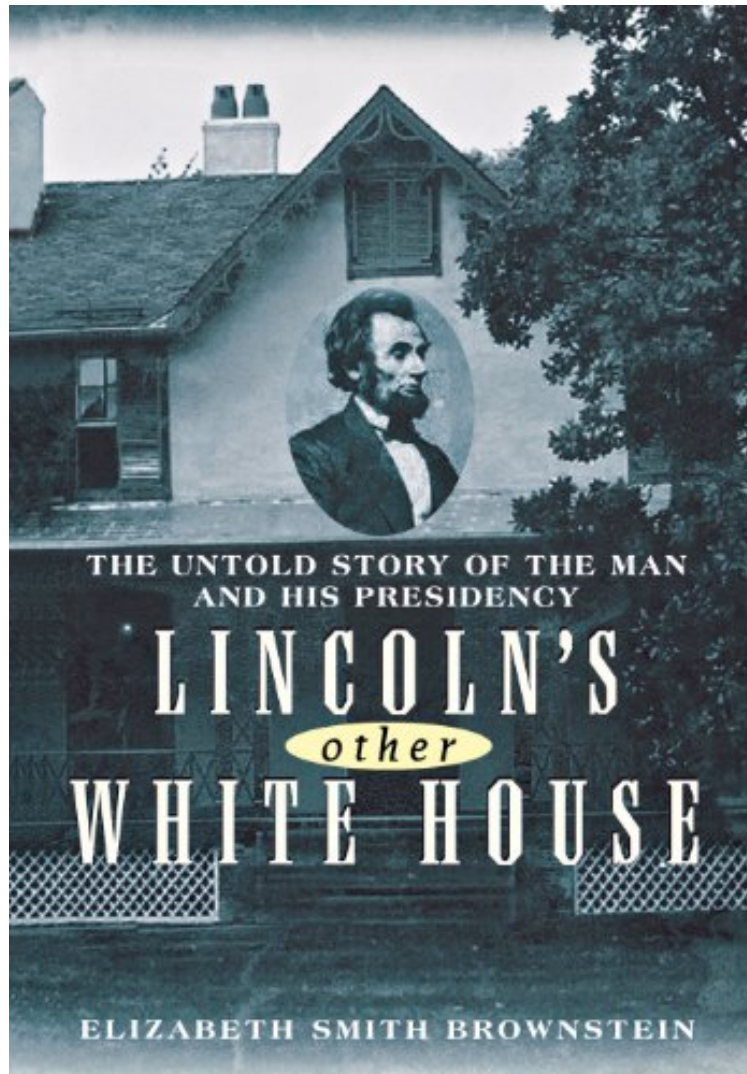


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Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency

Elizabeth Brownstein

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#779925 in Books Elizabeth Brownstein 2005-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.42 x .95 x 6.50l, 1.15 #File Name: 0471485853272 pages Lincoln s Other White House The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency | File size: 44.Mb

Elizabeth Brownstein : Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for my needs By Tina EarI bought this book to complete a school project for a college level history course. I was required to visit a historic location and then write a 10 page

paper about the place I visited. I chose the hidden gem, The Lincoln Cottage located in DC on the grounds of the Old Soldiers Home. The book was great preparation for my visit. I was able to fully enjoy the tour and looking at the home since so much of what the tour guide said was in the book that I had already read. Well written and easy to read...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read about an important timeBy Melissa BurkholderThe house that Lincoln occupied that so few people know about.....so very important, so fascinating, the world changed inside these walls, You must read this book and go there. If you thought you know the Lincoln story, you don't unless you read this book.A great read, full of anecdotes about Lincoln's War Years and the peace he got by being in his second white house.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. evaluation of Lincoln's Other White HouseBy NRI had had no idea that Lincoln lived anywhere but in the White House during his presidency until I read this book. Elizabeth Brownstein and I were classmates at Wellesley so I know firsthand how intelligent and thorough she is in whatever she undertakes. Her stories are clear and informative. Elizabeth brings Lincoln to life in a fresh, insightful way.

The Lincolns spent the summer of 1862 north of the White House at the Soldiers Home. The lush, cool hill overlooking the squalid capital promised the Lincolns an escape from the ""city of stink."" Despite fears about Lincoln's vulnerability in the secluded place, Lincoln spent a quarter of his presidency at the Soldiers Home. But until the National Trust for Historic Preservation began restoring the cottage, little had been done to explore this missing link in Lincoln's life. Elizabeth Smith Brownstein fills in a critical gap. Using diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts, she provides unusual perspectives on Lincoln's relationships, traces the evolution of Lincoln's image, examines the Lincoln marriage, and more. Lincoln's Other White House is a vivid evocation of a turbulent era, and an intimate portrait of the still elusive president.

From Publishers WeeklyBrownstein (If This House Could Talk) compiles a detailed portrait of Lincoln's sojourns to the Soldiers' Home, a country residence on the grounds of a veterans' asylum three miles north of the White House, where he and his family spent several months a year from 1862 to 1864. This 160-year-old villa, declared a national monument in 2000, served as the Lincolns' refuge from Washington's oppressive summers, if not from a steady stream of visitors, the threat of Confederate kidnapping plots and the proximity of the Civil War battlefield. (They were "in hearing of cannonshot," Lincoln wrote.) Brownstein addresses familiar themes of the Lincoln presidency, including the solidity of his union with Mary Todd Lincoln. She also cites evidence for the site as the location of the drafting of the Emancipation Proclamation and chronicles both Lincoln's interactions with the free black household staff and escaped slaves housed in nearby camps. This laudatory account, commissioned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help rescue the Lincoln Cottage from obscurity, is dense with excerpts from primary source material, if not with new ideas and analysis. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Elizabeth Smith Brownstein promises new material and perspectives beyond the familiar Lincolnia and she delivers. Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency is an engrossing account of Lincoln that centers on the Soldiers Home, but ranges well beyond the presidential retreat to consider a variety of topics his marriage, his views on emancipation and race, even his relationship with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. This is a significant contribution to the study of the man and to his times and place."-- Jean Baker, Professor of History at Goucher College"Only on occasion does the unceasing flow of new Lincoln titles yield a book of fresh insight and graceful prose. Lincoln's Other White House has that rare distinction. Elizabeth Brownstein vividly captures life at the Soldiers Home, where the Lincolns found relief from wartime and White House stress. More than an account of their summer residence, this book also offers lively vignettes and thoughtful assessments of the Union generals, cabinet offices, politicians, and friends who visited him there."--Cullom Davis, Editor, Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln"This vivid new book will finally help the Soldier's Home find its rightful place in the epic of Lincoln's life alongside the Kentucky log cabin in which he was born, the house in Springfield, Illinois that symbolized his rise from poverty, and the Executive Mansion from which he directed the war that kept the country from coming apart."--Geoffrey C. Ward, author of The Civil War: An Illustrated History"This valuable, enjoyable, and unusual book not only makes known the importance of the Soldiers Home in the Lincoln story, but also is loaded with anecdotes, characters, poems, episodes, parodies by humorists, facts that one did not know. It ranges widely in a lively presentation of the domestic Lincoln, and of the place he spent 13 months of his presidency. I read it with profit and pleasure and recommend it highly."-- William Lee Miller, author of Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical BiographyFrom the Inside FlapOn June 13, 1862, the Lincolns moved what was left of their family three miles north of the chaotic White House for the summer. Their destination, tradition holds, was a gracious Gothic Revival cottage on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home, the nation's first refuge for old and disabled veterans. On a lush, cool hill overlooking the squalid capital, the Soldiers' Home promised the Lincolns an escape from the "city of stink," where they hoped to recover from the death of their favorite son, Willie, the previous winter.But the Soldiers' Home soon proved anything but restful. Troublesome generals, contentious cabinet members, touchy diplomats, politicians of all persuasions, old friends, and even curious strangers found their way there at all hours of the day and night.Sometimes the Soldiers' Home was so close to the front lines, the Lincolns could hear cannon fire. Yet everyone but Lincoln feared how vulnerable he was in such a secluded place.

He chose to spend an astonishing quarter of his presidency there, including the time he spent putting the finishing touches on the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. But until the National Trust for Historic Preservation began restoration of the cottage, little had been done to explore this missing link in Lincoln's life. For one hundred and forty years, this "legitimate cradle of liberty" remained the most important unknown presidential site in the country. Elizabeth Smith Brownstein fills in a critical gap. Using diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts of life at the Soldiers' Home, she provides unusual perspectives on Lincoln's relationships with important members of his wartime inner circle and explores his paradoxical fascination with weaponry. Through the eyes of the soldiers who guarded him at the Soldiers' Home, she traces the evolution of Lincoln's image as "Father Abraham" and paints a touching picture of the Lincoln marriage. She explains why the Civil War poets and storytellers Lincoln loved played such a critical part during a traumatic period in American history. *Lincoln's Other White House* is a vivid evocation of a turbulent era, and a distinctive, intimate portrait of our most revered but still elusive president.