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| **Event** | **Date** | **Significance** |
| Emancipation Proclamation | September 23, 1862 | This was issued by Abraham Lincoln. The declaration reads, 'all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.' In other words, slaves in the Confederate states were pronounced free by the Emancipation Proclamation. |
| Re-election of Lincoln | November 4, 1864 | Abraham Lincoln is re-elected as President. Northern voters overwhelmingly endorse the leadership and policies of President Abraham Lincoln when they elect him to a second term. Ran against former commander of Union George B. McClellan. |
| Gettysburg Address | November 1863 | President Abraham Lincoln was invited to deliver remarks, on the site of one of the bloodiest and most decisive battles of the Civil War. In Lincoln’s 273-word address, he invoked the principles of human equality contained in the Declaration of Independence and connected the sacrifices of the Civil War with the desire for “a new birth of freedom,” as well as the all-important preservation of the Union. |
| 13th Amendment | January 31, 1865 | The Thirteenth Amendment is arguably one the most important Amendments to the United States Constitution and the impact it had on the history of the United States. It would become a change to the landscape of America and secured a more appropriate application of human and equal rights to its citizens. The 13th Amendment is the provision that officially called for the abolishing of slavery and the prohibition of such practice. |
| Confederacy is Formed | February 1861 | Following the Election of 1860, led by South Carolina, 7 states in total secede from the Union and form the Confederate States of America. Convinced that their way of life, based on slavery, was irretrievably threatened by the election of President Abraham Lincoln. They appointed Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as their president. They created their own constitution and established a new government. Four other states join the original 7 following the outbreak of war. |
| Lincoln Assassinated | April 15, 1865 | John Wilkes Booth, a famous actor and Confederate sympathizer, fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. The attack came only five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his massive army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War. |