Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address

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

Bancroft Version

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
(Formerly described as: Binder 4, p. 64-66)
Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

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

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far 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 be-

for 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 this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
April 18, 1935.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I have your favor of the 16th. The autograph draft of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address formerly owned by the Bancroft Family is in my possession, as you state. To the best of my knowledge there has never been anything published in the newspapers or elsewhere as to what was paid for it. Frankly, I have not advertised the fact that I own the manuscript because of prevailing conditions and am not especially anxious to do so even now. Of course, it is an American historical document of great value that in better times would command a very high price.

Some of these days I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you personally. I have a very interesting Lincoln project under way that I would like to talk with you about. Will you not connect with me when you are in New York?

I have a very interesting catalogue in preparation, including several fine Lincoln items, copy of which will, of course, be sent you.

With all good wishes to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

P. S. Thanks for the facsimile.

T. F. M.

TFM:E.
Mrs. Noyes Presents Cornell With Rare Historical Papers

A prized collection of early American historical documents has been presented to Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., by Mrs. Nicholas H. Noyes of Indianapolis, university officials announced last night.

A set of the autographs of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, very rare among collectors, was included in the gift.

Mrs. Noyes made the presentation in honor of her husband, who is chairman of the finance committee of Eli Lilly and Company, and a graduate and trustee of Cornell.

A COPY OF the 13th amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery, was among the Noyes documents. It was signed by Abraham Lincoln and several members of Congress.

Two letters written by George Washington, a number of Lincoln manuscripts and letters signed by the 32 Presidents of the United States, also were in the collection.

Mrs. Noyes started the collection in 1949 when she presented Cornell University with the "Bancroft copy" of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Written by Lincoln and given to the historian, George Bancroft, it is one of five existing copies of the Gettysburg speech in Lincoln's own handwriting.

THE COLLECTION will be known as the Nicholas H. Noyes Collection of Historical Americana.

Dr. Stephen A. McCarthy, director of the university library, termed Mrs. Noyes' gift "a truly magnificent addition to the university's resources relating to the formative years of the American tradition."

Presented by Mrs. Nicholas H. Noyes of Indianapolis to Cornell University

acquired by Thomas A. Morgan