

Chapter 1 : Lincoln's Gettysburg Addresses – Google Arts & Culture

The Gettysburg Address is a speech that U.S. President Abraham Lincoln delivered during the American Civil War at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, , four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Everyone knows the irony of that line where Lincoln says "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here" – ironic because his brief dedicatory remarks have become the most famous American speech. In fact, the Gettysburg Address must rank high among the greatest speeches anywhere. Those ancient Greek speeches may or more likely may not have actually been delivered in the literary form in which they have become immortal. Phrases from the Gettysburg Address crop up all over. Article 2 of the French Constitution, for instance, states that "The principle of the Republic shall be: In one sense, though, Lincoln was correct about the world not remembering what was said that day. Very few Americans since have bothered to read it. Lincoln, in a note to Everett the next day, praised in particular "[t]he point made against the theory of the general government being only an agency, whose principals are the States," calling it "new to me" and "one of the best arguments for the national supremacy. To understand the significance of the Gettysburg Address, we need to go beyond the noting and remembering that Lincoln modestly said would not happen. We want to understand what he accomplished and how he did it, and maybe especially how he did what he did in such brief compass. The Gettysburg Address contains three paragraphs, ten sentences, and words word counts vary slightly depending on which version of the text is used, and whether certain words like "four score," "can not," and "battle-field" are formatted as one or two words. Astonishingly, since many words are used more than once, the speech is comprised of only distinct words. Lincoln would have excelled at writing sonnets or maybe even sound bites and tweets. To truly understand how a statement so brief could run so deep and last so long, we must carefully consider its substance and structure. The three-day battle of Gettysburg took place at the beginning of July It was a Union victory with the Confederates fleeing the field on July 4th , and in retrospect we know that it was a turning point of the war, though that was not so evident at the time. The casualties were like those of so many Civil War battles: Those three days left behind 51, American dead, wounded, or missing. To gain a sense of the scale of the carnage, we might contrast it with numbers we are more familiar with: During our year involvement in Vietnam, 58, Americans died. Remember that the population in was one-tenth of what it is now. It would be 7. We are familiar today with the tendency of democratic peoples to tire of war, to quail before its terrible blood price. Politically, Lincoln was confronting just this problem of war-weariness – the way in which grief saps morale and commitment. But the problem was not limited to the passivity or hopelessness of grief. There was active resistance to the continuance of the war. In the immediate wake of the victory at Gettysburg, riots over the draft broke out in New York City. Over four days in the middle of that July, civilians were killed, including 11 black citizens who were lynched by angry mobs; hundreds of blacks fled the city; upwards of 2, people were injured; and 50 buildings burned to the ground. Some said the New York draft riots turned the Union victory into a Confederate one. The Gettysburg Address is emphatically a war speech – a speech designed to rally the North to stay the course. Many college students today do not pick up on this fact. They assume that he is commemorating all the fallen and they like him for his supposed inclusiveness, especially in contrast to the bombast and arrogance of Pericles. Perhaps their misreading might be excused, since a most unusual war speech it is. Lincoln never mentions the enemy, or rather he mentions them only by implication. When he speaks of "those who here gave their lives that that nation might live," his audience then would have been acutely aware that there were others who gave their lives that that nation might die, that it might no longer be the United States. The cemetery that was dedicated at Gettysburg was exclusively a Union cemetery. In fact, in the weeks before the dedication, the townspeople had witnessed the re-interment process, as thousands of the battle dead were exhumed from the shallow graves in which they had hastily been placed by those same local citizens back in the sweltering days of July. As they were uncovered, Union bodies were painstakingly identified and separated from Confederate bodies. While the rebels were simply reburied, coffinless, deeper in the ground where they were found to be reclaimed later

by their home states, the loyal dead were removed, further sorted into their military units, and placed in coffins and tidy lines, awaiting honorable burial in the new cemetery. No specifics are given. Thus, there is no mention of Gettysburg, just "a great battle-field. And although the opening clause, "four score and seven years ago," does refer to a specific date, Lincoln has obscured it by giving the lapse of time in Biblical language and then by requiring the listener to subtract 87 from in order to arrive at the date of The tremendous abstraction or generality of the speech is part of what explains its ability to speak to people in different eras and cultures who have no connection to the events at Gettysburg, and yet feel, as Lincoln might say, that they are "blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh" of those spoken of there, or more accurately of those spoken to there. The addressees of the speech are identified simply as "we," "the living. He summons the living to "the unfinished work" and swears them to "the great task remaining. The abstraction of the Gettysburg Address is in marked contrast to the impromptu speech that Lincoln gave on July 7th, right after the victory, when residents of the District of Columbia assembled outside the White House to serenade him. This was before the era of the Secret Service and massive barricades around the White House, when interaction between presidents and ordinary citizens was much more intimate. In his brief remarks, Lincoln prefigures points he will make at Gettysburg; however, he does so in very different language — informal and highly specific. After thanking the visitors, he says: How long ago is it? After mentioning by name Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, Lincoln goes on to describe the significance of the victory: Gentlemen, this is a glorious theme, and the occasion for a speech, but I am not prepared to make one worthy of the occasion. Four months later, he was ready. What Lincoln called "the birthday of the United States of America" in the serenade speech has been transformed into a sophisticated, poetic metaphor that refers to three distinct moments: The past that Lincoln refers to is a past that stretches back before living memory. The Lyceum Address, delivered a quarter-century earlier by a young Lincoln, was also about the founding. There, Lincoln reflected on the difficulties the nation would face once those who had personally participated in the revolution were gone. He noted how "the silent artillery of time" destroys "living history" — the kind of history that bears "the indubitable testimonies of its own authenticity, in the limbs mangled, in the scars of wounds received. In keeping with this insight into impermanence, Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address does not try to conjure up the drama of the revolution. Instead, he substitutes more peaceful, natural imagery: What happened in was that "our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation. A document, unlike historical memory, is permanent — there to be read and fully understood by each successive generation. While Lincoln is the greatest of constitutionalists, he considers the Declaration our foundational text. Note that although Lincoln acknowledges the land "this continent", he does not suggest that the nation emerges from out of the soil. Our nation is "on" the continent, not "from" or "out of" it. But "to bring forth" is another common Biblical phrase that, from Genesis forward, refers to the female role of parturition, or in the case of plants, to the visible appearance of fruit. There are even verses that apply the obstetrical metaphor politically, describing the national destiny of Israel, as in Micah 4: Our fathers are really our mothers, for they birthed a new nation. Casting back before the advent moment in to the moment of conception, Lincoln says the nation was "conceived in Liberty. How literally should this language of sexual congress be taken? Of course, "to conceive" can denote either a physical or a mental phenomenon: Before the nation could be brought forth into practical realization, it had to be thought of or imagined. Whence arose the concept? According to Lincoln, it originated "in Liberty. The result is that "Liberty" and "God" are, in effect, the only capitalized words, since none of the sentence-starting words would normally be capitalized. Why does Lincoln incarnate liberty in this way and what does it mean to be "conceived in Liberty"? Whenever the interpretation of Lincoln is at issue, the Bible is a good starting place. That psalm, known as the Miserere, is the most famous of the seven penitential psalms. In it, a contrite King David prays for a clean heart and a renewed spirit after his unjust taking of Bathsheba, the wife of the humble Uriah. The list of 41 generations the "begats" is interrupted only twice, once to interject that "David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias" and then to mention that 14 generations later the Israelites were "carried away to Babylon. William Faulkner, in *Absalom, Absalom!* In his very frank letter to his dearest friend, Joshua Speed, Lincoln uses a variant of "conceived in sin" when he declares that the Kansas-Nebraska Act "was conceived in violence, passed in violence, is maintained in violence, and is being

executed in violence. He develops three scenarios. Perhaps Lincoln means to suggest that, just as a child might be conceived in love, the nation was conceived in liberty. Liberty, or maybe love of liberty, was the seminal passion that eventually produced the nation. Or perhaps "conceived in Liberty" indicates that the idea of a new nation was freely formed and chosen. While the Declaration itself insists on the force of "necessity," Lincoln instead highlights the operation of free will; the nation was conceived in an act of liberty. One final possibility is that Lincoln means to refer further back, even centuries back, into the colonial period. Alexis de Tocqueville, for instance, argues that the spirit of liberty was present from the first in the English colonies. He explains how the aristocratic liberty of the mother country assumed a new more democratic form in the New World. If so, then British liberty was the womb the Latin is matrix within which the new nation gestated. These three speculations are not, in fact, incompatible with one another: A love of liberty, long present among the colonists, did flare up in one decisive, freely chosen act, transforming British subjects into founders. Perhaps Lincoln did not want to come anywhere near words like "revolution" or "independence" while in the midst of putting down "a gigantic Rebellion. The secessionists were in no way comparable to the American revolutionaries. Instead, he found euphemisms for the American Revolution like "brought forth" and "conceived in Liberty. Given that he was resisting those who wanted a further separation, it was not the time to praise the dissolution of political bands. Lincoln says the nation is "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. As in the moment of christening or baptism, the infant nation is placed on a certain path.

Chapter 2 : President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Lincoln at Gettysburg Photo Tour Lincoln and Gettysburg Timeline In the summer of this small southern Pennsylvania town changed forever after an historic battle raged in its streets and fields.

By Louis Jacobson on Friday, September 7th, at 3: The word address, memorized by countless schoolchildren, was delivered for the dedication of the National Cemetery of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, at the site of a bloody but pivotal battle in the Civil War. And he went up to Gettysburg, and he delivered that speech, the Gettysburg Address. And he was excoriated by the fake news. They had fake news then. They said it was far too short. Many of us know it by memory. It was far too short, and it was far too flowery. It was too flowery, four score and seven years ago, right? The part that raised our eyebrows is the notion that Lincoln, despite being lionized for his words in subsequent generations, was "ridiculed" for the address at the time. The paper, located less than an hour away from the battlefield, wrote a scathing account of the speech. For the credit of the nation we are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall be no more repeated or thought of. The Harrisburg Patriot-News and pennlive. Lincoln reached that day. The Patriot-News regrets the error. Was this a common occurrence? Anything more dull and commonplace it would not be easy to produce. The Chicago Tribune wrote, "The dedicatory remarks by President Lincoln will live among the annals of man. Lincoln was a Republican. Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era. The Democrats increasingly criticized Republicans for a seeming willingness -- in their eyes -- to waste more and more white lives for the ending of slavery while refusing to consider negotiating to end the war. But generally, in Lincoln was much more revered for the Emancipation Proclamation than the Gettysburg Address. Those sympathetic to Democrats and the South blasted it for seeming to support a continuation of the war and the goal of emancipation. The statement is accurate but requires additional information, so we rate it Mostly True.

Chapter 3 : Gettysburg Address - Wikipedia

On November 19, , at the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivers one of the most memorable speeches in.

All are similar, but none identical. The very last one provides the text that children memorize, the words which appear on the Lincoln Memorial. That story probably begins on Tuesday evening, July 7, It definitely illustrates for students of any age the value of revising and rehearsing their work. He was almost certainly doing this during the months leading up to the delivery of the Gettysburg Address. On July 7th, Lincoln explained how difficult it was for him to properly recognize individual heroes. The young man died as a prisoner of war after desperately amputating his own leg. Samuel Wilkeson then wrote what was perhaps the single most dramatic newspaper dispatch of the conflict. Samuel Wilkeson From Collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum Near the end of his widely read account, Wilkeson also offered a moving plea for why his young son had not died in vain. He had an opportunity to read them before his July 7th remarks and certainly echoed them later. These manuscripts have been named after his top aides, John G. Nicolay and John Hay, who preserved them for the historical record. The document was also carefully folded. This last detail is important because several eye-witnesses claimed afterwards that the president had pulled a folded speech out of his coat pocket on Tuesday afternoon. It is also the version that contains the greatest number of corrections made by Lincoln himself. Yet the Hay Draft was written in pen on large lined paper, with only a single fold, not likely for a reading text. Many historians believe Lincoln prepared it after he had returned to Washington. Everett had been the main orator at Gettysburg on November 19, Lincoln wrote Everett on February 4, announcing that he was sending along a manuscript for that purpose. Organizers of another Sanitary Fair in Baltimore, Maryland also approached President Lincoln in early about obtaining a facsimile of his already widely admired Gettysburg Address, once again, to help raise funds for the Union war effort. He took me by the one of his hands, and trying to recall my name, he waved the other a foot and a half above his head, and cried out, greatly to the amusement of the by-standers: Alexander Bliss, an officer in the Union army and one of the main organizers of the Baltimore Sanitary Fair. The Bancroft Copy is now held by Cornell University. Bancroft Copy detail showing the tight margins and missing header The final version of the Gettysburg Address came about because Lincoln had to fix some formatting errors. So Lincoln went to work yet again, making a last few minor adjustments. Sanitary Fairs in cities such as Baltimore and New York helped raise critical funds to support the Union war effort. He never stopped working. We must find fresh meaning in them for our own day. The Multi-Media Edition [http: Library of Congress](http://Library of Congress), See also an important new book from Martin P. University Press of Kansas, Credits: All media The story featured may in some cases have been created by an independent third party and may not always represent the views of the institutions, listed below, who have supplied the content.

Chapter 4 : When Lincoln went to Gettysburg; (Book,) [calendrierdelascience.com]

Lincoln gave this draft to Nicolay, who went to Gettysburg with Lincoln and witnessed the speech. The Library of Congress owns this manuscript. 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.

It is the only version to which Lincoln affixed his signature, and the last he is known to have written. 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 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. Begins with an acknowledgment of revered predecessors: It is difficult to find a single obviously classical reference in any of his speeches. Lincoln had mastered the sound of the King James Bible so completely that he could recast abstract issues of constitutional law in Biblical terms, making the proposition that Texas and New Hampshire should be forever bound by a single post office sound like something right out of Genesis. I brought with me additional sermons and lectures of Theodore Parker, who was warm in his commendation of Lincoln. He liked especially the following expression, which he marked with a pencil, and which he in substance afterwards used in his Gettysburg Address: It is not the creature of State legislatures; nay, more, if the whole truth must be told, the people brought it into existence, established it, and have hitherto supported it, for the very purpose, amongst others, of imposing certain salutary restraints on State sovereignties. In asserting the superiority of federal power over the states, Chief Justice Marshall stated: In form, and in substance, it emanates from them. Its powers are granted by them, and are to be exercised directly on them, and for their benefit. Lincoln gave copies to his private secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay. Robert Lincoln began a search for the original copy in , which resulted in the discovery of a handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address among the bound papers of John Hay—a copy now known as the "Hay copy" or "Hay draft". In this copy, as in the Nicolay copy, the words "under God" are not present. This version has been described as "the most inexplicable" of the drafts and is sometimes referred to as the "second draft". Those who believe that it was completed on the morning of his address point to the fact that it contains certain phrases that are not in the first draft but are in the reports of the address as delivered and in subsequent copies made by Lincoln. It is probable, they conclude, that, as stated in the explanatory note accompanying the original copies of the first and second drafts in the Library of Congress , Lincoln held this second draft when he delivered the address. The draft Lincoln sent became the third autograph copy, and is now in the possession of the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, Illinois , [43] where it is currently on display in the Treasures Gallery of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Bancroft copy The Bancroft copy [d] of the Gettysburg Address was written out by President Lincoln in February at the request of George Bancroft , the famed historian and former Secretary of the Navy , whose comprehensive ten-volume History of the United States later led him to be known as the "father of American History". As this fourth copy was written on both sides of the paper, it proved unusable for this purpose, and Bancroft was allowed to keep it. This manuscript is the only one accompanied both by a letter from Lincoln transmitting the manuscript and by the original envelope addressed and franked by Lincoln. Kroch Library at Cornell University. Discovering that his fourth written copy could not be used, Lincoln then wrote a fifth draft, which was accepted for the purpose requested. Lincoln is not

known to have made any further copies of the Gettysburg Address. It is the version that is inscribed on the South wall of the Lincoln Memorial. Cintas, former Cuban Ambassador to the United States. The Museum also launched an online exhibition and interactive gallery to enable visitors to look more closely at the document. It also differs from the drafted text in a number of minor ways. In , the printed recollections of year-old Mrs. Then there was an impressive silence like our Menallen Friends Meeting. There was no applause when he stopped speaking. The crowd was hushed into silence because the President stood before them It was so Impressive! It was the common remark of everybody. Such a speech, as they said it was! According to Garry Wills, this statement has no basis in fact and largely originates from the unreliable recollections of Lamon. In a letter to Lincoln written the following day, Everett praised the President for his eloquent and concise speech, saying, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes. The Patriot-News regrets the error. The Times of London commented: Goulden, then an eighteen-year-old school teacher, was present and heard the speech. In his later life, Goulden was often asked about the speech, since the passage of time made him one of a dwindling number of individuals who had been present for it. Like most people who came to Gettysburg, the Rathvon family was aware that Lincoln was going to make some remarks. The family went to the town square where the procession was to form to go out to the cemetery that had not been completed yet. At the head of the procession rode Lincoln on a gray horse preceded by a military band that was the first the young boy had ever seen. Rathvon describes Lincoln as so tall and with such long legs that they went almost to the ground; he also mentions the long eloquent speech given by Edward Everett of Massachusetts whom Rathvon accurately described as the "most finished orator of the day". Rathvon then goes on to describe how Lincoln stepped forward and "with a manner serious almost to sadness, gave his brief address". Rathvon recalls candidly that, although he listened "intently to every word the president uttered and heard it clearly", he explains, "boylike, I could not recall any of it afterwards". But he explains that if anyone said anything disparaging about "honest Abe", there would have been a "junior battle of Gettysburg". Photographs The only known and confirmed photograph of Lincoln at Gettysburg, [72] taken by photographer David Bachrach [73] was identified in the Mathew Brady collection of photographic plates in the National Archives and Records Administration in Cropped view of the Bachrach photo, with a red arrow indicating Lincoln. Usage of "under God" The words "under God" do not appear in the Nicolay and Hay drafts but are included in the three later copies Everett, Bancroft, and Bliss. Accordingly, some skeptics maintain that Lincoln did not utter the words "under God" at Gettysburg. His associates confirmed his testimony, which was received, as it deserved to be, at its face value. It was an uncharacteristically spontaneous revision for a speaker who did not trust extemporaneous speech. Lincoln had added impromptu words in several earlier speeches, but always offered a subsequent apology for the change. In this instance, he did not. And Lincoln included "under God" in all three copies of the address he prepared at later dates. Lincoln had come to see the Civil War as a ritual of purification. The old Union had to die. The old man had to die. Death became a transition to a new Union and a new humanity.

Chapter 5 : The History Place - Great Speeches Collection: Abraham Lincoln - The Gettysburg Address

In November , President Abraham Lincoln was invited to deliver remarks, which later became known as the Gettysburg Address, at the official dedication ceremony for the National Cemetery of.

In his eulogy on the slain president, he called the Gettysburg Address a "monumental act. The battle itself was less important than the speech. Nicolay, Hay, Everett, Bancroft and Bliss. Two copies apparently were written before delivering the speech, one of which probably was the reading copy. The remaining ones were produced months later for soldier benefit events. Despite widely-circulated stories to the contrary, the president did not dash off a copy aboard a train to Gettysburg. Lincoln carefully prepared his major speeches in advance; his steady, even script in every manuscript is consistent with a firm writing surface, not the notoriously bumpy Civil War-era trains. Additional versions of the speech appeared in newspapers of the era, feeding modern-day confusion about the authoritative text. Bliss Copy Ever since Lincoln wrote it in , this version has been the most often reproduced, notably on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers see "Bancroft Copy" below. It is the last known copy written by Lincoln and the only one signed and dated by him. Today it is on display at the Lincoln Room of the White House. 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 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. The second page is written on different paper stock, indicating it was finished in Gettysburg before the cemetery dedication began. Lincoln gave this draft to Nicolay, who went to Gettysburg with Lincoln and witnessed the speech. The Library of Congress owns this manuscript. 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 battle field of that war. We 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. 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 hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here. 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; that 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. Hay accompanied Lincoln to Gettysburg and briefly referred to the speech in his diary: 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. We are met here on a great battlefield of that war. 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. 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 can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. 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 shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. 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. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate we can not hallow this ground. 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. Bancroft Copy As noted above, historian George Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers. When Lincoln sent his copy on February 29, , he used both sides of the paper, rendering the manuscript useless for lithographic engraving. So Bancroft kept this copy and Lincoln had to produce an additional one Bliss Copy. The Bancroft copy is now owned by Cornell University. 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. 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. Source for all versions:

Chapter 6 : Lincoln at Gettysburg | National Affairs

Few people would have had "Gettysburg Address" on their bingo card for President Donald Trump's Sept. 6 rally in Billings, Mont. But Trump did riff on the famous mid-Civil War speech by.

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 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. The dreadful work of exhuming, trying to identify and then reburying corpses by state was to have completed between the first frost and the ground freezing but it would eventually take until the following spring. Wills had hoped to have the cemetery ground dedicated before any remains were moved - planning a dedication ceremony for late October but the man he wished to have deliver the required "solemn act of oratory" for such occasions, Edward Everett, needed more time to prepare - so the ceremony was moved to November 19th. Everett - called the champion of such solemn occasions - was a scholar and an Ivy League diplomat whose voice, diction and gestures held his audiences in thrall. His was to be The Gettysburg Address. In addition to Everett, President Lincoln was also invited, somewhat casually and much later than Everett, to deliver, quote, "a few appropriate remarks. Lincoln would make the most of his few remarks. Some had begun to urge the president to address not only that issue but also the significance of the conflict itself - explaining why the horrific sacrifices it required were necessary. Horace Greeley, the influential editor of the New York Tribune, begged Lincoln to express himself on "the causes of the War and the necessary conditions of peace. Lincoln had addressed parts of these issues in letters at that time intended to be printed and to be read publicly but now, at Gettysburg, he would take advantage of a unique opportunity to define his political philosophy as never before. He immediately accepted the invitation to speak, taking the responsibility very seriously in his preparation for it. As you know, in those days, there were no presidential speechwriters, or for that matter, not much of a White House staff. But then Lincoln did not need anyone to write for him. In a series on American Writers C-Span a few years ago, exploring their talent, popularity and their influence - only one president was included - Abe Lincoln. As noted in the book, "Lincoln in Memory," "his writing was clear, forceful and purposeful. What advanced education he acquired came from reading, so in a way he had some of the best teachers, and for writing, the best examples, in the world. Now, with the opportunity at Gettysburg, Lincoln would call on all of his political and literary ability in preparing the requested, "few appropriate remarks. Lincoln scholar, Harold Holzer, who told me he still wants to speak to us after having to cancel last year, says that, "The fact is no other speech in American History has ever been so warped by misconception and myth. As Garry Wills in his book, " Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America " writes, "These mythical accounts are badly out of character for Lincoln who composed his speeches thoughtfully. Those that have studied him say it is impossible for him to have waited for the last minute to write his words. Besides a president on the move, even in those days is never alone - taking advantage of trips to practice politics. Especially so on this trip with so many states represented. Andrew Carnegie added fuel to the Lincoln writing on the train myth by saying he even gave Lincoln the pencil he used to write it. No, Lincoln would not have waited to compose his thoughts. It seems likely to most historians that some time on November 17th, after giving his message much thought - he seemed to be testing ideas for it as early as November 8th, and maybe even trying a few drafts, Lincoln sat

down and wrote out on White House stationery, what would be his Gettysburg Address. It may also be said that Lincoln had been preparing for this talk his whole political life. An aside - During his weeks of giving it thought he went to a theater one night and saw a play starring John Wilkes Booth. Author David Herbert Donald, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his definitive book on Lincoln, entitled "Lincoln" writes that the actual writing went smoothly and without interruptions- a sure sign that he had reflected on his words. He had some trouble with the ending but knowing what he wanted to say, the words eventually came and not much time was needed to finish it. Circumstances say that he reviewed the speech with his trusted secretary of state, Seward, that night. A measure of how important Lincoln believed his talk to be is the fact he insisted on coming to town a day early to be sure he would be there. A good plan since some of the trains were delayed the next day. Coming before them, he begged off in a light-hearted way, saying: The inference is a very fair one that you would hear me, for a little while at least were I to commence to make a speech. The most substantial of these is that I have no speech to make. In my position it is somewhat important that I should not say foolish things. Believing that is my present condition this evening, I must beg of you to excuse me from addressing you further. Seward

The extemporaneous Lincoln was not the eloquent Lincoln. John Hay recorded this unplanned event in his diary with these words: His words then seem to have inspired some of the words he would ultimately use later. Some 80 odd years, since on the fourth of July for the first time in the history of the world a nation by its representatives assembled and declared as a self-evident truth that all men are created equal. Gentlemen this is a glorious theme and the occasion for a speech but I am not prepared to make one worthy of the occasion. Lincoln had been asked, in being invited to the services at Gettysburg to dedicate a cemetery. Instead, as scholars would later say, he dedicated the war itself to the cause of freedom and democracy - not just for his country but also for the whole world. It was as if, in preparing his talk, at the time he was preparing it with still so much confusion about what the war was all about, Lincoln was determined: Significantly, in his biblical sounding "fourscore and seven years" Lincoln confirms his belief in the founding of our country with its Declaration of Independence. As we may know, before with the onset of the war, the words "United States" were always used in the plural - as in "The United States are a republic. In his first inaugural address Lincoln used the word "Union" twenty times but did not use the word "Nation" even once. In his first address to congress on July 4th , he used the word "Union" thirty two times and the word "Nation" only three times. But now in his short Gettysburg talk Lincoln would not refer to the "Union" at all but only to the "Nation. He would complete his thoughts and the transition in his second inaugural - also a contender for his best talk - when he spoke of one side - the south - seeking to dissolve "The Union" and the other side, the north, his side, accepting a war to preserve "The Nation. What kind of a nation was it for Lincoln? One, "dedicated to the principle that "all men are created equal. The proclamation however, whatever anyone thought at the time, was the beginning of the end of slavery in this country. In invoking the Declaration of Independence at Gettysburg, with its recognition of equality, Lincoln officially recognized a new objective for the war - he would save the union - and he would end slavery. In later unofficial negotiations with the south, Lincoln had only two conditions for it to end the war - return to the union and end slavery. Our nation was for Lincoln a democracy - "ofâ€byâ€and for the people" - all the people. It was a democracy that was and would be an example for the rest of the world. The Civil War, to Lincoln, was really a test of that experiment - one that had to be passed or self government would, in his mind and words, "perish from the earth. According to Wills, "Lincoln is not here just to sweeten the air at Gettysburg but to clear the infected atmosphere of America history itself, tainted with official sins and inherited guilt. He would cleanse the Constitutionâ€ from within, by appeal from its letter to its spirit. They walked offâ€into a new America. Lincoln had revolutionized the revolution, giving a new past to live with that would change their future - the future of our country - indefinitely. Lincoln had served notice that he meant to win the whole war- in ideological terms as well as military ones. The Civil War is to most Americans - what Lincoln wanted it to mean. His words had complimented and completed the work of the soldiers but sadly not to the extent they may have if he had lived to lead the reconstruction of the eventually defeated south. Some history records his words being interrupted at least five times by applause and others none. Just as unlikely is it that there was no applause. Just as it seemed Lincoln was just getting started, he was finished, so there may have been some confusion because of this.

Politicians even in those days were not known for short talks. Hay The preponderance of evidence suggests that the crowd appreciated the talk. Another version has Lincoln adding that it went over like a "wet blanket. There are no creditable sources for Lincoln believing his talk was a failure. Lincoln, of course, did not need his live listeners to achieve his goals with his address. He knew, as usual, his speech would be printed in all the leading papers of his day - at least in the north. He even took pains to be sure one reporter, from the Associated Press, got it right by showing him his written words after the ceremony. It was the custom in those days for stenographers-correspondents to try to make verbatim copies of the spoken words at such occasions. Sometimes there were as many versions of talks as there were stenographers - and errors were made. Lincoln, as he did with other major talks, wanted to be sure at least one stenographer got it right. Lincoln was too good a reader and a writer not to know that he had written a good talk. As Harold Holzer puts it in an essay on the Gettysburg myths, "The Gettysburg Address would live because Lincoln made certain that it lived; by giving his transcript to the Associated Press; by writing additional copies for souvenirs and a charity auction and by basking in the knowledge that it would be reprinted worldwide - and praised, at least in Republican journals - from the beginning the Gettysburg Address would be recognized and applaudedâ€" So how was the talk treated in the press at the time? It called that invocation, "a perversion of history so flagrant that the most extended charity cannot regard it as otherwise than willful. We are willing that the veil of oblivion shall be dropped over them and that they shall no more repeated or thought of. A compact that said nothing whatever about equality. As someone who enjoys history, especially the Civil War era and more especially Abraham Lincoln, I wish there would be some way to take the myths out of the history of this era and this man. Instead it seems more myths posing as facts, as such things too often do, appear with almost every new book on these subjects. One of the best-named books on Lincoln is, "The Lincoln Enigma. Sometimes it seems the more I read about him and hear about him; the less I seem to know - at least for sure. However, I believe him to be a simple courageous man with flaws and an exceptional mind who did what he thought was best for humanity. One who is best understood in his own words, without the intense analysis added by well meaning, and others not so well meaning, interpreters of his work.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln went to Gettysburg, the place of America's greatest suffering, to offer his "few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

Overview map of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, Herr Ridge, McPherson Ridge and Seminary Ridge Anticipating that the Confederates would march on Gettysburg from the west on the morning of July 1, Buford laid out his defenses on three ridges west of the town: Archer and Joseph R. They proceeded easterly in columns along the Chambersburg Pike. According to lore, the Union soldier to fire the first shot of the battle was Lt. Jones returned to Gettysburg to mark the spot where he fired the first shot with a monument. Iron Brigade under Brig. Solomon Meredith enjoyed initial success against Archer, capturing several hundred men, including Archer himself. Shelby Foote wrote that the Union cause lost a man considered by many to be "the best general in the army. Abner Doubleday assumed command. Fighting in the Chambersburg Pike area lasted until about 2:00. It resumed around 2:00. By the end of the three-day battle, they had about 30,000 men standing, the highest casualty percentage for one battle of any regiment, North or South. Howard raced north on the Baltimore Pike and Taneytown Road. By early afternoon, the U. S. Army's XI Corps was unable to deploy in time to strengthen the line, so Doubleday was forced to throw in reserve brigades to salvage his line. The Confederate brigades of Col. Alfred Iverson suffered severe losses assaulting the I Corps division of Brig. Robinson south of Oak Hill. Barlow was wounded and captured in the attack. Howard ordered a retreat to the high ground south of town at Cemetery Hill, where he had left the division of Brig. Adolph von Steinwehr in reserve. Hancock assumed command of the battlefield, sent by Meade when he heard that Reynolds had been killed. He sent orders to Ewell that Cemetery Hill be taken "if practicable. Law had begun the march from Guilford. Both arrived late in the morning. The shape of the Union line is popularly described as a "fishhook" formation. The attack sequence was to begin with Maj. Lafayette McLaws , advanced, they unexpectedly found Maj. Sickles had been dissatisfied with the position assigned him on the southern end of Cemetery Ridge. This created an untenable salient at the Peach Orchard; Brig. His brigade of four relatively small regiments was able to resist repeated assaults by Brig. Chamberlain but possibly led by Lt. Melcher , was one of the most fabled episodes in the Civil War and propelled Col. Chamberlain into prominence after the war. It now had a full mile to advance and Rock Creek had to be crossed. This could only be done at few places and involved much delay. Greene behind strong, newly constructed defensive works. Once started, fighting was fierce: Harris of the Union 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, came under a withering attack, losing half his men. Avery was wounded early on, but the Confederates reached the crest of the hill and entered the Union breastworks, capturing one or two batteries. Seeing he was not supported on his right, Hays withdrew. His right was to be supported by Robert E. Longstreet would attack the U. S. Army's Harry Pfanz judged that, after some seven hours of bitter combat, "the Union line was intact and held more strongly than before. Prior to the attack, all the artillery the Confederacy could bring to bear on the U. S. Army. In his memoirs, Longstreet described their discussion as follows:

Chapter 8 : The History Place - Battle of Gettysburg

The Gettysburg Address is a speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln at the November 19, , dedication of Soldier's National Cemetery, a cemetery for Union soldiers killed at the Battle Of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

Battle of Gettysburg This most famous and most important Civil War Battle occurred over three hot summer days, July 1 to July 3, , around the small market town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It began as a skirmish but by its end involved , Americans. Before the battle, major cities in the North such as Philadelphia, Baltimore and even Washington itself, were under threat of attack from General Robert E. Meade, marched to intercept Lee. The Confederate commander looked through his field glasses and spotted a long column of Federal cavalry heading toward the town. He withdrew his brigade and informed his superior, Gen. Henry Heth, who in turn told his superior, A. Hill, he would go back the following morning and "get those shoes. They ran into Federal cavalry west of the town at Willoughby Run and the skirmish began. Events would quickly escalate. Lee rushed 25, men to the scene while the Union had less than 20, After much fierce fighting and heavy casualties on both sides, the Federals were pushed back through the town of Gettysburg and regrouped south of the town along the high ground near the cemetery. Lee ordered Confederate General R. Ewell to seize the high ground from the battle weary Federals "if practicable. Ewell hesitated to attack thereby giving the Union troops a chance to dig in along Cemetery Ridge and bring in reinforcements with artillery. By the time Lee realized Ewell had not attacked, the opportunity had vanished. Meade arrived at the scene and thought it was an ideal place to do battle with the Rebel army. He expected a massive number of Union soldiers totaling up to , to arrive and strengthen his defensive position. Confederate General James Longstreet saw the Union position as nearly impregnable and told Lee it should be left alone. He argued that the Confederate Army should instead move east, between the Union Army and Washington and build a defensive position thus forcing the Federals to attack them instead. But Lee believed his army was invincible and he was also without his much needed cavalry which served as his eyes and ears, helping him to track Union troop movements. Cavalry leader Jeb Stuart had gone off with his troops to harass the Federals. Longstreet was ordered by Lee to attack. The Federals had lost some ground during the Rebel onslaught but still held the strong defensive position along Cemetery Ridge. Both sides regrouped and counted their casualties while the moaning and sobbing of thousands of wounded men on the slopes and meadows south of Gettysburg could be heard throughout the night under the blue light of a full moon. Generals from each side gathered in war councils to plan for the coming day. Union commander Meade decided his army would remain in place and wait for Lee to attack. On the Confederate side, Longstreet once again tried to talk Lee out of attacking such a strong position. But Lee thought the battered Union soldiers were nearly beaten and would collapse under one final push. He decided to gamble to win the Battle of Gettysburg and in effect win the Civil War by attacking the next day at the center of the Union line along Cemetery Ridge where it would be least expected. To do this he would send in the fresh troops of Gen. Along with this, Gen. But as dawn broke on Friday, July 3, about 4: The Rebels did not withdraw, but instead attacked the Federals around 8 a. Thus began a vicious three hour struggle with the Rebels charging time after time up the hill only to be beaten back. The Federals finally counter attacked and drove the Rebels off the hill and east across Rock Creek. An eerie quiet settled over the whole battlefield. Once again, Lee encountered opposition to his battle plan from Longstreet. Lee estimated about 15, men would participate in the Rebel charge on Cemetery Ridge. Longstreet responded, "It is my opinion that no 15, men ever arrayed for battle can take that position. The plan would go on as ordered. Several hours before, Meade had correctly predicted Lee would attack the center, but now thought otherwise. He left only 5, infantrymen stretched out along the half-mile front to initially face the 13, man Rebel charge. Around noon, Union and Confederate cavalry troops clashed three miles east of Gettysburg but Stuart was eventually repulsed by punishing cannon fire and the Union cavalry led in part by 23 year old Gen. The Rebel diversion attempt failed. Back at the main battle site, just after 1 p. This was the heaviest artillery barrage of the war. The Federals returned heavy cannon fire and soon big clouds of blinding smoke and choking dust hung over the battlefield. Pickett went to see Longstreet and asked, "General, shall I advance? Thus the order

was given. In deliberate silence and with military pageantry from days gone by, they slowly headed toward the Union Army a mile away on Cemetery Ridge as the Federals gazed in wonder at this spectacular sight. But as the Rebels got within range, Federal cannons using grapeshot a shell containing iron balls that flew apart when fired and deadly accurate rifle volleys ripped into the Rebels killing many and tearing holes in the advancing line. What had been, just moments before, a majestic line of Rebel infantry, quickly became a horrible mess of dismembered bodies and dying wounded accompanied by a mournful roar. But the Rebels continued on. As they got very close, the Rebels stopped and fired their rifles once at the Federals then lowered their bayonets and commenced a running charge while screaming the Rebel yell. A fierce battle raged for an hour with much brutal hand to hand fighting, shooting at close range and stabbing with bayonets. For a brief moment, the Rebels nearly had their chosen objective, a small clump of oak trees atop Cemetery Ridge. But Union reinforcements and regrouped infantry units swarmed in and opened fire on the Rebel ranks. Lee rode out and met the survivors, telling them, "It is all my fault. The tide of the war was now permanently turned against the South. Confederate casualties in dead, wounded and missing were 28, out of 75, Union casualties were 23, out of 88, That night and into the next day, Saturday, July 4, Confederate wounded were loaded aboard wagons that began the journey back toward the South. Lee was forced to abandon his dead and begin a long slow withdrawal of his army back to Virginia. Union commander Meade, out of fatigue and caution, did not immediately pursue Lee, infuriating President Lincoln who wrote a bitter letter to Meade never delivered saying he missed a "golden opportunity" to end the war right there. It rained on July 4, making battlefield cleanup and burial difficult. Later, a few photographers, including Mathew Brady, visited the scene and took Battlefield photographs. On November 19, President Lincoln went to the battlefield to dedicate it as a military cemetery. The main orator, Edward Everett of Massachusetts, delivered a two hour formal address. The president then had his turn. He spoke in his high, penetrating voice and in a little over two minutes delivered the Gettysburg Address , surprising many in the audience by its shortness and leaving others quite unimpressed. Over time, however, the speech and its words - government of the People, by the People, for the People - have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

Chapter 9 : Was Lincoln's Gettysburg Address initially ridiculed, as Donald Trump said? | PolitiFact

Several months later, President Lincoln went to Gettysburg to speak at the dedication of the cemetery for the Union war dead. Speaking of a "new birth of freedom," he delivered one of the most memorable speeches in U.S. history.

Gettysburg National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 3,000 Union soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, a Union victory often cited as a turning point in the Civil War. Numerous monuments stand in both the cemetery and battlefield to commemorate the Union and Confederate troops who fought there. His two-minute speech served as a reminder of the sacrifices of war and the necessity of holding the Union together. A visitors center and museum offer tours and auto, cycling, and hiking paths to park guests. In June 1863, Confederate forces under the command of Robert E. Lee pushed into Union territory. Union forces responded to the invading army, culminating in a confrontation near the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For three days, more than 150,000 soldiers clashed in a series of Confederate assaults and Union defenses. More than 12,000 Confederate soldiers marched on the Union position, coming under intense artillery fire. Union guns decimated the attacking Confederates, injuring or killing nearly 50 percent of the approaching brigades. Three days of fighting at Gettysburg took a horrible toll on both sides, 10,000 soldiers killed or mortally wounded, 30,000 injured, and 10,000 captured or missing. Burial work commenced quickly as fears of epidemic rose. The dead were hastily buried in shallow graves on the battlefield, crudely identified by pencil writing on wooden boards. With the support of the Pennsylvania Governor, a committee formed to select an appropriate site for the cemetery and oversee the interment of Union remains. State-appropriated funds purchased the property, and the reburial process began four months after the battle on October 27, 1863. Confederate burials did not receive placement in the national cemetery. A few Confederates do remain interred at Gettysburg National Cemetery. The cemetery committee chose Massachusetts statesman and orator Edward Everett to deliver the main speech. Landscape architect William Saunders designed the cemetery as a wide semi-circle, radiating from a central point to be decorated with a grand monument. Reinterments continued through March 1864. The Batterson-Canfield Company provided the design of the monument, a granite memorial with a shaft rising from a four-cornered pedestal and decorated with sculptures by Randolph Rogers. At the sides of the pedestal are four marble statues representing war, history, plenty, and peace. The monument is notable as being near the location of the dais of the dedication ceremony where Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. By 1864, construction of the cemetery was complete, and administration of the national cemetery transferred to the Federal Government. In 1864, the cemetery erected a rostrum near the Taneytown Road entrance. While far from the site where Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, the brick rostrum served as a platform for other presidents attending memorial ceremonies at Gettysburg, including Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Today, more than 6,000 veterans lay at rest in the national cemetery. The cemetery, adjacent to the visitor center, is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Parking for the cemetery is a lot located between Taneytown Rd. Additional cemetery policies may be posted on site. The Battle of Gettysburg is the subject of an online lesson plan, Choices and Commitments: The Soldiers at Gettysburg. The lesson explores the actions of Union and Confederate forces, personal stories of the soldiers, and the significance of the Gettysburg Address. To learn more, visit the Teaching with Historic Places home page.