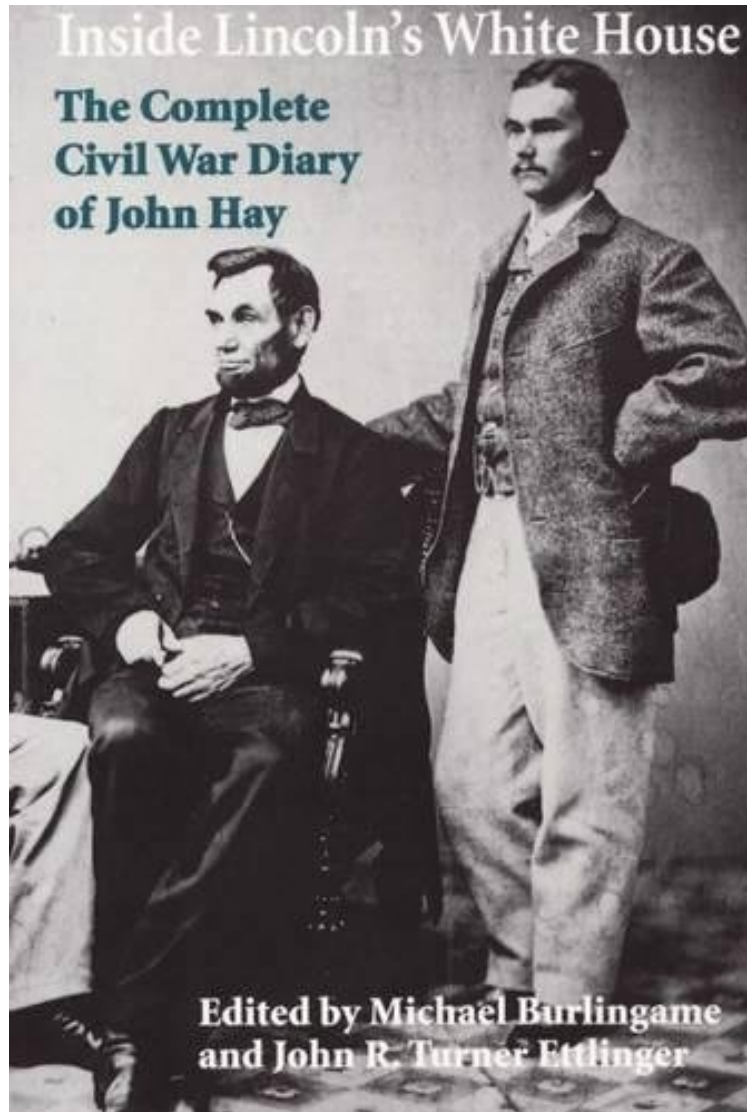


(Download pdf ebook) Inside Lincoln's White House: The Complete Civil War Diary of John Hay

## Inside Lincoln's White House: The Complete Civil War Diary of John Hay

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**From Brand: Southern Illinois University Press : Inside Lincoln's White House: The Complete Civil War Diary of John Hay** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside Lincoln's White House: The Complete Civil War Diary of John Hay:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Alas, you want Hay to give you more By Ben Uziel John Hay's diary during the Lincoln presidency is a precious first person account of a giant in history and arguably America's greatest

president. This edition includes all the marked out paragraphs and is an accessible read. The diary is not an in depth account of his time in the whitehouse, but it does provide some great anecdotes. The disappointment here is that you want more. More entries, more details and more anecdotes on "the tycoon." Regardless, as a deep Lincoln admirer, you take what you can get when it comes to getting more of the Lincoln years.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great insight on LincolnBy barbara hudsonJohn Hay is one of our history's overlooked heroes. Besides serving as Lincoln's secretary during the Civil War, he went on to become Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. The diary highlights the close relationship between Lincoln and Hay and lays the groundwork for Hay's future work.2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy Dr. Emily KurtzThis book really centers on day-to-day minutiae without giving you all that much on Lincoln. So I ordered the Letters of Nicolay, as I think that book features more of what I am looking for. In this one there are great gaps in the writing where important battles should be--because Hay was too busy to write at those times. Bummer! The Nicolay memoirs I suspect will contain more personal impressions, too.

On 18 April 1861, assistant presidential secretary John Hay recorded in his diary the report of several women that "some young Virginian long haired swaggering chivalrous of course. . . and half a dozen others including a daredevil guerrilla from Richmond named Ficklin would do a thing within forty eight hours that would ring through the world."The women feared that the Virginian planned either to assassinate or to capture the president. Calling this a "harrowing communication," Hay continued his entry: "They went away and I went to the bedside of the Chief couché. I told him the yarn; he quietly grinned."This is but one of the dramatic entries in Hay's Civil War diary, presented here in a definitive edition by Michael Burlingame and John R. Turner Ettlenger. Justly deemed the most intimate record we will ever have of Abraham Lincoln in the White House, the Hay diary is, according to Burlingame and Ettlenger, "one of the richest deposits of high-grade ore for the smelters of Lincoln biographers and Civil War historians." While the Cabinet diaries of Salmon P. Chase, Edward Bates, and Gideon Welles also shed much light on Lincoln's presidency, as does the diary of Senator Orville Hickman Browning, none of these diaries has the literary flair of Hay's, which is, as Lincoln's friend Horace White noted, as "breezy and sparkling as champagne." An aspiring poet, Hay recorded events in a scintillating style that the lawyer-politician diarists conspicuously lacked.Burlingame and Ettlenger's edition of the diary is the first to publish the complete text of all of Hay's entries from 1861 through 1864. In 1939 Tyler Dennett published *Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay*, which, as Civil War historian Allan Nevins observed, was "rather casually edited." This new edition is essential in part because Dennett omitted approximately 10 percent of Hay's 1861–64 entries. Not only did the Dennett edition omit important parts of the diaries, it also introduced some glaring errors. More than three decades ago, John R. Turner Ettlenger, then in charge of Special Collections at the Brown University Library, made a careful and literal transcript of the text of the diary, which involved deciphering Hay's difficult and occasionally obscure writing. In particular, passages were restored that had been canceled, sometimes heavily, by the first editors for reasons of confidentiality and propriety. Ettlenger's text forms the basis for the present edition, which also incorporates, with many additions and much updating by Burlingame, a body of notes providing a critical apparatus to the diary, identifying historical events and persons.

"[Hay's] war diary provides fascinating and revealing portraits of Lincoln's presidency and, especially, of the president himself. Covering the years 1861 to 1864, the diary is particularly detailed and rich for the critical years 1863–64. . . . More than all else, Lincoln's humanity—his wit, humility, determination, forgiveness, and forbearance—becomes palpable in Hay's text. Burlingame and Ettlenger have done a magnificent editorial job, and their revealing notes are nearly as informative as the diary itself. Anyone interested in the Lincoln White House and the 'Ancient,' as Hay termed it, will greatly profit from this work."—Choice