

THE LINCOLN BOYS

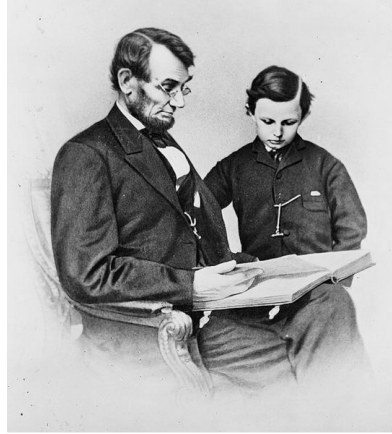
Robert (Rob) Todd Lincoln (1843-1926) lived to be 83 years old.
Edward (Eddie) Baker Lincoln (1846 - 1850) lived only until he was 4 years old.
William (Willie) Wallace Lincoln (1850-1862) lived until he was 12 years old.
Thomas (Tad) Lincoln (1853-1871) lived until he was 18 years old.

- Mary Lincoln named her third son William Wallace after her brother-in-law.



William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008.

- Abraham Lincoln called his son Thomas "Tad" because at birth the boy's oversized head made his father think of the appearance of a tadpole.
- Eleven years old when his father won the Presidency, Willie was regarded as both more studious than Tad and particularly religious.
- Eight-year-old Tad's youth and natural imaginativeness led him into a life of mischievousness in the White House.
- Both boys loved the steady stream of pets given to them as gifts by friends of the family and those seeking favor with the President.
- The record of his stunts include interrupting Cabinet meetings, using furniture to build mechanisms of his imagination, hosing down dignitaries, and assuming the role of a commanding officer as he drilled the servants.
- Rather than discipline his sons for their pranks, Lincoln was more inclined to indulge them.
- Well aware of the war, the boys built a fort on the White House roof.
- They both often accompanied the President when he reviewed the troops and helped their mother deliver gifts to wounded soldiers in the hospital.
- Secretary of War Edwin Stanton issued Tad a mock commission and had a uniform made for the boy.



Thomas "Tad" Lincoln. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:A%26TLincoln.jpg>>

- Willie was a remarkably willing and talented student, but Tad was not as dedicated despite the efforts of the tutors his mother engaged for her sons' education.
- From late December of 1861 through mid-February of 1862, Willie suffered what was probably typhoid fever until he died on February 20.
- Lincoln is said to have remarked on his son's passing, "My poor boy. He was too good for this earth. God has called him home. I know that he is much better off in heaven, but then we loved him so. It is hard, hard to have him die!"
- The viewing of the tiny body took place in the Green Room and the funeral in the East Room (conducted by Reverend Phineas Gurley) just as the viewing of and funeral for his father would be handled a little more than three years later.
- Willie was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington but was later transported on Lincoln's funeral train to Springfield where he was eventually re-interred beside his father in the Lincoln Tomb at the Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- Willie's mother was devastated by her son's loss, and his father suspended work for four days.
- Tad shared both his parents' interest in the theater and even performed in plays at Grover's Theater which his father took time to watch.
- Tad was attending a performance of *Aladdin, or the Wonderful Lamp* at Grover's Theatre on the same night his father was assassinated.
- According to reports, when Tad saw his mother the morning after the assassination, he embraced her and said, "Don't cry so, Mamma! Don't cry, or you will make me cry, too! You will break my heart!"
- Though his mother struggled with overwhelming emotions, Tad accepted the situation and realized he would no longer enjoy the privileges his father's office and indulgence had afforded him.
- When Robert moved the family to Chicago, Tad had to be enrolled in the Brown School on Warren Avenue: at 12 he could barely read and could not write at all.



Robert Todd Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln's White House. 18 July 2008. ,
<http://www.mrlincolnswhitehouse.org/inside.asp?ID=16&subjectID=2>>

- He overcame his academic deficiencies and earned the position of editor of the school newspaper.
- In 1867, Tad and Robert testified at the trial of John Surratt, one of John Wilkes Booth's co-conspirators.
- In 1868, Tad and his mother traveled to Europe where he attended a boarding school in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Upon the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, the Lincoln's moved to England where Tad now worked with a private tutor.
- During their return voyage to the US, Tad caught a cold.
- On July 15, 1871, Tad Lincoln died following two and a half months of painful respiratory symptoms – probably caused by tuberculosis.
- Following a plain funeral in Robert Lincoln's home, Robert accompanied his brother's body to Springfield for internment in the family tomb. (Mary was too distraught to make the trip.)