

Gettysburg National Cemetery
[Binder 1, p. 16-20]

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Gettysburg Address



Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

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

References to

Gettysburg National Cemetery

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
(Formerly described as: Binder 1, p. 16-20)

Gettysburg address

Frank A. Haskell Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Written from Philadelphia, Nov. 20, 1863 to his brother. "x x x At Gettysburg again! How different from the time we were there before. The sights and sounds were all changed. Then it was sultry July-not it was sombre -November.-the leaves and harvest were then green and luxuriant-now they were yellow and bare,-then the sound of hostile cannon shook the earth-not the voices of women and children filled the air,-but amid all the changes there was no mistaking the prominent features of the 'horseshoe crest',-'Round Top' Cemetery and the slopes and ridges were all there, and we knew them well. We obtained horses and during the afternoon of the 18th and the 19th we rode all over the field-- a thing of greatest interest to us, I assure you. x x x The President and some of his cabinet came that evening. Mr. Everett was already there and we joined in the celebration on the 19th, x the Genl. ((Gibbon)) and I representing the xxx 'Army of the Potomac', / We had the flag of the 'Iron Brigade', the most magnificent flag I ever saw. x x x We had little interest in the ceremonies, and I shall not attempt to describe them. x x x Of course as our brave men who fell at Gettysburg were buried hastily in all parts of the field, many of them where they fell, without this collection of their bones, the places of their graves would soon be unknown, and the plow would have obliterated them. But what so appropriate for the soldier's rest as the spot where he died nobly fighting the enemies of the country,-when perhaps the shout of Victory went up with his spirit to Heaven-where his companions in arms, his survivors had lovingly wrapped him in his blanket, and wet with brave man's tears, had covered him with the earth his blood had consecrated. Wherever the body of a Union soldier was so buried upon all that broad field,- x what if the ground had been leveled with the plow,- and the mark of both were gone?-would be a holy spot and tradition would point it out for a thousand years. x x x But no,-these things were not to be. The skeletons of these brave men must be handled like the bones of so many horses, for a price, and wedged in like xxx herrings in a box, on a spot where there was no fighting-where none of them fell! / It may be all right, but I do not see it. x x x"

The Battle of Gettysburg Frank A. Haskell Ed. Bruce Catton Houghton Mifflin 1958. 3 ⁵⁰

"Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

Texts—The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.—John 6: 63.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My word shall not pass away.—Matt. 24: 35.

JESUS' sermon on Mount Hattim is undoubtedly the world's greatest oration.

The words of that famous preaching have been quoted more than any other of the world's great speeches. Coming from the Divine to the human, I think that, next to the Man of Nazareth, Abraham Lincoln is most often made the subject in sermons, or referred to in public address, or held up before the world as a great example. Beside the Sermon on the Mount, in human appreciation, has been placed Lincoln's Speech at Gettysburg.

Today—November 19—is an anniversary of the giving to the world of that most remarkable address.

Three elements combine to make a great oration—a great occasion, a great theme, a great personality. I can think of many illustrations, chief among them, humanly speaking, Chatham in Parliament, Webster at Bunker Hill, and Lincoln at Gettysburg. I would reverse the order of these orations in their importance—as very likely you would, too. I do not today wish to speak of the three elements making a great oration, nor to analyse that oration. That has been done in countless text books of the schools. But I would like to speak of the event of its delivery—the back ground, the day, the delivery, the evolution of the address, and its permanent hold upon the world.

The Glorification of Mars Hill

The battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1, 2 and 3, 1863.

It was mid-summer. 6,000 were killed in action. Those that were buried were hastily thrown into shallow graves and loose dirt scraped over them. As far as was quickly possible names were scribbled on rude headboards made from hard-tack cracker-boxes and barrels. For weeks after the smoke of battle hundreds of horses were still unburied. Thousands of soldier dead were hurriedly buried in shallow trenches and graves. Many weeks after the battle hands and feet protruded from graves all too thinly covered.

Soon after the battle Governor Andrew Curtin, of Pennsylvania, went to the field to see what could be done to change such an intolerable condition. Before he left he appointed David Wills, a public spirited citizen of Gettysburg, to act as representative of the Keystone State, and gave him authority to meet the unusual conditions to the best of his judgment. There were not only those already buried in the fields, but those wounded soldiers who were daily dying in public buildings, churches, homes, barns and in the villages and country round about. Mr. Wills advocated the purchase of a strip of ground of about seventeen acres on the battlefield that might be used as a suitable place of interment. Governor Curtin approved of his suggestion, and the Governors of seventeen States, whose soldiers had taken part in the battle, were asked to co-operate. Fifteen of these responded.

Pennsylvania had the largest number of soldiers engaged in the conflict, but New York's section contains the greatest number of graves. Nearly one-fourth of all those buried at Gettysburg came from the Empire State. The work of removing bodies began October 27. The removal was done under the direction of Mr. Wills, save in the case of Massachusetts, whose soldier dead were re-buried by a representative appointed by the Governor of the Old Bay State.

As the plan progressed it was decided

threatening, but soon the sun broke through the clouds and the day turned into one of those autumn days for which Pennsylvania is so justly famous. Lincoln's secretary went to the Wills home and found the great Emancipator still at work upon his speech.

At ten o'clock Lincoln, wearing a tall silk hat, white gauntlet gloves, and black frock coat, passed out the York street door between two files of soldiers, mounted a medium sized bay horse, which tradition in Gettysburg says was proudly owned by one of its citizens, Mr. Adam Rebert. The procession was made up of several bands of music, including the Birgfield Band of Philadelphia. The line proceeded up Baltimore street along which three months before the Union Army had retreated on the evening of the first day's fight.

The National Cemetery is less than a mile from the Public Square in the village. The procession reached there fifteen minutes after eleven. On the spot now occupied by the National Monument a small wooden platform, raised about three feet from the ground, had been erected. To this the President and his party were ushered. Lincoln was seated in a high-backed rocking-chair placed between the seat occupied by Secretary of State Seward and that reserved for the orator of the day, Hon. Edward Everett. Mr. Everett was almost a half hour late. It was practically noon when Birgfield's band had played a funeral dirge, and the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, chaplain of the United States Senate, had concluded his touching, eloquent prayer.

Mr. Everett arose and began his oration with the words: "Standing beneath this serene sky, overlooking these broad fields now reposing from the labors of the waning year, the mighty Alleghenies towering before us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with hesitation that I raise my voice to break the eloquent silence of God and nature." The oration was a classic. A few minutes short of two hours in its delivery from the beginning to the final sentence: "In the glorious annals of our common country there will be no brighter page than that which relates the Battle of Gettysburg!"


"—While Fame Her Record Keeps".

The stage was worthy of an immortal utterance.

Mr. Everett having finished his two-hour oration, the Baltimore Glee Club sang. The hot, standing-weary crowd stopped in their restless foot-shifting as the tall gaunt figure of Lincoln rose from the high-backed rocking chair, and became quiet—possibly braced themselves for another long speech. But the address was so short—ten sentences—about 267 words, words as round and smooth and polished as the pebbles of a brook—taking but ten minutes to deliver—that the people had hardly adjusted themselves to listen when he ceased. Some thought he had merely stopped for a drink of water. There was a moment of intense silence, then some scattered applause. I wonder if great speeches, like great events, may only be truly measured in the haze and thought of distance?

Much that is imaginary has been written about the Gettysburg address. No two persons who heard it are agreed on the details of its delivery. The human memory after over a half century is apt to be at fault. What one has heard or read afterward of an event is apt to be incorporated, in good faith, in his own recollection. But the evidence is all in—apparently. Did Lincoln read from his notes? The stenographic report does not so indicate. If he read at all it certainly was not closely. Although agreement is that the

While Fame Her Record Keeps
Nov. 19 1927



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By THE REV. SAMUEL W. PIERCE, D. D.

"Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

Words—The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.—John 6: 63.

Speeches and words shall pass away, but My word shall not pass away.—Matt. 24: 35.

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The words of that famous preacher have been quoted more than any other of the world's great speeches. Coming from the Divine to the human, I think that, next to the Mass of St. Nicholas, Abraham Lincoln is most often made the subject in sermons, or referred to in public address, or held up before the world as a great example.

Inside the Sermon on the Mount, in human appreciation, has been placed Lincoln's Speech at Gettysburg.

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As the plan progressed it was decided to make a great oration of the dedicatory ceremonies. The Hon. Edward Everett, former Governor of Massachusetts, and undoubtedly one of the greatest orators of the day, was invited to deliver the address. The date, to suit his arrangements, and allow time for preparation, was fixed for November 19,—sixty-four years ago today. President Lincoln was invited, but at first was not asked to take part in the exercises. Later he was invited to "make a few dedicatory remarks."

"We're Tending Tomland!"

Wednesday noon of the 18th a special train over the Baltimore and Ohio road left Washington with the Presidential party, Abraham Lincoln, three Cabinet officers, Mr. Nicolay and Mr. Hay, secretaries, two foreign Ministers, army officers, military guards of honor, members of the Marine band and newspaper correspondents. The train had four coaches drawn by a gaily decorated locomotive. The last coach was a director's car, one-third partitioned off in the rear for a special compartment with its seats arranged about the walls. When the train left Washington, Lincoln, with some others of the party, occupied this compartment. At Hancock Junction they were to meet the train bearing the various Governors' parties, coming by way of Harrisburg, but that train was delayed, and the Presidential party proceeded, reaching Gettysburg about dark.

The President was entertained at the home of David Wills, an honored attorney, afterward killed at Gettysburg. The house was a substantial three-story dwelling on York street. Andrew Curtis and Edward Everett were to be entertained at that same home, while Secretary of State William H. Seward was to be guest at the home of Mr. R. G. Harper, next door.

The streets of the village had been filling with the crowds—possibly ten or fifteen thousand—since Monday. Many had come to attend the dedicatory exercises, others from a desire to see the battlefield, where still on every hand were striking and gruesome evidences of the bloody conflict a few months before; ragged and mangled landscapes, contents shoes, bayonet sheaths and fragments of gray and blue jackets. Slight green markings of unknown, unrecog-nized heroes were in every quarter of the field.

The night preceding the dedication was warm and clear. A bright moonlight flooded the village and its crowded streets. After the evening meal the visiting bands rendered patriotic selections. The Baltimore Glee Club sang popular war-time songs usually ending with song and tune of "John Brown. Serenading parties visited the Wills home, and other points of prominence. About nine o'clock Lincoln excused himself from the company in the parlor of the Wills home, and went to his room on the second floor overlooking the public square, near thronged with a noisy crowd. Between nine and ten o'clock the President sent a servant down asking Mr. Wills to come to his room. He told Mr. Wills that he had just read himself to recast on paper some remarks for tomorrow's exercises, and asked to know what was expected of him. After some explanation of the program Mr. Wills withdrew.

At eleven o'clock Lincoln opened the door and stood the gazed outside where Mr. Seward was sitting. When he learned that it was just next door at Harper's he gathered the sheets of paper which he had been writing and with Mr. Wills and the proof went to the neighboring house. He was gone but a very short while when he returned and went again to his room. Had he gone to ask his Secretary of State his opinion of the message of tomorrow? Or was it some detail in connection with the program and Edward Everett's oration? No one knows.

The Blessing of the Dead.

Nine o'clock Thursday morning, November 19, 1863.

The day had dawned with storm

threatening, but soon the sun broke through the clouds and the day turned into one of those autumn days for which Pennsylvania is so justly famous. Lincoln's secretary went to the Wills home and found the great Emperor still at work upon his speech.

At ten o'clock, Lincoln, wearing a tall silk hat, white cravat and gloves, and a full frock coat, passed out the back street door between two files of soldiers, mounted on mules, and his horse, which tradition in Gettysburg says was roughly owned by one of its citizens, Mr. Adam Hebert. The procession was made up of several bands of music, including the Elmfield Band of Philadelphia. The line proceeded up Baltimore street along which three months before the Union Army had retreated on the evening of the first day's fight.

The National Cemetery is less than a mile from the Public Square in the village. The procession reached there fifteen minutes after eleven. On the spot now occupied by the National Monument a small wooden platform, raised about three feet from the ground, had been erected. In this the President and his party were seated. Lincoln was seated in a high-backed rocking-chair placed between the feet occupied by Secretary of State Seward and that reserved for the orator of the day, Hon. Edward Everett. Mr. Everett was almost a half hour late. It was practically noon when Elmfield's band had played a funeral dirge, and the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, chaplain of the United States Senate, had concluded his touching, eloquent prayer.

Mr. Everett arose and began his oration with the words: "Standing beneath this serene sky, overlooking these broad fields now reposing from the labors of the warlike year, the majestic Alleghenias towering before us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with benediction that I raise my voice to break the eloquent silence of God and nature."

The oration was a classic. A few minutes short of two hours in its delivery from the beginning to the final sentence: "In the glorious annals of our common country there will be no brighter page than that which relates the Battle of Gettysburg!"

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Mr. Everett having finished his two-hour oration, the Baltimore Glee Club sang, the hot, standing-weary crowd stopped in their restless footstamping at the tall maunt figure of Lincoln, and because quiet—possibly braced themselves for another long speech. But the address was so short—ten sentences—about 207 words, words so sound and smooth and polished as the polished of a knob—taking but ten minutes to deliver—that the people had hardly adjusted themselves to listen when he ceased. Some thought he had nearly stopped for a drink of water. There was a moment of intense silence, then some scattered applause. I wonder if great speeches, like great events, may only be truly measured in the heart and thought of distances?

Most that is imaginary has been written about the Gettysburg address. No two persons who help it are agreed on the details of its delivery. The human memory after over a half century is apt to be at fault. What one has heard or read afterward of an event is apt to be incorporated, in good faith, in his own recollection. But the evidence is all in—impressively. Did Lincoln read from his notes? The stenographic report does not so indicate. If he read at all it certainly was not throughout. An important agreement in that manuscript was in his hand at least part of the time.

The Address did not seem to make a profound impression at the time. It stopped almost before the people had realized the speaker had begun. That would seem easily possible because of the length of the speech preceding it. If the people present failed to adequately grasp the magnitude of the Address, so likewise the press of the country largely failed to sense it. Some sensed it. With others penitence was sent. Only five newspapers expressed hearty commendation. Among them the Evening Bulletin of Philadelphia said, in part, the next day: "The President's brief speech of dedication was most happily expressed. It was warm, earnest, un-affected and touching. Thousands who would not read the long, elaborate oration of Mr. Everett will read the President's few words, and not many of them will do so without manifesting of the eyes and a swelling of the heart."

The world now says it was a great address. Part of it was written on White House stationery—presumably prepared in Washington. Part may have been written or re-written, in Judge Willig's home, and part may have come in the form of a fragment of the phrase, "under God," in the sentence, "that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," appears in the early manuscripts. There are five copies of the Gettysburg speech in Lincoln's handwriting—and they all differ. There are in possession of the Library of Congress, and it has photographic reproductions of the other two. There is much old straw that might be re-traced in this connection, but this is not now my intention. That copy of the Gettysburg Address which he wrote and autographed for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fair in Baltimore, March 11, 1864, is now generally accepted as the authorized and standing version of the great utterance. It is that which is inscribed on the great Lincoln Memorial.

I like to note Lincoln's great and customary modesty, shown again here in the Gettysburg Address. He did not say, "I want to suppose that we here highly resolve." It probably did not occur to him to use the pronoun "we." Notice his modesty elsewhere. "The world will little note our long remember what we will say here." He was never more mistaken in his life. The world has, and will, long remember. It is on the lips of a million school children today. It has entered into the literature of every tongue on the globe. It is writ in eternal lines on the very spot where he spoke the words. They are inscribed on the tablets of men's consciousness everywhere and for all time. Words live after death are forgotten. They keep the memory of deeds alive. Abraham Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg will be read and listened to as long when the very story of the battlefield itself will be as hazy in history as the story of the siege of Troy—his words will live as long as live the stars of heaven.

Wills' Notebook
Nov. 19 1863

GETTYSBURG'S BATTLEFIELD IS HUCKSTERHAVEN

It's Sad Contrast with Manassas (Bull Run)

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Gettysburg, Pa., July 5—One of the nation's most historic shrines, the Gettysburg battlefield, has become a haven for hucksters. Eighty-nine years ago this week, blood of the north and the south soaked the black soil near the sleepy Pennsylvania town in a battle that marked the turning point in the Civil war—the beginning of the end for the Confederacy.

Yet today, less than 300 yards from the spot where Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal address, tourists are urged to buy "souvenir" beer container openers, "Gettysburg powder puffs," and ash trays with the inscription, "Put your damn ashes here."

750,000 Visitors Each Year

To lure dollars from the 750,000 Americans who annually visit the battlefield to pay homage to "these honored dead," peddlers use historic relics and monuments as come-ons.

One impressive, flag decked building, located adjacent to the Gettysburg national cemetery, proclaims itself the "National museum." The title is a trade name and the establishment is in no way administered by the federal government.

Parking at the museum is free, but once inside the building, the tourist begins to pay.

The guns, ammunition, canteens, saddles, and other artifacts unearthed on the battlefield are in a

separate room at the rear of the museum.

Run Gauntlet of Salesmen

To get a glimpse of them, the visitor must first run a gauntlet of salesmen and pass thru a littered trinket shop filled with cheap items such as kewpie dolls and "Gettysburg chocolate covered cherries."

Then, if he still has 50 cents in his pocket, he may enter the museum, where one of the major attractions is a saddle purportedly used by Lincoln.

Many have visited both the Gettysburg battlefield, located about 80 miles north of Washington, and Manassas battlefield [Bull Run] in Virginia, about 24 miles southwest of the capital. None who has visited both shrines can fail to note the difference in atmosphere.

At Gettysburg, the scene of the Union army's greatest victory, merchants have gone all out to commercialize on the historic importance of the town.

Manassas Remains Shrine

The battlefield at Manassas, where the Union army twice suffered terrible defeat by the south, remains a hallowed shrine without a trace of commercialism.

Tourists entering Gettysburg are repeatedly propositioned by professional guides, peddlers, and expensively "free" sideshows featuring Civil war relics.

The guides demand up to \$6 a

car for a two hour tour of the battlefield, and the markers on the field are so scattered and uncorrelated that the services of a guide are almost mandatory.

At Manassas, where "Stonewall" Jackson received his nickname and the federal troops were twice routed, clear, well defined markers tell the story of the battles without need of a guide. But if groups of students or military analysts request guide service, a courteous, well informed United States park service ranger conducts the tour—free of charge.

Both Under Park Service

Both battlefields are under the administration of the interior department's park service division. The government provides no guides at Gettysburg, issuing licenses instead to private operators. A federal museum is maintained at both locations, but in Gettysburg the privately owned museum draws far more tourists than the government establishment.

The museum at Manassas is open to the public. Pamphlets are available for free distribution, and a large, electrical map explains the battle tactics in clear, forceful detail, at no charge to the visitor.

Emphasis thruout the museum and park is on the momentous historical events that were enacted there. There are no peddlers on



or near the grounds to detract from the feeling of reverence for the great Americans who died there.

In Gettysburg, the pamphlets are sold, except for those provided at an information booth maintained by the Gettysburg Retail Merchants' association. A government owned information building at the entrance to the battlefield has been taken over by the guides, and no pamphlets or informational material are in evidence.

Pay to See Bedroom

The bedroom where Lincoln slept on the night prior to his address has been carefully preserved in the old Judge Wills house, located in the center of Gettysburg. A large sign in the window advertises "free admission."

The free admission applies only to a curio shop located in rooms adjoining the Lincoln shrine. Here the visitor is prevailed upon to buy "stone candy," dishes, pottery, ash trays with engraved busts of Lincoln, and penny post cards.

Occupying a place of honor on the wall is a unique tribute to the great emancipator: "Lincoln's Gettysburg address in alphabet soup!"

The only object the tourist obtains at no charge is a political handbill from the proprietor, who is running for the Pennsylvania legislature on the Democratic ticket.

But for a peep at the bed Lincoln slept in, the visitor first pays a quarter.

Owner of the "National museum" is George D. Rosensteel, who began his career as historical curator while working as a water

boy for Gettysburg road crews in 1898.

Collection of Firearms

Rosensteel picked up the relics unearthed by road excavations and stored them until opening the museum. He owns the largest collection of Civil war firearms in existence.

The federal museum operated by the park service in Gettysburg occupies one room on the second floor of the postoffice. Last year it had less than 10,000 visitors, while the privately owned showplace near the battlefield was patronized by 750,000.

The collection of war relics in the Manassas museum was donated by the farmers and townspeople for preservation in the public domain. Cannonballs and rifle bullets are still to be found in the fields around Bull Run, and the museum grows constantly.

The attitude of Gettysburg merchants toward the hallowed ground on which they live was summed up last week by a member of the Retail Merchants association.

"Just Begin to Awake"

"If this place was located in California," he declared, "the state would spend millions of dollars advertising it to tourists. We have just begun to awaken the people here to a realization of what they have. With proper advertising we can triple the volume of business."

Manassas merchants, apparently, have not yet been awakened. There are no "battlefield curio" shops, nor high pressure promotional campaigns.

One store sells Confederate flags

and "rebel caps," but the storekeeper, speaking in a slow, southern drawl, explained to reporters the lack of commercialism:

"We don't go in for that stuff much down here," he said. "Seems like the boys who fought on the hill left plenty to be remembered by, without us selling souvenirs. It'd kinda be a shame to try to cash in on what they did."

Lasting Memorial to a Grange Leader

Gettysburg National Cemetery And William Saunders

THE RECENT celebration of the 120th anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln gave rise to the introduction of a bill in Congress directing the Secretary of War to erect in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg an appropriate marker to the memory of William Saunders, first Master of the National Grange, who planned and designed the cemetery at Gettysburg, and who was never remunerated for that service.

The bill in question was introduced by Congressman Franklin Menges, who represents the district in which Gettysburg is situated. It calls for an appropriation of \$2,500. As is well known in Grange circles, William Saunders was one of the foremost landscape architects of his day in the United States, and he served for many years as superintendent of the propagating gardens of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. It was probably in connection with the laying out of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg that Mr. Saunders did his most important work as a landscape artist for the government.

Mr. Saunders died in 1900, but his daughter, Miss Belle Saunders, is still living in Washington, is employed in the Department of Agriculture, and was in attendance at the recent session of the National Grange in Washington. Among her treasured possessions is a journal that was kept by her father, and this contains an interesting account of how Mr. Saunders came to be selected to plan the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. The story is best told in his own words as recorded in the journal mentioned:—

About six weeks after the battle I received a letter from David Wills, of Gettysburg, acting as agent for Governor Curtin, asking me to meet him at that place for the purpose of consulting upon the selection of a site and land for a cemetery to be used for the interment of soldiers who fell in that battle. When I reached there I found that Mr. Wills had purchased property. I was pleased with the site, but saw that it was angular, and its front on the Baltimore Pike was only about 150 feet. I therefore told Mr. Wills to get more ground, extending the front line and straightening out other lines, which was speedily done, adding about 5 acres more to the cemetery and simplifying its outlines.

On this my first visit I studied the ground thoroughly and thought of various methods of treatment. It occurred to me—and I felt it all important under any plan—that the remains of the soldiers from each state should be laid together in a group. In fact I had examined the ground before suggesting an addition to it and had employed an evening considering how best to arrange for interments. The surface was somewhat undulating, some high or elevated points, but others low and inferior in comparison, so that in distributing the interments by states some would, of necessity, be placed in the lower portions and thus an apparently unjust discrimination might be inferred. I ultimately concluded that a central point on the highest reach of the ground be designated for a monument, and a semi-circular arrangement made, so that

the appropriation for each state would be a part of a common center and the position of each lot would be relatively of equal importance.

The ground was marked out in parallels 12 feet in width, thus giving a length of about 7 feet for the interments and 5 feet of pathway between the next parallel. On the inner circle of each a heavy line of granite curbing was placed. This made a continuous circle of gravestones, as it were. About 2½ feet was marked on these stones, the width for each interment, and the name carved on the granite at its head. These blocks showed 10 inches above the surface of the ground and show a width of 10 inches on their

upper surface or face. The name, company and regiment being carved in the granite opposite each interment, secured a simple and impressive arrangement and durability.

Having made rude drawings and measurements as to the space required for this plan, I went over the field and was convinced that more space would be required at this particular point to enable this plan to be carried out. Then the question of adding to it by further purchases of land was considered, and ultimately some five acres of an adjoining apple orchard were procured, which allowed the plan to be carried out.

Having secured such measurements and survey of the ground as would enable me to formulate a plan or design for the entire space, I hastened to Washington and commenced to make the plan. I do not now recall the exact sequence of events, but everything was hurried to get at work and remove the bodies which were scattered over the battle field and in danger of obliteration, as the farmers were anxious to plow for crops.

I employed a friend and surveyor, James S. Townsend, to go to Gettysburg, and with others procure a list of the dead and the state they came from, so as to help me in the disposition of plan of interments. This took some time. I also sent him a copy of the plan, and he proceeded to set that portion out, so as to provide for removal of bodies at as early a day as was possible. The work of exhuming the bodies was commenced on the 27th day of October, 1863, but it was so protracted by ungenial weather during the winter that it was not finished until well on in March, 1864. The number of bodies ultimately found exceeded the original calculations, and this also retarded the finish of the operations, and caused continual alterations in the detail of the plan, as it had to be extended to meet these additions to certain of the states. This,

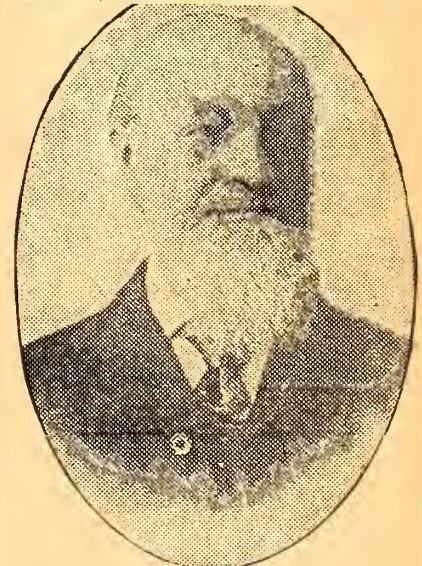
however, was only a matter of apportionment and did not alter the idea of the plan. The working sketch was in the hands of the surveyor, who was pushing the work, especially that part for the interments.

A few days before the dedication of the grounds, President Lincoln sent word to me that he desired me to call at his office on the evening of the 17th (November), and take with me the plan of the cemetery. I was on hand at the appointed time, and spread the plan on his office table. He took much interest in it, asked about its surroundings, about Culp's Hill, Round Top, etc., and seemed familiar with the topography of the place, although he had never been there. He was much pleased with the method of the

19
graves, said it differed from the ordinary cemetery, and, after I had explained the reasons, said it was an admirable and befitting arrangement. He asked me if I was going up to Gettysburg to-morrow. I told him that I intended to be there and take up the plan. He replied, 'Well, I may see you on the train.'

I went up on the 18th, but I think now that I did not go on the train he went on; I went on an earlier train. On reaching Gettysburg I found every place crowded, could not get any hotel or boarding house. In fact there were not many hotels in the town. I spent the night in the parlor of an acquaintance, along with quite a crowd, and if we slept at all we did so sitting in chairs. Next morning—the 19th—the town was all excitement, and all faces were turned toward the cemetery.

About noon Edward Everett ascended the platform and commenced his oration, which was well received, although his detailed account of the battle was lengthy, and I think some considered it tiresome. I should suppose that he spoke for nearly two hours. I was sitting on the platform near to President Lincoln, only Gen. O. O. Howard between me and the President, and was only a few feet



WILLIAM SAUNDERS
First Master of National Grange And Designer of National Cemetery

from him when he delivered his memorable address.

The story of how Lincoln's memorable address was received has been told and retold many times. The fact that Edward Everett was selected to deliver the principal oration, while Lincoln was asked to make only a few remarks, clearly indicates that those who had charge of the dedication ceremonies did not rate Lincoln in the same class with Everett as an orator; but among the first to grasp the beauty and significance of Lincoln's address was Edward Everett himself, who generously told the President that his speech would long be remembered after his own would be forgotten.

It reflects an interesting light on the journalism of that day to note that only two daily papers of the country carried Mr. Lincoln's Gettysburg address. The New York Times

contented itself by saying that "The President made a few extemporaneous remarks."

Continuing his narrative, Mr. Saunders tells in some detail how he came to be selected to plan the cemetery at Gettysburg, and the painstaking manner in which this labor of love was so faithfully performed, although in the execution of the plans he was reduced to the necessity of drawing to some extent on his own purse, for which he was never reimbursed:—

The project of this cemetery was started by David Wills of Gettysburg. Soon after the battle he found bodies scattered over the fields, some of them but rudely buried, the farmers plowing over graves and seemingly careless about the dead. Mr. Wills wrote to Governor Curtin and suggested that the state of Pennsylvania should see to it that the dead should be better cared for. Governor Curtin promptly and strongly took up the matter, and authorized Mr. Wills to communicate with the governors of other states whose troops participated in the battle, asking for their sanction to remove the dead at the expense of Pennsylvania. This proposition was not favorably entertained, as each state wanted to share the expense. A convention of governors was convened at Altoona, and among other proceedings it was agreed to employ me to furnish a plan for the improvement of the cemetery grounds. Hence the letter of Lawyer Wills to me as above mentioned. Who brought up my name to this convention I never found, as I was not aware of any of the governors knowing me.

The making of roadways and planting trees and shrubs were executed by contract, and was done in a satisfactory manner. Twenty years after the planting I visited the cemetery and marked many of the trees for removal, as the groups were too thick. By this time the cemetery had been turned over to the general government. For several years, I can not recall how many, the cemetery was controlled by commissioners, one from each of the states concerned, appointed by the governors of the respective states. It was ultimately turned over to the government and was placed in control of the quartermaster general of the United States Army. This officer, considering that it was essential to do something in the cemetery, planted a lot of shrubbery in the lawns, or open grass spaces, which destroyed the beauty of the grounds; but this was in keeping with the performances of military officers, who, as a general thing, are very destitute of artistic taste in anything. Up to that time the plan of the planting had developed so that the design was apparent. A friend of mine, who had participated in a Fourth of July celebration at Gettysburg, and not knowing that I had ever had anything to do with it, told me that if I wanted to see an exquisite example of landscape gardening I should visit the cemetery grounds. I said to him that I had designed these grounds for that especial purpose.

The plan contemplated no conspicuous headstones at any of the graves. All were to be treated alike and be of uniform simplicity. As time went on, military companies sent headstones, some of them quite elaborate, requesting them to be set at the head of certain graves. After a time, and after several of such stones had been received, the subject of their distribution was referred to me. I decided that they should be grouped in a portion of the grounds which I designated, which was done, and thus saved the uniformity and simplicity of the plan. On my plan when submitted I titled it, "Soldiers' National Cemetery," which was discussed by the commissioners, and they agreed that the name

was quite applicable, and it was adopted.

At a meeting of the commissioners held at Harrisburg, December 17, 1863, the following resolutions were passed:—

"On motion of Mr. Alfred Colt of Connecticut, the plans and designs of the Soldiers' National Cemetery as laid out by Mr. William Saunders were adopted by the convention. A motion was made by Mr. Colt returning thanks to Mr. Saunders for the designs and drawings furnished gratuitously for the Soldiers' National Cemetery at



HON. FRANKLIN MENGES

Pennsylvania Congressman Who Sponsors
the Saunders Memorial

Gettysburg, Pa., which was unanimously adopted."

On motion of Mr. Brown, of Ohio:

"Resolved, That Mr. William Saunders be authorized to furnish 40 photos of the plan of the Soldiers' National Cemetery for the use of the states having soldiers buried therein, which was adopted."

The last resolution meant more work for me. In order to get good photographs I had to make a new copy of the plan, for all the other copies were more or less colored, and a good photo could not be made from them. Making a new copy was tedious, and I worked on it nights and Sundays. I ultimately procured the number desired and dispatched them to the various states. I do not think that I ever received a cent of remuneration for this work so flippantly resolved. The commissioners never seemed to have any treasury to draw from, and although I sent in the photographer's bill, I had to pay it. Mr. Edward Everett wrote to me that he was desirous of having a plan of the cemetery made, so that it could be folded in a pamphlet with his oration. This I also prepared for the engraver on so small a scale that I strained my eyes considerably, and it took me considerable time, but I finished it and made a good job of it. For all this drawing, planning, and time and money expended I never had any acknowledgment except that mentioned in the above resolutions passed at a private meeting, as stated.

When the facts contained in the Journal of Mr. Saunders were brought

to the attention of Congressman Menges, he had them published in the Congressional Record on Lincoln's Birthday, because of their appropriateness to the occasion, at which time he also introduced the bill for the erection of a memorial to Mr. Saunders at Gettysburg.

It would be truly fitting for Congress to enact the Menges Bill at the earliest possible date, thus paying a deserved tribute to the memory of an unselfish and faithful public servant. Never has any member of the Grange rendered a more unselfish service to his country than did the first National Master, William Saunders, whose labor of love will stand as an enduring memorial to his generous toil. This story of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, which thousands of Patrons have visited, will be of universal interest as few of these tourists realized how significantly the Grange is identified with this great American shrine. Appropriately might these facts—or at least extracts therefrom—be introduced into the programs of subordinate and Pomona meetings of the coming months.

THE SOLDIER DEAD.

The Resting Places of Over 300,000 Union Braves.

While the garlands strewn upon the graves of our heroes are yet green and the recollection of the commemorative exercises of Decoration day are fresh upon us let us glance at the vast army of the soldier dead lying scattered throughout the land and for the moment study the terrible cost of war. The Quartermaster's Department, after the close of the rebellion, was for several years engaged in gathering into permanent cemeteries the bodies of Union soldiers who were killed in battle or who died in hospitals or rebel prisons. By the official reports the total number interred throughout the United States is 316,233. Of these only 175,764, or about five-ninths of the whole number, can probably ever be identified. Even these figures do not cover the whole number who lost their lives in the war of the rebellion, for, owing to the vast area covered by the operations of the hostile armies, many bodies left on the field of battle, in skirmishes in woods and in isolated encounters of pickets and reconnoitering and scouting parties, have probably never been discovered. It is difficult to form any estimate of the number, all trace of whose remains have thus been lost, but it is without doubt considerable. Most of the scattered heroes, unknown to fame though great in deeds, who yet lie bidden in forest, field or pen, will now remain in nature's green keeping until the resurrection morn. Of the grand total 36,868 are known to have been prisoners of war, who died in captivity, and this does not include the whole number who died while held by the rebels, for it is thought that numbers of those who died in the prison pens of the South have not been found or identified. Of rebel prisoners of war the remains of 21,336 have been interred. Unfortunately statistics to show the amount of mortality on the rebel side are very meagre. It is not probable the rebel loss will ever be known with anything like the accuracy with which we can reckon that on the national side, but, assuming them to be equal, it will be seen that the entire loss to the whole country in human lives during the war of the rebellion must amount to nearly three-quarters of a million. Besides 72 national cemeteries, the Union dead are scattered in 320 local and post cemeteries. The largest of these are at Arlington, Va., the former homestead of General Robert E. Lee, with 15,547 graves; Fredericksburg, Va., with 15,300 graves; Salisbury, N. C., with 12,112 graves; Beaufort, S. C., with 10,000 graves; Andersonville, Ga., 13,705 graves; Marietta, Ga., 10,000 graves; New Orleans, La., 12,230 graves; Vicksburg, Miss., 17,012 graves; Chattanooga, Tenn., 12,964 graves; Nashville, Tenn., 16,529 graves; Memphis, Tenn., 13,958 graves; Jefferson Barracks, Mo., 8,601 graves.

The Gettysburg National Cemetery embraces an area of about seventeen acres, covering the centre of the Union line of battle on the 2d and 3d of July, 1863, and occupying one of the most prominent and important positions on the field. This is one of the most complete of the National Cemeteries and contains 3,512 graves, of whom 979 are unknown. These figures do not, however, by any means show the Union loss in the engagement, for the greater part of the wounded were moved to Baltimore, Washington, Annap-

olis and Philadelphia, and many of the slain have been taken away by their friends.

The cemetery at Antietam contains 4,695 graves, 2,903 of which are unknown; in addition to the bodies of 1,475 who fell at Antietam, the remains of the United States soldiers scattered on the battle fields of Monocacy, South Mountain, and those buried at Harper's Ferry and Cumberland, Md., have been gathered here. The National Cemetery at Richmond, Va., two miles from the city on the Williamsburg road, just within the line of the rebel fortifications, contains an unusually large proportion of unknown graves. Out of 6,276 as many as 5,450 are unknown. They are mostly deceased prisoners of war from Belle Isle, Libby prison, Castle Thunder, and other prison pens at the former rebel capital. Salisbury National Cemetery contains 12,112 bodies of Union soldiers, who died while confined in Salisbury prison. At Danville, Va., Millen, Ga., Culpepper Court House, Winchester, Va., Cold Harbor, Va., Fort Harrison, and Elendale, Va., Raleigh, Wilmington, N. C., Beaufort, S. C., Lookout Mountain, Corinth, Miss., Shiloh, Tenn., Chalmette, La., and other points in the country in which military operations were carried on during the war there are national cemeteries containing the known and unknown dead gathered from the battle fields in the vicinity. These cemeteries, generally, are well cared for; pains are taken to keep them sodded; to plant ornamental trees, and beautify them in various ways. Thus sleep our Brave. "Thank God for Liberty's dear slain; they give perpetual consecration unto it."

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Gettysburg National Cemetery
[Binder 1, p. 16-20]

Drawer 6

Gettysburg Address

