

With Malice Toward None

A biography of Abe Lincoln by Stephen Oates (1977)

He was born 12Feb1809 in Kentucky and died 15Apr1865 in Washington DC. His dad's family immigrated from England in 1637 & his granddad was killed by Indians. His parents, Thomas & Nancy, were uneducated. They moved to Indiana in 1816 where his dad bought 100-acres for \$1.25/acre. His mom died in 1817 (age 34). As a child he worked for neighbors (25-cents/day) and gave the money to his dad. 1831 he moved to New Salem to work for a general store & study law. 1832 he was elected captain of the local army in the Black Hawk Indian War and ran for state legislature, but lost. 1833 business failure left him in debt (it took him 15 years to pay it off). 1834, 36, 38 & 40 he was elected to state house of representatives. 1836 passed the bar and his best friend was Joshua Speed. 1842 he married Mary Todd; a son born in '43 & bought a house in '44 for \$1200. 1843 lost nomination to run for the US congress, but was elected in 1846. 1850 his 2nd son died at age 4. 1851 his dad died. 1855 defeated in the US Senate race & went into depression again. 1858 he gave his "house divided" speech & got national recognition, but lost US Senate election to Douglas (he resumed law). 1860 was elected President of the US (& reelected in '64) & started growing a beard. The numerous visitors [to the white house] always want something & constantly take a piece of his vitality. The day after he took office southern rebels surrounded Ft. Sumter. West Point graduate, Robert E. Lee, went to fight with the south. Most of the Union generals lacked nerve and it cost the union, but Ulysses Grant did well and was constantly promoted until he was general in chief in '64 (with 860,000 men). 1861 Mary obtained \$20,000 from congress to refurbish the White House, but she went over budget and soon the Treasury was empty (from war). 1862 general McClellan & secretary of war Cameron mismanaged funds & were replaced. 1862 his younger son, Willie died at age 11. 1863 black men enlisted & provided 180,000 union soldiers. Abe spent much of his time in the telegraph room commanding the troops. 19Nov1863 he gave the Gettysburg address at the commemoration of the national soldier's cemetery. The war was tearing Abe & Mary apart & she couldn't be trusted with information. Mary had more shopping trips and now had \$27,000 in personal debt. Abe never carried a grudge, because it didn't pay. 1865 Lee surrendered & congress passed the 13th amendment to abolish slavery. Abe & Mary were at the Ford's Theater when John Wilkes Booth assassinated the President. A funeral train took his body 1600 miles back to Springfield, IL.

Abe Quotes: "A house divided cannot stand." "Let us, to the end, dare to do our duty."

"He, who would be no slave, must consent to have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."

"You cannot fail if you resolutely determine that you will not."

"He was now convinced that this was a great movement of God to end slavery & that the man would be a fool who should stand in the way."

"So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war." (to Harriet Beecher Stowe who wrote Uncle Tom's cabin)

"To be wounded in the house of one's friends is perhaps the most grievous affliction that can befall a man."

Books: Life of Washington (Parson Weem)

Definitions:

17	Alacrity	zeal & agility	18	Ague	fever or chill
24	Calico	spotted pattern	32	Coquettish	a flirt
58	Recalcitrant	resistant	60	Assuage	alleviate
62	Lurid	gruesome	72	Reticent	quiet
74	Obtuse	dull	79	Skulk	lurk
93	Commiserate	sympathy	94	Muse	ponder
102	Peripatetic	wanders	103	Inscrutable	mysterious
103	Lucid	obvious	103	Disparage	ridicule
103	Supercilious	arrogant	105	Foible	weakness
111	Panacea	cure-all	113	Manacle	handcuff
115	Dishevel	tangle	115	Wen	cyst
117	Despotism	tyranny	117	Perpetuity	everlasting
125	Extemporaneous	impromptu	127	Portentous	ominous
128	Shibboleth	slogan	128	Fusty	musty
128	Hasting	hurry	130	Amalgamation	blend
133	Litany	recital	134	Inculcate	instill
136	Protract	lengthen	137	Rancorous	spiteful
140	Ostensibly	noticeable	158	Miscegenation	inter-racial
161	Ambivalent	conflicting coexistence	162	Assiduous	persistent
162	Subvert	undermine	162	Subjugate	overpower
163	Insidious	crafty	165	Perpetuate	sustain
167	Besmirch	tarnish	170	Incipient	beginning
171	Internecline	carnage	174	Expatriate	elaborate
175	Elucidate	explain	183	Indefatigably	tireless
186	Pettifog	bicker	186	Demagoguery	political agitator
187	Invective	scornful	189	Conciliatory	appease
189	Auspicious	favorable	196	Missive	letter
196	Augur	prophet	197	Nullification	cancel
202	Solicitous	mindful	202	Nefarious	vile
202	Imperious	overbearing	203	Rectitude	virtue
211	Clandestine	hidden	214	Coercion	compel by force
215	Desiccate	dry up	216	Acquiesce	concur
216	Wheedle	flatter	217	Din	uproar
219	Loth	reluctant	220	Acerbic	sour
224	Myopic	shortsighted	224	Exigency	crises
224	Upbraiding	reprove	234	Staccato	abrupt
235	Habeas Corpus	body reqd in court	236	Petulant	irritable
237	Moorings	tied down	237	Deftest	nimble
238	Minutiae	trifling details	241	Pugnacious	argumentative
242	Remonstrance	protest	242	Eschew	boycott
243	Tempestuous	stormy	244	Misanthropic	unfriendly
244	Truculence	fierce	245	Capricious	fickle
245	Gadfly	pest	246	Raucous	rough
246	Parvenus	to arrive	251	Daguerreotype	metal photo
125	Hyperboles	overstatement	252	Dissident	men who disagree

252	Unfettered	liberate	256	Irresolute	uncertain
259	Certitude	assurance	259	Vacillation	wavering
273	Coterie	clique	273	Sycophant	a yes man
276	Prattle	chatter	276	Expiation	atonement
279	Provost	overseer	279	Irascible	irritable
279	Martinet	disciplinarian	283	Calamitous	disastrous
288	Precocious	advanced development	290	Incredulous	doubtful
299	Salvo	multi-gun salute	301	Reconnoiter	gather info
311	Vehemently	fervent	314	Dyspeptic	irritable
315	Dilatory	cause delay	316	Exonerated	absolve
316	Armistice	truce	321	Heinous	wicked
321	Execrable	detestable	322	Portend	foretell
326	Corollary	obvious conclusion	326	Disenthral	liberate
327	Fusillade	sudden outburst	332	Stridency	shrillness
338	Extricate	disentangle	339	Pernicious	deadly
345	Inert	inactive	348	Expostulate	argue
354	Imbibe	excessive drinking	354	Inebriate	intoxicate
356	Enigmatic	perplexing	357	Macabre	gruesome
358	Conscription	drafted to war	358	Cavil	trivial objection
359	Rhetorical	used for effect	368	Sundry	various
370	Resolute	steadfast	377	Gibbet	gallows
378	Antebellum	before war	382	Profligate	recklessly prodigal
382	Fetid	smelly	383	Complicity	accomplice
386	Cataclysmic	disaster	386	Bonhomie	friendly
386	Perambulate	meander	387	Forlorn	desolate
391	Contentious	argumentative	393	Fulminate	detonate
396	Fatuity	foolishness	397	Scurrilous	offensive
398	Adroit	nimble	399	Repudiation	disapprove
399	Superlative	magnificent	400	Vindictive	vengeful
400	Sheaf	bundle	404	Capitulate	surrender
406	Impugn	attack	407	Obstreperous	uncontrolled
407	Filibuster	long speech	408	Fastidious	critical
408	Scintilla	trace	410	Reiterate	repeat
411	Purgation	purge	416	Pell-mell	disorderly
416	Monomaniac	obsessed on one thing	417	Elude	escape
426	Catafalque	coffin platform	427	Betoken	signify
429	Farcical	ridiculous	431	Preposterous	absurd
431	Impertinent	rude	435	Cortege	entourage