



Abraham Lincoln, 1860

Photograph by Alexander Hesler

Eleven-year-old Grace Bedell of New York wrote to Lincoln in 1860 suggesting he grow a beard: "...you would look a great deal better for your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you." Lincoln replied to her that "people would call it a piece of silly affectation."

By his inauguration, though, he had changed his mind and became the first bearded president of the United States.

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