

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War



'Bloody Lane' at Antietam (MD)

### Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter October 2011

#### 2011/2012 Meeting Schedule

**20 October:** *What if the South Had Won?* John Burke will be looking at what might have happened if the South had been successful in seceding from the United States. He encourages everyone coming to the meeting to bring along their own ideas about what the consequences might have been. **Refreshments:** Judy & John

**17 November:** *Civil War Medicine on the Home Front: The U.S. Sanitary Commission.* Pat Munson-Siter will be covering the efforts of those at home during the war to support the efforts of their warriors, from sending care packages to the troops to helping nurse the sick and wounded back to health.

**Refreshments:** Mike Houdard &

**No meetings in January or February 2012.**

**15 March:** **Refreshments:** Mary Ann Donlin has donated money for refreshments in March, in honor of Clark Donlin, one of the founders of our group and researcher into the life of Col. Henry Sawyer, Cape May Civil War Hero.

**19 April:**

**17 May:**

**21 June:**

**19 July:**

**16 Aug:**

**20 Sept:**

**18 Oct:**

**15 Nov:**

**?? Dec:**

**REMINDER:  
DUES FOR 2012  
DUE NOW!!!!**

## CMCCWRT Officers for 2010 – 2011

Temporary President: John Burke  
4- Secluded Ln., Rio Grande, NJ 08242-1527

Vice President: Lou Bishop Jr.  
21 Schoolhouse Ln, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
609-463-9277 or 741-5438  
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42 Franklin Ave., Villas, NJ 08251-2407  
609-287-5097  
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Treasurer: Jim Marshall  
202 Bartram Ln., Ocean City, NJ 08226  
609-398-6924  
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### Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Cape May County Civil War Round Table Sept 2011

President Lolli brought the meeting to order. We saluted the flag and held a moment of silence for those standing in harm's way in order to protect us.

Treasurer Marshall gave his report; motion made and passed to accept it and file it for audit.

President Lolli announced that he was stepping down due to medical issues. John Burke, past president of the Round Table, will be taking his place for the remainder of the year.

Vice President Gibson has also had to step down due to family commitments.

A nomination committee was appointed to come up with a new slate of officers for 2012. Anyone interested in serving should announce their intentions at the next meeting.

President Lolli also brought up the subject of the location for our meetings in 2012. Using the Senior Center in Court House has become more and more expensive, and our budget is getting to the point where the costs associated with its use (insurance, rent, etc.) is becoming prohibitive. Several people will be investigating other possible sites, and will report back in October.

Vice President Bishop is setting up our December Christmas Dinner meeting and should have more information at the next meeting.

There being no other business, President Lolli adjourned the meeting and we settled in to enjoy the presentation on General Meade at Fredericksburg.

Submitted with Respect,

Pat Munson-Siter  
Secretary, Cape May County Civil War Round Table

## Historical Civil War Events in November

### 1860

November 6 Lincoln elected to Presidency

### 1861

November 6 Jefferson Davis elected to 6 year term as president of the Confederacy

### 1862

Nothing of note happened

### 1863

November 6 Battle of Droop Mountain, WV

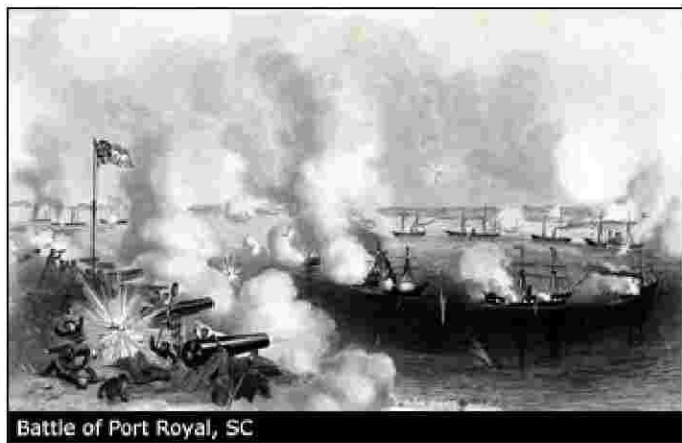
November 19 Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address

November 23-25 Battles for Chattanooga, TN (Lookout Mountain & Missionary Ridge)

### 1864

November 8 Lincoln elected for 2<sup>nd</sup> term

November 15 Gen. Sherman begins his "March to the Sea"



Battle of Port Royal, SC

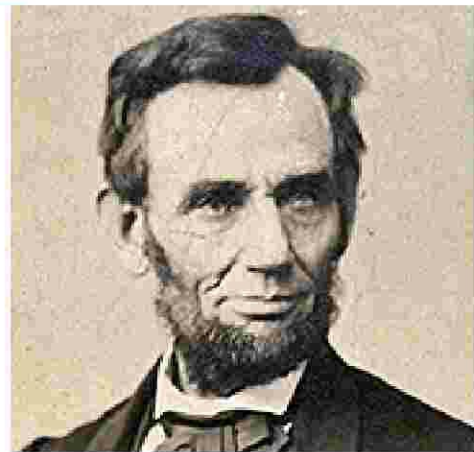
## Civil War Related Events in November

- 2 **VA** Lecture, "Lincoln, Race and the Fragile American Republic," at the Wortmann Ballroom, Roanoke College in Roanoke. 7:30 pm. Free. [www.roanoke.edu](http://www.roanoke.edu) (click on events).
- 3 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 5 **DE** Lecture, "From the Crater to a Tree Near Smyrna: The Tragic Odyssey of Obie Evans and other African Americans in Civil War Delaware," at the Delaware Public Archives, 121 Duke of York St, Dover. 10:30 am. Free. [www.archives.delaware.gov](http://www.archives.delaware.gov).
- 5 **MD** Lecture, "Black Military Experience," with focus on the Civil War, at the Mount Claire Museum House in Baltimore. Noon. \$5. [www.mountclaire.org](http://www.mountclaire.org).

- 5 **MD** Living history, "Elizabeth Keckly: My First Year in the White House," at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org).
- 5 **VA** Living history, "The Turnpike of Terror," haunting tales at the Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway (Route 50), near Aldie. 7:30 pm. \$5/adult. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).
- 5 **VA** Bus tour, "Winchester and area," includes Stonewall Jackson headquarters, Kernstown and Cool Spring battlefields. Begins at the Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road, Franconia, at 8 am. \$100. 703-971-4984.
- 5 **VA** Living history, "Heritage Day at the Mill," includes Civil War living history at the Burwell-Morgan Mill in Millwood. Noon to 5pm. Free. [www.clarkehistory.org](http://www.clarkehistory.org).
- 5 **VA** Van tour, "Howlett Line." Visit the Confederate defenses between Richmond and Petersburg (Bermuda Hundred). Begins at Henricus Historical Park, 301 Henricus Park Road, Chester (south of Richmond). 2-5 pm. \$12. Registration: [www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com).
- 5 **VA** Luminaria, "A Ceremony on Hallowed Ground," at the Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park. Guided walks at 6 and 7 pm. Free. The park is located between Amelia and Farmville. Call 804-561-7510 for details and directions.
- 5-6 **NC** Reenactment at Fort Branch near Hamilton. Camps, exhibits, demonstrations, music and battles each day. Small parking charge. [www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com](http://www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com).
- 6 **VA** Music, "Portrait of the American Civil War," performed by the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Chorus and the Washington Symphonic Brass at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. 3 pm. Reservations: [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org).
- 6 **VA** Living history, infantry and artillery demonstrations on Henry Hill in the Manassas National Battlefield Park. 11 am-2 pm. Free with park fee. [www.nps.gov/mana](http://www.nps.gov/mana).
- 9 **VA** Lecture, "Specimen Days: Walt Whitman, Virginia and the Civil War," at the Wortmann Ballroom, Roanoke College in Roanoke. 7-9 pm. Free. [www.roanoke.edu](http://www.roanoke.edu) (click on events).
- 9 **VA** "Civil War Conversation: Letters and Diaries" at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. 804-649-1861 or [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).
- 10 **MD** Lecture, "The Role of Sharpshooters in the Civil War," at Carroll Community College in Westminster. 6:30 pm. \$35. More info, register: (click on Personal Enrichment, then History, Culture) or 410-386-8100.
- 10 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 12 **DC** "Georgetown Civil War House & Walking Tours," offered by Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, 1644 31st St NW, Washington. Special house tour 10:30



- am, Georgetown walking tour 12:30 pm. \$10/each, \$15 for both. 202-965-0400 or [www.tudorplace.org](http://www.tudorplace.org).
- 12 **★** **VA** "Years of Anguish II: Virginia Goes to War," featuring speakers Gary Gallagher and Peter Carmichael, at the Dodd Auditorium, University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg. 1-5 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp).
- 12 **VA** Conference, "The Civil War Comes to Fairfax County," local historians and authors speak at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 8:30 am-4 pm. \$20. Registration, more info: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/event.htm).
- 12 **VA** Luminary, 6,000 candles at the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 5-8 pm. Free. 804-732-3531 extension 208 or [www.nps.gov/pete](http://www.nps.gov/pete).
- 12-13 **SC** Reenactment, "Battle of Secessionville," at Boone Hall Plantation, 1235 Long Point Road, Mt. Pleasant (near Charleston). Camps, talks, demonstrations and battles at 3 pm Saturday and 2 pm Sunday. Camps open 9 am-6 pm each day. \$17.50/adult includes house tour. Tickets: [www.battleofsecessionville.org](http://www.battleofsecessionville.org).
- 13 **VA** Lecture, "The Confederates Gather Steam: The Great Train Raid of 1861," at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway (Route 50), Aldie. 3 pm. \$5. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).
- 13 **VA** Book Talk, "A Little Short of Boats: The Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry," at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. 703-257-8453.
- 13 **VA** Lecture, "The Women's Story during Civil War Day," focus on Mennonite and Brethren women in the Valley at Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren, 2788 Taylor Spring Lane, Harrisonburg. 4 pm. 540-438-1275.
- 13 **VA** Ranger talk, "They Also Served: Animals in the Civil War," at the Eastern Front visitor center, Petersburg National Battlefield. 3 pm. Free with park admission. [www.nps.gov/pete](http://www.nps.gov/pete).
- 13 **VA** Walking tour, "Freedman's Farm and Confederate Winter Camp Site Walking Tour," at Montpelier, home of President James Madison. 2 pm. Free with admission. 540-672-2728 or [www.montpelier.org](http://www.montpelier.org).
- 16 **VA** Lectures, "The Effects of the Civil War on Roanoke College" and "The Salem Community and the Civil War," at the Wortmann Ballroom, Roanoke College in Roanoke. 7-9 pm. Free.
- 17 **MD** Lecture, "The Common Soldier in the Civil War," at Carroll Community College in Westminster. 6:30 pm. \$35. More info, register: (click on Personal Enrichment, then History, Culture) or 410-386-8100.
- 17 **VA** Tour, "Servant Life in the Confederate White House," special look at the Richmond landmark. 11:15 am. \$9. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org) or 804-649-1861.
- 18 **VA** Talk, "The Trent Affair," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).
- 18 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," a special program at the Gettysburg Cyclorama. 6-7:30 pm. \$30. [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).
- 19 **DC** Living history walking tour, "Courage! The Civil War in Washington, 1861, The Storm Begins." Meets 11 am at 10th and E streets NW (Cosi Coffee). \$10/adult. No reservations necessary. [www.historicstrolls.com](http://www.historicstrolls.com) or 301-588-9255.
- 19 **VA** Boat Tour, "Civil War on the James," begins at Deep Bottom Boat Landing southeast of downtown Richmond. Two-hour tours begin at 10:30 am and 1 pm. \$40. Reservations: 804-938-2350.
- 19 **VA** Walking tour, "Fort Huger," Confederate fort on the James River (15080 Talcott Terrace, Smithfield, follow signs from Route 10). 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 19 **VA** Living history tours, "Thanksgiving in the Trenches," popular evening program at the Petersburg National Battlefield. Tours at 6, 7 and 8 pm. Reservation only (open Nov. 1): 804-732-3531 extension 205 or [www.nps.gov/pete](http://www.nps.gov/pete).
- 19 **PA** "Stories and Songs of a Civil War Hospital," a candlelight program at Christ Church, 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 19 **PA** Annual Remembrance Day parade, ceremony and illumination commemorating Lincoln's address in Gettysburg. Memorial service 10:15 am at the Soldier's National Cemetery, parade begins 1 pm, illumination in the evening at the cemetery. Details [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) or 717-334-1124 extension 8023.
- 19-20 **VA** Civil War Show, relics, books and more for show and sale at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. \$8. [www.mikekentshows.net](http://www.mikekentshows.net).
- 20 **VA** Lecture, "Lincoln, A Bodyguard's View of the President," at Mount Zion Church, 40309 John Mosby Highway (Route 50), Aldie. 3 pm. \$5. [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org).
- 30 **VA** Lecture, "1861: The Civil War Awakening" at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Noon. \$6. [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org) or 804-358-4901.





## The Gettysburg Address

### From the Library of Congress Website

"Fourscore 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 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."

Abraham Lincoln was the second speaker on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg. Lincoln was preceded on the podium by the famed orator Edward Everett, who spoke to the crowd for two hours. Lincoln followed with his now immortal Gettysburg Address. On November 20, Everett wrote to Lincoln: "Permit me also to express my great admiration of the thoughts expressed by you, with such eloquent simplicity & appropriateness, at the consecration of the Cemetery. 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."

### Genesis of the Gettysburg Address

The theme of the Gettysburg Address was not entirely new. President Lincoln was aware of Daniel Webster's statement in 1830 that the origin of our government and the source of its power is "the people's constitution, the people's government; made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people." Lincoln had read Supreme Court Justice John Marshall's opinion, which states: "The government of the Union...is emphatically and truly a government of the people. on them, and for their benefit." In a ringing anti-slavery address in Boston in 1858, Rev Theodore Parker, the noted minister, defined democracy as "a government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people." On a copy of this address in Lincoln's papers, this passage is encircled with pencil marks. But Lincoln did not merely repeat this theme; he transformed it into America's greatest patriotic utterance. With the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln gave meaning to the sacrifice of the dead—he gave inspiration to the living.

Rather than accept the address as a few brief notes hastily prepared on the route to Gettysburg (an assumption which has long gained much public acceptance) it should be regarded as a pronouncement of the high purpose dominant in Lincoln's thinking throughout the war. Habitually cautious of words in public address, spoken or written, it is not likely that the President, on such an occasion, failed to give careful thought to the words which he would speak. After receiving the belated invitation on November 2, he yet had ample time to prepare for the occasion, and the well-known correspondent Noah Brooks stated that several days before the dedication Lincoln told him in Washington that his address would be "short, short, short" and that it was 'written, but not finished.'

## The Five Autographed Copies of the Gettysburg Address

Even after his arrival at Gettysburg the President continued to put finishing touches on his address. The first page of the original text was written in ink on a sheet of Executive Mansion paper. The second page, either written or revised at the Willis residence, was in pencil on a sheet of foolscap, and, according to Lincoln's secretary, Nicolay, the few words changed in pencil at the bottom of the first page were added while in Gettysburg. The second draft of the address was written in Gettysburg probably on the morning of its delivery, as 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 probably, as stated in the explanatory note accompanying the original copies of the first and second drafts in the Library of Congress, that it was the second draft which Lincoln held in his hand when he delivered the address. Quite opposite to Lincoln's feeling, expressed soon after the delivery of the address, that it 'would not scour,' the President lived long enough to think better of it himself and to see it widely accepted as a masterpiece. Early in 1864, Mr. Everett requested him to join in presenting manuscripts of the two addresses given at Gettysburg to be bound in a volume and sold for the benefit of stricken soldiers at a Sanitary Commission Fair in New York. The draft Lincoln sent became the third autograph copy, known as the Everett-Keyes copy, and it is now in the possession of the Illinois State Historical Library.

George Bancroft requested a copy in April 1864, to be included in *Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors*. This volume was to be sold at a Soldiers' and Sailors' Fair in Baltimore. As this fourth copy was written on both sides of the paper, it proved unusable for this purpose, and Mr. Bancroft was allowed to keep it. This autograph draft is known as the Bancroft copy, as it remained in the family for many years. It has recently been presented to the Cornell University Library. Finding that the copy written for *Autograph Leaves* could not be used, Mr. Lincoln wrote another, a fifth draft, which was accepted for the purpose requested. It is the only draft to which he affixed his signature. In all probability it was the last copy written by Lincoln, and because of the apparent care in its preparation it has become the standard version of the address. This draft was owned by the family of Col. Alexander Bliss, publisher of *Autograph Leaves*; and is known as the Bliss copy. It now hangs in the Lincoln Room of the White House, a gift of Oscar B. Cintas, former Cuban Ambassador to the United States.

Of the five known manuscript copies of the Gettysburg Address, the Library of Congress has two. President Lincoln gave one of these to each of his two private secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay. The other three copies of the Address were written by Lincoln for charitable purposes well after November 19. The copy for Edward Everett, the orator who spoke at Gettysburg for two hours prior to Lincoln, is at the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. The Bancroft copy, requested by historian George Bancroft, is at Cornell University in New York. The Bliss copy was made for Colonel Alexander Bliss, Bancroft's stepson, and is now in the Lincoln Room of the White House.

### *Did Lincoln add extemporaneously the phrase 'under God' as he delivered the last sentence of the Address?*

Prior to the moment he rose to make the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln had not written the phrase 'under God' into the final sentence of the text; for the undisputed evidence shows that the written text of the Address, which he held in his lap as he sat on the platform at Cemetery Hill and waited for Edward Everett to end his speech, does not contain the phrase. But did he speak the phrase to the audience gathered before him?

Proof of the fact he did depends upon accepting as true the newspaper reports of the speech that were printed the day following Lincoln's delivery of the speech. The New York newspaper reports, including the phrase 'under God' in the text of the spoken speech, were based on the statement of Joseph L. Gilbert, a member of the staff of the Associated Press, who claimed he wrote the phrase down as he recorded what he heard Lincoln say. The evidence shows, however, that Gilbert did not record accurately what Lincoln actually said; for example, his version of Lincoln's speech leaves out the adjective—poor—in the phrase 'our poor power.' Still other reporters present also appear to have included the



phrase 'under God' as having been spoken, though they, too, are not completely accurate in giving the exact words of his speech.

Several months later, Edward Everett wrote Lincoln, requesting an autograph copy of the text of the Address which Everett wished to include with his publication of his own quite lengthy speech, given before Lincoln spoke. The text Lincoln sent Everett includes the phrase 'under God' as does the text Lincoln later sent to George Bancroft, the last version of the text known to be in Lincoln's own hand.

The evidence shows that Lincoln spent much time molding and refining the text of his speech before he gave it, writing and rewriting it, deleting words and phrases, adding new ones, etc. In the process of doing this, including here the long hours that he held the text in his lap waiting for Everett to finish speaking, it is clear that Lincoln did not include 'under God' in the Address. Yet, when he rose and spoke for barely five minutes, he suddenly improvised by adding the phrase ad lib? This is strange human behavior, indeed, for a man known to have taken great pains to prepare the text, to not pencil in the phrase into the text as it occurred to him as he waited to speak through the offered prayers, the songs, and the speeches that went before he rose to speak.

Perhaps the human explanation for the presence of the phrase in the history of the event lies in the politics of the moment, rather than in the nature of his speech making or in his thoughts about 'God.' The fact was that the newspaper reports attributed the phrase to him and, in providing Everett and Bancroft with their copies, he saw no practical reason for disputing it.

*The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Rutgers University Press (1953, is the authoritative text for Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. In Vol VIII, the editors give us this

**The First Draft** does not contain the phrase "under God" in the final paragraph. The first page of this draft was written in ink on Executive Mansion stationery before Lincoln went to Gettysburg. The page ends in an incomplete sentence which infers that a second page was written in Washington. There is no existing original page, however, that has been found that is written in ink. The only existing second page written in Lincoln's hand, is written in pencil on lined paper. It shows indications of being a copy made by Lincoln an original page he threw away, perhaps because it had been overwritten.

When Lincoln made the penciled copy is uncertain. If we believe John G. Nicolay, Lincoln wrote the second page at Gettysburg.

The second page, written in pencil by Lincoln's hand, reads in the last sentence: "that this nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

**The Second Draft:** This draft is written in Lincoln's hand on paper similar to that of the first draft. It does not contain the phrase "under God" in the last sentence. Lincoln probably spoke with this draft in front of him.

While Nicolay writes about "a new autograph copy" written sometime after the event, Nicolay's account, published many years after the event of the Gettysburg Address, is incomplete, vague and shows no acquaintance with the second draft. No other document containing the address, written in Lincoln's hand, exists.

The phrase "under God" appears in the New York newspapers version of the address Lincoln gave. The text the newspapers printed came from an Associated Press reporter Joseph I Gilbert. According to Gilbert's later account, his text came partly from his shorthand notes and partly from Lincoln's manuscript. In order to accept Gilbert's rendition of what Lincoln actually said, we have to believe Gilbert wrote down accurately what Lincoln said. That he did not embellish. It must be understood here that Lincoln was speaking in the cemetery, before a large crowd, and whether or not his voice could be heard clearly to Gilbert's ear, no one can ever know. It is clear that Gilbert did not record precisely what Lincoln actually said. Lincoln's manuscript reads, for example, "Our poor

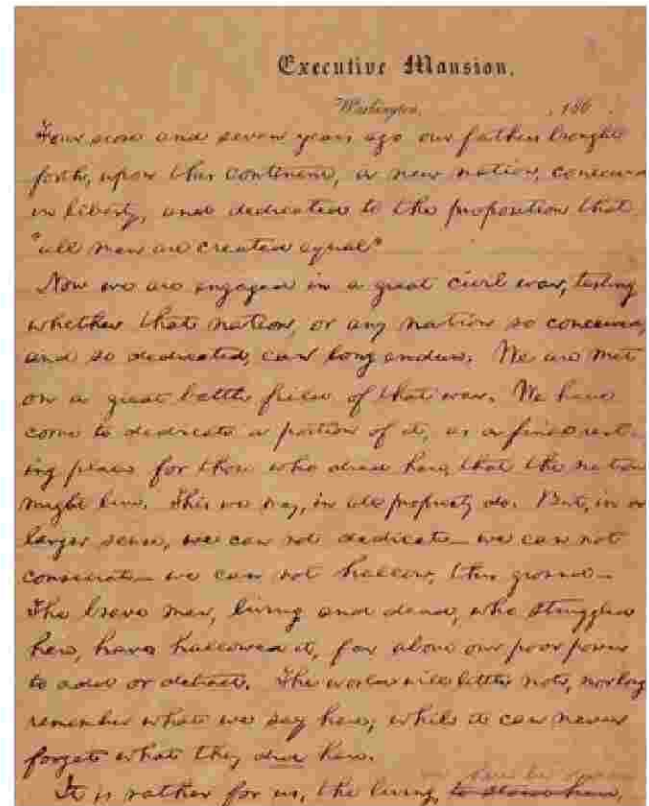
power." Gilbert's text gives us only "our power."

It does appear that three months after the address was given, Lincoln signed off on a copy he sent to Edward Everett, for use by Everett in the publication of his own address, which included the phrase "under God." The historians take the view, here, that Lincoln included the phrase in the text he sent to Everett, because it had appeared in the newspapers. Whether Lincoln actually said the phrase at the time the address was made remains an issue in dispute. Had Lincoln *meant* the phrase to be included, there is no intelligent reason why, having prepared at least two drafts of his speech over a number of days, he would not have interlined the phrase into the draft he actually spoke from.

*Additional Reading:*

[Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America](#) see Appendix I (page 191-195) by: Garry Willis

## 273 Words to a New America



This document represents the earliest known of the five drafts of what may be the most famous American speech. Delivered by President Abraham Lincoln in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the dedication of a memorial cemetery on November 19, 1863, it is now familiarly known as "The Gettysburg Address." Drawing inspiration from his favorite historical document, the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln equated the catastrophic suffering caused by the Civil War with the efforts of the American people to live up to the proposition that "all men are created equal." This document is presumed to be the only working, or pre-delivery, draft and is commonly identified as the "Nicolay Copy" because it was once owned by John George Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary. The first page is on White House (then Executive Mansion) stationery, lending strong support to the theory that it was drafted in Washington, D.C. But the second page is on what has been loosely described as foolscap, suggesting that Lincoln was not fully satisfied with the final paragraph of the Address and rewrote that passage in Gettysburg on November 19 while staying at the home of Judge David Wills.

**John George Nicolay Copy**

This represents the earliest known of the five drafts of what may be the most



famous American speech. Delivered by President Abraham Lincoln in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the dedication of a memorial cemetery on November 19, 1863, it is now familiarly known as the "Gettysburg Address." Drawing inspiration from his favorite historical document, the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln equated the catastrophic suffering caused by the Civil War with the efforts of the American people to live up to "the proposition that 'all men are created equal.'" This document is presumed to be the only working, or pre-delivery, draft and is commonly identified as the Nicolay Copy because it was once owned by John George Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary. The first page is on White House (then Executive Mansion) stationery, lending strong support to the theory that it was drafted in Washington, D.C. But the second page is on what has been loosely described as foolscap, suggesting that Lincoln was not fully satisfied with the final paragraph of the Address and rewrote that passage in Gettysburg, on November 19, while staying at the home of Judge David Wills.



From the editor: for further reading on the subject of the Gettysburg Address, I strongly recommend *The Gettysburg Gospel*, written by Gabor Boritt. Fascinating reading!

## Lincoln's Other Mother

By [TED WIDMER](#)

On the evening of Jan. 30, 1861, a slow freight train chugged into the small hamlet of Charleston, Ill., having completed a 12-mile run from Mattoon. Or nearly 12 miles — the train didn't quite make it all the way to the station. A few people straggled out of the caboose and trudged through slush and ice toward the depot, where a gaggle of townsfolk loitered. To their astonishment, they realized that the tall man coming toward them, wearing a shawl, was Abraham Lincoln.

He did not seem very presidential. He had been traveling all day to cover the 120 miles from Springfield, and had missed the last passenger train to Charleston — hence the ignominious arrival by freight. According to an observer, he wore "a faded hat, innocent of a nap, and his coat was extremely short, more like a sailor's pea-jacket than any other describable garment. A well-worn carpet-bag, quite collapsed, comprised his baggage." He had no bodyguard.

Across the country, people were saying goodbye as the new world shaped by secession came into focus. Some did it loudly — the grandiloquent [farewell speeches of Southern senators](#) and still-serving cabinet members — but most did it quietly, inside the family. As Lincoln wrapped up his affairs in Springfield, he realized that he needed to say a special goodbye to someone who had arguably

done more to shape him than any other.

And so on the morning of the 30th, this most closely observed person slipped away from it all and boarded a train in Springfield to the southeast. We know that it departed at 9:50 — the United States was beginning to acquire the railroad precision for which it would become famous. But that precision was not yet universal, and Lincoln did not make all of his planned transfers. He handled it the way he usually did — fellow passengers that day remembered that he told an endless succession of droll stories, punctuated by his own hearty laughter.

Lincoln spent the night of the 30th in Charleston, and the next morning began the final phase of his journey, to reach the secluded farmhouse where he found a 72-year-old woman, his father's widow, Sarah Bush Lincoln.



Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project,

Source: Chicago Historical Society Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's stepmother.

"Stepmother" can be a fraught phrase in the telling of childhood stories — one thinks of Cinderella and the well-named Brothers Grimm — yet it was a very good day for Lincoln when she came into his life. His mother, Nancy Hanks, had died when he was nine years old, and we don't have to look far for the sources of his legendary melancholia. In 1844, as a rising local politician, he returned to the Indiana of his boyhood and was so moved by the experience of being near the graves of his mother and sister that he wrote an uncharacteristically emotional poem about it. It began:

My childhood home I see again,  
And gladden with the view;  
And still as mem'ries crowd my brain,  
There's sadness in it too —

Sarah Bush Lincoln had known sadness, too — a difficult marriage to an improvident husband — but after her husband died, Thomas Lincoln came to Kentucky and proposed to her on the spot (they knew each other from childhood). She accepted, on condition that her late husband's debts be paid, and together they came to the Pigeon Creek settlement in Indiana, with her three children and all of her worldly possessions. Although she was illiterate, these possessions included several books, including "Aesop's Fables," "Robinson Crusoe," Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and "Sinbad the Sailor." We are today so cosseted by technology that it is difficult to imagine the impact that these world-expanding devices — the iPads of their day — must have had on the young Lincoln. Years later, she remembered that moment, and remarked that she instantly set to work to help Abe and his sister become "more human" — implying that, like Robinson Crusoe, she had discovered young savages in the wilderness.

Under her guidance, Lincoln made rapid progress. "He read all the books he could get his hands on," she recalled, and was already practicing writing and speaking at a young age, eager to get at the exact meaning of words. After hearing sermons by a local preacher, he would sometimes stand on a stump, gather the children around, and "almost repeat it word for word."

She obviously was behind this progress — she remembered, "His mind and mine, what little I had, seemed to run together, more in the same channel." She added other information, vital to future biographers — that he cared little for clothes, or food, but a great deal for ideas. Also, tucked away in her memories, the surprising physical fact that young Lincoln was "more fleshy in Indiana than ever in Illinois."



As his star rose, he saw her less and less, and did not attend his father's funeral in 1851, which has led scholars to speculate about what may or may not have been a difficult relationship. But there is no doubt about the closeness of stepmother and stepson. On Jan. 3, as Lincoln was preparing his cabinet, he received a letter from a kinsman, saying that "she is getting somewhat childish and is very uneasy about you fearing some of your political opponents will kill you. She is very anxious to see you once more." And so he went.

It was quite a reunion. Local folk remembered it for decades. Word got out quickly to neighboring farms, and families came over to celebrate, bringing turkey, chicken, and pie. The local school released the children for the day, and Lincoln laughed with them (he told them he'd rather be in their place than his). Some of them walked in his shoes, to feel what it must be like to be president. One youngster there, a six-year-old named Buck Best, lived until 1947, and never tired of reliving the day.

That evening Lincoln gave a speech in Charleston's town hall, one of many we do not have recorded. It's a pity, because he spoke about his boyhood that night. Lincoln rarely went into autobiographical territory, to put it mildly. Unlike today's politicians, for whom every childhood challenge is an opportunity for publicity, Lincoln was reticent to a fault about the traumas of his youth. He had conquered all that — why go back there?



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Moore Home State Historic Site, where Lincoln and his stepmother last saw each other.

And yet, he did go back there, this one time. Charleston was a typical community in 1861, split like many others between pro- and anti-slavery families (though in Illinois, it was founded by Southerners). Surprisingly, [Lincoln had argued a legal case there](#) in 1847, *Matson v. Ashmore*, defending the rights of slaveowners to have their runaway slaves returned. Three years after Lincoln's visit, in 1864, a riot broke out in Charleston when marauding Confederate sympathizers attacked half-drunk Union soldiers preparing to return to their regiment. But that night in late January, the town turned out as one to hear a son honor his mother. He told a resident, "she had been his best friend in this world and that no son could love a mother more than he loved her."

There are several versions of their final goodbye, which each probably knew would be their last. Like him, she was haunted by visions of the future. A letter written by one of her kinsmen recorded the scene, complete with grammatical inexactitudes: "She embraced him when they parted and said she would never be permitted to see him again that she felt his enemies would assassinate him. He replied no no Mama (he always called her Mama) they will not do that. Trust in the Lord and all will be well We will see each other again."

They did not, but today we can see her thanks to a single daguerreotype taken near the end of her time on earth, a striking likeness of an old lady who had a more than ordinary brush with greatness. Two years ago, it was [brilliantly reinterpreted here](#) by the artist Maira Kalman.

Four years later, after her premonition came true, another lawyer from Springfield made the pilgrimage to Coles County. William Herndon, Lincoln's former law partner, was in mourning like the rest of the country in 1865, and undertook to find everyone he could who had known Lincoln, and to record their impressions. Long before the phrase "oral history" existed, he was undertaking one of the most important efforts to recapture the past yet attempted in the

United States. Nearly every story we know of the young Lincoln is traceable to these researches. Herndon found Sarah Lincoln feeble and breathing with difficulty, but by asking her simple questions about her life, he breathed new life into her.

After she died in 1869, she was buried in a black dress Lincoln gave her on this visit — as if they were both already in mourning. She then lay in an unmarked grave until 1924, when a local Lions Club erected a stone marker for her. That seems appropriate — for if Lincoln saved the Union, she saved him, and for that alone she's entitled to a decent respect. Measured by the usual yardsticks of wealth and distinction, her own life may not have made much of a dent in the historical record. But at just the right moment, she encountered a small motherless boy, and helped him to become Abraham Lincoln.

Sources: Michael Burlingame, "Abraham Lincoln: A Life"; Emmanuel Hertz, "The Hidden Lincoln"; Charles H. Coleman, "Sarah Bush Lincoln, The Mother Who Survived Him"; Charles H. Coleman, "Abraham Lincoln and Coles County, Illinois"; Thomas J. Malone, "Stepmothered to Greatness: The Service of Dedication of the Monument Erected Above the Graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln."

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### Pickett's Charge, Gettysburg

The doomed Confederate charge July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg has become one of the most famous events in American military history. Follow in the footsteps of Pickett's men that day.



Pickett's Charge

5-stop, approximately 3/4-mile walking tour

Narration: John Heiser, NPS historian/ranger

Introduction: John Fieseler

Music: **Southern Horizon**

Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Gettysburg National Military Park

Playing time: 30:29 minutes

File size: 7.2MB

### Cold Harbor (June 1, 1864) Hanover County, Virginia

The Union attack here June 1, 1864, nearly resulted in a critical breakthrough.

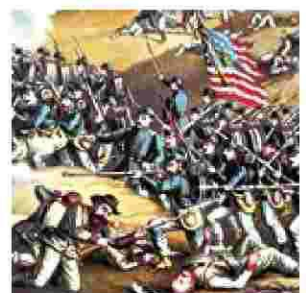
7-stop, 1-mile walking tour

Narration: Ed Sanders, NPS historian/ranger

Introduction: John Fieseler

Music: **Southern Horizon**

Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Richmond National Battlefield Park



Cold Harbor

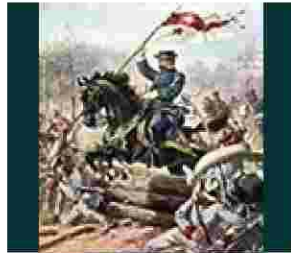


Playing time: 24:15 minutes  
File size: 5.7MB

### Five Forks Battlefield Petersburg National Battlefield, Virginia

The Five Forks intersection was critical to the Confederate defense of Petersburg and ultimately Richmond in the spring of 1865. Learn about the decisive battle here on April 1.

5-stop driving tour  
Narration: Tracy Chernault, NPS historian/ranger  
Introduction: Marc Ramsey of **Owens & Ramsey Historical Booksellers**  
Music: **Southern Horizon**  
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Petersburg National Battlefield  
Playing time: 22:15 minutes  
File size: 5.3MB



Sheridan at Five Forks



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### Little Round Top, Gettysburg

Little Round Top on the Gettysburg battlefield was the scene of some of the most dramatic moments in American history, July 2, 1863.

4-stop walking tour  
Narration: Eric Campbell, NPS historian/ranger  
Introduction: John Fieseler  
Music: **Southern Horizon**  
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Gettysburg National Military Park  
Playing time: 53:02 minutes  
File size: 12.5 MB



The Warren Statue

### Gaines' Mill, Hanover County, Virginia

Fighting here June 27, 1862, resulted in Robert E. Lee's first victory as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and was a turning point in the Seven Days battles.

8-stop, 1.5-mile walking tour.  
Narration: Robert Krick, NPS historian/ranger  
Introduction: John Fieseler  
Music: **Southern Horizon**  
Production: CivilWarTraveler.com and Richmond National Battlefield Park.  
Playing time: 31:05 minutes  
File size: 7.3 MB



The Watt House