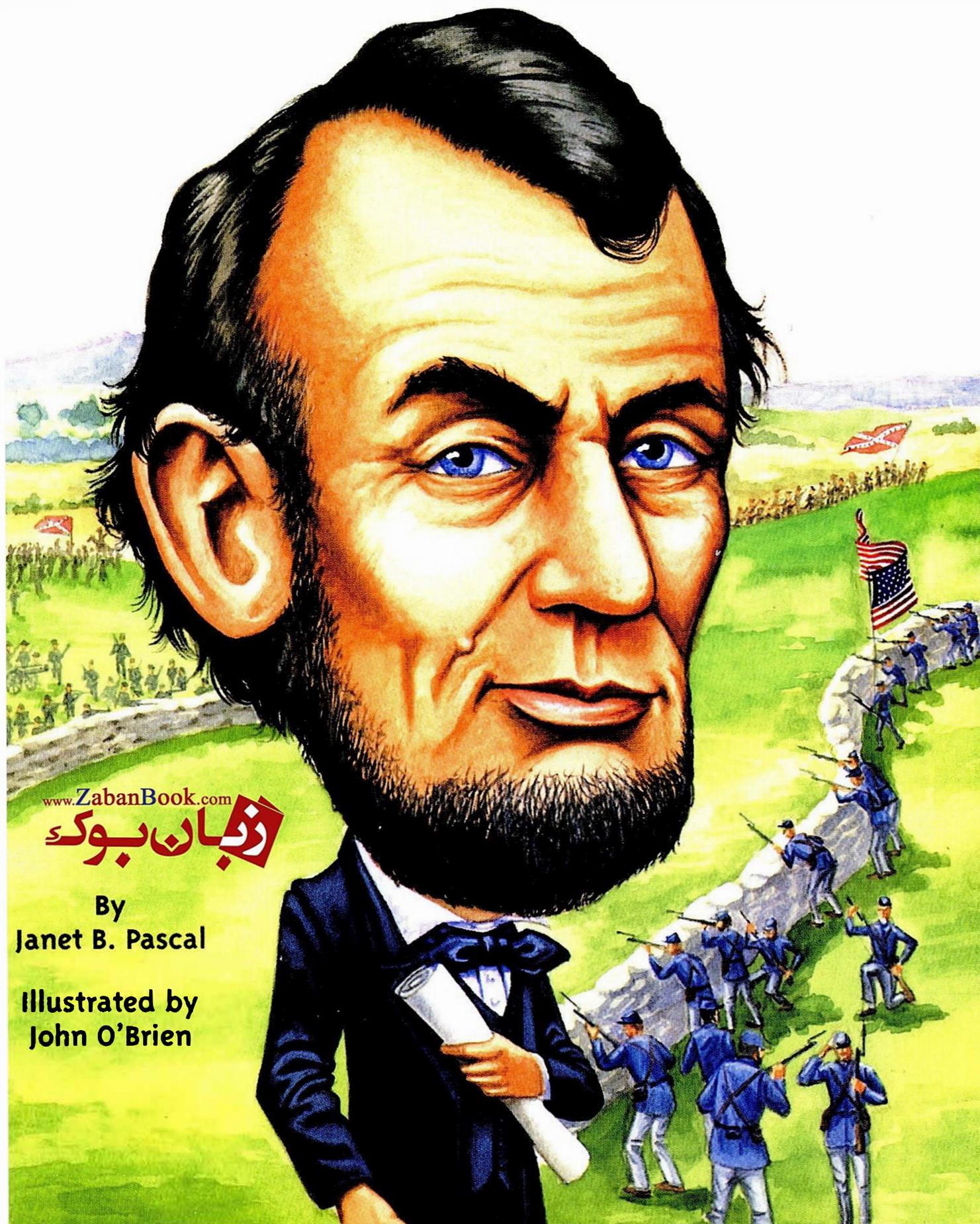


Who Was Abraham Lincoln?



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By
Janet B. Pascal

Illustrated by
John O'Brien

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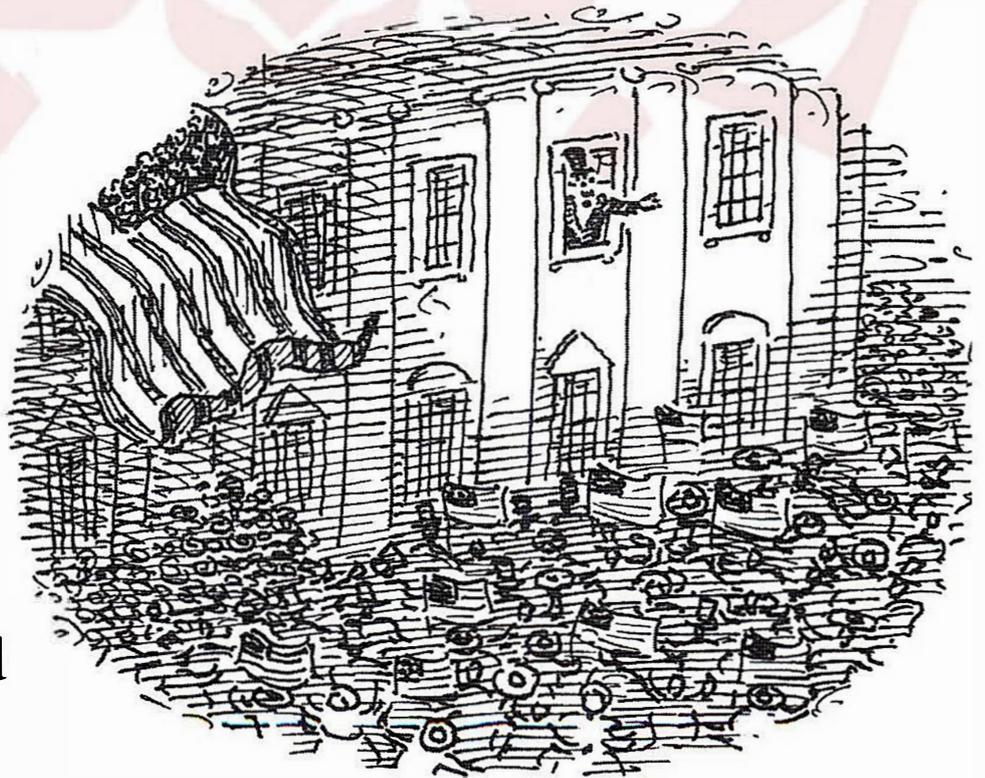
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Who Was Abraham Lincoln?

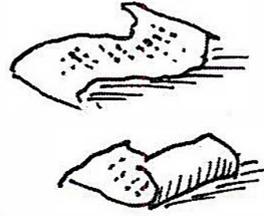
April 11, 1865. After four terrible years, the American Civil War—the war between the North and the South—was almost over. Now it was clear that the North would win. President Abraham Lincoln had fought the war to prevent the rebel South from leaving the Union. He wanted the country to stay *one* country—the United States of America.

From the window of the White House, the president addressed the big crowd



below. His twelve-year-old son, Tad, was at his feet, collecting the pages of the speech as the president dropped them to the floor.

A man in the audience called out, “What shall we do with the rebels?”



Someone answered, “Hang them!”

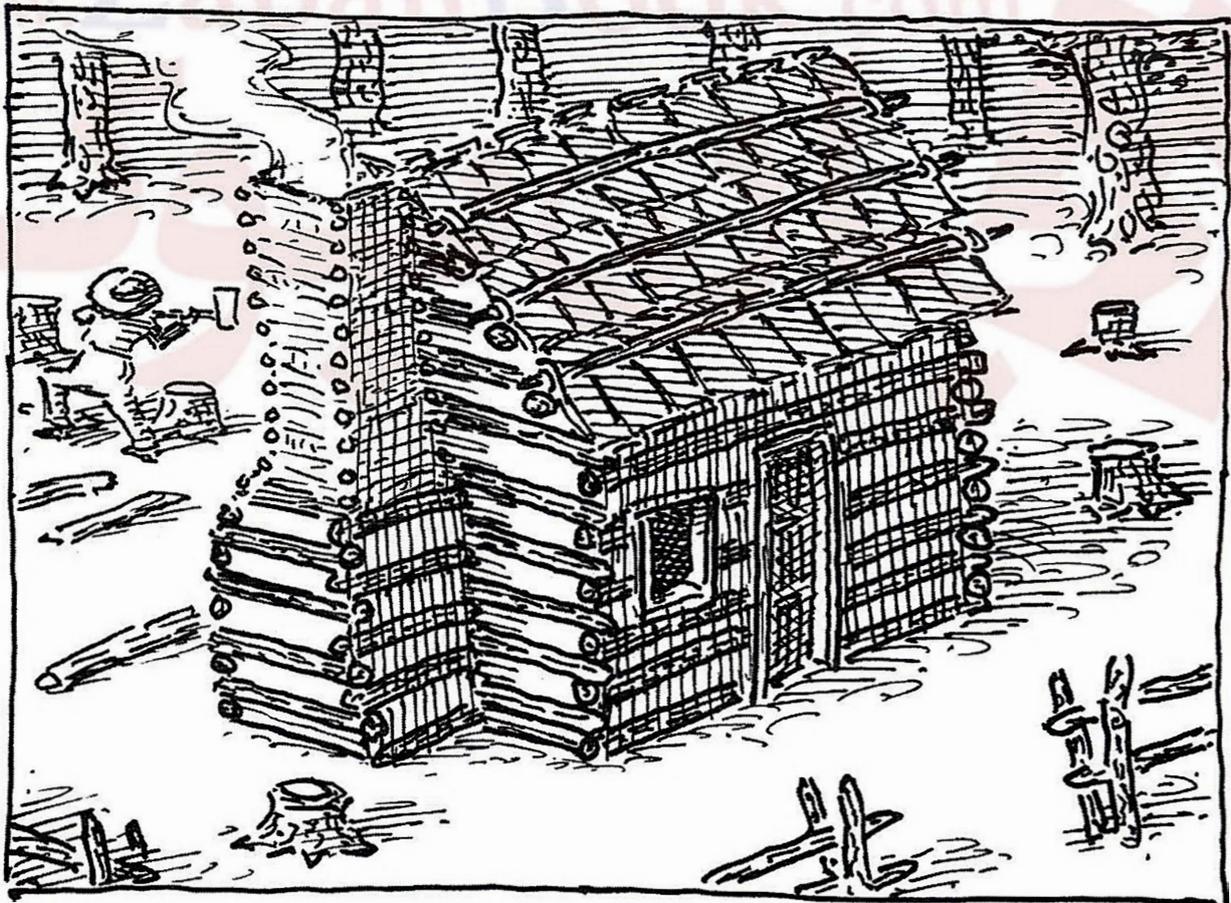
Before the president could answer, Tad piped up. “No, we must hang *on* to them.”

Sometimes Tad understood his father better than anyone else. President Lincoln wanted to hang on to the defeated Southern states. He wanted to make them feel that once again they were part of the Union. He wasn't interested in revenge. Lincoln was a remarkable president and a remarkable man. He hoped to turn his enemies back into his friends.

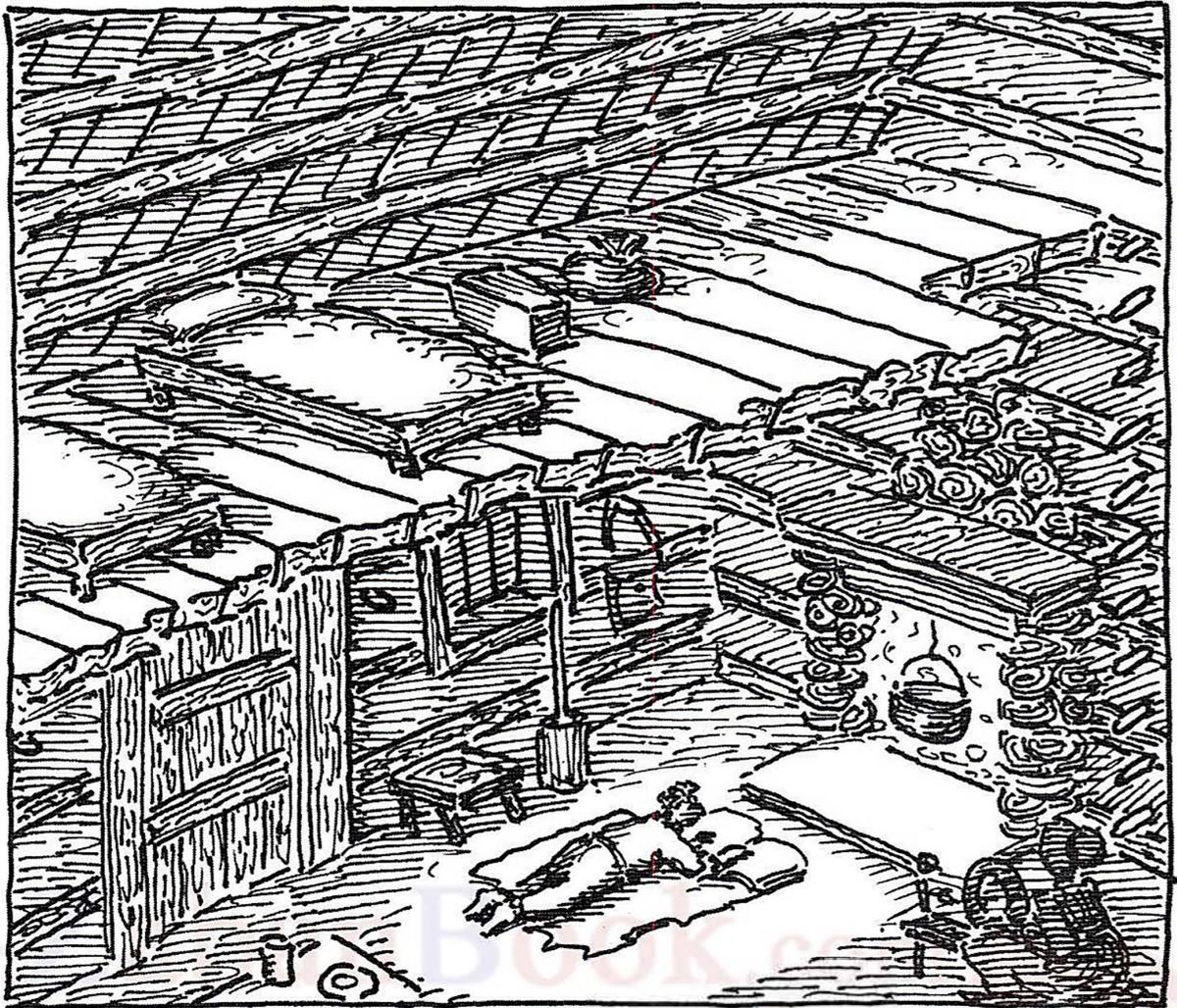
Chapter 1

Life in a Log Cabin

The man who is often called America's greatest president was born on February 12, 1809, in a crude log cabin in Kentucky. Eighteen feet long and sixteen feet wide, it had a dirt floor and no windows.



LOG CABIN



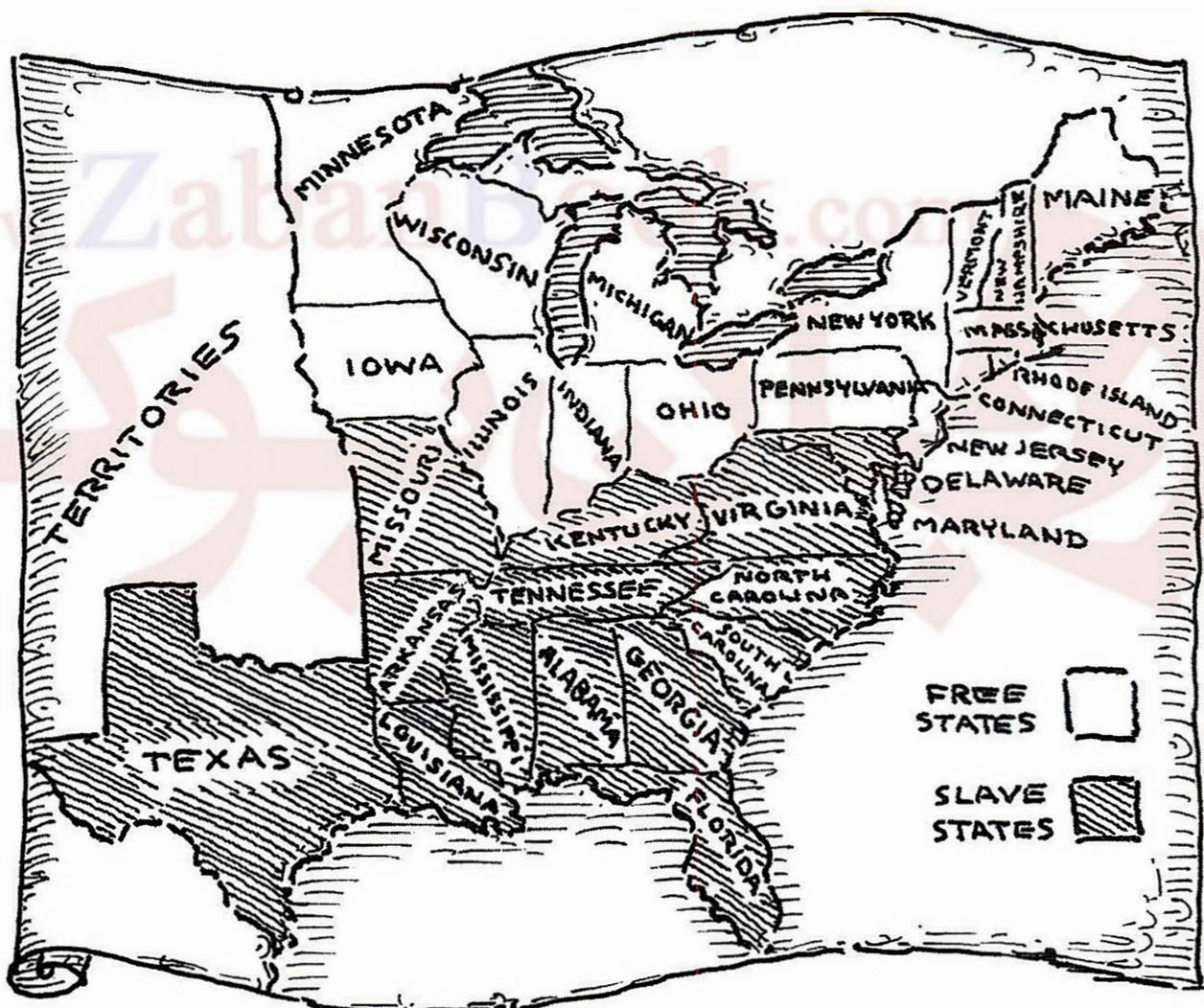
CABIN INTERIOR ONE ROOM PLUS A LOFT

His father, Thomas Lincoln, was hardworking and quiet, and famous for his honesty. He'd had little schooling—just enough to sign his name. Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was intelligent and curious. She could read a little, but couldn't write at all.

The Lincolns were poor. They moved from one small farm to another, trying to scratch out a living. When Abraham was seven, the family moved from Kentucky to Indiana.



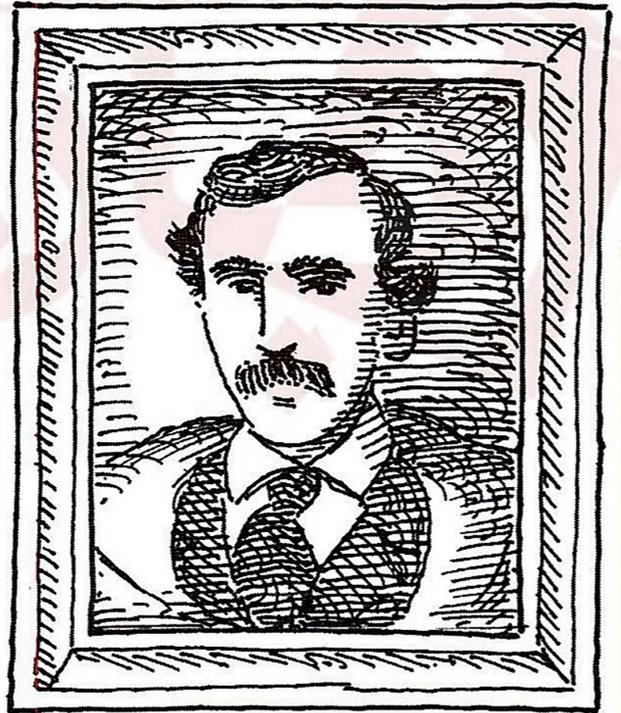
One reason for the move was that Kentucky was a “slave state,” while Indiana was a “free state.” The Lincoln family hated slavery. Abraham later said that he was “naturally antislavery” as far back as he could remember. Eventually, the Lincolns ended up on a tiny farm in Illinois.



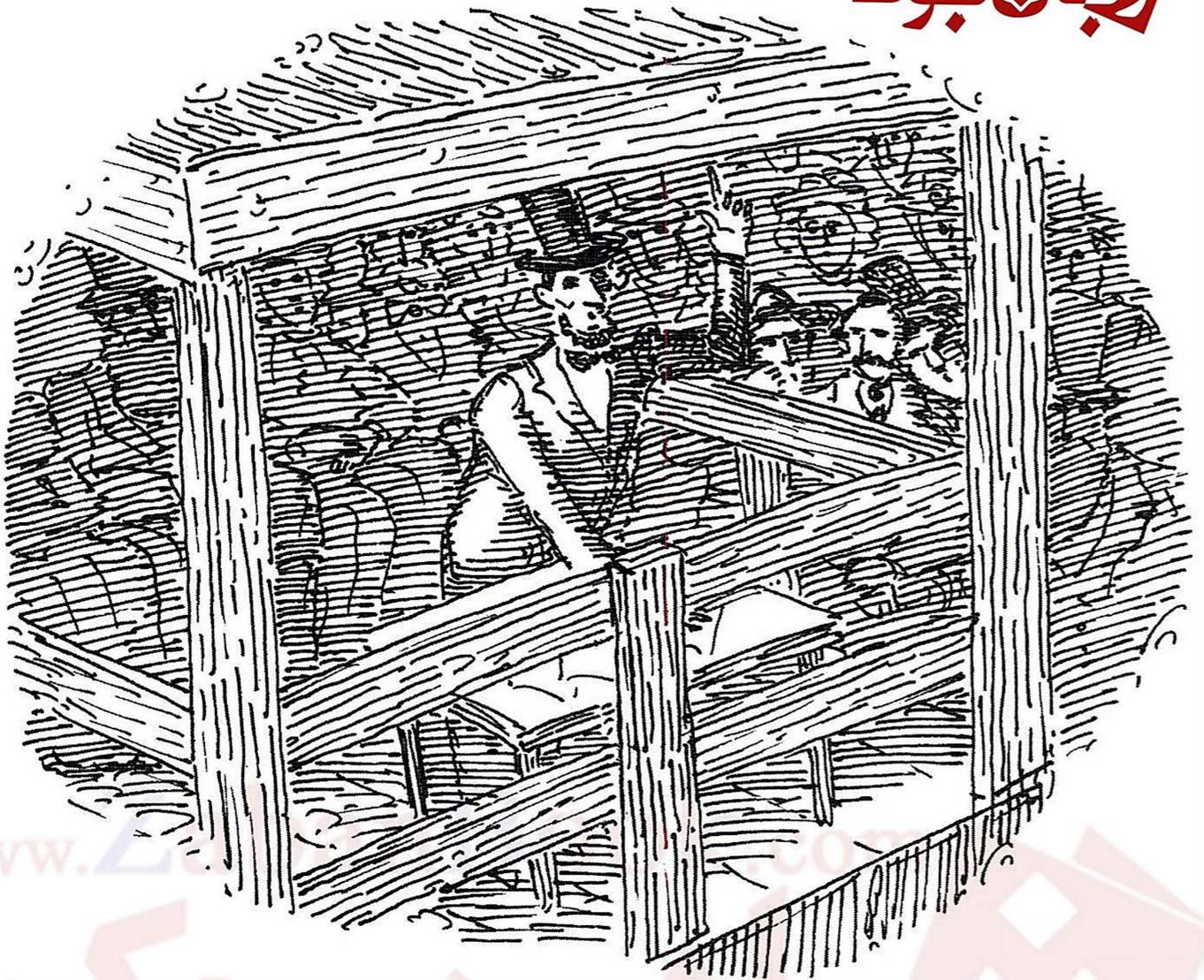
song belonged to the whole country again.

Lincoln had been planning for this day for a long time. Bringing back peace was even more important than waging war. And it was going to be just as difficult. With Lincoln's encouragement, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment would outlaw slavery everywhere in the United States.

In his second inaugural speech, Lincoln had said that he wanted to welcome the rebel states back to the Union. But as he spoke to the crowd outside the capitol building, not everyone was cheering for him. A photograph shows John Wilkes Booth and his comrades standing nearby. These men were already plotting to kill the president.



JOHN WILKES BOOTH

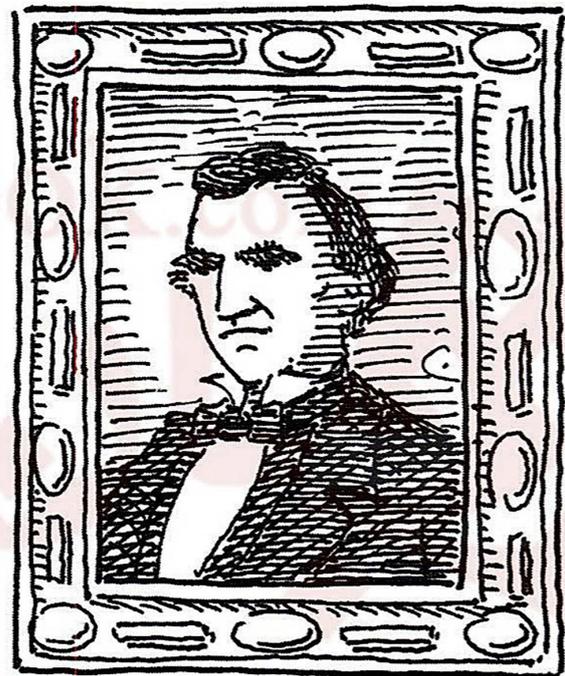


Booth was a successful actor. Some people called him the handsomest man in America. He was devoted to the Confederacy and believed slavery was not just good for white people—it was even good for black people. He despised Lincoln, who he thought was rude and uncultured. He was sure Lincoln was destroying the country.

About a month into his second term, Lincoln

RECONSTRUCTION

LINCOLN WANTED TO WELCOME THE REBEL STATES BACK TO THE UNION WITH OPEN ARMS. AFTER LINCOLN'S DEATH, HIS VICE PRESIDENT, ANDREW JOHNSON, TRIED TO FOLLOW LINCOLN'S WISHES. BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR BLACKS. EVEN SO, CONGRESS PASSED THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENTS, GRANTING BLACKS CIVIL RIGHTS AND GIVING BLACK MEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THE SOUTH HAD TO BE FORCED TO ACCEPT THEM. TO DO THIS, INSTEAD OF RESTORING THE REBEL STATES TO THEIR FULL RIGHTS, AS LINCOLN HAD HOPED TO DO, CONGRESS IMPOSED A MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON THEM. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF YEARS OF VIOLENCE AND RACIAL HOSTILITY. WOULD LINCOLN HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB? WE WILL NEVER KNOW.



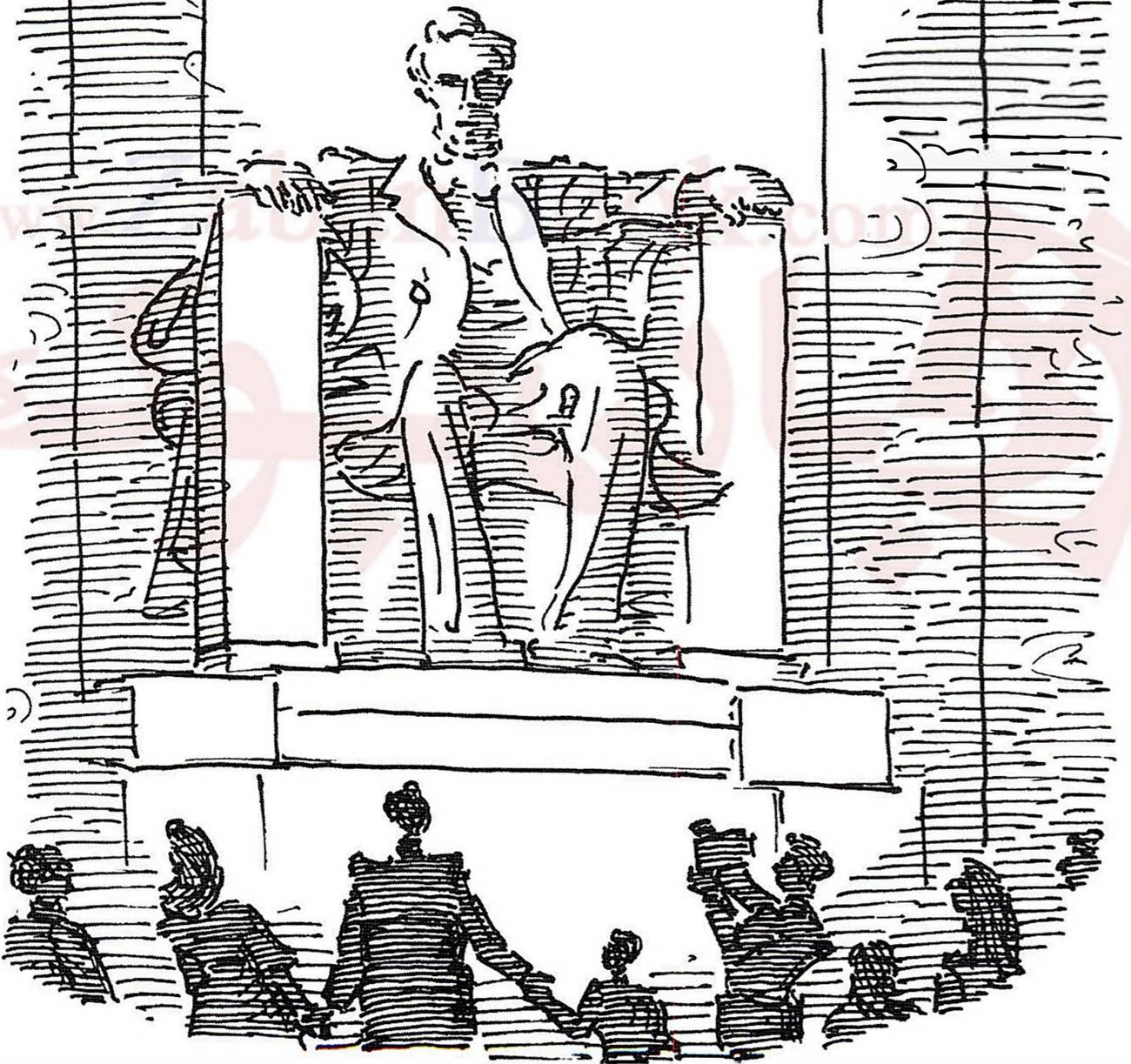
ANDREW JOHNSON

had a terrible dream. In it, he walked into the White House and saw himself lying dead in a coffin. He asked a guard what had happened. The guard said, “He was killed by an assassin.”

Three days later, on April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to a comedy at Ford’s Theatre with his wife and some friends. He and Mary wanted to relax and enjoy themselves. That afternoon he had said to her, “We must *both* be more cheerful in the future.” At the theater, Lincoln sat in a rocking



IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Fourscore 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 battlefield 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 cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot 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.

TIMELINE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LIFE

- 1809 — Abraham Lincoln is born February 12
- 1818 — Nancy Hanks, his mother, dies
- 1819 — Lincoln's father marries Sarah Bush Johnston
- 1831 — Lincoln moves to New Salem, Illinois
- 1834 — Elected to the Illinois General Assembly
- 1836 — Receives his law license
- 1842 — Marries Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois
- 1846 — Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives
- 1856 — Helps organize the new Republican Party
- 1858 — Debates Stephen Douglas
- 1860 — Elected sixteenth president of the United States; Southern states begin to secede from the Union
- 1861 — Civil War begins
- 1862 — Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation
- 1863 — Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address
- 1864 — Lincoln is reelected president
- 1865 — General Robert E. Lee surrenders, ending the Civil War; John Wilkes Booth shoots and kills Lincoln

TIMELINE OF THE WORLD

Edgar Allan Poe and Charles Darwin are born	1809
War of 1812 between United States and Great Britain begins	1812
Francis Scott Key writes "The Star-Spangled Banner"	1814
The Missouri Compromise establishes slave-free territory in the United States	1820
Saxophone invented	1841
Revolutionary wars are fought in countries all over Europe	1848
First telegraph sent by transatlantic cable	1858
Charles Darwin publishes <i>On the Origin of Species</i>	1859
Florence Nightingale founds a school for nurses in England	1860
Serfs are freed in Russia	1861
Congress authorizes the building of a transcontinental railroad	1862
The first African-American regiments in the United States Army are formed	1863
The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution ends slavery in the United States	1865

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Who Was Abraham Lincoln?

- A boy who only had a year of schooling
- A practical joker
- One of the greatest presidents ever
- All of the above!

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