Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources illuminating aspects of this most well-known Presidential speech

Official Version

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection (Formerly described as: Binder 4, p. 67-81)
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

The Only Authorized Official Version

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN
AT THE DEDICATION OF
THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY
NOVEMBER 19, 1863.

FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR
FATHERS Brought FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT
A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY, AND
DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN
ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR,
TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION, OR ANY NATION
SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG
ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLE-FIELD
OF THAT WAR. WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A
PORTION OF THAT FIELD, AS A FINAL RESTING
PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES.
THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS ALTOGETHER
FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS
BUT, IN A LARGER SENSE, WE CAN NOT DEDICATE-
WE CAN NOT CONSECRATE—WE CAN NOT HALLOW—
THIS GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN, LIVING AND DEAD-
WHO STRUGGLED HERE, HAVE CONSECRATED IT,
FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT.
THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE, NOR LONG
REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT IT CAN NEVER
FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS FOR US THE
LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE
UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT
HERE HAVE, THUS FAR SO NGBLY ADVANCED. IT IS
RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE
GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US—THAT FROM
THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED
DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE
THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION—THAT
WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD
SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN—THAT THIS
NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH
OF FREEDOM AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL
NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.

In response to a request by the Grand Army of the
Republic Congress has enacted that Lincoln's Immortal
Gettysburg Address shall be placed on conspicuous
tables in every National Military Park and National
Cemetery. The War Department has prepared the de-
sign for this tablet. It is exceedingly beautiful, simple
and effective.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has had the opportunity
of being the first to reproduce this, and it now offers
it in a handsome and artistically executed Postal Card,
which will be welcomed by patriotic people every-
where.

It is the only absolutely correct version of the in-
spired words, which will be read with swelling hearts
as long as the language is spoken. Other versions are
marred by more or less trifling variations and errors
which detract from the simple majesty of Lincoln's
words. The text given is the result of long study and
comparison of the various versions.

Two dozen will be sent postpaid to any address on
receipt of 25 cents, or with The National Tribune, one
year, $1.00.

Address The National Tribune, Washington, D. C.
Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new na-
tion, conceived in liberty, and dedicated
to the proposition that all men are crea-
ger equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
survive. We have met on a great battle-field
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives
that that nation might live. It is altogether
fittering and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-
ate—we can not consecrate—we can not
sanctify—this ground. The brave men, liv-
ing and dead, who struggled here, have
sanctified it, far above our poor disinter-
ment. The world will little note, nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
never forget what they did here. It is for
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
this noble work, which shall not grow
old, nor shall fade away, nor shall perish
from the earth.

Attest: Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863.

THE FOURTH COPY, MADE FOR BANCROFT
never forget what they did here. It is for the living, rather, to be dedication here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedication to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom— and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.
That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.

Congress has settled all disputes concerning the exact wording of Lincoln’s immortal address on the battle field of Gettysburg by incorporating the correct version of it in a bill creating the Gettysburg National Military Park. The bill provides for the erection of a bronze tablet “containing on it the address delivered by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, at Gettysburg on the 19th day of November, 1863, on the occasion of the dedication of the national cemetery at that place.”

The bill then declares the address to have been in the following words:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

“But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us: that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Thus the words of the speech which above all others appeals to the hearts of Americans, simple, straightforward and honest, yet animated by the noblest sentiment and the loftiest devotion the man who made it, become fixed ever beyond dispute.
LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS
GIVEN AN OFFICIAL VERSION

Washington Star, 1899

President Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address, delivered forty-six years ago, is to be perpetuated in enduring bronze and iron in the principal national cemeteries in the United States, seventy-six in number.

Orders to that effect have been issued by Assistant Secretary Oliver. They will be executed under the supervision of the Quartermaster General.

The act of Congress, approved Feb. 11, 1895, providing for the establishment of a national military park at Gettysburg, Pa., directed that the engraving of the address "be engraved on a suitable bronze tablet, containing the words of the address delivered by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, at Gettysburg Nov. 19, 1863, on the occasion of the dedication of the national cemetery at that place, and such tablet, having on it besides the address a medallion likeness of President Lincoln, to be erected on the most suitable site within the bounds of said park."

The act appropriated $5,000 to pay the cost of the tablet, medalion and pedestal.

The sundry civil act approved May 21, 1896, made an appropriation of $3,000 for placing iron tablets containing the Gettysburg address of President Lincoln in the other seventy-five national cemeteries.

Although the original act was passed more than fourteen years ago and the subsequent act about a year ago, it was only in the recent wrangle that the appropriations were completed for carrying their provisions into effect. The delay was chiefly due to difficulty in determining the text of the Gettysburg address.

That has been a matter of friendly controversy among interested parties almost from the time of delivery. Among those who took part in this discussion were Col. Hay, former secretary of state, and John G. Nicolay, both of whom were secretaries of President Lincoln's son Robert T. Lincoln, his surviving son; J. P. Nicholson, chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Commission; Gen. Aleshire, quarter master general; Gen. Oliver, assistant secretary of war, and many others.

From the mass of correspondence on the subject it appears that there are three sources of authority for Lincoln's Gettysburg address, namely, three versions of it. They are all identical in thought, but differ slightly in expression. The versions are described by Mr. Nicolay in a letter on the subject, as follows:

1. The original autograph MS. draft, written by Mr. Lincoln partly at Washington and partly at Gettysburg.

2. The version made by the shorthand reporter on the stand at Gettysburg when the President delivered it, which was telegraphed and was printed in the leading newspapers of the country on the following morning.

3. The revised copy made by the President a few days after his return to Washington in comparison of his original draft and the printed newspaper version, with his own recollection of the words he delivered it.

"The last of these," said Mr. Nicolay, "is the regular outgrowth of the two which preceded it, and reflects the perfected product of the President's rhetorical and literary mastery."

Quartermaster General Aleshire, to whom the matter was submitted for report, summarized the conclusions as follows:

"The final revision published in Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors, prepared by President Lincoln five days after reviewing his copy for the soldiers' and sailors' fair at Baltimore, this is the version used by Col. Nicholson and Robert T. Lincoln. This letter is also copied in his father's last and best thoughts as to the address.

The version stipulated to be used by the act of Feb. 11, 1895, appropriating $5,000 for placing the tablet containing the address to be erected in the Gettysburg National Cemetery, is this slightly from the Baltimore version.

"As I write you before, the Baltimore fair version represents my father's last and best thought as to the address, and the corrections in it were legitimate for an author, and I think there is no doubt that they improve the version as written for Col. Hay. And, as I said to you before, I earnestly hope that the Baltimore fair version will be used.

"It differs, as you indicate, very slightly from your exhibit A, which, as you say, is in the statutes-at-large, and which is probably a fair reproduction of the address as my father sent it to the fair to be sold for its benefit."

After this letter Quartermaster General Aleshire submitted the final report of the quartermaster general, but the Baltimore fair version had been adopted by the War Department as the 'standard version of the Lincoln Gettysburg address.' This version is to be used in all the tablets to be erected in the national cemeteries as well as for the proposed memorial at Gettysburg. It is proposed to place the letter tablet as near as possible to the exact spot where the martyr president stood when he delivered the address.

The version adopted, including phraseology, punctuation, paragraphing and capitalization, is as follows:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and the government of the people by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

"It has been proposed that in the words 'Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation,' the word 'score' should be changed to 'years.' This is not well, for the use of the word 'years' implies more than a score of years."

"The John Hay version, from a photographic facsimile of the original manuscript as written and corrected by President Lincoln four days after he had delivered the address and presented it to John Hay. This is different in several particulars from either of the above versions.'"
TABLETS PRESERVE LINCOLN'S SPEECH

Gettysburg Address to Be Placed in All National Cemeteries.

CONTROVERSIES OVER TEXT FINALLY ENDED

Assistant Secretary Oliver Decides in Favor of Baltimore Version.

By W. W. Jermame, Colorado Building, Washington, D. C.

Washington, June 5.—By order of the secretary of war, President Lincoln's Gettysburg address is to be perpetuated in enduring bronze in the principal national cemeteries of the country—seven-six in all—and Quartermaster General Aleshire is now preparing to put the bronze tablets in place.

Congress, in 1895, set apart $5,000 for such a tablet in Gettysburg national cemetery, but until last year it did not provide that similar tablets should be placed in the other national cemeteries. The Gettysburg tablet will be put into place at the same time with the others, the delay being due to controversies arising over the text of the famous address.

Controversies Over Text.

Ever since the address was originally delivered, there have been friendly controversies regarding the correct text. John Hay and John G. Nicolay, both of them Lincoln's secretaries and biographers; Robert Todd Lincoln, the surviving son of the great father of the war department, and General Aleshire, are among those who have differed on this question in later years.

From investigation of the subject, it seems that there are three sources of authority for the text of the Gettysburg address, and each of the versions of that address, all of them identical in thought, differing slightly in phraseology. Referring to these versions, Mr. Nicolay in a letter written on that subject, has this to say:

"First—The final version published in "Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors," prepared by President Lincoln five months after the address for the soldiers and sailors' fair at Baltimore. This is the version favored by both Colonel Nicholson and Robert T. Lincoln. The latter has represented his father's last and best thoughts as to the address.

"Second—The version stipulated to be used by the act of Feb. 11, 1895, appropriating $5,000, for the bronze tablet containing the address to be erected in the Gettysburg national park. This differs slightly from the Baltimore version.

"Third—The John Hay version, from a photographic fac simile of the original manuscript, as written and corrected by President Lincoln four days after he had delivered the address, and presented it to John Hay. This differs in several particulars from either of the above versions."

Seek Authorized Version.

General Aleshire says, speaking of the several versions of the famous address: "In view of the discrepancies which appear in the printed versions of this address, the matter is resubmitted with a request for a decision as to the one which shall be used for the tablets in the national cemeteries." Then it was that the inquiry was taken up afresh, with a view to having the government pick out an authorized version. As the result of the inquiry several interesting letters were written. One was written by Colonel J. P. Nicholson, chairman of the Gettysburg national park commission. He says:

"We are not aware of the source from which the address was obtained in the act creating the national park, but word for word, it is the Baltimore version. The punctuation, however, is the work of the public printer, and is in accordance with the rules of punctuation followed in his office. Colonel Lincoln is undoubtedly right in his manner in which the address should be printed, and the Baltimore version as given in the "Autograph Leaves" should be used, and none other.

"As no tablet has been cast for the Gettysburg national park, there is none to change. When it is cast for the park, it will follow, with the approval of the secretary of war, the Baltimore version."

Lincoln's Son Writes.

Robert T. Lincoln was drawn into the controversy, and his letter to the quartermaster general of the army says, in part:

"As I wrote you before, the Baltimore fair version represents my father's last and best thought as to the address, and the corrections in it were legitimate for an author, and I think there is no doubt they improve the version as written out for Colonel Hay. And, as I said to you before, I earnestly hope that the Baltimore version will be used. It differs, as you indicate, very slightly from your exhibit A, which, as you say, is given in the statute at large, making an appropriation for the tablet at the Gettysburg national cemetery. But the statute version was not made, of course, by any responsible person, and I think its corrections should not be perpetuated when we have, as I have indicated, an exact thing to go by.

"I am quite sure as a lawyer that there is no obligation on you, in the new tablets you are making, to follow the errors in the text in the old statute and I trust that you will not do so. I have before me as I write, the book published by the Baltimore sanitary fair, which contains a full-sized lithographic reproduction of the address as my father sent it to the fair to be sold for its benefit."

Baltimore Version Wins.

After careful consideration of the question as it various phases were brought out by correspondence and otherwise, Assistant Secretary Oliver of the war department, has at last decided in favor of the Baltimore version, in accordance with the wishes of Robert T. Lincoln, stating that it has now been adopted by the war department as "the standard version of the Lincoln Gettysburg address" for use on all tablets to be erected in national cemeteries and parks.

The version adopted, including phraseology, punctuation, paragraphing and capitalization, is as follows:

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far beyond our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS
REVISED BY LINCOLN

Mr. Eugene W. Chafin Points Out Alterations in Text Made by Martyred President.

VARYING VERSIONS COMPARED

Examination Shows, However, That Changes Made No Differences in the Author's Meaning.

CHICAGO, Ill., Saturday.—Mr. Eugene W. Chafin, recently prohibition candidate for Governor of Illinois, has contributed an interesting document to the literature relative to Abraham Lincoln's great address in Gettysburg.

"At the coming centennial anniversary of the birth of Lincoln," says Mr. Chafin, "the correct version only of his Gettysburg address should be used. It is ordinarily printed as it appeared in the newspapers of the day after it was delivered. Four days after its delivery Abraham Lincoln made a copy to be placed with the records of the Gettysburg Cemetery Association, in which he took out fifteen words and substituted eleven, which adds much to the greatness of the address."

"The corrections are as follows:—In the original the fourth sentence read:—We have come here to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live."

"Corrected it read:—We are met here to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live."

"The ninth sentence read:—It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they so nobly carried on."

"Corrected it read:—It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinishing work that those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live."

"That he made these corrections proves that it was not a carefully prepared address before he left Washington for Gettysburg, but a what Lincoln meant by what he wrote after he left home."

FURTHER NOTED.

Mr. Chafin then proceeds to say that the official and authentic text of the address is contained in the Underground Railroad of Mr. Chafin himself, four days after the memorable meeting at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863. It is contained in full this is of the version of the address. But the version quoted by Mr. Chafin, difficult Lincon, ever, the several places, in respect of language and punctuation, from the authentic version of the address prepared by Mr. Lincoln for the soldiers' and sailors' fair at Baltimore in 1861, the year after the address was delivered, and reproduced in facsimile in Nicolay and Hay's History of Lincoln.

In the Baltimore version the most important difference from the Gettysburg Cemetery Association's version is that the word "government" is to be left quoted peroration:—"Thus the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people shall not perish from the earth."

The text of this sentence, as quoted, is that given in the Gettysburg Cemetery Association's copy of the address. In the Baltimore copy the sentence reads:—"Thus the government of the people, by the government of the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In this matter the important question is the government by the "government of the people," &c. In this matter the important question is the government by the people, by the people, &c. In this matter the important question is the government by the government, &c. It is as the government by the people, by the government, or did he mean the concrete idea of the government of the United States, or the North understood that government? By his insertion of the word "the" before the word "government" the President meant to define his meaning specifically as "the existing government," not a government that might be formed. It is important to note in this respect that the Baltimore version was prepared by President Abraham Lincoln long after the Gettysburg version. The interesting question then arises:—Did Lincoln mean what he wrote in 1861 to have the same meaning as what he wrote in 1863?

VERSIONS COMPARED.

For comparison the two versions are here presented side by side:

BALTIMORE VERSION.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

In the hour of our struggle in that great conflict, I have come here to dedicate a portion of this field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live."

GETTYSBURG VERSION.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

In the hour of our struggle in that great conflict, I have come here to dedicate a portion of this field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live."

For comparison the two versions are here presented side by side:

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Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

In the hour of our struggle in that great conflict, I have come here to dedicate a portion of this field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live.

GETTYSBURG VERSION.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

In the hour of our struggle in that great conflict, I have come here to dedicate a portion of this field as a final resting place for those who here gave up their lives that that nation might live.

But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, cannot consecrate, cannot sanctify this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that this dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
New Yorkers Celebrate 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's Birth

Two Exhibits of Lincoln Relics

Interesting Manuscripts Shown by Colleges, Prominent People Making Loans—Lincoln's Son Sends the Manuscript of the Proclamation of Emancipation

New York, Feb. 12.—The booming of guns at Fort Hamilton, Fort Wadsworth on Governor's Island, from warships in the harbor and by batteries of the National Guard early this morning ushered in the celebration in this city of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. As the city bethirred itself, thousands who remained at home for the holiday prepared to go to church and synagogue for services in memory of the great emancipator, while thousands of school children made preparations for exercises at the 561 schools throughout Greater New York.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the exercises in Cooper Union, with Mayor McClellan presiding, began. Perhaps the greatest celebration of the day will be held in Carnegie Hall tonight, where Gen Horace Porter will preside and a chorus of 500 from the United German Singing Societies will be one of the special features. Other celebrations will be held at the University of the City of New York and the various armories in the city in addition to other ceremonies.

Two exhibits of Lincoln relics will be open to public view today, one at Columbia University, the other at the College of the City of New York. The projectors of the Columbia exhibition assert that they have the finest showing of Lincoln manuscript ever brought together in one exhibit. Loans have been made by collectors in all parts of the country.

One of the most conspicuous features of the exhibit is the manuscript of the original notes of the Gettysburg address, lent by W. J. H. Bliss, of Baltimore. The manuscript was given by President Lincoln to Mr. Bliss' father, Col. Alex Bliss, who was one of the military officers who accompanied the President to Gettysburg when the address was delivered.

Robert T. Lincoln, the President's son, has also contributed some interesting manuscripts, among them that of the emancipation proclamation and the correspondence between Lincoln and Secretaries Seward and Chase in connection with their resignations during 1862.

J. Pierpont Morgan has lent an original copy of Lincoln's notes for the first Douglass debate and also a manuscript of unpublished verses written by Lincoln in 1848 and entitled "The Bear Hunt."

The City College exhibit has been made up entirely from New York city collections of Lincolniana. It contains several originals of Lincoln's commissions to his generals in the war and also shows original copies of the New York papers describing the assassination of Lincoln.
Lincoln Copy of Gettysburg Talk To Be Sold by Baltimore Owner

By the Associated Press

BALTIMORE, Feb. 12.—Baltimore historians got the sad news on Lincoln's 140th birthday today that the best autographed copy of his Gettysburg address is leaving the city.

The document has been in Baltimore for more than half a century. Dr. Eleanor A. Bliss, the present owner, announced it will be auctioned in April at the Parke Benet Gallery in New York City.

Dr. Bliss, a worker in preventive medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, said she was prompted by a desire to make the manuscript more widely available. It has been in a bank vault since 1940.

The manuscript went to Dr. Bliss nine years ago upon the death of her father, Dr. William J. A. Bliss. He had inherited it from the original owner, Col. Alexander Bliss.

The Bliss copy is considered the best of the five known copies of the address in Lincoln's hand. It alone bears the title, date and full signature of Abraham Lincoln.

As to its probable value, Joseph Katz, Baltimore bibliophile, said:

"If you went to the auction with $100,000 in your pocket, you might stand a chance. And you well might not."

The draft was written by President Lincoln at the request of George Bancroft, the historian, a year after the famous address was made November 19, 1863. It was intended for sale at a benefit fair, the proceeds to be used for Union Army men.

But Col. Bliss, in charge of the fair, kept the address when no suitable offer was received.

The Library of Congress has two copies of Lincoln's address, the Illinois State Historical Library another and a private collector in the Mid-West the fifth.

THE SUNDAY STAR, Washington, D. C.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1949
Lincoln Copy
Of Gettysburg
Talk To Be Sold

Manuscript, Believed Final
Draft, Will Be Auctioned
in April by Parke-Bernet

One of the five manuscript cop-
ies of the Gettysburg Address writ-
ten by Abraham Lincoln will be
sold sometime in April at the
Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., 30
East Fifty-seventh Street.

Until its sale, which will take
place in an interim within one of
the general book sales scheduled
at the auction house during the
middle of April, the manuscript,
accepted by most authorities as the
final one written by Lincoln of his
speech at Gettysburg, will be on
public display. Unlike the first
two drafts, one of which he held
in his hand for reference as he
spoke (and which is now in the
Library of Congress), this version
contains the words “under God”
in the final paragraph. He used
those words in his speech, as re-
corded by Charles Hale, of “The
Boston Advertiser,” who was mak-
ing notes at the time, and the fact
they were not in his draft would
suggest they were an extempora-
neous inspiration.

This example likewise contains,
as do most of the manuscripts,
the phrase “far above our poor
power to add or detract.” Mr.
Hale’s transcript of the speech as
delivered—it was sobriest a photog-
raper was unable to get his equip-
ment ready to photograph him
making it—and was just putting
his head under the hood when
Lincoln concluded—recorded him
as omitting the word “poor” from
the phrase.

On three sheets of blue-lined
paper, it was written by Lincoln
to be included in a volume of origi-
nal manuscripts which Colonel
Alexander Bliss wanted to sell at
the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Fair in
Baltimore in 1864 for the benefit
of veterans of the Civil War. Al-
though lithographed copies of the
books were sold, most of the manu-
scripts were not, and this one was
kept by Colonel Bliss. Mrs. Wil-
liam J. A. Bliss and Miss Eleanor
Bliss, trustees under a deed of
trust of the late Dr. William J. A.
Bliss, of Baltimore, a son of Colo-
nel Bliss, are offering it for sale
at Parke-Bernet.

The other copies which authori-
ties on Lincolniana agree Lincoln
wrote include the original draft,
one page of which is on White’s
House statimony; the second
draft, which he used at Gettys-
burg; a copy he wrote for Edward
Everett, who preceded him on the
platform with a two-hour address,
and another which he wrote for
the Bliss collection but gave to
George Bancroft, the historian.
LINCOLN'S ADDRESS IN MS. TO BE SOLD

Copy of Gettysburg Speech, Believed Worth $100,000, Up for April Auction

By SANKA KNOX

A manuscript copy of the immortal document with which many a school child is familiar even before he can read—the Gettysburg Address—will be publicly auctioned in April at the Farke-Bernet Galleries, 30 East Fifty-seventh Street, it was announced yesterday.

Five copies, in Lincoln's hand, of the 280-word masterpiece of simplicity and eloquence are known to exist. The one to be auctioned, described as the Bliss copy, is the final manuscript draft of the speech, delivered Nov. 19, 1863 at the dedication of the national cemetery on the battlefield of Gettysburg.

It is an unusual manuscript. It has a title, date and signature in full, unlike the other four copies, none of which has any of those distinguishing features. Although there is no auction precedent upon which its value can be estimated, it is thought among dealers, collectors and libraries to be worth between $100,000 and $125,000.

At the request of George Bancroft, historian, Lincoln executed this fifth and final draft for a benefit soldiers' and sailors' fair in Baltimore in April, 1864, the proceeds to be used for men in service. Like Red Cross benefits of today, similar fairs were held in various cities to raise funds.

Nobody Bought It

As one phase of the Baltimore fair plan, Col. Alexander Bliss of that city, procured original manuscripts of the writings of famous men and women, lithographed and bound them, and offered for sale both originals and prints. The copy of Gettysburg Address that Bancroft received and most of the other manuscripts found no buyers and became the property of Colonel Bliss.

The Bliss copy is written on three sheets of ordinary white tablet paper, blue-lined; it is in excellent condition. Over "Four score and seven years ago . . . " is the heading, "Address delivered at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg," and at the end, the highly unusual full signature. Lincoln usually used just the initial of his first name.

His extra care in drawing up the copy was due to the fact that the original one prepared for the fair was thought unsuitable for its purpose as it lacked title, date and full signature. This "unsatisfactory" copy was kept by Bancroft and is now owned by a mid-Western private collector.

The Bliss copy descended to his son, the late Dr. William J. A. Bliss, also of Baltimore, and from him it went to his widow and his daughter, Miss Eleanor Bliss, trustees under a deed of trust. It will be auctioned by their order.

Penciled Copy Legend

The first and second drafts of the address were given by Lincoln to John Hay, his private secretary, and were presented by the Hay family to the Library of Congress in 1916. Popular legend still has it that the historic address first was scribbled in lead pencil during Lincoln's train ride from Washington to Gettysburg. Against that are opinions from authoritative sources that evidence points to the White House as the place of origin. These sources also are of the opinion that a second version was written upon the day of its delivery.

The last copy to be accounted for—the third draft—was written by Lincoln for Edward Everett, who preceded the President at the dedication ceremony with a two-hour long scholarly oration. This draft was bound in with Everett's speech and was sold, it is said, for $1,000 at a soldiers' fair in New York in March, 1864. It passed through several hands after that and finally was purchased by popular subscription for $60,000 for the Illinois State Historical Library.
The fifth and final draft of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the only one which he titled, dated and signed with his full name, was sold last night for $54,000 to Oscar B. Cintas, former Cuban Ambassador to the United States. Cintas would only say that he intended to keep it "for the time being" but that he would "probably give it to an institution," which institution he would not say.

The document, written in Lincoln's large and legible script on three pages of lightly blue-lined paper, was put up for sale just after 8 p.m., a few minutes after Mr. Cintas entered the auction room on the second floor of the Parke-Benet Galleries, Inc., 30 East Fifty-seventh Street. Members of the galleries' staff said he had visited the exhibition rooms to see the manuscript several times before the sale.

At that moment Anthony N. Bade, the auctioneer, stopped the sale of first editions from the fifteenth to twentieth centuries, a collection assembled by Frank Capra, motion-picture director, a sale that had been in progress since 8 p.m. and was to be continued as soon as the Lincoln manuscript was sold. It was soon after Queen Elizabeth's own copy of the Essays of Montaigne had been sold for $1,100. The curtains were drawn across the stage where each item is displayed during the bidding, and when they opened again, the Gettysburg Address, each page protected with white silk and inclosed in an outer case of blue levant morocco, was revealed on a pedestal flanked by an attendant and a uniformed guard.

Mr. Bade said something about "recited by every schoolboy in America," when two men made simultaneous bids of $25,000—David Kirchenbaum, a New York dealer, and Charles Sessler, a Philadelphia dealer. The bidding jumped almost immediately to $30,000, but from that point it climbed in $1,000 steps, with several other bidders entering the contest, including Robert Barry, United States representative of the firm of C. A. Stonehill, of New Haven, Conn., and London. Lafayette College, of Easton, Pa., put in a bid of $51,000.

After Mr. Cintas called $54,000 Mr. Bade repeated the figure five times and then said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the value of this document cannot be measured in dollars." There was laughter from the audience. Mr. Kirchenbaum had continued bidding against Mr. Cintas until he offered $53,000. After a few more questions, Mr. Bade let his hammer fall, marking the end of the sale.

The document was written by Lincoln to be included in a volume of original manuscripts that Colonel Alexander Bliss wanted to sell at the Soldiers and Sailors' Fair in Baltimore for the benefit of veterans of the Civil War. Mrs. William J. A. Bliss and Miss Eleanor Bliss, trustees under a deed of trust of the late Dr. William J. A. Bliss, of Baltimore, a son of Colonel Bliss, offered it for sale.