

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, con-
ceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition
that all men are created equal.

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

But in a larger sense we can not dedicate—
we can not consecrate—we can not hallow this
ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled
here, have consecrated it far above our power
to add or detract. The world will little note,
nor long remember, what we say here; but
we can never forget what they did here. It is
for us, the living, rather to be dedicated
now to the unfinished work which they have
thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather

for us to be here dedicated to the great
task remaining before us—that from these
honors dear we take increased devotion
to the cause for which they here gave ^{their} ~~gave~~
the last full measure of devotion—that
we here highly resolve that these dead
shall not have died in vain; that this
nation shall have a new birth of freedom,
and that this government of the people, by
the people, for the people, shall not perish
from the earth.

Second draft of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's own hand. It was delivered November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, after the Union Victory there in July.

(Source: Library of Congress)



Confederate soldiers captured at Gettysburg.



Gettysburg, November 1863, showing a parade forming on Baltimore Street to march to the battlefield where President Lincoln dedicated the national cemetery.