

Tad Lincoln  
April 4, 1853–July 15, 1871

Tad (Thomas) Lincoln was the fourth and last child of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Like his brother Willie, we cannot be sure if Tad ever visited Lexington.

Tad was remembered as being imaginative, sensitive, exasperating, loving, and highly emotional. Tad loved to play pranks around the White House with his brother Willie. The boys sprayed dignitaries with fire hoses, broke mirrors, locked doors, interrupted meetings, built wagons and sleds out of chairs, and drilled the servants like soldiers.

Tad did not like to study, but he loved the theatre. He was often found at rehearsals and back stage at Grover's Theatre. Tad even acted in at least two plays that his father attended.

In 1868, Tad and his mother took a two-year tour of Europe. Tad studied in Germany and England. In May of 1871 Tad and his mother Mary returned to the United States. Tad had caught a cold on the trip, and on Saturday, July 15, 1871, Tad died. He was 18.