges people faced and the sacrifices they made. His tremendous influence was due to this. Crowley is the author of Lead From The Heart: Transformational Leadership For The 21st Century. Reach him on Twitter markccrowley, facebook.

Chapter 3 : Why President Lincoln spared three lives, - CORE

A call made by Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gittings and others on President Lincoln, the night of Aug. 28, , at the Soldiers' home to solicit pardon for J. H. R.

View Abraham Lincoln Pictures. View Abraham Lincoln Movies. He played in key role in passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery in America. As the war was ending, Lincoln became the first U. Prior to his election as president in , he had successful careers as a lawyer and politician in Illinois, serving several terms in the state legislature and one in the U. He also holds the distinction of being the only U. Lincoln had a sister, Sarah, who was two years and two days older than he was. A younger brother, Thomas, died in infancy. When Abraham was two, the family moved to nearby Knob Creek Farm. Five years later, the family moved again, to the wilderness on Little Pigeon Creek in Indiana. Thomas Lincoln remarried a year later, to Sarah Bush Johnston, a woman of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, whom he had known for many years. She had three children by a previous marriage, Elizabeth, Matilda, and John. Although Abraham and his father were never close, Sarah and nine-year-old Abraham formed a loving relationship that continued throughout their lives. She encouraged him in his attempts to educate himself, which he did by borrowing and studying books. He performed odd jobs and took a flatboat of goods to New Orleans. Two years later, however, both men won election. In , Lincoln received a license to practice law. He would go on to establish a respectable record as an attorney and was often hired by the Illinois Central Railroad. Lincoln won reelection to the General Assembly in , , and ; among his accomplishments was a major role in getting the state capital moved to Springfield. He did not actively seek the post again after , but won the popular vote in ; however, he resigned so he would be eligible for election to the U. He demanded President James K. Polk reveal the exact spot on which American blood had been shed, starting the war, and whether that spot was on American or Mexican soil. Or it may have been a partisan maneuverâ€”Lincoln was a Whig, Polk a Democratâ€”to ingratiate himself with the older Whigs in Washington. He spent the next several years focusing on his law practice to support his growing family. Over a year later, a friend brought them back together, and they wed November 4, However, she was betrothed to another and there is no verifiable evidence of any romantic relationship or understanding between her and Lincoln. Eddie died in , Willie in , and Tad in Only Robert lived to adulthood; the last of his descendants would die in , ending the Abraham Lincoln family line. Learn more about Mary Todd Lincoln Although Lincoln did not seek office himself during these years, he remained active in the Whig Party, counseling candidates who sought his advice and occasionally responding to speaking requests. In , he essentially was campaign manager for Richard Yates, who was running for the General Assembly. Lincoln did not want to be elected to that body again himself because he knew the legislature would be electing a new U. Senator during its coming term, to fill the position of James Shields, who had moved to the Minnesota Territory. At that time, nearly 60 years before the Seventeenth Amendment to the U. By Illinois law, sitting state legislators could not be elected to the U. Congressâ€”and Lincoln desperately wanted to become the new senator, a position he said he would prefer over being president. Regardless, eventually he reluctantly agreed to run. He won more votes than any other candidate but resigned in order to keep his senatorial chances open. His hopes were dashed again when the vote for senator was taken in Since the early s, abolitionistsâ€”those who adamantly favored abolishing slavery everywhere in the United Statesâ€”had become increasingly strident. Even many people like Lincoln who did not approve of slavery also did not approve of the sectional divisiveness engendered by the abolitionists. A Nation Dividing In passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, allowed residents of any new states admitted to the Union to decide for themselves whether or not the state would be free or slaveholding. In the Dred Scott decision the Supreme Court ruled that neither the Declaration of Independence nor the rights guaranteed by the Constitution applied to Negroes and never had. By , a new party, the Republicans, was taking its place. In , Lincoln joined the new party. Lincoln carefully made a distinction between slavery where it existed and its expansion into new territories and states. The debates grew national attention, and Lincoln was invited to speak in other states. Read more about the Lincoln Douglas Debates The national attention he received resulted in the Republican

Party making him its presidential candidate in the election. On the divisive matter of slavery, the Republican platform supported prohibiting slavery in the territories but opposed interfering with it in the states where it already existed. The Democratic Party split, producing two candidates, Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and John C. Two other independent parties formed but failed to carry a single state in the fall elections. Lincoln won every Northern state, California and Oregon; although he failed to win a majority of the popular vote in this drawn-and-quartered election, he won enough electoral votesâ€” compared to for all his opponents combinedâ€”to become the 16th president. President Abraham Lincoln On December 20, nearly three months before Lincoln would take office presidential inaugurations occurred in March at that time , South Carolina officially seceded from the Union. It was soon joined by all states of the Deep South. They feared the rise of this new, sectional party that opposed expansion of slavery. If the peculiar institution was not allowed to spread, slaveholding states would be outnumbered, and they feared losing the political power that protected slavery. For weeks, president-elect Lincoln said nothing as state after state renounced its compact with the United States, though it is questionable whether anything he said would have halted the secession movement. Previous presidents under whom secession was threatenedâ€”Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylorâ€”had both said they would send troops to force states to remain in the Union but never had to take that action. Lincoln, faced with the reality of losing a section of the country, felt he did have to after Confederate guns fired during the Battle of Fort Sumter , South Carolina, on April 12, Virginia, Arkansas and Tennessee then seceded, refusing to fight their fellow Southerners and claiming Lincoln had overreached his authority because Congress was not in session and therefore could not authorize a war. The new president knew little of military affairs, but just as he had educated himself as a youth, he began a self-education in the art of war, checking books of military history out of the Library of Congress. He endured outright insubordination from one commander, Major General George B. McClellan, in charge of the largest Union army. Grant in charge of all Union armies, did Lincoln find a general in whom he had trust. Lincoln, in choosing his cabinet, had selected those men he felt most capable of handling the duties of the posts he asked them to fill. Some of them had hoped during the last election that they would be filling the chair of the presidency. It was a war measure, meant to prevent European recognition of the slaveholding Confederacy, and it shifted the war from one to preserve the Union to one that would both preserve the Union and end slavery. Other controversial war measures taken by Lincoln and his administration included infringing on some Constitutional rights, including suspending habeas corpus and shutting down newspapers that opposed the war. Nevada was admitted at least in part to provide another pro-Union state. Lincoln Reelected In In presidential elections of , Lincoln believed he would not be reelected. The war had dragged on for over three years, draining the treasury. Major battles, like the Battle of Shiloh , the Battle of Antietam , the Battle of Fredericksburg , the Battle of Chancellorsville , the Battle Gettysburg , and the Battle of Chickamauga , had each produced over 10, casualties, far beyond anything the nation had experienced in previous wars. Radical abolitionists in the North were upset with him for not pressing harder on the slavery issue. Indeed, Lincoln might have lost his bid for re-election, and with it the war, had Maj. Sherman not captured Atlanta in early September, giving the Union a major victory. Other contributing factors included Lincoln allowing soldiers in the armies to vote in their camps, something that had never been done before. The Democrats themselves made several missteps that hurt their chances. Only three of her sisters in Illinois and their husbands remained firmly with the Union. Lee surrendered the largest Confederate army to Grant following the Appomattox Campaign and the Appomattox Courthouse , virtually ending the war. During the performance, an actor and staunch Confederate sympathizer named John Wilkes Booth slipped into the presidential box and shot Lincoln in the head. The president died the following morning. Even some Southern newspapers condemned the assassination. Lincoln was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois. In , a counterfeiting gang attempted to steal his body, to exchange it for their master engraver, who had been imprisoned. The popular image of Lincoln has changed many times. He is beloved as the Great Emancipator and the Savior of the Union, but many people, particularly in the South, regard him as a tyrant and a dictator. He has been accused of being racist, though his views were in keeping with those of most Americans of his times. During his presidency, association with black leaders such as Frederick Douglass seem to have made his racial views more enlightened than those of most midth-century Americans. His

primary focus as president always was on restoring the United States as a single nation under the Constitution; ending slavery was secondary to that goal. Lincoln Pictures Abraham Lincoln was the most photographed President of his era. There are portraits, lithographs, and photos of many highlights of his Presidential term. Abraham Lincoln Facts There are many interesting facts about the life of Abraham Lincoln, like the fact that only one of his children, Robert Todd, survived to adulthood. View some little known facts about Lincoln as well as frequently asked questions about the 16th President of the United States Lincoln-Douglas Debates The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of rank as one of the most famous debates in history. Though vying for a Senate seat, the debates, which centered around the institution of slavery, had a great effect on the future presidency for Lincoln. Following his assassination, she remained in mourning until her death in In , a court judged her insane for a time. Delivered soon after the Union victory at the battle of Antietam, it motivated the Northern war effort and gave the war a higher purpose.

Chapter 4 : The Leadership Genius Of Abraham Lincoln

A call made by Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Gittings and others on President Lincoln, the night of Aug. 28, , at the Soldiers' home to solicit pardon for J.H.R.

In , Abraham Lincoln ordered the execution by hanging of 38 Dakota Sioux fighters. It also fails to make it clear that the death sentences did not originate with Lincoln. Rather, the executions were ordered by a military commission and sent to the president, who had the legal authority to approve or decline to approve any or all of the sentences. The Dakota War of involved a violent uprising by Dakota Sioux tribal members in Minnesota in response to hunger and privation as well as treaty violations on the part of the United States federal government, which had a long history of displacing and exploiting Native American peoples since the birth of the American colonies. The conflict began in August , lasted for six weeks , and involved killings, atrocities, and hostage-takings on both sides. According to the Minnesota Historical Society, the U. On September 28, , two days after the surrender at Camp Release, a commission of military officers established by Henry Sibley began trying Dakota men accused of participating in the war. As weeks passed, cases were handled with increasing speed. On November 5, the commission completed its work. On 9 November , the list of the condemned Dakota fighters was sent to Lincoln for his approval of their executions. Two days later, he requested a review of their cases and trials. In July , the United States Congress had passed a law relating to court martials and military commissions which made it clear that death sentences emerging from such trials could not be carried out without the approval of the President of the United States: And no sentence of death, or imprisonment in the penitentiary, shall be carried into execution until the same shall have been approved by the President. However, she also noted that Lincoln was under intense pressure to sign off on the executions of all Dakota men, and that a mob in Minnesota, stoked by local political leaders, threatened to implement vigilante justice should the president spare any of the condemned fighters: If the President proved reluctant to decide, he suggested, the condemned could be turned over to the state government. Minnesota Governor Ramsey left no doubt what decision he would make if given the opportunity, writing to Lincoln to urge execution of all the condemned. A great public outcry arose in Minnesota in response to reports that Lincoln might not carry out the full sentence of the military commission. The Stillwater, Minnesota Messenger demanded extermination of the Dakota: These two peoples cannot live together. Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak on one hand, nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty on the other, I ordered a careful examination of the records of the trials to be made, in view of first ordering the execution of such as had been proved guilty of violating females. This class numbered forty, and included the two convicted of female violation. I have ordered the other thirty-nine to be executed on Friday, the 19th . In the end, one of the 39 condemned men had his death sentence commuted, and the executions of the remaining 38 Dakota fighters took place on 26 December , in Mankato, Minnesota: Precisely at the time announced 10 A. Instead of any shrinking or resistance, all were ready, and even seemed eager to meet their fate. Rudely they jostled against each other, as they rushed from the doorway, ran the gauntlet of the troops, and clambered up the steps to the treacherous drop. As they came up and reached the platform, they filed right and left, and each one took his position as though they had rehearsed the programme. Standing round the platform, they formed a square, and each one was directly under the fatal noose. Their caps were now drawn over their eyes, and the halter placed about their necks. Several of them feeling uncomfortable, made severe efforts to loosen the rope, and some, after the most dreadful contortions, partially succeeded. The signal to cut the rope was three taps of the drum. Each one shouted out his name, that his comrades might know he was there. The second tap resounded on the air. The vast multitude were breathless with the awful surroundings of this solemn occasion. Again the doleful tap breaks on the stillness of the scene. The greater part died instantly; some few struggled violently, and one of the ropes broke, and sent its burden with a heavy, dull crash, to the platform beneath. A new rope was procured, and the body again swung up to its place. It was an awful sight to behold. Thirty-eight human beings suspended in the air, on the bank of the beautiful Minnesota; above, the smiling, clear, blue sky; beneath and around, the silent thousands, hushed to a deathly

silence by the chilling scene before them, while the bayonets bristling in the sunlight added to the importance of the occasion. It is accurate to say that Lincoln approved the executions of 39 Dakota fighters, and that despite their convictions for participating in war-time massacres, the condemned men were not afforded the conventional rights of due process such as trial by jury and did not have attorneys present to plead on their behalf. It is also true that Lincoln, as President of the United States, did have the legal authority to commute all death sentences presented to him for his approval. However, in the very act of approving 39 executions, Lincoln was at the same time ordering the commutation of death sentences. Despite intense political and popular pressure, Lincoln spared the lives of many more Dakota fighters than he condemned, albeit not as many as he could have. A Study in Military Injustice. Woolley, The American Presidency Project. The New York Times.

Chapter 5 : The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

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Visit Website Like his Whig heroes Henry Clay and Daniel Webster , Lincoln opposed the spread of slavery to the territories, and had a grand vision of the expanding United States, with a focus on commerce and cities rather than agriculture. Visit Website Did you know? The war years were difficult for Abraham Lincoln and his family. After his young son Willie died of typhoid fever in , the emotionally fragile Mary Lincoln, widely unpopular for her frivolity and spendthrift ways, held seances in the White House in the hopes of communicating with him, earning her even more derision. Lincoln taught himself law, passing the bar examination in . The following year, he moved to the newly named state capital of Springfield. House of Representatives in and began serving his term the following year. As a congressman, Lincoln was unpopular with many Illinois voters for his strong stance against the U. Promising not to seek reelection, he returned to Springfield in . Events conspired to push him back into national politics, however: Douglas, a leading Democrat in Congress, had pushed through the passage of the Kansas- Nebraska Act , which declared that the voters of each territory, rather than the federal government, had the right to decide whether the territory should be slave or free. On October 16, , Lincoln went before a large crowd in Peoria to debate the merits of the Kansas-Nebraska Act with Douglas, denouncing slavery and its extension and calling the institution a violation of the most basic tenets of the Declaration of Independence. Seward of New York and other powerful contenders in favor of the rangy Illinois lawyer with only one undistinguished congressional term under his belt. In the general election, Lincoln again faced Douglas, who represented the northern Democrats; southern Democrats had nominated John C. Lincoln and the Civil War After years of sectional tensions, the election of an antislavery northerner as the 16th president of the United States drove many southerners over the brink. By the time Lincoln was inaugurated as 16th U. Hopes for a quick Union victory were dashed by defeat in the Battle of Bull Run Manassas , and Lincoln called for , more troops as both sides prepared for a long conflict. While the Confederate leader Jefferson Davis was a West Point graduate, Mexican War hero and former secretary of war, Lincoln had only a brief and undistinguished period of service in the Black Hawk War to his credit. He surprised many when he proved to be a capable wartime leader, learning quickly about strategy and tactics in the early years of the Civil War, and about choosing the ablest commanders. General George McClellan , though beloved by his troops, continually frustrated Lincoln with his reluctance to advance, and when McClellan failed to pursue Robert E. During the war, Lincoln drew criticism for suspending some civil liberties, including the right of habeas corpus , but he considered such measures necessary to win the war. Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg Address Shortly after the Battle of Antietam Sharpsburg , Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation , which took effect on January 1, , and freed all of the slaves in the rebellious states but left those in the border states loyal to the Union in bondage. Two important Union victories in July –at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania–finally turned the tide of the war. Grant , as supreme commander of the Union forces. In November , Lincoln delivered a brief speech just words at the dedication ceremony for the new national cemetery at Gettysburg. In his second inaugural address, delivered on March 4, , Lincoln addressed the need to reconstruct the South and rebuild the Union: Union victory was near, and Lincoln gave a speech on the White House lawn on April 11, urging his audience to welcome the southern states back into the fold. Tragically, Lincoln would not live to help carry out his vision of Reconstruction. Lincoln was carried to a boardinghouse across the street from the theater, but he never regained consciousness, and died in the early morning hours of April 15, Start your free trial today.

Chapter 6 : FACT CHECK: Did Abraham Lincoln Order the Execution of 38 Dakota Fighters?

A call made by Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gittings and others on President Lincoln, the night of Aug. 28, , at the Soldiers' home to solicit pardon for J. H. R. Embert, B.

In a letter to his mother, he wrote of his desire to avenge the South. That is the last speech he will ever give. I kept on until I arrived at the East Room , which I entered. There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque , on which rested a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others weeping pitifully. First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln felt such talk could bring bad luck. He wrote his mother that all was well, but that he was "in haste". In his diary, he wrote that "Our cause being almost lost, something decisive and great must be done". He also asked her to tell her tenant Louis J. Weichmann to ready the guns and ammunition that Booth had previously stored at the tavern. Herold to guide Powell who was unfamiliar with Washington to the Seward house and then to a rendezvous with Booth in Maryland. Crook , advised him not to go, but Lincoln said he had promised his wife. The play was interrupted and the orchestra played " Hail to the Chief " as the full house of some 1, rose in applause. It is unclear whether he returned to the theater, but he was certainly not at his post when Booth entered the box. He was still walking very slow and was near the box door when he stopped, took a card from his pocket, wrote something on it, and gave it to the usher who took it to the box. In a minute the door was opened and he walked in. Once through this door, which swung inward, Booth barricaded it by wedging a stick between it and the wall. There is evidence that, earlier in the day, Booth had bored a peephole in this second door, though this is not certain. Lincoln was laughing at this line when he was shot. As he began crossing the stage, many in the audience thought he was part of the play. Booth held his bloody knife over his head, and yelled something to the audience. While it is traditionally held that Booth shouted the Virginia state motto, Sic semper tyrannis! There is similar uncertainty about what Booth shouted, next, in English: Stewart climbed over the orchestra pit and footlights, and pursued Booth across the stage. Booth ran across the stage and exited through a side door, en route stabbing orchestra leader William Withers, Jr. As he leapt into the saddle Booth pushed Joseph Burroughs [d] the man holding the horse away, striking Burroughs with the handle of his knife. Rathbone, inside the door, soon noticed and removed the wooden brace with which Booth had jammed it shut. Meanwhile, another physician, Charles Sabin Taft , was lifted from the stage into the box. Leale, Taft, and another doctor, Albert King , decided that while Lincoln must be moved, a carriage ride to the White House was too dangerous. It rained as soldiers carried Lincoln into the street, [56] where a man urged them toward the house of tailor William Petersen. Surgeon General Joseph K. All agreed Lincoln could not survive. Barnes probed the wound, locating the bullet and some bone fragments. Stanton insisted that the sobbing Mary Lincoln leave the sick room, then for the rest of the night essentially ran the United States government from the house, including directing the hunt for Booth and his confederates. Later one of his eyes became swollen and the right side of his face discolored. On April 5 Seward had been thrown from his carriage, suffering a concussion, a broken jaw, and a broken arm. On the night of the assassination he was confined to bed at his home in Lafayette Park. Powell carried an Whitney revolver a large, heavy and popular gun during the Civil War and a Bowie knife. Seward , to whom he repeated the medicine story; Frederick, suspicious, said his father was asleep. Powell turned as if to start downstairs, but suddenly turned again and drew his revolver. As Augustus went for a pistol, Powell ran downstairs toward the door, [74]: Screams from the house had frightened Herold, who ran off, leaving Powell to find his own way in an unfamiliar city. He eventually became drunk and wandered off through the streets, tossing his knife away at some point. He made his way to the Pennsylvania House Hotel by 2 a. Are you at home? Grant called Lincoln "incontestably the greatest man I ever knew. Lincoln would come to such a horrible end, after having served his country which such wisdom and glory under so critical circumstances. Although it was forbidden for civilians to cross the bridge after 9 p. Mudd , a local doctor, who splinted the leg Booth had broken in jumping from the presidential box, and later made a pair of crutches for Booth. Garrett, a tobacco farmer, in King George County, Virginia. Booth told

Garrett he was a wounded Confederate soldier. Reward broadside with photographs of John H. Herold surrendered, but Booth cried out, "I will not be taken alive! Lincoln", [89] severing his spinal cord. A soldier poured water into his mouth, which he spat out, unable to swallow. Booth told the soldier, "Tell my mother I die for my country. He told detectives waiting there that he was a ditch-digger hired by Mary Surratt , but she denied knowing him. From there, he moved furtively through Europe until joining the Pontifical Zouaves in the Papal States.

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Conflict cost the lives of hundreds of Native Americans, white settlers, and soldiers. Army suppressed the uprising it established a commission that condemned Dakota men in trials that were patently unfair. The Dakota had existed for generations on the land surrounding the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, site of the present-day cities of Minneapolis and St. Their only enemy was the Chippewa to the north. Real change began after , when federal soldiers built Fort Snelling, a sprawling outpost above the mouth of the Minnesota River. After that the stream of white traders and settlers became a flood; land treaties in and Minnesota statehood in pushed the Dakota off their native lands westward to a narrow, mile-long reservation on the harsh prairie along the Minnesota River. The exodus also forced the Dakota to change their way of life. Government agents on the reservation favored those Dakota who settled on plots, learned English, cut their hair, and took up farming. Yet the crops failed year after year, and the Dakota grew dependent upon government gold annuities that were promised by the land treaties, and upon the foods and sundries peddled by white traders. The Dakota were often left with little after government agents paid annuity moneys first to the traders who had given credit to the Dakota for goods purchased at highly over-inflated prices. Those Dakota who refused to give up their traditional ways were in an even worse position and spent many winters in near-starving conditions. The situation reached its flashpoint in the summer of The financial cost of the Civil War was bleeding the government dry, and rumors flew that there would be no annuity gold for the Dakota. Traders who had liberally given credit in the past now slammed the door. Tensions mounted until four Dakota led by an Indian named Killing Ghost murdered five white settlers on August Some Dakota leaders sensed this was an opportunity to strike back at the U. Government, and they pressed Chief Taoyateduta, or Little Crow, to strike at the whites while many soldiers were fighting in the Civil War. Little Crow initially wanted no part of a war with the whites, recognizing the calamity that would surely follow. But when faced with a challenge to his authority, he reluctantly relented. Ironically, the annuity gold shipment had left St. Paul that same day. The Dakota raged across the countryside with a fury. Four to eight hundred white settlers were butchered during the first four days of the rampage, while their farms and fields burned. The Dakota hit first and hard at the reservation agency, killing dozens. One of the victims was trader Myrick. His killers stuffed his mouth with grass. They annihilated a detachment of soldiers dispatched from nearby Fort Ridgely before being repulsed in two assaults on the garrison itself. They twice attacked and burned most of the town of New Ulm but failed to capture it from its armed residents. Panic surged throughout Minnesota. Sibley, a former fur trader, politician and friend of the Dakota. Unsure of his authority, Sibley failed to declare martial law and moved excruciatingly slowly. He did not engage the Dakota until early September , when Indians surprised and butchered a man reconnaissance detail at Birch Coulee. The debacle slowed Sibley even more, and he did not meet Little Crow in full force until September 22, when he won a decisive victory at Wood Lake. The Dakota scattered over the prairie. Sibley finally managed to capture about 1, men, women, and children, but Little Crow was not among them. Sibley intended to prosecute as war criminals those Indians who had participated in the rebellion. The commission began the hearings on the reservation on September 28 and tried 16 men that day alone. This breakneck pace continued, and by November 3â€”a mere five weeks laterâ€”the commission had conducted trials, including an astonishing 40 in one day. Williamson noted that the trials took less time than the state courts required to try a single murder defendant. The accused were hauled before the commission, sometimes manacled together in groups, and were arraigned through an interpreter. The charges ranged from rape to murder to theft, although most Dakota were accused of merely participating in battles. The defendants entered a plea, and those who pleaded not guilty had an opportunity to speak. The commission then called and examined its own witnesses, but it did not permit the Dakota to have counsel for their defense. The commission received testimony from eyewitnesses to some of the murders. Most of the evidence turned out to be hearsay, with witnesses declaring what they heard others say about particular killings. The

commission relied heavily on six witnesses, each of whom offered evidence in dozens of trials. The most damning of these was Joseph Godfrey, a mulatto who had lived among the Dakota and taken a Dakota wife. Not the least thing had escaped his eye or ear. Such an Indian had a double-barreled gun, another a single-barreled, another a long one, another a lance, and another one nothing at all! Godfrey testified in more than 50 trials. In a remarkable irregularity the commission even allowed him to question particular witnesses. Most defendants admitted to participating in some sort of warfare, whether in battles, attacks on armed settlements, or skirmishes with settlers. After news of the first few death sentences spread among the prisoners, however, many defendants then claimed they did not shoot at settlers or soldiers, or they did not hit them because of poor aim, or their weapons did not fire. Some testified they merely watched others fight or commit atrocities. Others offered evidence that they had saved the lives of whites, but the commission largely ignored it, even when the accounts were corroborated. Sibley and Pope desperately wanted to begin the executions immediately, but the sentences required presidential review. The editors of the New York Times berated Pope for his profligacy and suggested the amount be deducted from his salary. All of them are guilty of these things in more or less degree. As Lincoln began his deliberations, people on both sides of the issue bombarded him with letters and telegrams. Politicians, army officers, and clergy called on the president at the White House, each adding his take on the situation and offering advice. Lincoln dutifully and patiently listened. These two peoples cannot live together. One man stood almost alone with a voice of moderation. Bishop Henry Whipple, head of the Minnesota Episcopal Church, spoke often of the hypocrisy of federal Indian policies. Who is guilty of the causes which desolated our border? At whose door is the blood of these innocent victims? I believe that God will hold the Nation guilty. The timing of the Dakota crisis could not have been worse for the president. On a personal level, he and his wife, Mary, still grieved over the death, nine months earlier, of their year-old son, Willie. On a political level, the administration faced one crisis after another. The war effort was in tatters. McClellan tolerated precious little advice from the president and sometimes even refused to meet with him. Finally the exasperated president dismissed the insolent general and replaced him with Ambrose Burnside, soon to be responsible for the Union disaster at Fredericksburg. As the blunders mounted, Lincoln also faced a challenge to his leadership from disgruntled cabinet members. Lincoln knew of these designs and only tolerated them because Chase was a supremely able leader of his department. Slavery issues preoccupied Lincoln as well. Somewhere between the bad tidings and bouts of depression the president managed to work on the final drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order that would free the slaves in most of the South, even as he was being called upon to suppress the Dakota. The president first reviewed them as the expert lawyer he truly was. Largely self-taught, he gained a formidable reputation as both a defense lawyer and court-appointed prosecutor known for his piercing cross-examinations and folksy, countrified manner. The president often utilized his legal skills when called upon to review the hundreds of Civil War military court verdicts appealed to him. By law and practice, there were basically two types of military courts at the time: Courts martial were comprised of a dozen officers and were generally held to try officers and enlisted men for dereliction of duty—“sleeping while on sentry duty, cowardice, desertion, conduct unbecoming an officer”—and for crimes such as rape and murder. Military commissions usually consisted of less than a dozen officers and were convened in areas where martial law had been declared, to try civilians accused of military crimes—“spying, smuggling, conducting guerrilla actions against Union troops, and recruiting for the Confederacy. The law allowed the convicted to appeal to Lincoln in most cases, and in capital cases it was a matter of right. In the midst of the havoc wrought by the war, Lincoln spent many hours of many days reviewing transcripts and receiving visits from the pleading family members of convicted men. Lincoln could easily see the defects of the Dakota trials. Most importantly, the Dakota defendants had not been allowed representation by counsel. Defense lawyers would have raised objections to the jurisdiction of the commission in an area where martial law had not been ordered, as required by law. They would have questioned the impartiality of the five officers on the commission, all of whom fought against the Dakota and undoubtedly harbored ill will toward them. Without counsel, the defendants—“already trapped behind a language and cultural barrier”—did not have anyone to help them understand the proceedings, offer credible mitigating evidence, or develop and practice their own testimonies. The weight and impact of evidence simply

could not be properly processed in a few minutes, especially in capital cases with their ultimate stakes. Undoubtedly the brevity of the trials resulted from the absence of defense counsel. The president could also see how the commission convicted many men with insufficient evidence. Lincoln, a master politician, also reviewed trials with a political perspective. Yet he also knew how the rest of the world, especially Britain—still considering whether to recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation—would perceive the mass execution of some men. As Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles noted in his diary: In their lengthy debates over Civil War military court verdicts, Judge Advocate Holt often urged execution. In his review of death sentences for desertion, Lincoln disagreed with the trial courts at a rate of 75 percent initially, increasing to 95 percent by the middle of the war. In reviewing the death sentences of civilians handed down by military commissions, Lincoln disagreed with 60 percent of the trial courts. He was only merciless in cases involving cruelty or sex offenses.

Chapter 8 : Abraham Lincoln | HistoryNet

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The first half of his life he spent in log cabins or similar structures. Throughout his lifetime he moved often, even when travel was difficult at best. Now most of the structures he knew are long lost to history but some have been preserved and are open to visitors. The following summary offers a brief glimpse of his past through the places he called home.

February 12, -- Spring Sinking Spring Farm -- Lincoln was the first son born to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who were already parents of a two-year-old daughter. They lived on a acre farm by the south fork of Nolin Creek near Hodgenville, Kentucky. The name arose from a cave-fed spring still visible on the property today. Now managed by the National Park Service, the remains of the farm are accessible from U. The original one-room Lincoln cabin has disappeared, but a replica stands inside a much-visited stone memorial building.

Spring -- December Knob Creek Farm -- When Lincoln was two years old, his family moved nine miles down the road to a farm named for the creek running through the land and its characteristic knob-shaped hills. Thomas, the youngest child, was born here when Lincoln was three, but died soon afterward. In Lincoln wrote that his earliest recollection was of this place. The National Park Service maintains the farm area on U. Route 31E near Hodgenville, Kentucky, which includes a reconstructed cabin. His father remarried the next year, bringing a kind stepmother and her three children into the tiny cabin. Only the foundation of a Lincoln cabin remains in Indiana.

March 14, -- March 1, Lincoln Trail Homestead -- After traveling from southern Indiana by ox-cart teams, Lincoln and his extended family erected a homestead 10 miles west of Decatur in central Illinois. This plot on the north side of the Sangamon River was excellent farmland, but illness and an extremely harsh winter prompted them to move to Coles County after only one year. Lincoln parted ways with his father and stepmother here at age 22 to take cargo down the Mississippi River and seek his fortune. The small state park memorializing the now-vanished homestead lies south of Route He boarded with various families and took odd jobs while teaching himself grammar, surveying, and other subjects. After a stint in the state militia he studied law, became elected to the state legislature and spent a few months of the year in Vandalia, the state capital. After helping to move the capital to Springfield, he began his legal career there. The New Salem site is now a state park but most of the log homes are not original.

April 15, - February 11, Springfield -- When Lincoln arrived in the new capital of Illinois, he boarded with friends and stayed in country inns and farmhouses while traveling the legal circuit, which covered several counties. After he married Mary Todd in November , they lived briefly at the Globe Tavern, which is no longer standing, where Robert, their first son was born. In the fall of they rented a small home at South Fourth Street, which no longer exists. Here three of their four sons were born and one, Edward Baker Lincoln, died. The Lincolns also lived in a boarding house in Washington during his term in Congress; the Library of Congress Jefferson Building now occupies the site. President-elect Lincoln vacated the house a few days before leaving town on February 11, , when he boarded a train at the nearby Great Western depot. Robert Lincoln attended Harvard College and was seldom present, but the remaining sons, Willie and Thomas Tad , lived in the presidential quarters. Willie died there in , so his remains and that of his murdered father returned together to Illinois in This location gave them more peace and privacy, yet was close enough for President Lincoln to commute to his office by horseback or carriage. The house they used is now open to the public as the Lincoln Cottage.

Chapter 9 : Places Where Abraham Lincoln Lived

After a violent Native American uprising in , President Lincoln signed off on 39 executions but also prevented the deaths of other Dakota combatants.

Abraham Lincoln is remembered for his vital role as the leader in preserving the Union during the Civil War and beginning the process Emancipation Proclamation that led to the end of slavery in the United States. President Lincoln endured extraordinary pressures during the long Civil War. However, Lincoln remained brave and persevered. He kept fighting until the Confederacy was defeated. A lesser man would have given in and stopped the war before the goals had been achieved. Lincoln did not do this. The actual fact is that legal freedom for all slaves in the United States did not come until the final passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in December of Lincoln was a strong supporter of the amendment, but he was assassinated before its final enactment. This act allowed poor people in the East to obtain land in the West. He signed the Morrill Act which was designed to aid in the establishment of agricultural and mechanical colleges in each state. Also, Lincoln signed legislation entitled the National Banking Act which established a national currency and provided for the creation of a network of national banks. In addition, he signed tariff legislation that offered protection to American industry and signed a bill that chartered the first transcontinental railroad. In the address Lincoln explained that our nation was fighting the Civil War to see if we would survive as a country. He stated it was proper to dedicate a portion of the Gettysburg battlefield as a remembrance of the men who had fought and died there. Lincoln said that the people who were still alive must dedicate themselves to finish the task that the dead soldiers had begun which was to save the nation so it would not perish from the earth. One important way Lincoln effects contemporary society is that we look back on his presidency as a role model for future generations. Another effect is in the area of quotations. A major effect Lincoln has on the U. Many American politicians in our time try to emulate his thinking by using Lincoln quotes in their speeches. Lincoln had a benevolent leadership style in contrast to oppressive authoritarian , participatory democratic , or laissez-faire hands-off. When there was disagreement among advisors and himself, his leadership style often involved telling a story that demonstrated his point. Lots of times this method worked, and people admired and respected him for it. He could virtually disarm his enemies with his highly moralistic, skillful leadership. Lincoln possessed qualities of kindness and compassion combined with wisdom. In fact, one of his nicknames was "Father Abraham. More than fifteen years ago a book entitled Rating the Presidents by William J. Seven hundred nineteen professors, elected officials, historians, attorneys, authors, etc. The categories in which the various presidents were rated included leadership qualities, accomplishments and crisis management, political skill, appointments, and character and integrity. Lincoln was ranked no lower than first, second, or third in any of the categories, and his overall ranking was first among all American presidents. Another poll was released in February The participants were asked to rank the presidents in ten categories ranging from public persuasion and economic management to international relations and moral authority. Lincoln rose to the top through sheer ambition and hard work. He had nearly no education at all. He spent less than 12 months attending schools as a youth growing up on the frontier. Each one was very small, and the lessons were most often taught orally, and schools thus got the nickname "blab" schools. Later when he moved to New Salem, Illinois, he began to study law books in his spare time. In New Salem he earned the nickname "Honest Abe. Lincoln was a very successful attorney with a large practice prior to his election as president in Perhaps the most important action Lincoln took was his decision to fight to preserve the Union. In the end this decision to fight the Civil War resulted in the USA remaining one nation rather than splitting into two separate countries. Although Lincoln was criticized for stepping over the traditional bounds of executive power, he was faced with the greatest threat to federal authority in the history of the country. He felt his job was to protect the Union from disintegrating. He got the ball rolling with the Emancipation Proclamation. We honor Abraham Lincoln for his actions in preserving the Union and beginning the process of freedom for slaves. Abraham Lincoln made the decision to fight to prevent the nation from splitting apart. Abraham Lincoln was an unflinching commander in chief during the Civil War which preserved the United States as one nation. The

document also allowed black soldiers to fight for the Union. Abraham Lincoln was a strong supporter of the Thirteenth Amendment that formally ended slavery in the United States. Legislation Abraham Lincoln signed into law included the Homestead Act , the Morrill Act , the National Banking Act , and a bill that chartered the first transcontinental railroad. Abraham Lincoln set an example of strong character, leadership, and honesty which succeeding presidents tried to emulate. Barack Obama stated during his campaign that he would look to Lincoln as a model. His faith in the righteousness of his pro-Union policies kept the Union alive during the darkest days of the Civil War. He was a charismatic, moral leader who had a broad strategic vision of his goal reuniting the nation like it was before the war started; later, freeing the slaves became a second goal. He had great political skill in settling disputes among his Cabinet members and generals, especially when they were dealing with adverse circumstances. His leadership style was at the same time shrewd and disarming. He could handle the most outspoken of his opponents in a classic diplomatic manner. He came from a humble background but, over the years, he grew into a master politician who made no unnecessary enemies. He had a great method of telling stories in an effort to manipulate people into seeing things his way. For much of the Civil War, Lincoln was forced to serve as both commander in chief and chief of staff. This was because when the Civil War began the USA had no organization of high command suited to the vast size of the war operations. This is not the correct way to analyze Lincoln. He could be plenty tough when it came to plans to defeat the Confederacy. Let the plan for making the Blockade effective be pushed forward with all possible despatch [sic]. Butler be constantly drilled, disciplined, and instructed without more for the present. Let Baltimore be held, as now, with a gentle, but firm, and certain hand. Let the forces in Western Virginia act, till further orders, according to instructions, or orders from Gen. Fremont push forward his organization, and operations [sic] in the West as rapidly as possible, giving rather special attention to Missouri. Let the three months forces, who decline to enter the longer service, be discharged as rapidly as circumstances will permit. July 27, When the foregoing shall have been substantially attended to 1. For my own views, I have not offered, and do not now offer them as orders; and while I am glad to have them respectfully considered, I would blame you to follow them contrary to your own clear judgment unless I should put them in the form of orders. With this preliminary, I state my general idea of this war to be that we have the greater numbers, and the enemy has the greater facility of concentrating forces upon points of collision; that we must fail, unless we can find some way of making our advantage an over-match for his ; and that this can only be done by menacing him with superior forces at different points, at the same time; so that we can safely attack, one, or both, if he makes no change; and if he weakens one to strengthen the other, forbear to attack the strengthened one, but seize, and hold the weakened one, gaining so much. To illustrate, suppose last summer, when Winchester ran away to re-inforce [sic] Mannassas [sic], we had forborne to attack Mannassas [sic], but had seized and held Winchester. I mention this to illustrate, and not to criticise [sic]. I did not lose confidence in McDowell, and I think less harshly of Patterson than some others seem to. If the enemy shall concentrate at Bowling-Green, do not retire from his front; yet do not fight him there, either, but seize Columbus and East Tennessee, one or both, left exposed by the concentration at Bowling Green. It is matter of no small anxiety to me and one which I am sure you will not over-look, that the East Tennessee line, is so long, and over so bad a road. Yours very truly A. Also, by the middle of , Lincoln had decided on another important piece of strategy. Fight him when opportunity offers. He faced an enormous task, and he did not shrink from it as many men would have done. By , after Ulysses S. Grant was appointed General-in-Chief, Lincoln could turn the job of strategic planning over to him. After changing generals many times during the previous three years, Lincoln finally had a man who could win the war. Lincoln now turned most major military decisions over to Grant. To sum up, Lincoln was a very good commander in chief. He may not have been a genius, but under the circumstances, his leadership was bold and courageous. A weaker man could not have handled what Lincoln did. I relied heavily on Mark E. Perhaps the best book on the subject is Lincoln and His Generals by T. This is not a commercial website. None of the photographs and artwork exhibited herein are being sold by the webmaster. Some photographs and artwork are believed to be in the public domain. Any copyrighted photographs and artwork are used in the context of this website strictly for educational, research and historical purposes only, under the "Fair Use" provisions of the Copyright Act, US CODE: Limitations on exclusive

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