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GETTYSBURG ADDRESSES IN AUTOGRAPH

Some time ago the associated press released an article which featured the discovery of what was said to be another original copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Inasmuch as the last Gettysburg autograph to change hands brought a sum which went into six figures, according to the purchaser, it seemed that what might appear to be a \$100,000 discovery was worth investigating.

There are six autographed copies of the Gettysburg Address known to have been made by Mr. Lincoln and five are preserved. An attempt to identify them by descriptive names is made here and a few facts concerning them set forth. The number of lines in the original are given to assist in the identification. No effort is made, however, to point out the slight differences in the text of the manuscripts.

1. Washington Draft *Thirty-three Lines*

Many Lincoln students feel that this copy of the address is the original draft made by Lincoln at Washington sometime before his departure for Gettysburg. That he did not copy it from any of the other known drafts is assumed because of the many corrections, nine of them altogether, which he made in the writing. There is also internal evidence that the changes in form were incorporated in the later manuscript used at Gettysburg. This manuscript came into the possession of John Hay, one of Lincoln's secretaries, and was inherited by his children. His son, Clarence Hay, and his daughters presented this manuscript to the Library of Congress.

2. Battlefield Copy *Twenty-nine Lines*

It appears as if this draft of the address was prepared for use at the dedication. Originally it was all written on stationery of the Executive Mansion. Some care had been taken to see that corrections were made before copying and it seems likely that the former draft above mentioned was before Mr. Lincoln when he copied this manuscript.

For some reason, however, the paragraph on the second sheet did not please him and sometime after he left Washington but before delivering the address he evidently destroyed the second page, marked out the three

last words of the first page with a pencil, and rewrote the second page. This recopied page was written with a pencil on a different grade of paper. These two sheets are generally conceded to be the ones which he had with him at Gettysburg.

There are many strange and conflicting traditions regarding the writing of the revision. One claims the pencil used was loaned to Lincoln on the train by Andrew Carnegie while another holds that the material on which the famous address was written was a piece of wrapping paper.

This two page copy of the address also came into possession of John Hay and was passed on to the Library of Congress by Mr. Hay's children.

3. Lost Copy

Mr. Nicolay says that a few days after the Gettysburg trip Lincoln received from Mr. Wells, who had been his host on the occasion of his visit there, a letter requesting a copy of the address. Nicolay further states that Lincoln gathered the press copies of the speech and "comparing these with his original draft and with his own fresh recollection of the form in which he delivered it, he made a new autograph copy, a careful and deliberate revision."

This copy was never received by Mr. Wells and it has been known as the lost copy.

4. Everett Copy *Thirty-one Lines*

The Senate of the United States on February 12, 1920, invited Senator Henry W. Keyes of New Hampshire to read the Gettysburg Address from an original copy of the speech which was in his possession. In his preliminary remarks he explained how he happened to come in possession of the famous writing:

"It was given by President Lincoln to Edward Everett, and he presented it, together with the manuscript of his own address, also delivered at Gettysburg, at the consecration of the National Cemetery on the 19th of November, 1863, to Mrs. Hamilton Fish, who was then president of the executive committee of the ladies having charge at the fair in aid of the sanitary commission held in New York in March, 1864, to be disposed of for the benefit of our soldiers of the Civil War. These two manuscripts were purchased at this fair by an uncle of mine and have been in my family ever since."

In 1885 Miss Bell F. Keyes of Boston wrote to Robert T. Lincoln asking for information about an original copy of the Gettysburg Address then in her possession. A copy of the letter he wrote to Miss Keyes follows:

Dear Madam

It gives me pleasure to answer your inquiry. My father's Gettysburg Address was jotted down in pencil, in part at least on his way to the place. Mr. Everett expressed to him his gratification and upon his request my

father wrote out the address in ink and sent it to him and this is no doubt the copy you have. My father made another copy in ink to be used in getting up a collection in lithographic copy called *Autographed Leaves of Our Country's Authors* for the benefit of the great Sanitary Fair at Baltimore and the facsimile is contained in a copy of the book which I have. I do not know of any other autographic copy nor what became of the pencil notes. They were probably used in delivering the address and then destroyed, but as to this I have no knowledge.

I am very truly yours,

Robert T. Lincoln.

This copy of the address came into the possession of Thomas F. Madigan in 1930.

5. Bancroft Reverse Copy *One Sheet Written on both Sides*

In the spring of 1864 George Bancroft, the historian, requested that Lincoln make another copy of his Gettysburg Address for the Maryland Soldiers' and Sailors' Fair to be held at Baltimore. Mr. Lincoln made a copy but inasmuch as it was written on both sides of one piece of paper it was unavailable for the purpose of lithographic reproduction in facsimile in a volume in which it was to be used.

Mr. Bancroft asked Mr. Lincoln to make another copy, at the same time asking permission to keep the one that could not be used. Mr. Lincoln granted both requests and the reverse copy is still in possession of members of the Bancroft family.

6. Bancroft Final Copy *Thirty-seven Lines*

The final copy which Lincoln prepared for Bancroft was published in lithograph facsimiles in *Autographed Leaves of Our Country's Authors*. It has become known through wide circulation as the standard version of the address. It was written on one side of three different sheets and prefaced by the words in Lincoln's autograph, "Address delivered at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg." It is also concluded with the date "November 19, 1863" and "Abraham Lincoln" also in the autograph of the president. When last mentioned in the press the original was in possession of Professor William J. A. Bliss of Baltimore.

A photograph of the alleged original copy of the Gettysburg Address recently discovered and owned by Miss Margaret O'Herron, is before the writer. It appears to be an exact facsimile of the final Bancroft copy with the exception that the punctuation marks bear evidence of having been touched up with pen and ink.

On careful observation this photographic copy of the O'Herron manuscript appears very much like the copies of the address distributed freely by the thousands over a period of a great many years by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.