

## LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

**Greeting:** *“Did you know that Lincoln’s leadership abilities were first recognized by his election as captain of the New Salem militia?”*

### New Salem (1831-1837):

- Lincoln arrived in New Salem in July of 1831. In September, he started clerking in a store owned by Denton Offutt. Later, he partnered with William Berry in two general stores (both failed).
- Lincoln lost his first election bid for the Illinois Legislature in 1832; but he was elected in 1834 and re-elected in 1836, 1838, and 1840.
- Lincoln was appointed Postmaster of New Salem in 1833 and served for three years.
- In 1835, he was deeply saddened by the sudden death of Ann Rutledge from typhoid fever. Some believe that she was his “first love.”



- He studied law on his own and was first listed in the 1837 Illinois Supreme Court roll of attorneys as someone who could practice law in Illinois. Today there is no framed ‘law license’ bearing his name on anyone’s wall. On April 15, 1837, he moved to Springfield, where he went into partnership with John Todd Stuart.

### Springfield (1837-1861):

- Lincoln met Mary Todd in 1839. After a bumpy courtship, they were married on November 4, 1842.
- The Lincolns’ second child, Edward (Eddie) Baker Lincoln, died February 1, 1850, at the age 3 years, 10 months, and 18 days.

### Courting Couch:

- *“Do you know whose picture is above Mary and Lincoln?”*  
Senator Henry Clay was from Lexington, Kentucky, just as Mary Todd was. She admired him greatly and knew him as a friend of her father. Clay was Lincoln’s political idol.
- *“Do you know the people in the other two pictures?”*  
Elizabeth Todd Edwards was Mary’s oldest sister, and her husband, Ninian Wirt Edwards, was the son of a former governor of Illinois.