

The Bugle



Quarterly Journal of the
Camp Curtin Historical Society
and Civil War Round Table, Inc.

Fall 2013
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Gettysburg National Cemetery Dedication

"The field upon which we now stand will be known as classic ground, for here has been the great central point of the organization of our military forces. When my administration of public affairs will have been forgotten and the good and evil will be only known to the investigation of the antiquarian, Camp Curtin, with its memories and associations, will be immortal."

- Governor Andrew Curtin, 1865

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Dedication and Remembrance

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. Each year, two days commemorate that historic speech.

On **November 19**, Tuesday this year, the exact anniversary of the dedication of the cemetery, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania holds a **Dedication Day** ceremony, with a major speaker in the National Cemetery. Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, will be participating in this year's program. President Barak Obama has been invited but as we go to press, no official announcement has been made regarding his attendance. In the past, presidents have been invited but none has accepted. For more information, visit www.lincolnfellowship.org.

On the Saturday closest to the anniversary, **November 23** this year, the Sons of Union Veterans holds **Remembrance Day**. It includes a parade by Union and Confederate descendant organizations and reenactor units through the streets of Gettysburg, a ceremony at the Grand Army of the Republic's Woolson Monument, and a formal Civil War ball in the evening. For more information, visit www.suvcw.org.

Dancers Donate to Preservation

The Civil War Dance Foundation and its performing troupe, the Victorian Dance Ensemble, have donated \$4,000 to four organizations for Civil War preservation programs.

One thousand dollars each was donated to the Civil War Trust, Old Court House Civil War Museum of Winchester, President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, and Gettysburg National Military Park to assist with the repair of the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Monument that had been blown off its base during a storm just before the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

With this year's donations, the total has now reached over \$43,000 since the group began making donations in 2001. Additionally, the CWDF's balls and dance demonstrations have helped other organizations raise over \$175,000 for preservation and education.

Cover: *The Soldiers National Monument in the center of the graves of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.*

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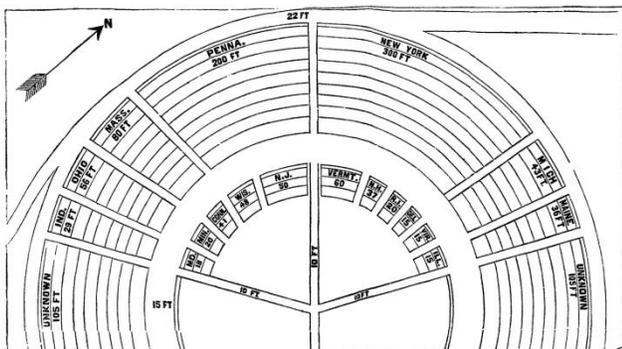
The Gettysburg National Cemetery Dedication

After the Battle of Gettysburg, thousands of bodies littered the fields. Most were quickly buried in shallow trenches near where they fell. Gettysburg attorney David Wills (right) reported to Governor Andrew Curtin that, “In many instances arms and legs and sometimes heads protrude and my attention has been directed to several places where the hogs were actually rooting out the bodies and devouring them.”



The situation became chaotic as relatives of the Union fallen came to Gettysburg looking for bodies of loved ones. Governors of other Northern states were making plans to disinter the bodies and take them home. Something had to be done and Gov. Curtin appointed Wills as his agent to oversee the clean-up and establishment of a cemetery. Ultimately, a commission was established, with representatives of all the Northern states that fought at Gettysburg, to create a national cemetery.

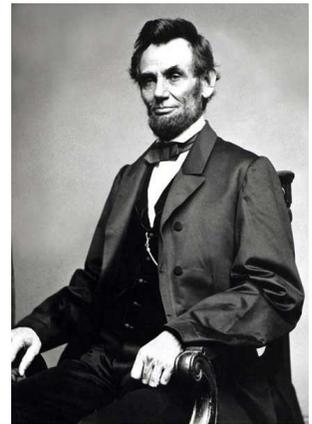
Land was purchased on Cemetery Hill next to the town cemetery. The War Department supplied wooden coffins and a local contractor was paid to disinter and rebury the bodies at a cost of \$1.59 each. William Saunders, a noted landscape architect employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was hired to design the cemetery. After initial disagreement as to the layout, it was decided that each state would have a separate plot and “unknowns” would be buried together. All of the graves would be in a semicircle around a central monument.



As the burials began, Wills turned his attention to a formal ceremony to dedicate the new cemetery. Edward Everett, the leading orator of the day (see following article), was selected as the main speaker. Originally, the date was set for October 23; however, Everett requested more time to prepare his speech and the date for the dedication was moved to November 19. President Abraham Lincoln was invited to deliver a “few appropriate remarks” of dedication at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The dedication ceremony has entered into American mythology. Everyone remembers that Everett spoke for about two hours and the speech is forgotten except by a few historians. Lincoln spoke for two minutes, delivering a speech that has been reprinted around the world in almost every language.

Oddly, we do not know exactly what Lincoln said at Gettysburg. He wrote five copies of the Gettysburg Address and all are slightly different. The earliest two copies lack “under God” in the last sentence, even though journalists on the scene reported he spoke these two words.



The Nicolay copy, now in the Library of Congress, is thought by many historians to be the earliest copy and perhaps the one Lincoln held when he delivered the speech. Lincoln apparently gave this copy to John Nicolay, one of his private secretaries, after returning to Washington. It is on two different types of paper, “Executive Mansion” stationery and a lined sheet, and both have a fold line. This seems to match reports of Lincoln rewriting the second page the evening before the ceremony and taking a folded manuscript out of his pocket at the ceremony.

The major differences with other copies are found in the second and concluding sentences:

We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; the nation, 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.

The Hay copy was found in the papers of Lincoln's other private Secretary, John Hay, in 1906 and is now in the Library of Congress. Some historians believe that this is the copy Lincoln held since it has some of the phrases contained in newspaper reports. Like the Nicolay copy, it does not have "under God." Other differences include:

We have come to dedicate a portion of it 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.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; the nation, 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.

The Everett copy was written by Lincoln at the request of Edward Everett in 1864. Everett was collecting speeches from the cemetery dedication for inclusion in a bound book that would be auctioned at the New York Sanitary Fair to raise money for soldiers' relief. It is possible that Lincoln consulted newspapers since it seems to

more closely follow those reports. This copy is owned by the Illinois State Historical Library.

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.

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 here 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.

The Bancroft copy was written by Lincoln at the request of George Bancroft in February 1864 as a fundraiser for the Baltimore Sanitary Fair. For some reason, Lincoln wrote it on the front and back of a single sheet. This made it undesirable for its intended purpose so Bancroft was allowed to keep it. Years later, it was donated to Cornell University.

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.

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 here 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.

The Bliss copy was written by Lincoln to replace the Bancroft copy. This copy is named for Bancroft's stepson, Col. Alexander Bliss. It is the only version with Lincoln's signature, date and title. It has become the "standard version" of the address and it is inscribed on the wall of the Lincoln Memorial. It appears that in this version Lincoln was trying to polish the address and was more concerned with style than trying to make an exact copy of what he said at the dedication. Today, it hangs in the Lincoln Room of the White House.

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.

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 here 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.



After the Civil War, Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles was elected to Congress and did much to help create Gettysburg National Military Park, including a bill to create a monument memorializing the Gettysburg Address. Completed in 1912, it contains bronze plaques with copies of David Wills' letter inviting Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address along with a bust of Lincoln.

Possible Spoken Version

In *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America*, Garry Wills included the following version of the speech as the possible spoken version. It is based on the version that Edward Everett had published and contains applause notations from reporters.

Fourscore 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. [Applause]

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 are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final-resting place of 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 power to add or detract. [Applause]

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. [Applause]

It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. [Applause]

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 here gave the last full measure of devotion,—that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain [Applause], that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. [Long continued applause]

The Other Gettysburg Speaker and Address

Edward Everett's public life was remarkable but few people today know his name or the details of his career. At best, he is remembered as the fellow who spoke for two hours before Lincoln's immortal Gettysburg Address. In this age of one minute "sound bytes," the implication being that it was a boring speech. Everett's memory deserves better.



Born in 1794, the son of a pastor, Everett graduated from Harvard College and became a minister in Boston. He returned to Harvard to teach, studied at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and is thought to be one of the first Americans to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree from a European university.

Everett was a friend and supporter of Daniel Webster and became a popular speaker at Whig Party political events. He was elected to Congress and served ten years in the House of Representatives, 1825 to 1835. Returning to Massachusetts, Everett was elected governor. With his interest in education, he instituted the first state board of education in the nation.

From 1840 to 1845, he was ambassador to Great Britain. Afterwards, Everett was President of Harvard. When Webster was appointed Secretary of State in 1849, Everett became his Assistant Secretary and was instrumental in settling the Canadian border controversy with Britain. Upon Webster's death, President Millard Fillmore appointed him Secretary of State and one of his initiatives led to the opening of Japan to trade. The Massachusetts Legislature elected him to the U.S. Senate. He resigned after a year citing ill health but the real cause was his disgust with the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

During the later 1850s, Everett became one of the first historical preservationists. He travelled the country giving speeches about George Washington to raise money for the preservation of Mount Vernon. With the approach of the Civil War, he opposed secession and ran as the Constitutional Union Party candidate for Vice President in 1860. When the war came, he was an adamant supporter of the Union and backed Lincoln in the 1864 election.

When Everett was invited to deliver the main oration at Gettysburg, he took the assignment very seriously and took great care in crafting the speech, even requesting that the dedication ceremony be delayed so that he could prepare an address worthy of the occasion. One reason for the delay was so that he could interview military leaders and research the details of the battle. His speech contains a concise description of the Gettysburg Campaign, with many officers on both sides named, troop strengths, dates of actions, and unit movements. Much of the detail is undiluted by later hindsight of generals trying to inflate or protect their reputations.

Everett, ever the classical scholar, also delved into Greek history, comparing Gettysburg to the famous Battle of Marathon and describing ancient mourning practices. Like Lincoln, he called on the nation to honor the war dead:

As my eye ranges over the fields whose sods were so lately moistened by the blood of gallant and loyal men, I feel, as never before, how truly it was said of old that it is sweet and becoming to die for one's country. I feel, as never before, how justly, from the dawn of history to the present time, men have paid the homage of their gratitude and admiration to the memory of those who nobly sacrifice their lives, that their fellow-men may live in safety and in honor.

To read the complete text of the speech, see:
<http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/everett-gettysburg-address-speech-text/>

The Soldiers National Monument

William Saunders' design for the cemetery called for a central monument in the center of the semicircle of graves.

The monument was designed by the Batterson-Canfield Company of Westerly, Rhode Island. Sculptor Randolph Rogers supervised the carving of the four statues, which was done in Italy. The base and shaft are granite and the statues are marble. The monument stands sixty feet tall.



The figure of **Liberty** (left) tops the monument and she holds a sword resting on her left shoulder and holds a victor's wreath in her right hand. The four statues around the base of the monument represent History, War, Peace and Plenty.

War is portrayed as a Union soldier; he is surrounded by the implements of war. He is facing left and gesturing with his hand, telling the story of the battle.

History, a classical Greek maiden, is shown listening to War and recording his story and the names of the honored dead with pen and tablet. Around her are books that record past history of civilization.

Peace is portrayed as a man rather than as a woman as in most classical depictions. He is an industrial worker with a hammer in his hand and a cog wheel at his feet. His chair is decorated with a steam engine, tools and symbols of shipping. This sculpture is perhaps an indication of the manufacturing and transportation power of the North that helped to win the war and the nation's future as an industrial giant.

Plenty, the result of victory and peace, is another Greek maiden. She holds a sheath of wheat over her arm. Her chair is carved with a cornucopia and the fruits of the earth on one side and musical instruments on the other, indicating that peace and plenty bring time to engage in the arts.

The cornerstone for the monument was laid on July 4, 1865, just weeks after the end of the war. War and History were in place when the monument was officially dedicated on July 1, 1869. Gen. George Meade was the guest of honor and delivered a brief address. The final two statues were placed on the monument latter.

One of the old myths of Gettysburg is that the monument is on the site where Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Actually, work reburying the dead was still in progress at the time of the dedication so the speakers' platform was erected in what is now the nearby public ceremony.



War



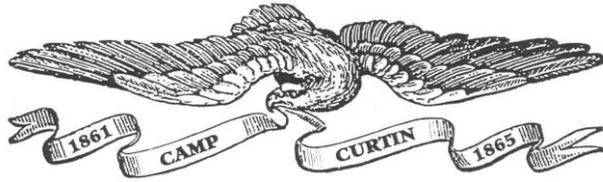
History



Plenty



Peace



The Camp Curtin Historical Society

presents

Richard Kohr

speaking on

Pickett's Charge 1922
The Marine Maneuvers at Gettysburg

2:00PM, Sunday, November 10, 2013

at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg

For ten days in 1922, 5,500 United States Marines performed maneuvers on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The highlight of this event was several reenactments of Pickett's Charge using both Civil War and "modern" tactics and equipment. Thousands of spectators witnessed the event and President Harding, General Pershing, and Pennsylvania Governor Sproul attended. This program will examine why the Marines came to Gettysburg, the results of these maneuvers and using photos will discover where on the battlefield these maneuvers took place.

Rich Kohr has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 1995. Rich is a former president of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides and has taught continuing education courses for Harrisburg Area Community College. He has also been a presenter at several of the Guide Association Seminars and has spoken to several Civil War Round Tables on a variety of topics.

This presentation is free. Bring a friend.

Admission to the museum galleries requires the purchase of a ticket.

For information call 717-732-5115 or email genjenkins@aol.com