

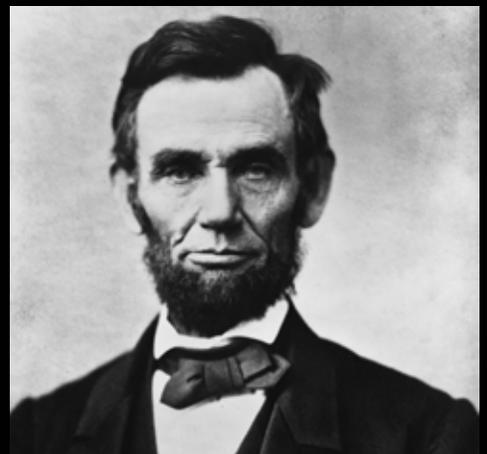
5 things you didn't know about Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln is one of the most famous and celebrated presidents in U.S. history. Chances are you've all heard about his humble beginnings in a log cabin, his self-taught education, his rise to Congress and ultimately to the White House. You've likely heard numerous tidbits of information about the life of Honest Abe.

Instead of giving you another basic biography, in honor of his 203rd birthday, we here at the Penny Press have decided to expand your knowledge base with a few nuggets of wisdom about the life (and all of the death) that surrounded the namesake of this great warship. What better way to pay our respects to arguably our greatest president than with the laziest form of print journalism...a list.

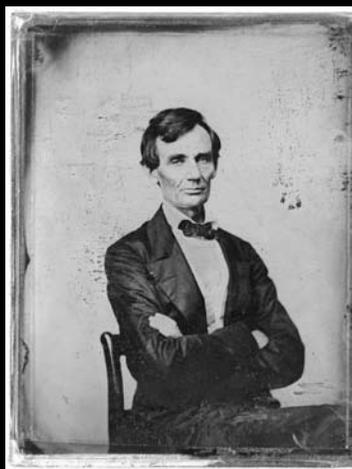
1 Lincoln was an inventor. Abe was a big fan of machinery and gadgets. He enjoyed taking things apart and seeing what made them run. It was all part of his inquisitive nature and his thirst for knowledge. Somewhere along the way, he decided that just understanding the inner workings of things wasn't enough, so he began work on an invention of his own. In 1849, he patented a device for the purpose of "buoying vessels over shoals." This basically means he created a system for getting boats or ships over sandbars. The design was deemed too expensive for its purpose and subsequently was never put into use. However, to this day, he is the only U.S. president to ever patent an invention of any kind.

2 Lincoln only had one child that lived to see adulthood. Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd had four sons--Edward, William, Thomas and Robert. Unfortunately for the family, only Robert, the oldest son, lived to see his 19th birthday. Edward Baker Lincoln, born Mar. 10, 1846, died at four years of age from pulmonary tuberculosis. William Wallace Lincoln (you have to love the fact that the kid was named after "Braveheart"), born Dec. 21, 1850, died at 11 years old from typhoid fever. Thomas Lincoln, born Apr. 4, 1853, died at 18 years old, also from tuberculosis. Robert lived to be 82 and had three children of his own. However, Robert almost shared the same fate as his brothers. Which brings us to...



Abraham Lincoln was a man who was known for his wit and humor, but he reportedly suffered from serious depression. He was famous for his intelligence and prowess as a public speaker even though he only attended a year of formal schooling. He lived an extraordinary life and accomplished extraordinary things. Many writers before me have paid homage to him, and many more will in the future. So, I end by saying Happy Birthday, Abe. Next year, I'll bake you a cake shaped like a stove pipe hat or something.

3 *Booth saved Lincoln's life.* Remember that part a few words ago where I inferred that Robert Lincoln almost died? Abe's soon-to-be only living son was standing in a train station one day during the Civil War when he was knocked off his feet by a moving train. As he was falling off of the platform and onto the tracks, a man grabbed his collar and pulled him to safety. Well, in some kind of strange karmic twist of fate, the man who saved him was named Edwin Booth. Booth was widely considered one of the finest Shakespearean actors of the 19th Century. Booth came from a long line of actors which included his younger brother, John Wilkes Booth. Yes, *that* John Wilkes Booth. Let that sink in for a second. The older brother of the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln saved the life of Lincoln's son.



4 *Lincoln talked to the dead.* No, I'm not saying he had some crazy power like that weird little kid in "The Sixth Sense," and no I'm not making a reference to the fictional biography of Abraham Lincoln as a vampire hunter. However, he and his wife did hold séances in the White House to try and contact the two sons they had already lost. His wife Mary was actually the one who organized most of these events, but he attended many of them. It's not surprising because he was known to be a very superstitious man. One time, he saw two reflections of himself in an old mirror and told a friend it meant he would be elected president for a second term, but would not live to see it through. Which leads us to...

5 *Lincoln was psychic.* About a week before the fateful night when Lincoln was assassinated, he had a dream. In his dream, Abe heard crying from somewhere in the White House. He came upon a funeral already in progress. When he asked a crying woman who had died, she answered, "the president." When you consider the nature of his dream and note the rumors that he was reluctant to attend the play at the Ford Theater the night he was shot, it's clear he was not optimistic about his future.

Story by MC2 Jon Idle