

MYTHS AND MYSTERIES SURROUNDING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Gettysburg Address

- **MYTH:** Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope on his way to deliver the speech.
- **FACT:** Instead, we have no original copy – only drafts Lincoln and others wrote after the delivery of the speech, none of which entirely agree on the exact wording.

The Lincoln Bedroom



Fabiano, Gary. The Lincoln Bedroom in 2007 (Looking Southeast). *Time*. 18 July 2008
<<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor2/lincoln-bedroom.htm>>

- **MYTH:** Lincoln slept in the so-called Lincoln Bedroom in the White House.
- **FACT:** A suite of rooms that now includes the Lincoln Sitting Room and the Lincoln Bath was during Lincoln's and many subsequent administrations the location of the President's Office.
 - The West Wing, so familiar to Americans today, was not built until 1902.
 - Mrs. Hoover turned the office into a parlor and filled it with Lincoln furniture.
 - During the Truman Administration, the White House was gutted and refurbished, at which time the room was dedicated to Lincoln and acquired the name it has today.
 - Though the bed could have accommodated Lincoln's stature, he likely never slept in it.
- **MYSTERY:** The Lincoln Bedroom has long been connected to stories of Lincoln's ghost.
 - These stories may have arisen from Mary Todd Lincoln's frequently holding séances and consulting mediums in her attempts to contact her son Willie who died while the Lincolns occupied the White House.

- Others attribute Lincoln's ghostly appearances to the President's violent and untimely death.
- Those claiming encounters with Lincoln's ghost include Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and President Harry S Truman.

For more information on the history and remodeling of the Lincoln Bedroom, click on

<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor2/lincoln-bedroom.htm>

FUN FACTS:

Famous Men and Women Born on February 12

1567	Thomas Campion	English composer and poet
1588	John Winthrop	First Governor of the Massachusetts Colony
1663	Cotton Mather	
1775	Louisa Catherine Adams	First Lady of the United States (John Quincy Adams)
1791	Peter Cooper	Industrialist and philanthropist
1809	Charles Darwin	Naturalist (Born on exactly the same day as Lincoln)
1828	George Meredith	English novelist
1880	John L. Lewis	Labor union leader
1893	Omar Bradley	American Army general
1915	Lorne Green	Actor
1919	Forrest Tucker	Actor (born in Plainfield, IN)
1923	Franco Zeffirelli	Italian film director
1930	Arlen Specter	American politician
1938	Judy Blume	Author
1938	Johnny Rutherford	Auto racing driver
1942	Ehud Barak	Israeli statesmen
1955	Arsenio Hall	Comedian, actor
1968	Josh Brolin	Actor
1980	Christina Ricci	Actress

It is especially noteworthy that Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin, two of the most enduringly influential figures of the nineteenth century were born on precisely the same day.