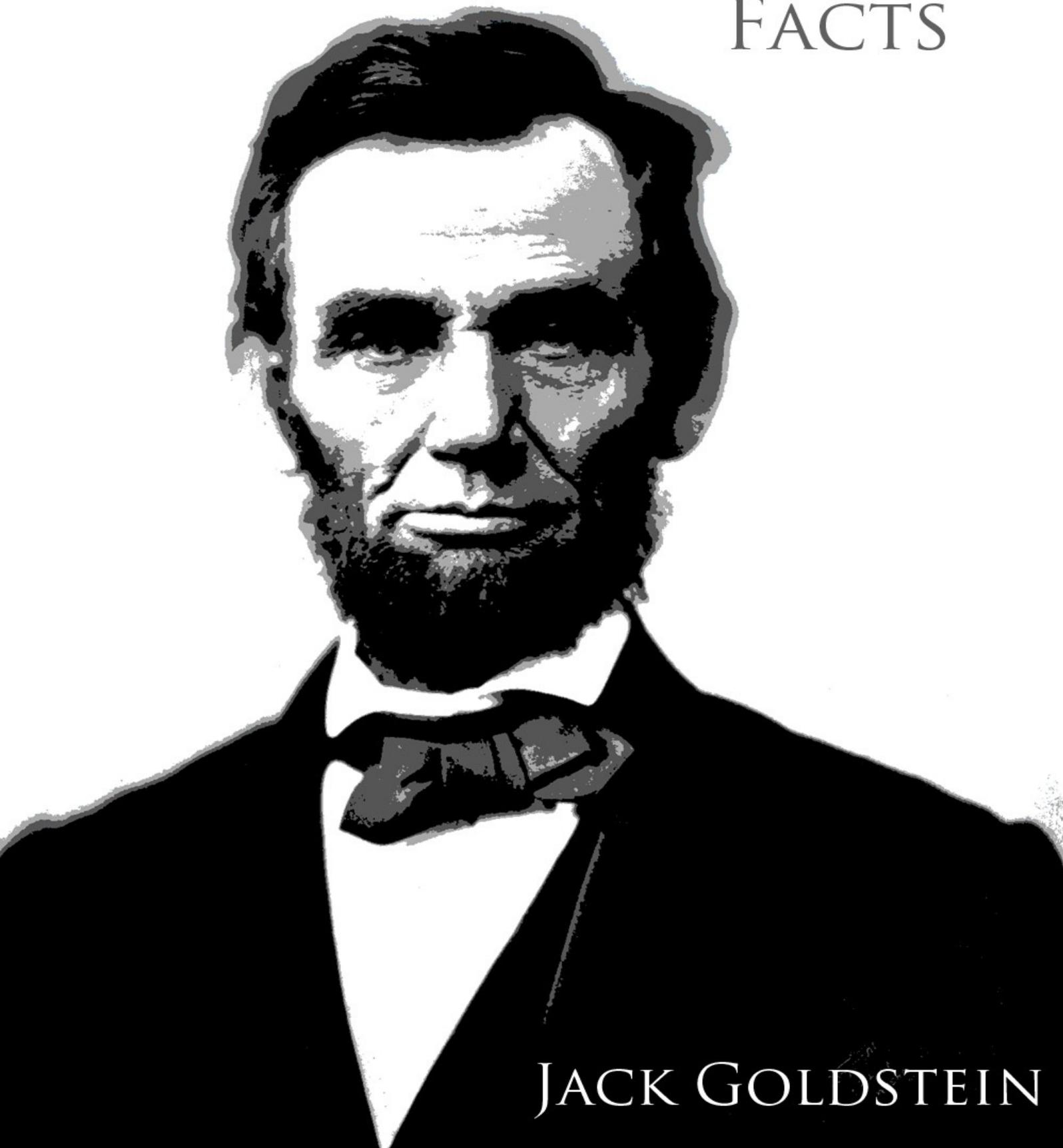


101 AMAZING

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

FACTS



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Title Page

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Introduction

Do you want to know the important facts about Abraham Lincoln's Life? Amongst many other things, the 16th US President abolished slavery, made the Gettysburg Address and was assassinated whilst in office. This easy-to-digest eBook gives you the information you need to know about President Lincoln in handily organised sections.

Whether you are writing a history project on 'Honest Abe' or you just want to find out more about one of the greatest presidents of all time, this pocket-sized fact-book is an easy way to get the information you want fast!

Key Facts

1. Abraham Lincoln was born on the 12th February 1809.
2. He died on the 15th April 1865.
3. He was assassinated by a man called John Wilkes Booth.
4. Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States.
5. He led the country through the American Civil War.
6. He brought an end to slavery in the country.
7. He is known for doing this through the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment.
8. One of his speeches - The Gettysburg Address - is the most quoted speech in American history.
9. Lincoln was the first major leader in the US to suggest that women should have the vote.
10. Lincoln was tall - just over 6 feet 4 inches.

Growing Up

1. Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin with his father, mother and sister.
2. Although he came across as an intelligent and thoughtful president, amazingly Lincoln only received 18 months of formal education!
3. Honest Abe gave his father all of his wages until he was 21.
4. He often refused to partake in hunting and fishing as he didn't like killing animals.
5. Lincoln lived in Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana and then Illinois.
6. Lincoln was a keen reader, and always sought out new books from the villages in which he lived.
7. Throughout his teenage and young adult years, Abraham grew more and more distant from his father.
8. Some of Lincoln's favourite books included the Bible, Robinson Crusoe and Benjamin Franklin's autobiography.
9. At the age of 22, Abe canoed down the Sangamon River to seek a better life.
10. His journey took him to New Orleans where he witnessed slavery for the first time in his life. He then walked home!

The Younger Man

1. In 1832 Lincoln began his political career, campaigning for the Illinois General Assembly.
2. Sadly, he lost - due to his lack of money and friends with political power.
3. After settling in New Salem, Lincoln served as postmaster then county surveyor.
4. Lincoln decided to become a lawyer, and taught himself!
5. He then served four successive terms in the Illinois House of Representatives.
6. In 1835 Lincoln voiced his wish to help end slavery - but had concerns about what would happen to freed slaves.
7. One of the suggestions he was partial to was that slaves could start a new life in the African country of Liberia.
8. In the later 1830s, Lincoln's party focused on modernising the banking system.
9. They were also heavily influential in the expansion of the railroad network.
10. In 1846 Lincoln was elected to the United States House of Representatives, serving a two-year term.

Family

1. Abraham was the youngest of two children.
2. His father was called Thomas Lincoln.
3. His mother was called Nancy.
4. His family was - for a time - very rich, however his father lost all of his land because of faulty property titles.
5. After Nancy died, Thomas married a woman named Sarah Bush Johnston. Abraham became very close to her, and often referred to her as “Mother”.
6. Lincoln had two long-term relationships before he married Mary Todd.
7. The first of these was Ann Rutledge, however she died of Typhoid fever.
8. The second was a lady called Mary Owens, to whom he got engaged - and then unengaged!
9. Lincoln had four sons with Mary Todd, although sadly only one lived past the age of 18.
10. To the best of people’s knowledge, Lincoln’s last surviving descendent died in the 1980s.

Campaign for Presidency

1. On the 9th and 10th of May 1860, Lincoln received his first endorsement to run for president.
2. His campaign team was led by David Davis, Norman Judd, Jesse Dubois and Leonard Swett.
3. As with presidential campaigns today, image was everything. With this in mind, Lincoln's team embellished stories of his 'frontier days' with his father.
4. Lincoln was known during this campaign as the 'Rail Candidate'.
5. He won the presidential nomination for his party on the third ballot, beating Salmon P Chase and William H Seward.
6. Hannibal Hamlin was chosen as his vice president.
7. Lincoln had won a large amount of support from his belief that slavery was wrong, and was causing harm to the United States.
8. Amazingly, Lincoln made no speeches during his campaign for presidency, happy to rely on the party to do the work for him.
9. Many leaflets, posters and articles in newspapers got Lincoln's message across.
10. Success followed, and Abraham Lincoln was elected president on the 6th November, 1860.

The Civil War

1. Lincoln was the first United States president from the Republican party - but he was very unpopular in the South - he had won only two of 996 counties in the Southern States.
2. In 1861, six states - unhappy with the new president - declared themselves a sovereign nation of their own. They called themselves the Confederate States of America.
3. Some compromises were attempted to pacify these states, however Lincoln blocked these, believing these attempts to be unconstitutional.
4. In his inaugural address, president Lincoln told the South that they were not enemies, but friends.
5. After a Fort commander sent a request for supplies to Lincoln (which he met), the secessionist states considered this an act of war, and on April 12th, 1861, civil war broke out.
6. Lincoln quickly realised the importance of acting firmly in the war, and styled himself as commander-in-chief.
7. He imposed a blockade on all confederate shipping ports. He also arrested and imprisoned thousands of suspected Confederate sympathisers.
8. Battles continued for the next few years, with the war finely balanced between the two sides.
9. One of the famous battles was at Gettysburg, where after the Union had won, Lincoln made the famous "Gettysburg Address" speech.
10. As 1865 approached and then began, more and more states fell to the Union, and victory was soon declared on the 9th May.

The Gettysburg Address

1. The Gettysburg Address was delivered on the 19th November, 1863.
2. President Lincoln made the speech at the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
3. At the time, prior to Lincoln's speech there was a two-hour oratory from Edward Everett which was initially known as the Gettysburg address, however it is not very well known today.
4. Lincoln's speech starts with a reference to the Declaration of Independence, written in 1776. The words Lincoln began with were "Four score and seven years ago".
5. This is the full speech: "Four score 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 battle-field 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 can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not 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."
6. The exact words however are disputed as there are known to be five manuscripts of the speech, each differing slightly.
7. It is said that following the speech, there was no applause, only silence.
8. Lincoln's address is referenced in another famous event, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.
9. Perhaps the most important words of the speech are "government of the people, by the people, for the people."
10. This is such an important principle that a literal translation of these words even

today form part of other countries' constitutions - France is perhaps the most famous example.

Slavery

1. Although he had taken time out of politics to go back to practising law, Lincoln made a political return in the 1850s to join the fight against slavery.
2. In 1854, on October the 16th, Lincoln made a speech known as the “Peoria Speech” in which he criticised the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska act, which was a pro-slavery law.
3. In 1856 Lincoln was instrumental in forming the new Republican party, and became its vice president.
4. After being nominated for the senate in 1858, Lincoln made a speech known as the “House Divided Speech” which said the government could not continue being divided on the slavery issue.
5. In a series of debates with Stephen A Douglas, Lincoln accused him of distorting the values of the Founding Fathers - that all men were created equal.
6. In 1862, when Lincoln had become president and civil war had broken out, he wrote a letter to the New York Tribune which stressed that he personally wished all slaves to be free, however politically this was difficult to achieve.
7. But one month later, Lincoln issued his first Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as states came under his control, slaves within those states would be freed.
8. Ever concerned with the bigger picture, Lincoln advocated that for economic reasons, slave owners should be compensated for emancipated slaves - however this view did not fully make it into governmental policy.
9. Over the question of what could be offered to freed slaves, Lincoln embarked on a colonization programme, including sending slaves to Panama and Haiti.
10. There has been much debate about colonization, and whether Lincoln held a view that blacks and whites could not live in harmony together.

Assassination

1. In 1864, an actor and Confederate spy called John Wilkes Booth formed a plan to kidnap president Lincoln in exchange for the release of a number of Confederate prisoners.
2. However, after hearing Lincoln make a speech on 11th April 1865 which promoted voting rights for black men, Booth became enraged, and decided to assassinate the president.
3. He initially planned to kill a number of leading political figures, including the president (of course), the Vice president, the secretary of state, and war hero General Ulysses. S. Grant.
4. The opportunity to kill the president arose when his bodyguard left his seat to have a drink at the bar.
5. At 10:13pm, Booth ran into the president's box, aimed a gun at the back of his head at point-blank range and pulled the trigger.
6. President Lincoln did not however die immediately.
7. Lincoln was taken across the street to Petersen House, where he lie in a coma for nine hours.
8. President Abraham Lincoln died at 7.22am on the 15th April 1865.
9. John Wilkes Booth went on the run for 10 days, hiding out at a farm in Virginia.
10. He was found by Union troops and killed by Sergeant Boston Corbett on the 26th April.

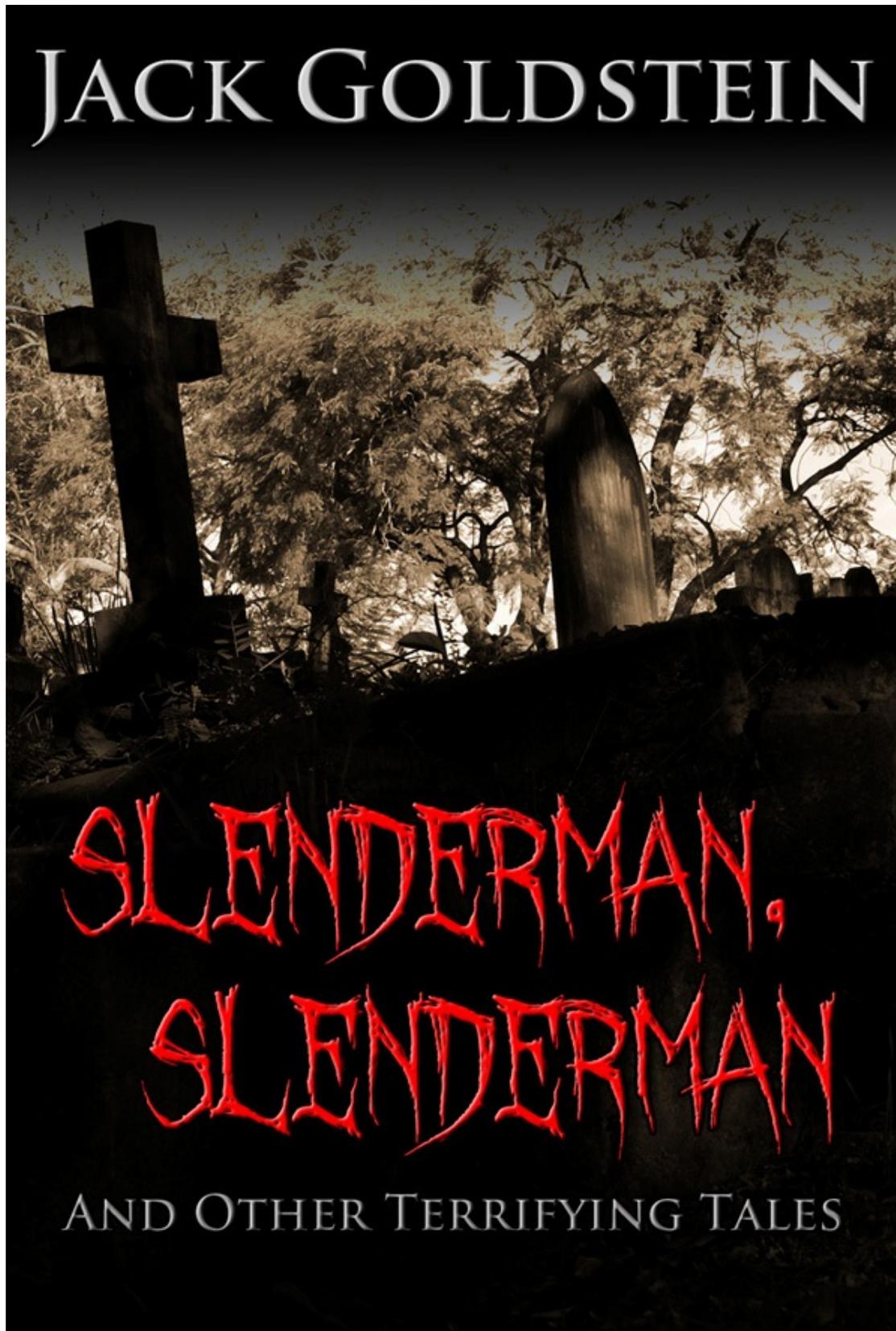
The Most Amazing Facts

1. Lincoln was the first president to have a photo taken at his inauguration.
2. Abraham Lincoln had no middle name.
3. When he was 23, Lincoln bought a store, however did so badly that he ended up owing money on it. He was so honest however that he paid back every penny, even though it took him 17 years.
4. Lincoln was once challenged to a duel over a letter written by his wife. He accepted and suggested the weapons used should be broadswords. His terrified opponent backed out.
5. Abe Lincoln is the only US President ever to have obtained a patent - a boat-lifting device.
6. After his son Willie died, Abe took part in a number of séances at the White House arranged by his wife.
7. In the weeks leading up to his assassination, Lincoln twice dreamed of his impending death.
8. Lincoln is considered one of the three greatest presidents of all time, alongside George Washington and Franklin D Roosevelt.
9. His death masks were actually made before he was killed - he sat for casts in both 1860 and 1865.
10. Abraham Lincoln was the first president to sport a beard whilst in office.

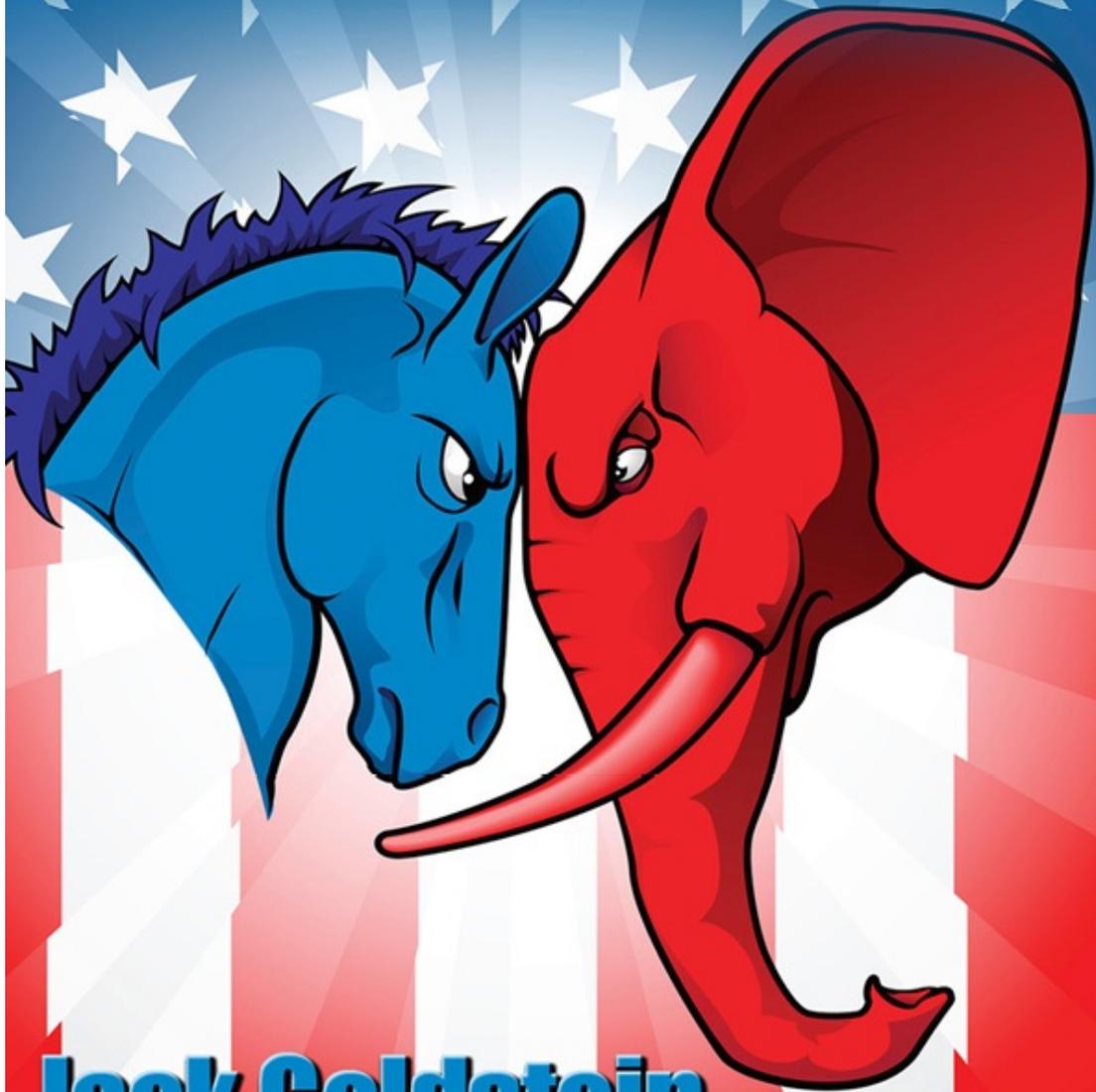
And Finally...

1. Lincoln's son, Robert, nearly fell in front of a train carriage at a station. In a strange coincidence, he was saved by Edwin Booth - John Wilkes Booth's brother!

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