

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1861 - 1865



Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809. He had little formal schooling, but taught himself to read. He worked as a storekeeper, rail splitter, and surveyor. He entered politics in 1834, practiced law for twenty years, and joined the Republican party in 1855.

Mary Todd Lincoln was born in 1818 in Kentucky. She was an attractive young woman, just 5 feet 2 inches tall to Lincoln's 6 feet 4 inches. She met Abraham Lincoln in 1838 in Springfield, Illinois, where she had gone to live with her sister. They were married in 1842. They had four sons; only Robert Todd lived to adulthood.



President Abraham Lincoln gained national prominence in 1858 in a series of debates with Stephen A. Douglas. He was elected president in 1860, before the start of the Civil War, and from the outset made it clear he believed the national government had the power to preserve the Union. He soon realized the war could not be ended without freeing of the slaves. Re-elected in 1864, he urged leniency toward the South. On April 14, 1865, he was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, and died the next morning.

Mary Todd Lincoln was a misunderstood and tragic figure. Her marriage was often turbulent and unhappy, but Lincoln was known to say he had never fallen out of love with her. During the Civil War, she was scorned by southerners as a traitor and suspected by northerners of treason. Lincoln's assassination shattered Mary Lincoln and she never recovered. She died in 1881 in Springfield.

Arizona Timeline

1861 - Civil War begins and U.S. Military posts are abandoned in the Arizona portion of the New Mexico Territory.

1863 - Fort Mojave is re-garrisoned by two companies of Fourth California Volunteers. John Moss discovers a rich gold deposit near Oatman.

1863 - Arizona segregated from New Mexico Territory and Mohave County is one of the first counties to be established.

1864 - The incorporation of the Mohave and Prescott Toll Road is approved by the Legislative Assembly.

1864 - Territorial capital moves from its provisional site at Camp Whipple to Prescott. John N. Goodwin is the first territorial governor.