

## THE LINCOLN WHITE HOUSE

### The Household

- While in Springfield, the Lincolns never had more than a single servant, but in the White House they enjoyed the services of a staff fit to serve in the executive mansion.
- The family occupied only seven rooms though each of their three living sons had his own bedroom.
- Lincoln resisted calling the White House the Executive Mansion, preferring to call it “this place.”
- He had difficulty adjusting to the formality and protocol of the house and his position.
- Lincoln had to borrow money to maintain the residence when he and his family first moved into it.

### The Significance of the Mansion

- Mary Lincoln once claimed that she married her husband because she knew he would one day be President. The White House was her personal goal.
- Mary Lincoln repaired and redecorated the interior with a \$20,000 appropriation from Congress, including furnishings, carpets, drapery, and a 196-piece set of china that cost \$3,195.
- It was the site of many funerals, including Willie Lincoln, Elmer Ellsworth – the first major Union casualty and a close friend of the Lincolns, and the President himself.
- Here President Lincoln signed the Thirteenth Amendment, ending slavery, and became the first President to sign a constitutional amendment.

### Daily Life in the White House

- Unlike the White House of the present day, in Lincoln's time the mansion was open to anyone who sought to enter, even to appeal directly to the President.
- Visitors regularly carried away souvenirs of White House furnishings.
- President Lincoln's private secretary, John G. Nicolay, served as a watchdog against uninvited visitors.
- Lincoln preferred to go about the White House and Washington in general without guards.
- Many regarded Lincoln's subordinates as snobs.
- Mary Todd Lincoln received callers in the Red Room nearly every evening she was in town.
- Few paintings adorned the walls.
- The First Family preferred a simple social life to state dinners and receptions.

### Lincoln's Routine

- 6:00-8:00 A.M. – The President rose and immersed himself in writing, reading, and study before breakfast.
- 8:00-9:00 A.M. – The President takes breakfast, typically with Mrs. Lincoln and a visitor.
- 9:00-10:00 A.M. – The President reads his mail, writes responses or directs his secretaries to do so, or visited the War Department (housed in the executive mansion).
- 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. – The President kept office hours (except on Tuesday or Friday: see below), receiving visitors. (At the beginning of his first term, Lincoln held unlimited office hours for visitors, petitioners, and others.)
- Noon – The President ordered the office doors opened to receive everyone still waiting and deals with them randomly.
- Noon (on Tuesdays and Friday) – The President meets with the Cabinet in his office.
- 1:00-2:00 P.M. – The President took lunch with his family in their quarters, though he frequently skipped lunch – on such occasions Mrs. Lincoln would attempt to take him a tray, but he often did not eat. (Lincoln ate so little during his term in office that he actually lost weight.)
- 2:00-4:00 P.M. – The President again ordered the office doors opened to receive everyone still waiting and deals with them randomly.
- 4:00-6:00 P.M. – The President rode around the city.
- 6:00-7:00 P.M. – The President took dinner with his family and usually no one else. If guests were present after dinner, Lincoln would converse with or read to them. If there were no guests, he would sometimes go to his office for casual conversation with his closest friends in the administration.
- 7:00 P.M. – The President typically went to the War Department to catch up on intelligence or occasionally read, attend the theater, converse with visitors, or listen to music.
- 11:00 P.M. – The President makes a final visit to the War Department to read telegrams from his commanding officers.
- For more details regarding Lincoln's routine, click on

<http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/inside.asp?ID=518&subjectID=5>

### **Supreme Court Appointments**

1862	Noah Haynes Swayne (Associate Justice)
1862	Samuel Freeman Miller (Associate Justice)
1862	David Davis (Associate Justice)
1863	Stephen Johnson Field (Associate Justice)
1864	Salmon P. Chase (Chief Justice)

The Cabinet	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
Vice-President	Hannibal Hamlin				Andrew Johnson
Secretary of State	William H. Seward				
Secretary of the Treasury	Salmon P. Chase			William P. Fessenden	Hugh McCullough
Secretary of War	Simon Cameron	Edwin M. Stanton			
Attorney General	Edward Bates			James Speed	
Postmaster General	Montgomery Blair			William Dennison	
Secretary of the Navy	Gideon Wells				
Secretary of the Interior	Caleb Smith		John P. Usher		