

LINCOLN LORE

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DEDICATION DAY AT GETTYSBURG

The National Cemetery at Gettysburg was dedicated on Thursday, the nineteenth of November, 1863. The program of this occasion, which included the famous address by the President, is of sufficient importance to cause it to be preserved in some tangible form. The other events of the day which helped to create the atmosphere in which the remarkable address was given are also worthy of preservation.

The President and his party arrived in the town of Gettysburg on Wednesday evening to be in ample time for the dedication services on the following day. Everything of importance which occurred from the sounding of the cavalry call at sunrise to his departure in the evening contributed something to the delivery or the reception of the famous remarks of the President.

Salute

At seven A. M. the cavalry call was sounded on Cemetery Hill. One writer gave this description of the salute which followed: "Now from the hill salvos of artillery rolled through the air, thundering away over the battlefield a stern and mighty requiem for the brave." This cannonade alone would have been sufficient to recall to the mind of Lincoln, and all of the visitors at the dedication, the battle fought on the field of Gettysburg which was responsible for the setting apart of a national cemetery.

The Battle Field

There was much evidence everywhere of the battle which had occurred a little over four months before, and the process of moving bodies from the hastily-made graves to their permanent resting places was continuing from day to day. The correspondent of the New York Times stated, "Within a stone's throw of the whitewashed hut occupied as the headquarters of General Meade, I counted, yesterday, no less than ten carcasses of dead horses, lying on the ground where they were struck by the shells of the enemy."

The trees especially gave evidence of the battle, and many of the buildings standing had huge holes shot through them. A few shells which had failed to explode were some of the relics which souvenir hunters had feared to carry off.

The Cemetery

The consecrated ground was on the outskirts of the town, about one-half mile south of the Gettysburg court house, situated between the Baltimore and Taneytown roads. It occupied about ten acres on a slope of Prospect Hill, a continuation of an elevated ridge known as Cemetery Hill. This ground formed the northern-most line of the Union armies during the memorable battle.

The burial lots were laid out in half circles divided by avenues radiating from a common center. Mr. William Saunders, a landscape gardener of Washington, designed the arrangement of the plan. The unfinished condition of the cemetery at the time of the dedication, however, gave no appearance of beauty or symmetry. The graves were newly made and marked only by bits of board stuck in the ground, numbered or bearing the hastily written names, letters of company, and regiment of the ones interred there.

The Parade

The procession formed in the town of Gettysburg at nine A. M. and was supposed to be ready to move at ten A. M., but was an hour late in starting. The United States Marine Band of Washington, the Second United States Artillery Band of Baltimore, the Birgfield Band of Philadelphia, and the band of the Fifth New York Heavy Artillery were in line and furnished music.

As the parade started on its way from the village to the cemetery, minute guns were fired.

The military escort comprised one squadron of cav-

alry, two batteries of artillery, and a regiment of infantry, being the regular funeral escort of honor paid to the highest officers in the service.

The Honored Guests

Among the many honored guests who occupied seats on the platform were: Honorable Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and members of his cabinet: Seward, Secretary of State; Usher, Secretary of Interior; Blair, Postmaster-General; Honorable Edward Everett, guest speaker of the day; Governors Curtin of Pennsylvania, Seymour of New York, Tod of Ohio, Coburn of Maine, Morton of Indiana, Bradford of Maryland, Parker of New Jersey; Former Governors Wright of Indiana, Pierpont of West Virginia, Dennison of Ohio; Governor-Elect Brough of Ohio; Major-Generals Schenck, Stahl, Doubleday, Stoneman, Couch; Brigadier-General Gibbon; Provost-Marshal-General Fry; General A. L. Russel; Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania.

Program of the Exercises

Music—The Birgfield Band, Philadelphia.

Prayer—Rev. T. H. Stockton, D.D., Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Music—United States Marine Band of Washington.

Oration—Hon. Edward Everett, Boston.

Music—Hymn.

Dedication Remarks—Hon. Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.

Dirge—Choir from Gettysburg churches.

Benediction—Rev. H. L. Baugher, D.D.

Outline of Edward Everett's Oration

Introduction

Athen's tribute to her fallen heroes

Purpose of Gettysburg ceremonies

Argument

A. The conflict

Events leading up to Battle of Gettysburg

The three great battle days, July 1, 2, and 3

Close of the eventful conflict

The retreat of Lee

Picture of the battlefield

Messages from dying lips

B. The responsibility for the nation's agony

The Constitution speaks

Sovereign states and the central power

Truce and national suicide

The bitterness of civil strife

Yearning for the old flag

Conclusion

The graves of Gettysburg

New York Presentation Program

About three P. M. the fifth New York Regiment of Heavy Artillery marched to the residence where Governor Seymour was staying, passing in review before the New York executive. A handsome silk regimental standard was presented to Colonel Murray's men by the Governor, who made an appropriate presentation speech. General Schenck followed with a short talk.

Presbyterian Church Program

In the late afternoon a program was conducted at the Presbyterian Church where Lieutenant-Governor-Elect Anderson of Ohio made the principal address. The President attended the service accompanied by John Burns of the town of Gettysburg, who fought through the three-days battle there in July.

The Departure

Fear of collision with incoming trains had caused the railroad authorities to hold all trains in Gettysburg until the departure of the President and his party. This caused a large number of the fifteen thousand or more who were present at the ceremonies to see the President off at six P. M.