

It is true that I experienced many ups and downs during my adult life. When I was 22 I moved to New Salem, IL. While I lived there I became a shopkeeper of a store that I owned with my friend. Then in 1832, I enlisted in the militia and served as a mailman during the Blackhawk War. I moved to Springfield in 1837 where I studied on my own to become a lawyer. In addition, I was elected Illinois State Representative as well as United States Senator while I lived there. Later, I moved to Washington D.C. in 1860 when I was elected President of the United States. Thinking back, it was shortly after I moved to Springfield that I met a lady named Mary Todd. She was from a wealthy family who thought I was a country bumpkin. We didn't care though, and we decided to get married on November 4, 1842. We had four sons together. Their names were Robert, Edward, William and Tad. Robert was our only child to live to be an adult. Eddie died at three years old, Willie was 11 and Tad was 18 when he died. Some of the saddest moments of my life were losing my three sons. Also, while I remember the road to the presidency being difficult, it didn't compare to seeing my country torn apart while I was in office. That event broke my heart. On the other hand, one of the happiest times was seeing my country re-unite! One thing I believe in is never quitting. Did you know that I ran against a man named Stephen A. Douglas for both State Representative and President? I lost the first race, but I won the most important one! Along with that, I never stopped believing that our country would again be one and I worked tirelessly to make it happen. My adult life was kind of like a rollercoaster; like I said, there were many ups and downs!