



Backstories

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# Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War

DW Sutton

# **Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War**

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Astrology for Aquarius

## Introduction

Every now and then an extraordinary human soul does great and wondrous things but, more often than not, the historians and commentators who analyze spectacular human achievement fail to explain true greatness.

In Abraham Lincoln's case: How did a Kentucky farm boy become America's greatest president?

There is a simple explanation.

The analysts are missing a key piece in his life story – his birth chart.

It pictures his character – the secret behind his greatness – and his potential as a human soul.

His birth chart provides inside information pertaining to his character, intelligence and ability and his character and the situational force called environment merged to produce his life story.

Many consider him to be the most enigmatic president, but his birth chart strips away all the mystery and reveals the real man. It explains what his family life and environment can't.

Abraham Lincoln's birth chart and America's birth chart are featured in this article. They're both rectified, but this doesn't mean they're unreliable or wrong. It just means that the birth time is based on circumstantial evidence, not a documented source.

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 near Hodgenville, Kentucky – time unknown. In the September 1860 issue of his *Monthly Planet Reader* Luke D Broughton presented a chart timed for 2.00am, based on a 'careful examination of his Nativity'. And in her book *Horoscopes of US Presidents* Doris Chase Doane presents a chart timed for 2.10am LMT. But these rectified times are incorrect.

In his book *Women Lincoln Loved* (published 1927) William E Barton quotes an eyewitness to Lincoln's birth – 'the baby was born just about sun-up.'

This occurred at 6.57.50am LMT (Sun conjunction ascendant) and when the prenatal epoch was applied to this time the birth time – if his birth took a natural course – was found to be 6.56am – 'just about sun-up'.

A chart calculated for this time is used in this article. (See data references and chart notes.)

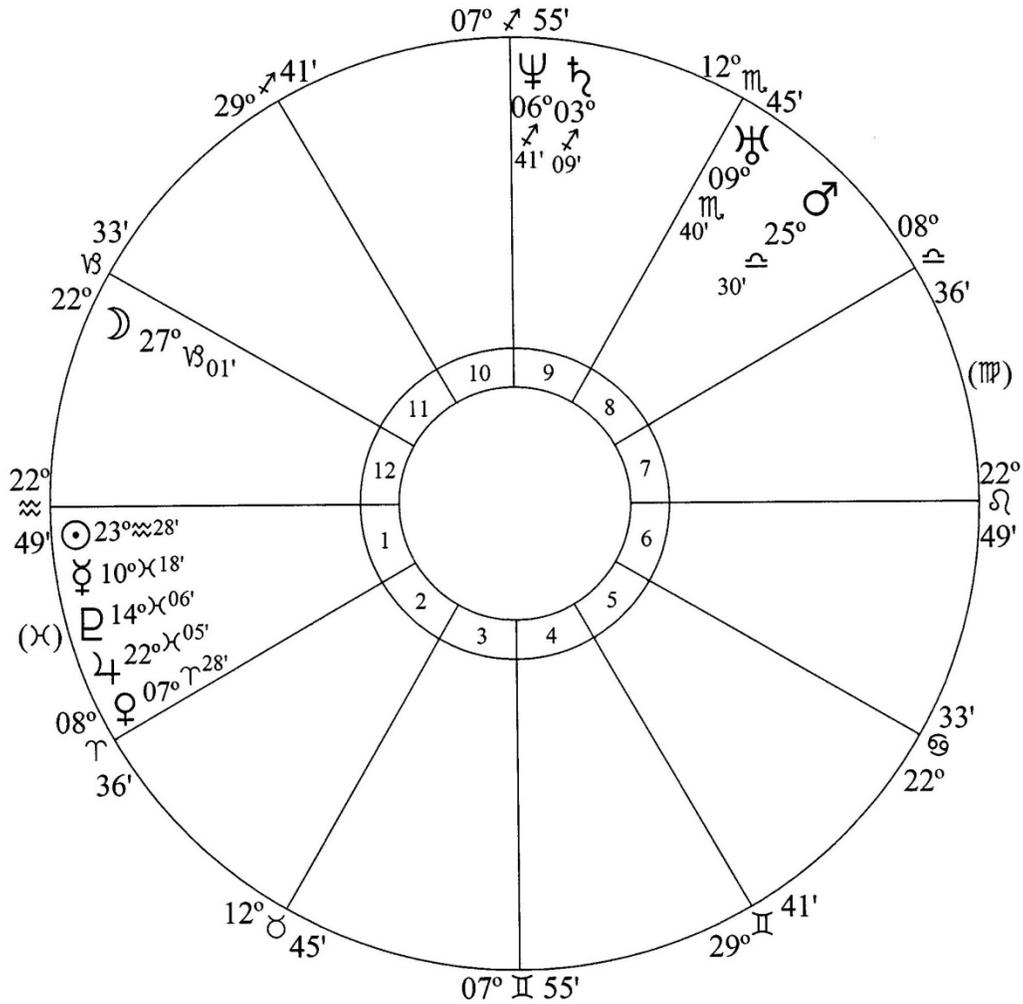
The United States of America was born July 4, 1776 at Philadelphia, Pa (39N57: 75W09).

The precise hour and minute was not recorded but the chart used is timed for 2.14.17 am.

It has 7 Gemini 35 on the ascendant and the source of this data is Dr. James D Keifer who, in 1908, quoted 'an acquaintance who was a descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence.'

In writing this article many internet websites were consulted. They provided dates and historical data that ensured an accurate astrological assessment of the two issues that defined Lincoln's life and Presidency – slavery and the Civil War.

# Abraham Lincoln's birth chart



## The chart's astrodyne report

PLANETS				HOUSES				SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony
♀	84.52	13.4	-26.98	1	384.07	39.6	23.36	♋	182.36	18.8	-10.35
☉	67.93	10.8	2.63	8	124.67	12.9	22.76	♌	181.57	18.7	2.85
♁	63.11	10.0	5.41	9	118.47	12.2	-12.72	♍	152.47	15.7	8.49
♁	60.55	9.6	-7.81	10	75.78	7.8	2.18	♎	84.52	8.7	-26.98
♁	57.26	9.1	-6.60	7	55.10	5.7	-5.43	♏	79.05	8.2	5.58
♂	54.44	8.6	-7.03	12	46.38	4.8	-22.36	♐	76.45	7.9	21.71
♃	50.43	8.0	6.09	4	42.26	4.4	-13.49	♑	73.54	7.6	13.78
♀	49.23	7.8	25.22	5	42.26	4.4	-13.49	♒	46.38	4.8	-22.36
♃	45.61	7.2	17.18	2	27.22	2.8	-3.52	♓	33.97	3.5	1.32
♃	40.12	6.4	-15.40	3	24.62	2.5	12.61	♈	24.62	2.5	12.61
♃	30.47	4.8	19.97	11	15.23	1.6	9.99	♉	21.13	2.2	-6.75
☾	26.32	4.2	-14.67	6	13.16	1.4	-7.33	♊	13.16	1.4	-7.33
	629.99	100.0	-1.97								

Mercury, the planet of intelligence, perception, problem solving, clever talk, storytelling and restlessness dominates Abraham Lincoln's birth chart.

It's in house 1 (his personality) and is cusp ruler of house 4 (his father and the homeland), house 5 (his children and theaters) and co-ruler (Virgo intercepted) of house 7 (his wife and open enemies).

Mercury – the type of thinking that's used to solve problems – is high in discord and its discord matched the degree of difficulty the problems posed and the toll they took on his physical and mental health. And with Mercury in the second decanate of Pisces (and the Moon in house 12) his life was filled with restriction and limitation simply because he understood the true meaning of universal brotherhood (Pisces).

The astrological evidence – Mercury in the second decanate of Pisces trine Uranus in house 8 – reveals that Lincoln was chosen by those on the spirit side of life to alleviate the physical and mental suffering of those who were being held in involuntary servitude – slavery.

Mercury formed an agitation (sesquisquare) aspect with Mars – the planet of war, conflict and violence in house 8 (death); a prominence (conjunction) aspect with Jupiter – the planet of law, mercy and honesty in house 1 (his personality); an obstacle (square) aspect with Saturn – the planet of work, responsibility and persistence in house 9 (the law, legal matters and public speeches); a luck (trine) aspect with Uranus – planet of freedom, liberty, extremists and unforeseen events in house 8 (taxes and death); an obstacle (square) aspect with Neptune – planet of idealism, schemes and slavery in house 9 (legal processes, constitution and speeches); and a prominence (conjunction) aspect with Pluto – the planet of division, cooperation, spirituality, persuasion, coercion and drastic events in house 1 (his personality).

With Mercury aspecting Uranus, Neptune and Pluto Lincoln was a very progressive thinker. He was way ahead of his time and with Mercury aspecting Mars and Saturn (and Mars square Moon) he was courageous, resolute and practical.

Mercury's aspect structure wrote his life-story. It mapped a progressive, sensitive, humanitarian thinker, who had the initiative, courage, energy and persistence to work for what he believed was right (Pisces), but he could only achieve his visionary goal through a political process. And the Sun – planet of politics – in his birth chart had above average power.

It was in house 1 (his personality) and conjunction the ascendant in the third decanate of Aquarius, the sign that champions human rights and loves debate.

So Abe had a clear understanding of human nature – a keen interest in helping to make the world a better place – and the capacity to see the big picture and view things from a social welfare perspective.

The Sun-ascendant conjunction – the strongest aspect in his chart – marked for self-confidence, moderation, political talent, a life-long love affair with politics and a remarkable capacity to dominate and exercise power and authority.

But with the Sun (and Mercury) forming an obstacle (square) aspect with Saturn – the planet of hardship, loss, setbacks and disappointment – the road he traveled was paved with difficulty.

But in the end that confident, intelligent personality won through – the Sun and Mercury were stronger than Saturn – and with the Sun forming a luck (trine) aspect with Mars victory in the Civil War was assured.

Neptune, the planet of involuntary servitude and slavery, was conjunction Saturn, the planet of labor and work, in house 9 (publicly expressed opinion, speeches, debating, legal matters, the law and constitution).

Saturn was cusp ruler of house 12 (slaves and slavery) and with Saturn and Neptune conjunction the Midheaven his name and legacy have stood the test of time.

This aspect reveals that his fame and reputation (Midheaven) as 'the great emancipator' is irrefutably linked to his freeing of the slaves and their emancipation from involuntary servitude (Saturn and Neptune).

The high-discord Moon was in house 12 (sorrows and limitations) and Lincoln was a man of many sorrows: And with the Moon forming an obstacle (square) aspect with Mars he didn't have much luck with women, but he did have a courageous mentality.

The Moon was the weakest planet in his chart so his hunches and feelings played second fiddle to his objective thinking and reasoning powers (Mercury). Lincoln preferred to deal with facts and cold-hard evidence, rather than conjecture and speculation.

The planets with above-average power were Mercury, Sun, Pluto and Mars and they sum up his life story.

He was motivated by a deep seated sympathy for others (Pisces), loyalty to a cause (Sagittarius) and altruistic and humanitarian impulses (Aquarius).

There wasn't much environmental support so his dynamic personality (house 1) had to take the reins, accept the challenges and make all the tough decisions.

But to achieve great things his thinking, discussion and decision-making needed a spiritual elevator.

It needed an exalted emotional driver and Venus trine Neptune – the best aspect in his chart – sourced a powerful emotional force – idealized love; and this noble state of mind drove his intellectual humanitarian impulse (Mercury conjunction Pluto) to free the slaves and unite the nation.

Lincoln was born and raised in the backwoods of Kentucky so there was no privileged upbringing or education and little exposure to the artificialities of city life and the misguided social customs this artificiality breeds.

He was allowed to develop naturally and his birth chart reveals his character and demystifies the man who so many commentators find a mystery.

His chart reveals what the most observant analyst can't see – a brilliant intellect (spiritualized by Mercury conjunction Pluto); a powerful humanitarian impulse (Sun in Aquarius); extraordinary political skills (focused by the Sun conjunction ascendant and energized by Sun trine Mars); visionary foresight (Saturn conjunction Neptune) and an ocean of emotion, sympathy, empathy and compassion (Pisces and Venus).

And it's only when Lincoln's life and achievements are merged with his blueprint for living that the slightly blurred image of this extraordinary human soul comes into crystal clear focus.

## **Prologue**

By 1860 the United States of America was a house divided. Slavery had caused the Northern and Southern states to develop different economic, social and political systems and these differences set the stage for conflict and separation. Compromise, cooperation and reconciliation seemed impossible. Two brothers had their backs to each other – the war sign.

1860 was a fateful year. Uranus – the planet of liberty, change and extreme events – having made a complete transit of the US birth chart returned to its birth chart position. And this astrological event signaled a shift to a new phase of existence through cataclysmic change. That year the Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln – a man with high moral humanitarian values – as their presidential candidate.

In 1860 the country was split – the Democrats were split – and Lincoln won the election with 180 Electoral College votes, without a single southern vote. He carried every free-state except New Jersey and the slave states knew they had lost control of the national government.

On February 18, 1861 they responded by forming the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis as president. The contentious issue of slavery had finally split the nation. The South thought slavery was right and Lincoln and the North thought it was wrong and Lincoln's task was to right the wrong and unite the union.

## **A simple beginning**

Abraham Lincoln was born and raised on a farm in Kentucky.

His parents – Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln – were illiterate and his father disapproved of books and learning (Mercury in his birth chart was square Saturn and Neptune) and Abe grew up helping his father and mother doing farm chores.

He received little formal education and in 1816 (aged 7) moved with his family to Pigeon Creek, Indiana.

In 1818 (aged 9) his mother fell ill and died and the following year his father married Sarah Bush Johnson.

Abe and his new step-mother had good relations and she insisted he go to school and learn to read and with Mercury his dominant planet he read everything he could. His father was a skilled carpenter and storyteller, but they had a difficult relationship – Mercury the dominant planet was high in discord and cusp ruler of house 4 (his father).

In 1828 (aged 19) Abraham Lincoln stood 6 foot 2 inches and weighed 150 pounds. He was tall and strong and nicknamed the 'rail-splitter'.

He had also acquired a reputation for storytelling. This astrological talent (Mercury), inherited from his father, eventually developed into great speeches and famous letters.

That year (1828) he was hired to take a flatboat of farm produce to New Orleans. There, for the first time, he came face to face with slavery.

Then in 1830 the Lincolns left Indiana for Illinois and Abe made his second flatboat trip to New Orleans. This time he stayed a month and vowed that if ever he had the chance he would hit slavery and 'hit it hard'.

## **His political journey begins**

In 1831 (aged 22) Abraham Lincoln left the family home and moved to New Salem where he got employment transporting goods, by flatboat, to New Orleans. He was young, unsettled and very restless (Mercury) and had to learn to concentrate, and harness, all that restless intellectual (Mercury) energy.

A teacher – Mentor Graham – provided guidance. He guided Abe's self-education of mathematics and literature, concentrated his mental energy on a purpose and gave his innate restlessness direction. Abe became a scholar. Then, while working as a store clerk, he was introduced to politics and his soul responded.

His political career began in 1832 (aged 23) when he made an unsuccessful bid for the Illinois legislature. (Progressed Sun – planet of politics – in his chart had moved to form an intensity [parallel] aspect with birth chart Jupiter).

Later in 1832 he served briefly as a volunteer in the Black Hawk War. (Progressed Mercury had moved to form an agitation [sesquisquare] aspect with progressed Mars – planet of war.)

He saw no fighting and returned to New Salem in July 1832 – his intellectual urge (Mercury) on fire.

Abe was attracted to Henry Clay's American System that emphasized government support for education, internal improvements, banking and economic development. It provided the promise of personal development and the best opportunity to develop his astrological potential.

In 1833 he worked in New Salem as the postmaster and assistant surveyor.

In 1834 (aged 25) he was elected to the Illinois legislature. He ran and won in 1834, 1836, 1838 and 1840.

At the state capital he began to study law – a ticket to economic success and a political career – and in 1837 became a lawyer. He was self taught. (Progressed Sun had moved to form a prominence [conjunction] aspect with birth chart Jupiter – planet of law; and progressed Midheaven had formed a growth [semi-sextile] aspect with birth chart Neptune in house 9 [law]).

That year (1837) he first expressed his political opposition to slavery.

In 1843 he formed a law partnership with William H Herndon and while he concentrated on becoming a successful attorney his ambitious wife, Mary, pushed him towards the higher goal of Congress.

Lincoln became one of the leading Whigs in Illinois and won election to Congress in 1846 (aged 36). He went to Washington the following year. There he took the conventional Whig line on most issues and soon became known as ‘the champion story teller of the Capital.’

But the question of slavery was ever on his mind and during the second session he introduced a bill for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

It was rejected and after serving one term (1847-49) he decided not to run. He was disappointed and disillusioned (Saturn and Neptune) and in 1849 returned home to Springfield to resume his law practice.

Over the following years it prospered and he became famous on the Illinois circuit and was employed on many notable cases.

Abe was a formidable jury lawyer. He cut straight through the legal niceties with a simple penetrating style and earned a reputation for his integrity and lucid powers of argument.

So, at this time, with a young family to support and a successful law-practice to manage his interest in politics was fading fast.

## **Sorrow, romantic love, heartache and mental bruises**

With the Moon in house 12 (sorrow) of his chart forming an obstacle (square) aspect with Mars in house 8 (death) Lincoln suffered many sorrows and disappointments.

His mother died when he was nine. (Progressed ascendant had moved to form an obstacle [square] aspect with birth chart Midheaven [his mother]; progressed Mars in house 8 [death] had moved to form a square aspect with birth chart Moon in house 12 [sorrow]; and progressed Sun had formed a square aspect with birth chart Saturn – planet of grief and loss.

His sister Sarah died ten years later and Anne Rutledge his first and greatest romantic love died August 25, 1835. (Progressed ascendant had moved to form a prominence [conjunction] aspect with birth chart Venus – planet of love and lovers and cusp ruler of house 8 [death]).

He next courted Mary Owens but in May 1837 she rejected his proposal.

Then in December 1839 he met Mary Todd. Their love traveled a bumpy road and after breaking off their engagement on January 1, 1841 he suffered a severe bout of depression – maybe a nervous breakdown – and he described himself as ‘the most miserable man living’. (Progressed ascendant in his chart had moved to form an agitation [sesquisquare]) aspect with birth chart Saturn – planet of depression; and progressed Mercury – planet of restless indecision – had moved to form an obstacle [square] aspect with birth chart Neptune.)

Abe and Mary rekindled their love in the summer of 1842 and married on November 4. But Mary – well to do, snobbish and domineering – had trouble adjusting to Abe’s financial circumstances. He, of course, was argumentative (Aquarius) and quarrels were common, but their love expanded to embrace four children – Robert, Edward, William and Thomas, but the deaths of Edward and William were heartbreaking experiences.

Grief, sadness and melancholy are normal responses to emotional loss, but with Saturn conjunction Neptune in his birth chart Lincoln was more sensitive to loss than most. The conjunction aspect brought this feature of his character into prominence and with Mercury – cusp ruler of house 5 (lovers and children) – square Saturn and Neptune his vivid emotional response to loss disturbed his thinking and mental wellbeing (Mercury and house 3).

The aspect mapped a powerful and permanent thought-structure in his character that found expression through the sadness, heartache and distress he felt at the loss of his mother, sister, Anne Rutledge and sons Edward and William. He came to fear (Saturn) his own melancholy streak and his ‘cat-fits’ of depression (Saturn) and indecision (Mercury) did recur.

### **The road to the White House**

In 1854 Lincoln was propelled back into politics when the Kansas-Nebraska Act, rammed through Congress by Illinois Senator Stephen A Douglas, revoked the ban on slavery in territories north of 36 degrees 30 minutes.

Lincoln had been a long time opponent of slavery and this Act alarmed the deep-seated humanitarian trait in his soul and revitalized his political career. (Progressed Sun – planet of politics – in his chart had moved to form an expansion [inconjunct] aspect with birth chart Uranus – planet of sudden change and human rights; and progressed ascendant had moved to form a separation [opposition] aspect with birth chart Uranus.) And over the next six years he made 175 anti-slavery speeches (house 9).

In 1856 Abe joined the Illinois Republican Party and made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican vice-presidential nomination.

In 1857 he opposed the Dred Scott decision and on June 16, 1858 gave his celebrated ‘House Divided’ speech. He expressed the view that ‘The nation cannot exist half slave and half free’ and that ‘A house divided against itself cannot stand.’ (Progressed Mercury in his chart had moved to form a prominence [conjunction] aspect with progressed Pluto – planet of unity or division and the cusp ruler of house 9 (speeches).

Lincoln's position on slavery was reasonable and measured – never extreme or vindictive – and he fully acknowledged the difficulties that a sudden dismantling of the slave system would bring. He opposed the extension of slavery knowing that emancipation would come in God's good time. Like his prominent birth chart Sun he was a moderate.

In 1858 he engaged in a series of seven debates with Stephen A Douglas, who insisted that the country could flourish half slave and half free – as it had done since 1789. Lincoln took the opposing view – claiming that this assertion made a mockery of the ideals of liberty on which the nation had been founded.

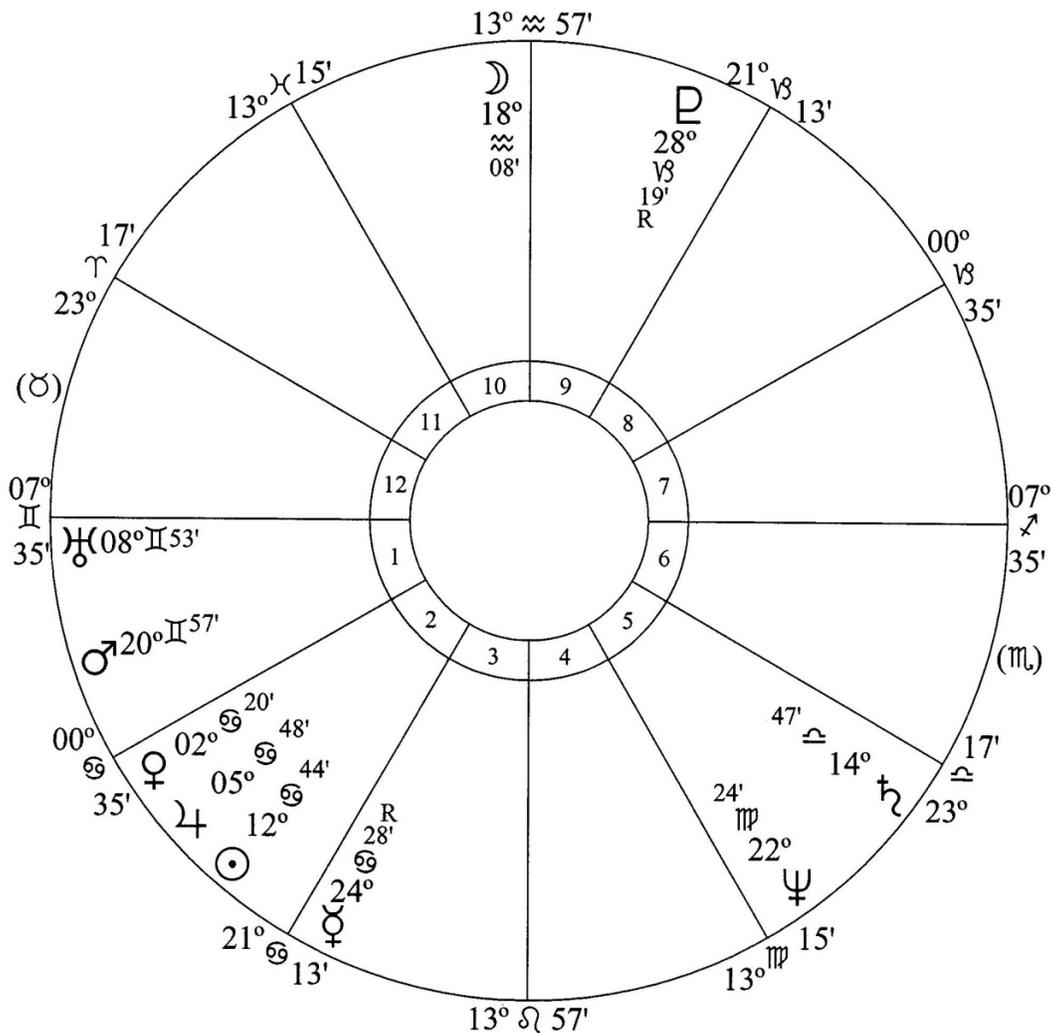
Lincoln won the debates (with his Sun in Aquarius Douglas didn't stand a chance), but in November, after gaining the Republican Party's nomination for the senate seat, he lost to Douglas – another disappointment – but the debates allowed him to build national visibility.

On May 18, 1860 the Republican National Congress in Chicago nominated Lincoln for President. During the election campaign the Democrat Party was split (Pluto) between the southern and northern wings and hatred of the South for the North flared up: And on November 6, 1860 Lincoln (age 51) was elected President of the USA. (Progressed Sun – planet of politics – in his chart had moved to form a growth [semisextile] aspect with progressed Pluto; and progressed Midheaven – getting the job – had formed a luck [trine] aspect with progressed Venus and a friction [semisquare] aspect with progressed Pluto – planet of division.)

Lincoln won a clear cut majority – 180 votes to 72 polled by his nearest rival – but the southern states were alarmed: An anti-slaver was to occupy the White House.

On March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President and he took the reins of government with the fear of assassination, and the possibility of war (Mars), ever present.

## America's birth chart



## The chart's astrodyne report

PLANETS				HOUSES				SIGNS			
	Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony		Power	%	Harmony
♂	72.61	12.1	-1.59	1	188.80	20.3	9.20	♈	251.00	26.9	38.70
☽	67.44	11.2	14.85	2	188.44	20.2	37.03	♉	188.80	20.3	9.20
☼	62.30	10.4	14.20	10	154.70	16.6	31.66	♊	154.70	16.6	31.66
♀	55.88	9.3	8.94	5	86.93	9.3	-8.59	♋	88.39	9.5	-0.33
♃	54.10	9.0	25.02	9	64.85	7.0	-1.66	♌	75.02	8.1	7.14
♁	52.75	8.8	7.76	3	62.56	6.7	1.67	♍	39.85	4.3	-11.26
♁	49.02	8.1	5.91	12	50.27	5.4	1.44	♎	36.31	3.9	-0.79
♄	47.08	7.8	2.67	6	42.18	4.5	3.90	♏	27.05	2.9	12.51
☉	44.73	7.4	-4.36	7	27.05	2.9	12.51	♐	22.37	2.4	-2.18
♁	41.31	6.9	-3.00	8	23.54	2.5	1.34	♑	19.88	2.1	4.16
♁	28.84	4.8	-5.75	4	22.37	2.4	-2.18	♒	14.24	1.5	-0.57
♁	25.43	4.2	-8.39	11	19.88	2.1	4.16	♓	13.97	1.5	2.23
	601.49	100.0	56.27								

America is a freedom driven, high-energy country. Uranus – the planet of liberty, independence, autonomy, human-rights and extreme events – is conjunction the ascendant and the country, more than any other, values personal liberty. Uranus is cusp ruler of house 10 (the administration and business).

Mars – the planet of energy, initiative, strife, violence, hate, guns, construction, destruction and speed – dominates the chart. It's in house 1 (the people and their domestic interests) and is cusp ruler of house 12 (slaves).

Mercury in house 3 is cusp ruler of house 1. It forms a high-discord separation (opposition) aspect with Pluto – the planet of division and disunity – in house 9 (the constitution): And the first house energy potential – promising liberty, equality, destruction, construction and unity – produced a union of states (Pluto) and liberty for all (Uranus conjunction ascendant), but only after a destructive Civil War (Mars) tore the country apart.

The Moon – planet of fluctuation – is in house 10 (the President and his administration) – and the competence of the President and the administration's standard of governance fluctuate greatly.

The Moon is the planet of the common people – those whose lives revolve around home and family and who struggle to live and make a living away from the public arena – and with the Moon in house 10 their fate rests in the decision-making of the President. If he's a dud, or panders to special-interest, the common people can suffer badly.

Some Presidents – Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D Roosevelt and Harry S Truman – have been associated with the welfare of the ordinary, everyday folk, not only in America, but around the world. And the 'war' presidents made life and death decisions that influenced the lives of millions. Others like George W Bush ignored the everyday people in favor of friends and special interest groups.

In America's chart ultra-progressive Uranus – the left wing of politics – and ultra-conservative Saturn – the right wing – are cusp rulers of house 10 and this diverse energy potential – Moon, Saturn and Uranus – has produced a mixed-bag of presidents who can be astrologically labeled reformist, unorthodox, extremist, reactionary, conservative, ultra-conservative, non-progressive, secretive, extraordinary, mediocre and just plain hopeless.

With Venus, Jupiter and Sun in house 2 (money and personal wealth) America's cashed-up and their triple conjunction brings money matters into prominence. The US is the world's largest economy and throughout her history making money has been a top of the list priority. Jupiter is the planet of prosperity and wealth but, even with all that second house harmony, there's a glitch.

Saturn, the planet of poverty and loss, in house 5 (speculation) forms an obstacle (square) aspect with the Sun in house 2 and the world's economic powerhouse is unable to secure, conserve and keep her financial bounty.

Greedy Saturn – the cusp ruler of house 8 (debt) – sources nagging feelings of poverty, lack, want, fear and insecurity; and the abundant wealth indicated by the Sun-Jupiter conjunction is frittered away and lost through greed driven speculation, envy, poor planning and other misguided security behaviors (Saturn) that desperately try to eliminate the poverty state of consciousness from the national psyche.

### **The Presidency, civil war and the emancipation of the slaves**

On assuming the Presidency on March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln confronted dire circumstances – the greatest internal crisis to face any President.

The nation was divided and during the 1850s his incompetent predecessors – Presidents Pierce and Buchanan (both proslavery) – had neither the mental capacity to see what was happening nor the foresight to do anything about it.

President Pierce, in his inaugural address on March 4, 1852 stated: 'I believe that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this Confederacy, is recognized by the Constitution.' Lincoln didn't agree. And under President Buchanan's watch (southern) states began to leave the union.

Lincoln's election was a catalyst event. Tensions escalated and the division and disunity (Pluto) turned into a drastic situation. A wise and firm decision was required. The nation had two options – it could unite or split. Lincoln chose unity and over the next four years, as the nation tore itself apart in a spectacular display of self-destruction, he held firm.

**Mars conjunction Uranus – April 17, 1861 (Washington)**

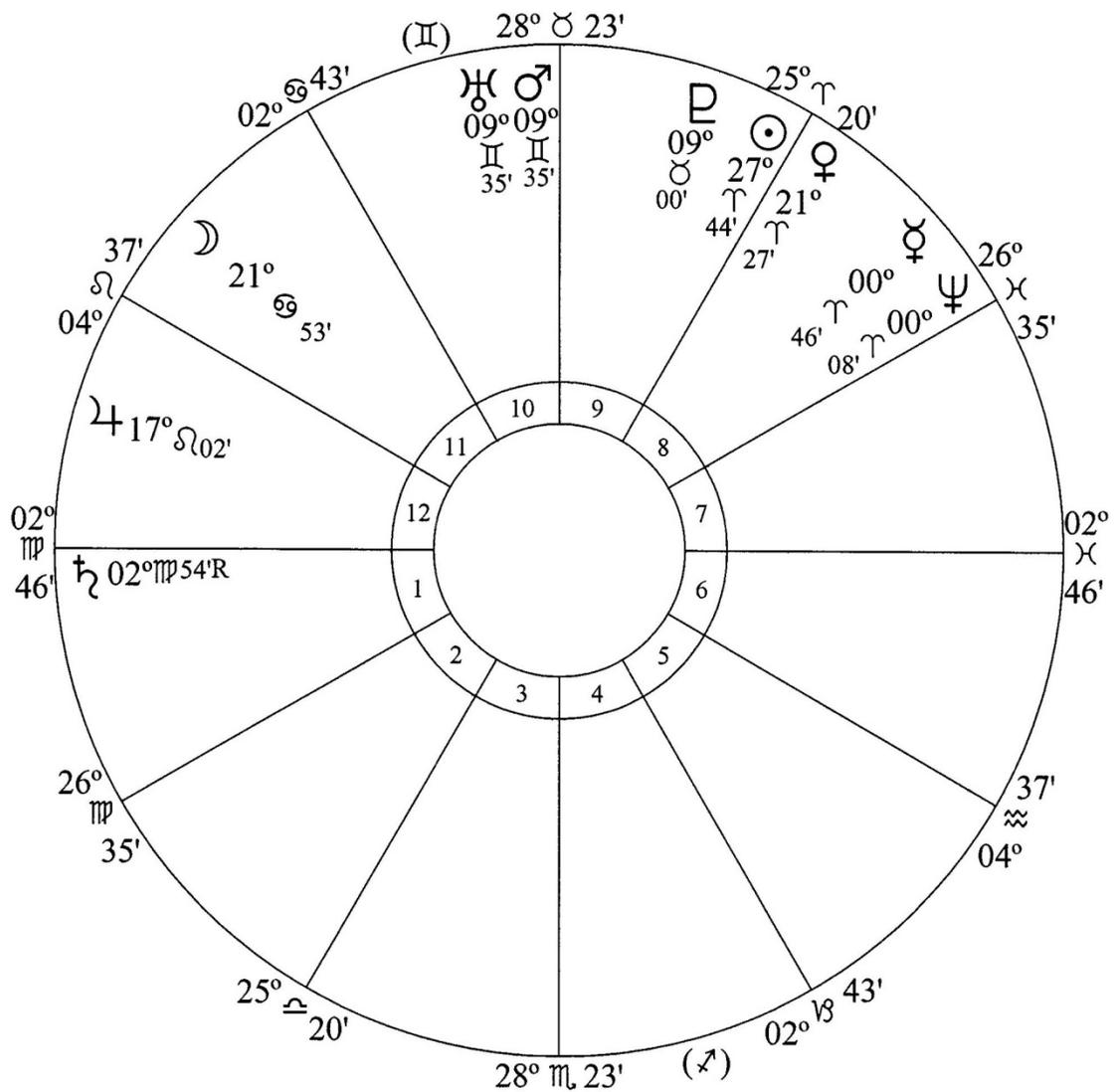


Chart data is: April 17, 1861 at 2.01am LMT (38N53; 77W01)

On April 1, 1861 the signs in the sky turned ominous. Mars – the planet of war, troops and destruction – moved to form a conjunction aspect with Uranus – planet of liberty, extreme events and sudden developments.

The aspect reached peak power and discord on April 17 1861 at 7.01am GMT and as Mars closed in a dangerous astrological event played itself out on the world stage.

The Washington chart had the Mars-Uranus conjunction in house 10 (the President) and in America's chart the aspect at 9 Gemini 35 was conjunction birth chart Uranus: And Fort Sumter at Charlestown Harbor, North Carolina, became a flash point.

Union troops were defending the Fort and Lincoln could send in more troops or provisions. He chose the latter – 'food for hungry men' – and notified the South of his peaceful intentions. But Jefferson Davis interpreted this as an act of war and ordered the destruction of the fort before the supply ships arrived.

On April 12, 1861 Confederate batteries opened fire and the American Civil War (Mars) began.

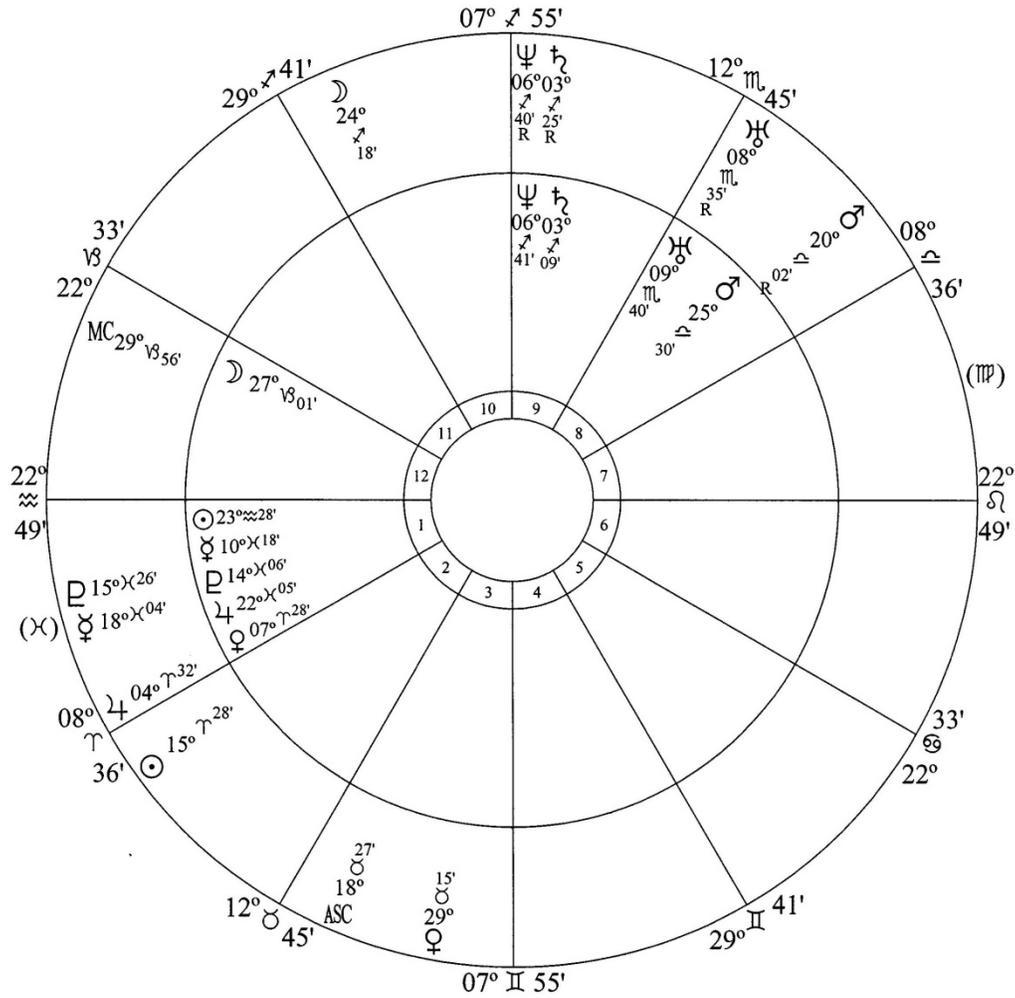
The South had been the aggressor and on April 15 Lincoln retaliated. He declared war and immediately called for 75,000 volunteers to preserve the Union.

Four years later, when the South surrendered on April 9, 1865, the human cost of uniting the nation and abolishing slavery could be counted.

More than three million men fought in the war and 620,000 – two percent of the population – died, many from disease.

The Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest day of the war – 23,000 casualties: And at the Battle of Cold Harbor (June 1-12, 1862) 7000 Americans fell in 20 minutes.

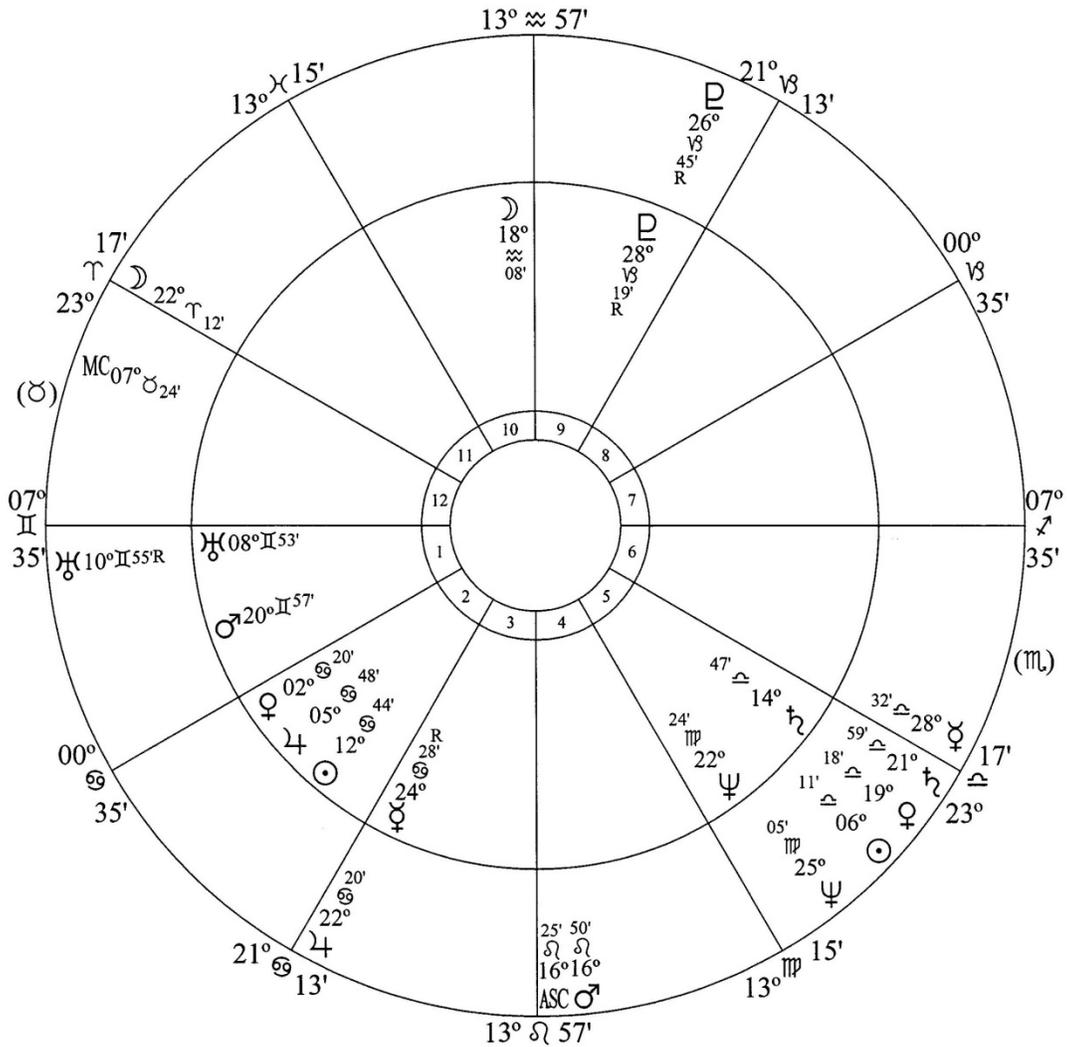
**Abraham Lincoln's chart progressed to April 12, 1861**



On April 12, 1861 progressed Sun in Lincoln's chart (at 15 Aries 28) 0 in house 2 – had moved to form a growth (semisextile) aspect with progressed Pluto (at 15 Pisces 26) – planet of disunity, division and splits in house 1; and progressed Midheaven (at 29 Capricorn 56) had moved to form a friction (semisquare) aspect with birth chart and progressed Pluto (at 15 Pisces 26). Progressed Midheaven semisquare Pluto activated their birth chart square.

These Pluto progressions mapped the drastic divisive situation that confronted the President and reveal that the preservation of the Union was Lincoln's principal driver. Progressed Sun (at 6N06) – planet of politics in Aries, the sign of military leadership – had moved to form an intensity (parallel) aspect with progressed Mars (at 5S32) – planet of war. It activated their birth chart trine.

**America's chart progressed to April 12, 1861**



America's chart on April 12, 1861 pictured a drastic conflict situation that had reached a critical tipping point.

Progressed Mercury (at 26 Libra 12) – in house 6 (the army and navy) – had moved to form a high-discord obstacle (square) aspect with progressed Pluto (at 26 Capricorn 45R) – planet of disunity and drastic developments in house 9 (the Constitution): And progressed Moon (at 25 Pisces 52) in house 11 (Congress) was inconjunct progressed Mercury and sextile progressed Pluto.

On April 12, 1861 the stimulation provided by progressed Moon set-off the latent Mercury-Pluto energy which, like a time-bomb, was waiting to explode.

The time-bomb in the US chart had started ticking on November 28, 1858 when progressed ascendant (the people and domestic issues) in house 3 moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with progressed Mars (war).

On April 12, 1861 progressed ascendant, now in house 4 (the homeland), was at 15 Leo 07 with progressed Mars at 15 Leo 47 and throughout the entire war progressed ascendant closed in on Mars. Their conjunction aspect reached peak power and discord on November 3, 1865. By then the land (house 4) was soaked in blood (Mars) and reconstruction had commenced.

Saturn is the planet of disease, misery and suffering and progressed Saturn in America's chart, (at 21 Libra 46) in house 5, had moved to form an agitation (sesquisquare) aspect with birth chart ascendant (the people). Saturn is the cusp ruler of house 8 (death).

This astrological event influenced the entire Civil War although other aspects involving Saturn (progressed ascendant sextile birth chart Saturn; progressed Venus parallel progressed Saturn; and progressed Sun parallel birth chart Saturn) kept the misery coming and stimulated the house 8 death toll.

The Saturn-ascendant aspect reached peak power in August 1868 and stayed around till November 1875 so the suffering and economic hardship caused by the war didn't end on April 9, 1865.

The critical 'disunity' aspect that split the nation – progressed Mercury square progressed Pluto – had commenced on December 16, 1860 and Mississippi seceded on January 9, 1861 and North Carolina and seven other states followed on January 10. On February 8, 1861 they established the Confederate States of America and on February 18 Jefferson Davis was sworn in as President.

The Mercury-Pluto square reached peak power and discord on September 7, 1861 and then progressed Mercury moved to form a square aspect with birth chart Pluto. This aspect commenced in February 1862, reached peak power and discord on November 4, 1862 and finished on August 4, 1863.

By then the fighting that had started under progressed ascendant conjunction progressed Mars was being stimulated by progressed Mars semisquare progressed Venus and progressed Mars opposition birth chart Moon, but the Mars-Moon aspect, which reached peak power and discord on February 18, 1865, signed for another hate-driven act of violence that the suffering nation was destined to experience and endure.

### **Lincoln the war president**

After declaring war Lincoln was an unfaltering leader, but the stress and frustration was severe and constant. For three months (because his constitutional duties as commander-in-chief superseded his normal presidential activities) he exceeded his executive authority (Pluto).

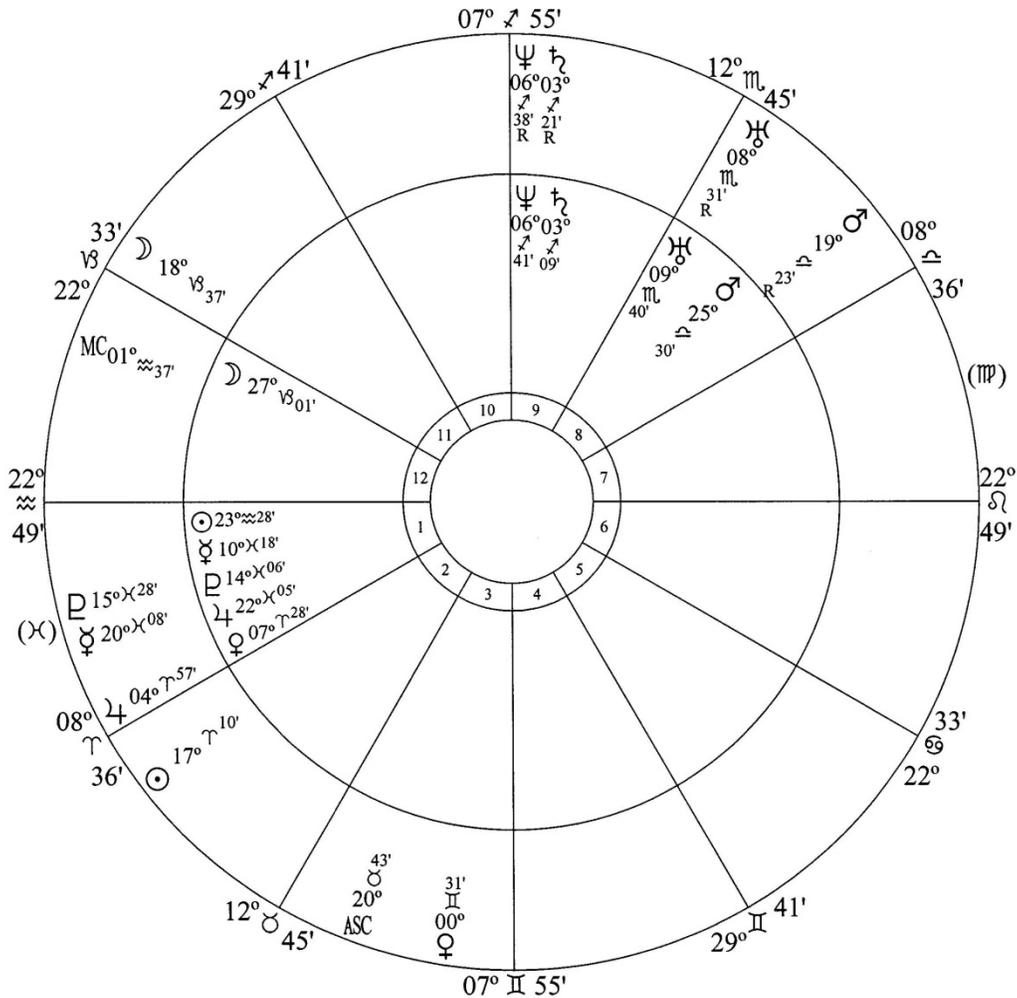
On April 27, 1861 he suspended the writ of habeas corpus (a drastic Pluto measure). He vigorously conducted the war effort and while he was inexperienced in military matters he played an active role in determining war strategy.

Lincoln fought the Civil War to save the Union and the democratic authority vested in its government and denied that he intended to interfere in any way with Southern institutions. He did declare secession illegal – the essence of anarchy (Uranus) – and pledged himself to maintaining the possession of the federal government. He saw the war as a way to preserve a union ‘conceived in liberty (Uranus) and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal’ and actively engaged in shaping Union war aims and mobilizing armies.

By 1862 Lincoln had called for a million soldiers to serve three years. He’d assumed supreme control of the war effort, but on February 20, 1862 he experienced personal tragedy when his son Willie died of typhoid. Progressed Mercury (at 19 Pisces 05) – cusp ruler house 5 (children) – had moved to form an inconjunct (expansion) aspect with progressed Mars – planet of fever – in house 8 (death). Mary Lincoln never recovered from the loss.

By now Abe was working 18 hours a day and later that year he came to realize that he must smite at the ‘heart of the rebellion’ – slavery. He had the constitutional right to seize enemy property being used to wage war and slaves were enemy property.

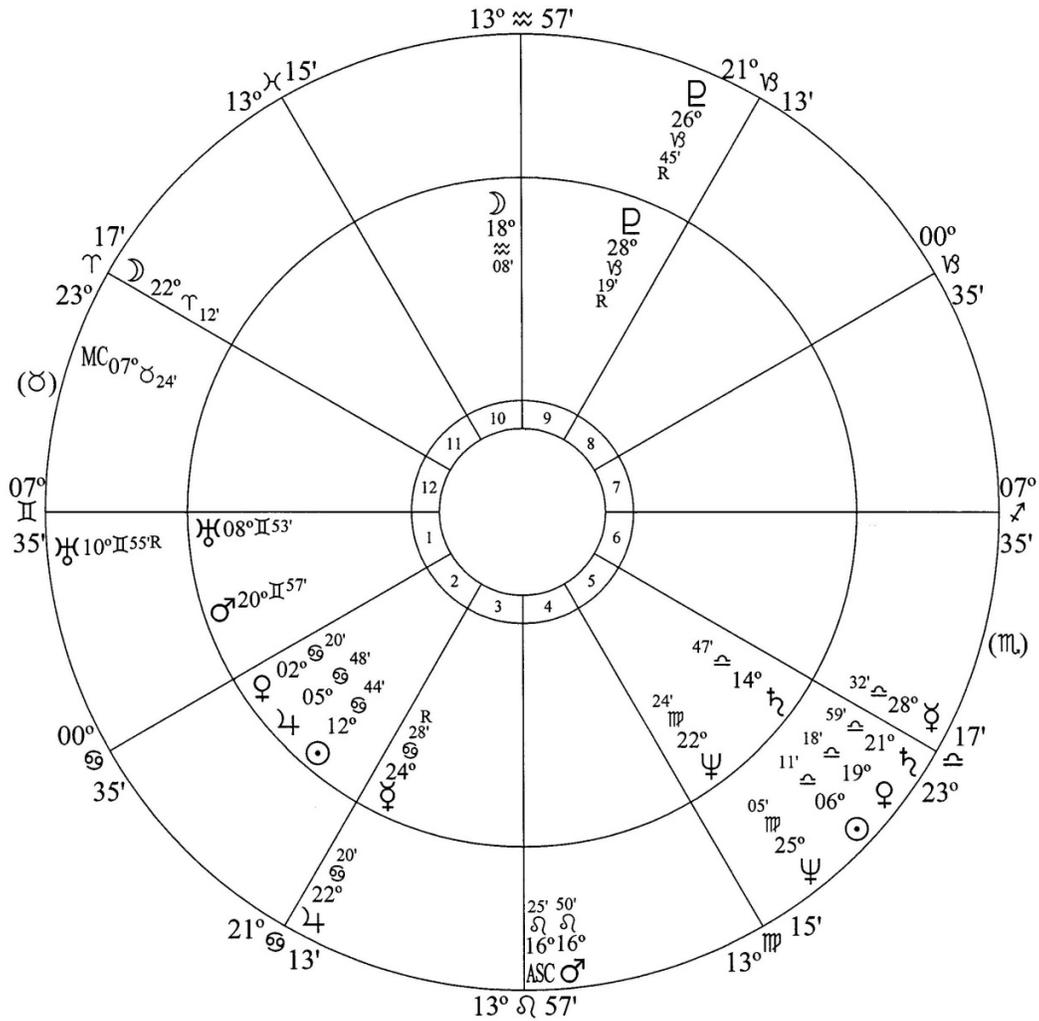
**Abraham Lincoln's chart progressed to January 1, 1863**



On September 22, 1862 Lincoln issued a preliminary proclamation warning that in states still in rebellion on January 1, 1863 he would use his war powers to declare their slaves free: And on January 1 he did.

Progressed Sun in his chart (at 17 Aries 10) had (just) moved to form an agitation (sesquisquare) aspect with birth chart Saturn (at 3 Sagittarius 09) – the cusp ruler of house 12 (slavery) in house 9 (new laws and proclamations). But he had twelve progressed aspects involving the rulers of house 9 – Mars, Saturn, Neptune and Pluto; and four progressed aspects involving Saturn – cusp ruler of house 12.

**America's chart progressed to January 1, 1863**



In America's chart on January 1, 1863 progressed Mercury (at 28 Libra 32) – in house 6 – had moved to form an obstacle (square) aspect with birth chart Pluto – in house 9 (new laws and proclamations); progressed ascendant (at 16 Leo 25) – in house 4 – had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with progressed Mars (at 16 Leo 50) – cusp ruler of house 12 (slaves): progressed Saturn (at 21 Libra 59) – in house 5 and cusp ruler of house 9 – had moved to form a growth (semisextile) aspect with birth chart Neptune (at 22 Virgo 24) – planet of involuntary servitude; and progressed Moon (at 22 Aries 12) – in house 11 – had formed an opposition aspect with progressed Saturn and an inconjunct aspect with birth chart Neptune stimulating their progressed semisextile aspect and a major ninth house event.

On June 3, 1863 General Lee with 75,000 Confederate troops set out on his second attempt to invade Union states. At the Battle of Gettysburg – July 1-4 – his troops, advancing over open terrain, were torn to shreds by the Union army. It was the bloodiest battle in the war so far with 40,000 dead. At the same time General Grant defeated the South at Vicksburg and the Confederacy was effectively split in two.

These victories marked a turning point in the war. Then, hoping to weaken morale and destroy the South's economic ability, Lincoln authorized the destruction of southern infrastructure – plantations, railroads, bridges and towns.

On November 19, 1863 Lincoln gave his Gettysburg address dedicating the battlefield there to the soldiers who had perished. Progressed Mercury in his chart – planet of speeches (at 21 Pisces 13) – had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with birth chart Jupiter: And progressed Midheaven (at 2 Aquarius 29) – a moment of honor – had moved to form an opportunity (sextile) aspect with birth chart Saturn in house 9 (speeches).

Throughout the war Lincoln's generals let him down. Ulysses S Grant was his best and he was put in charge of the Union forces on April 4, 1864.

On June 7, 1864 the Republican Party nominated Lincoln for a second term. At the Battle of Cold Harbor (June 1-12, 1864) Lee delayed Grant's advance on Richmond: And on November 8, 1864 Lincoln was reelected.

Progressed Sun in his chart – planet of politics (at 18 Aries 59) – had moved to form an opposition (separation) aspect with progressed Mars; progressed ascendant (at 23 Taurus 07) had moved to form an obstacle (square) aspect with birth chart Sun; progressed Mercury (at 22 Pisces 27) had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with birth chart Jupiter – cusp ruler of house 10 (getting the job); and progressed Midheaven– business and honor (at 3 Aquarius 26) – had moved to form an opportunity (sextile) aspect with progressed Saturn.

On November 16, 1864 (after five months of bitter fighting) General Sherman took Atlanta and wreaked havoc: And on March 2, 1865 Lincoln rejected General Lee's plea for peace talks, demanding unconditional surrender.

On March 4 Lincoln was sworn in as President and delivered his inauguration address. Then on April 9 General Robert E Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S Grant at Appomattox Courthouse and the Civil War that almost destroyed a nation was over.

In Lincoln's chart progressed Mercury (at 23 Pisces 00) had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with birth chart Jupiter and a growth (semi-sextile) aspect with birth chart Sun. The Sun and Mercury rule house 7 – the enemy and the war.

### **Assassination**

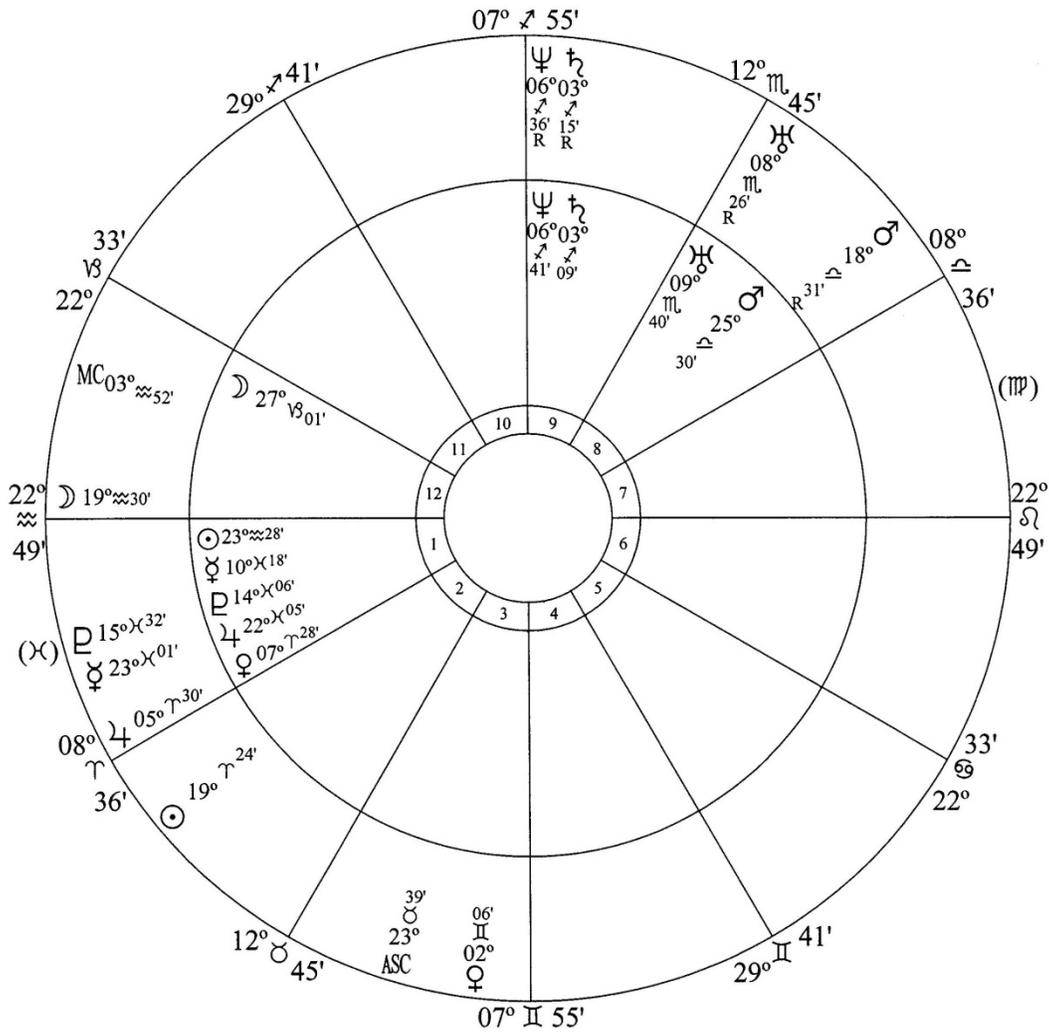
On April 9, 1865 when Lee surrendered Lincoln declared victory and the war that had claimed over 620,000 American lives came to an end. The north celebrated big-time, but who knows how the President felt?

At Gettysburg he had redefined the American nation. He argued that it was born in 1776 not 1789 and 'conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.' After four grueling years he had accomplished what he had set out to do. Victory is always sweet and he, no doubt, felt a tremendous sense of personal accomplishment.

Then, on Good Friday April 14, 1865 Lincoln with his wife, Mary, went to Ford's theatre to see Laura Kelly play in 'Our American Cousin'. James Wilkes Booth, a southern sympathizer and Negrophobe, was there for another reason.

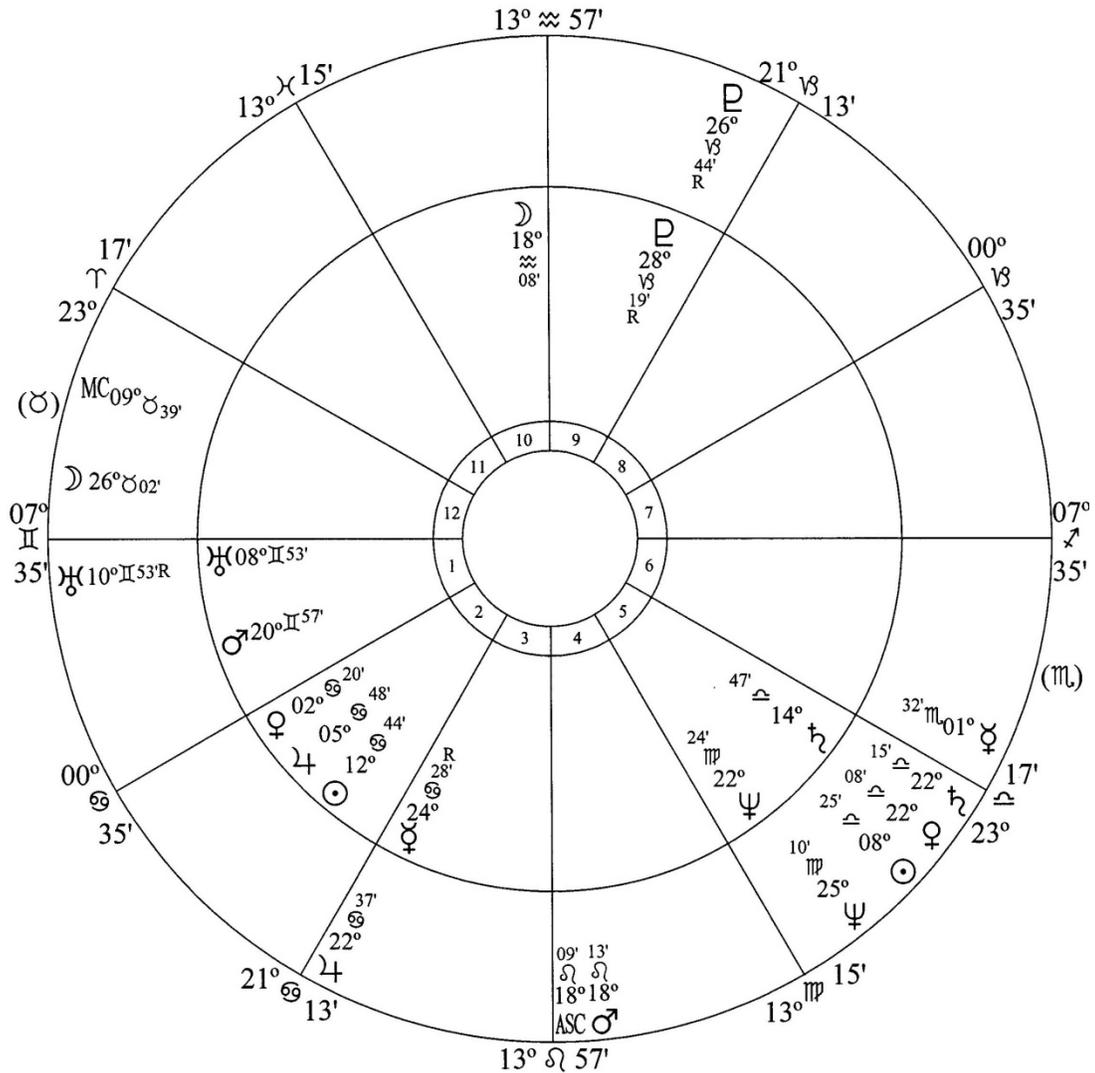
At about 10.15pm Booth entered the State Box and shot the president in the back of the head. The injury was inoperable and Lincoln died at 7.22am the following morning with his son Robert by his side. He was 56 years old – a victim of troubled times, deep divisions, hate and an assassin's bullet.

**Abraham Lincoln's chart progressed to April 14, 1865**



In Lincoln's chart, on April 14, 1865, progressed Sun (at 19 Aries 24) – in house 2 – had moved to form a high-discord separation (opposition) aspect with progressed Mars (at 18 Libra 31R) – planet of guns and violence – in house 8 (death). Aries rules the head. And progressed Mercury (at 23 Pisces 01) – in house 1 (his physical body) and cusp ruler of house 5 (theaters) – had moved to form an agitation (sesquisquare) aspect with progressed Uranus (at 8 Scorpio 26R) – planet of extremists and unforeseen events – in house 8 (death).

**America's chart progressed to April 14, 1865**



In America's chart, on April 14, 1865, progressed ascendant (at 18 Leo 09) – in house 4 – had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with progressed Mars (at 18 Leo 13) – planet of hate, guns and violence; progressed ascendant and progressed Mars – in house 4 – had moved to form high discord separation (opposition) aspects with birth chart Moon (at 18 Aquarius 08) – in house 10 (the president); and progressed Venus (at 22 Libra 08) – in house 5 (theaters) – had moved to form a prominence (conjunction) aspect with progressed Saturn (at 22 Libra 15) – planet of loss and grief and cusp ruler of house 8 (death).

Abraham Lincoln was the first President to be assassinated and there was a massive show of public grief and support as the nation mourned (Saturn) its leader.

The funeral train took 12 days to get to Springfield, Illinois – a 1600 mile return trip to the place where his political journey had begun.

He was buried in the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery on May 4, 1865.

After shooting the president John Wilkes Booth leaped onto the stage and shouted 'Sic simper tyrannis' – (thus always to tyrants) – and despite suffering a broken leg he escaped from the theater.

A twelve day manhunt ensued and on April 27 he was cornered in a Virginia barn house and shot by troops. He died of his wounds.

After the defeat of the Southern Confederacy the nation was reunited under the federal government and on December 18, 1865 the 13th Amendment to the US constitution abolished slavery.

### **Lincoln's legacy: One united nation and liberty for all**

Just like you and me Abraham Lincoln was a victim of circumstance and personal circumstance always presents a problem.

In 1864 he wrote: 'I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.'

Some presidents preside over good times – peace, prosperity and stability. Others experience crisis, mishap, misadventure, economic difficulties and war. Occasionally social injustice is the important issue; but what happens – whether the problem gets better, or worse, or stays the same – is very much determined by the President.

Abraham Lincoln was a great humanitarian who united a house divided. He was thoughtful, intelligent and shrewd – an independent thinker – who saw cultural faults that he could change. He took his orders from his astrological script and obeyed the commands coming from ‘the better angels in his soul’.

He was humane, sensitive, compassionate and gentle yet circumstance called him to pilot his nation through the destruction and agony of a civil war. In the struggle he showed masterful firmness. Uncomplicated – he’s idolized for his integrity – the politician’s politician. The experts say he was second to none – the greatest US President of all – a towering figure on the world stage. The astrology code pictured in his birth chart supports the claim, yet the truth is he succeeded in achieving what he did because he lived up to of his highest potential.

Lincoln is much admired and quoted and over the years a number of Presidents have tried to emulate him. He’s President Obama’s hero. But each president has a unique character and the events and conditions they attract, and their responses, are all a matter of character. This character, which has nothing to do with genes and chemicals, is accurately mapped by a reliably timed birth chart and when conditioning by experience and environment are factored in an authentic character-profile emerges.

The circumstances Lincoln confronted – disunity and slavery – were part of his life’s journey, but the Civil War was his response. The unification of the country and the emancipation of the slaves could only be achieved through a political process and the desire energies stored within the thought-cells and thought-structures of his not-conscious soul-mind were so powerful, he did it. In the end whatever a President achieves – be it excellence, mediocrity or failure – is all a matter of character. The 16th president can be quoted, praised and emulated, but there will never be another Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln’s determined and skillful leadership won the war so without him the United States as you know it might not exist.

The Union victory resolved two long term problems that had festered unresolved since the Revolution of 1776 and the Constitution of 1789. They were the republic's capacity to endure, and whether slavery would remain a monstrous injustice mocking a nation 'conceived in liberty'.

Thanks to Lincoln the republic prevailed and slavery perished. He will be remembered for his Emancipation proclamation and holding the Union together. His humanitarianism comes first.

### **The great emancipator**

Abraham Lincoln's birth chart displayed a dazzling astrological script.

Its coded text messages wrote about altruism, a yearning for universal brotherhood, equality, sympathy, benevolence, mercy, forgiveness – 'with malice toward none, with charity for all' – intelligence, spectacular political talent, moderation in the exercise of power, love, affection, loss, suffering and determination.

His character – the secret of his success – was jammed packed with humanitarian ideals, good old fashioned friendship and other Aquarian qualities.

His dynamic personality (house 1 in his birth chart) expressed an altruistic style of leadership (Sun in Aquarius), intelligence and storytelling (Mercury), honesty and benevolence (Jupiter), authentic spirituality (Pluto) and love and affection (Venus). And he recognized the injustice, accepted the challenge, emancipated the slaves, preserved the Union and fulfilled his soul's glorious destiny.

Lincoln displayed an unorthodox spirituality (Pluto) and he never united himself to a church or expressed an interest in orthodox religion (Jupiter).

At the time of his death his friend and associate John C Nicolay paid tribute:

‘History must accord him a rare sagacity in guiding a great people through the perils of a mighty revolution (Uranus), and admirable singleness of aim, a skillful discernment (Mercury), and courageous seizure of the golden moment (Sun trine Mars) to free his nation from the incubus of slavery (Neptune)... conscientious moderation in the use of power (Sun), a shining example of honesty (Jupiter) and purity, and finally the possession of that subtle and indefinable magnetism (Uranus) by which he subordinated and directed dangerously disturbed and perverted moral and political forces (Pluto) to the restoration of peace and constitutional authority to his country, and the gift of liberty (Uranus) to four million human beings.’

In other words – he was simply the best.

### **The greatest president of all**

William J Ridings Jr. and Stuart B McIver in their book *Rating the Presidents* published in 1997 approached seven hundred and nineteen professors, elected officials, historians, attorneys and authors to participate in a poll to rate the US presidents.

The rating categories included leadership qualities, political skill, character, integrity and accomplishments.

Abraham Lincoln was no lower than first, second or third in any of the categories and his overall ranking among all American presidents was first. Franklin D Roosevelt was second and George Washington came third.

### **Birth data references and chart notes**

**Abraham Lincoln:** February 12, 1809, near Hodgenville, southeast Hardin County, Kentucky (37N32: 85W44) – time as stated by William E Barton in his biography *Women Lincoln Loved* – ‘the baby (Lincoln) was born just about sun-up’ – 6.57.50am LMT – rectified to 6.56am LMT by DW Sutton applying the prenatal epoch. The data has a B (for biography) rating.

**Chart notes:** Venus moved from house 2 to house 1 at 6.52.48am and the Sun moved from house 1 to house 12 at 6.57.50am. A critical point in the chart is Gemini on the cusp of house 5. If Lincoln was born after 6.57.21am Cancer would be there, but David S Braumann has matched the significant events in Lincoln's life with the chart's major progressions and confirmed that the births (and deaths) of Lincoln's children (house 5) all occurred when Mercury was activated by progression and in some instances there was no progressed aspect involving the Moon.

Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer and recent research reveals that depression is common in the legal profession. It's caused by a high-stress emergency lifestyle that results in adrenal burnout and too much heavy-duty thinking (and a dietary deficiency of calcium and vitamin D) that disturbs the brain's electrical activity. And as President the Civil War was a 4-year emergency situation. He worked long and hard – 18 hours a day – and the stress and tiredness took its toll on his mental health.

**America:** July 4, 1776 at 2.14.17am, Philadelphia, Pa (39N57: 75W09). The chart has 7 Gemini 35 on the ascendant.

Time data is from Dr. James D Keiffer. In a letter written by Elbert Benjamin to American Astrology magazine in January 1940 he explained:

'Dr. James D. Keifer and I, as far back as 1900, belonged to the same occult fraternity. In 1908 I was in Iowa, and in the summer of that year I dropped all other interests to devote the balance of my life to astrology and occult work. I was in correspondence with Dr. Keifer who was about that time organizing and incorporating the First Temple of Astrology in Los Angeles (1907). He gave me the chart of the U.S. merely writing that the data had been supplied by an acquaintance of his who was a descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence.'