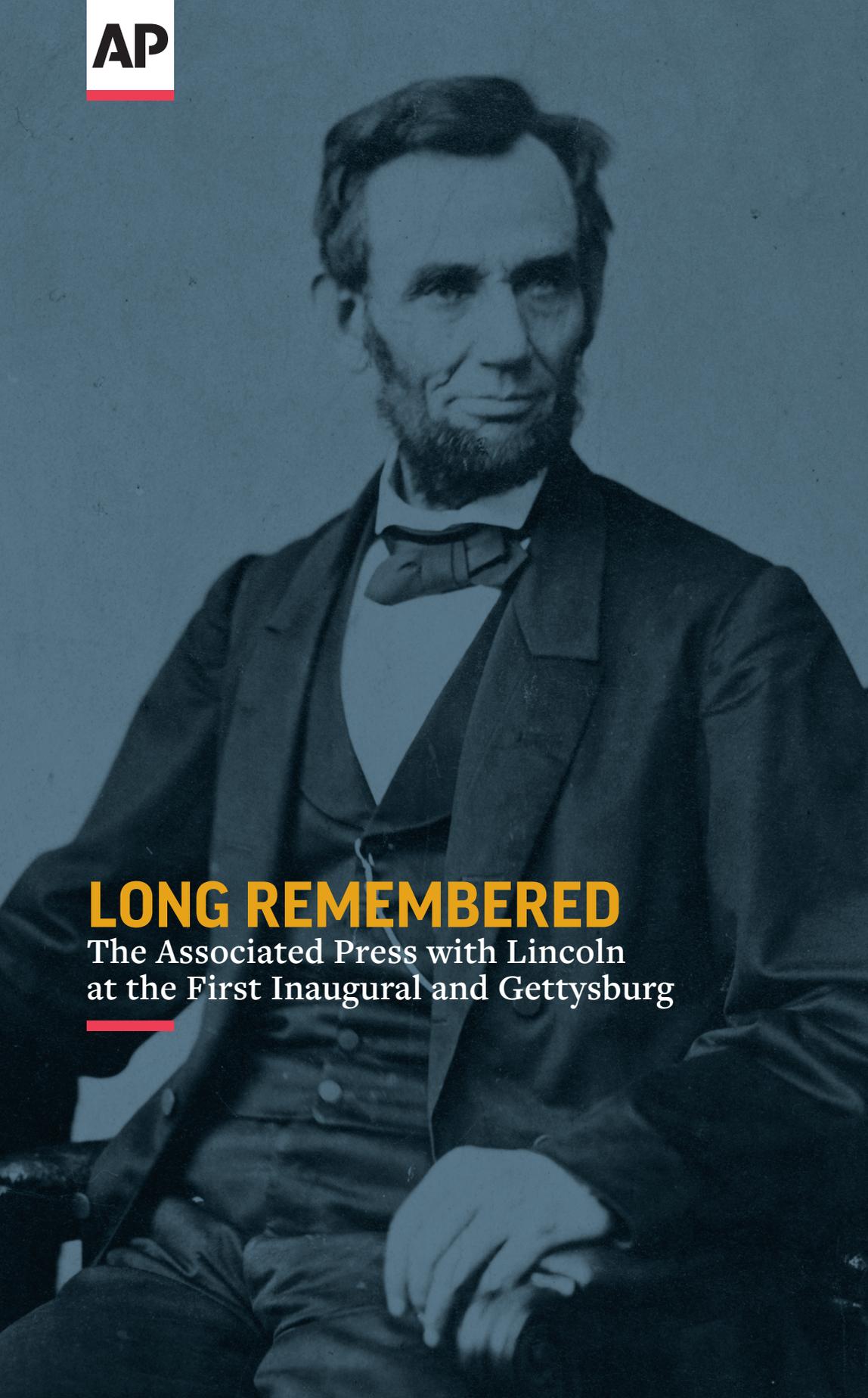


The AP logo consists of the letters 'AP' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, positioned inside a white square. A thin red horizontal line is located directly beneath the white square.

AP

A dark, monochromatic portrait of Abraham Lincoln, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. His hands are clasped in his lap. The background is a plain, light color.

# LONG REMEMBERED

The Associated Press with Lincoln  
at the First Inaugural and Gettysburg

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The world will little note,  
nor long remember what we say here,  
but it can never forget what they did here.

Abraham Lincoln  
Gettysburg Address  
November 19, 1863

### Abraham Lincoln (detail)

early 1861

Christopher S. German, photographer

This portrait was the last one taken in Springfield, Illinois before Lincoln assumed the presidency.



### Lawrence A. Gobright (detail)

ca. 1865-80

Gobright served as the Washington agent of the New York Associated Press from 1855 to 1879. A well-known veteran in the capital by the time of Lincoln's inauguration, he was in a position to serve the news requirements of Lincoln's administration during the Civil War.



### Joseph Ignatius Gilbert (detail)

ca. 1863

Courtesy of the Gilbert-Molloy-McHenry Archive

Gilbert was a young stenographer and capital reporter in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when he covered Lincoln's Gettysburg Address for the New York Associated Press in 1863.



## Long Remembered: The Associated Press with Lincoln at the First Inaugural and Gettysburg

*An exhibit in honor of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (1861-65)*

The New York Associated Press (NYAP) was on hand to deliver to the world two of President Abraham Lincoln's most enduring orations. When Lincoln took the oath of office on March 4, 1861, Lawrence A. Gobright had been a Washington journalist for nearly 30 years and the local agent and reporter of the NYAP for six. Joseph Gilbert was just 21 years old when he went to Gettysburg in 1863 to cover Lincoln's remarks at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Fortunately, both men left published accounts: Gobright a full memoir and Gilbert a series of short pieces.

As we learn from Gobright's *Recollections of Men and Things at Washington During the Third of a Century* (1869), Gobright enjoyed remarkably easy access to the president, even calling on him unannounced at the White House to "learn the latest news." The relationship was useful to both men. During the war, Lincoln needed to reach a broad audience, and the NYAP made that possible. Most of the nation's newspapers lacked the resources to send a correspondent to the field and relied on the reporting of the NYAP.

To cover Lincoln's inauguration, Gobright engaged Henry Watterson, later editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, to procure the press copy in advance of the address. Watterson recalled awakening on the morning of March 4 to find in his keyhole a note which read: "For Inaugural Address see Col. Ward H. Lamon." Watterson set off for Willard's Hotel, where Lincoln was staying, and quickly obtained the document. Immediately after the president began speaking at 1:30 p.m., the dispatch was telegraphed and arrived in newspapers by 4 p.m.

In light of his closeness to Lincoln, it is surprising that Gobright does not mention the president's address at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. But Joseph Gilbert never forgot Gettysburg, which was his second encounter with Lincoln. He first covered Lincoln at Harrisburg when the president-elect came through in February 1861 en route to his inaugural in Washington. Thus, Gilbert knew what Lincoln sounded like, which may have been an advantage for a stenographer. Most of the crowd had never heard Lincoln before, much less seen him. Stationed directly in front of Lincoln, Gilbert took down the president's words in shorthand. Part way through, he became mesmerized and stopped writing. After the president finished speaking, Gilbert borrowed his delivery text, copied it, and headed for the telegraph office. Lincoln later consulted the published NYAP account in making his fair (or corrected) copies, which were then in high demand.

Valerie Komor  
Director, AP Corporate Archives



### The Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States

March 4, 1861  
Hand-colored wood engraving  
*Harper's Weekly*, March 16, 1861  
AP Corporate Archives

Although Lincoln had been elected on a platform that sought to end the extension of slavery, his First Inaugural address was conciliatory toward the South:

*We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*

### Inauguration of Mr. Lincoln

March 4, 1861  
Unknown photographer

In this photograph, Lincoln is standing beneath the canopy, midway between the left and center posts, his white shirt front visible. AP's Washington agent, Lawrence A. Gobright, describes the scene in his memoir: "Mr. Lincoln, after a short pause, laid down his manuscript for a few moments on the table; then thrusting his hand into his pocket, took from it a pair of steel-bowed spectacles, which he placed carefully and deliberately on his nose, and used his goldheaded cane as a paper-weight during the reading of the Inaugural."

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are held by the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.



## THE INAUGURATION!

Pacific Induction of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency.

### HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FATHERS RESTORED.

THE UNION MUST AND SHALL BE PRESERVED.

Scenes and Incidents of the Day.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The day was ushered in by a most exciting session of the Senate, that body sitting 12 hours, from 7 o'clock last evening till 7 this morning. As the hand on the dial pointed to 12 o'clock, and the Sabbath gave way to Monday, 4th of March, the Senate Chamber presented a curious and animated appearance.

The galleries were crowded to repletion the ladies' galleries resembling, from the gaudy dresses of the fair ones there congregated some gorgeous parterre of flowers, and the gentlemen's gallery one black mass of surging heaving masculines, pushing, struggling, and almost clambering over each other's backs in order to get a good look at the proceedings.

Some of the most ludicrous scenes were the result of the intense desire of the outsiders to get a peep into the Senate chamber, and the pertinacity with which the applicants for admission to the overflowing galleries would urge that they had come all the way from Indiana, or Vermont, or some other place, afforded the seated ones intense amusement.

On the floor, Crittenden, Trumbull, Wigfall, Wade, Douglas and others, kept up a running fire of debate, while those not engaged in discussion betook themselves to the sofas for a comfortable nap during the session, which it was known would last all night. As morning advanced the galleries and floor became gradually cleared out.

In the gray morning light the Senate took a recess till 10 o'clock to-day. A few minutes after 7 o'clock but few remained.

## THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES.

DISPATCH TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 4.

The day was ushered in by a most exciting session of the Senate, that body sitting for twelve hours, from 7 o'clock yesterday evening to 7 o'clock this morning.

As the dial of the clock pointed to 12 o'clock last night, and the Sabbath gave way to Monday, the 4th of March, the Senate Chamber presented a curious and animated appearance. The galleries were crowded to repletion, the ladies' gallery resembling, from the gay dresses of the fair ones there congregated, some gorgeous parterre of flowers, and the gentlemen's gallery seemed one dense black mass of surging, heaving masculines, pushing, struggling and almost clambering over each other's backs in order to get a good look at the proceedings.

Some most ludicrous scenes were the result of the intense desire of the outsiders to get a peep into the Senate chamber, and the pertinacity with which the applicant for admission to the overflowing galleries would urge that he had come all the way from "Indianny" or "Varmount," or some other place, afforded the seated ones intense amusement.

On the floor, Messrs. Crittenden, Trumbull, Wigfall, Wade, Douglas and others kept up a rolling fire of debate, while those not engaged in the discussion betook themselves to the sofas for a comfortable nap during the session which it was known would last all night.

As the morning advanced, the galleries and floor became gradually cleared out, when, in the grey morning light, the Senate took a recess till 10 o'clock to-day. A few minutes after 7 o'clock but few remained.

The morning broke clear and beautiful, and though at one time a few drops of rain fell, the day proved just calm and cloudy enough to prevent the unusual heat of the past few days, and the whirlwind of dust that would otherwise rendered it excessively unpleasant.

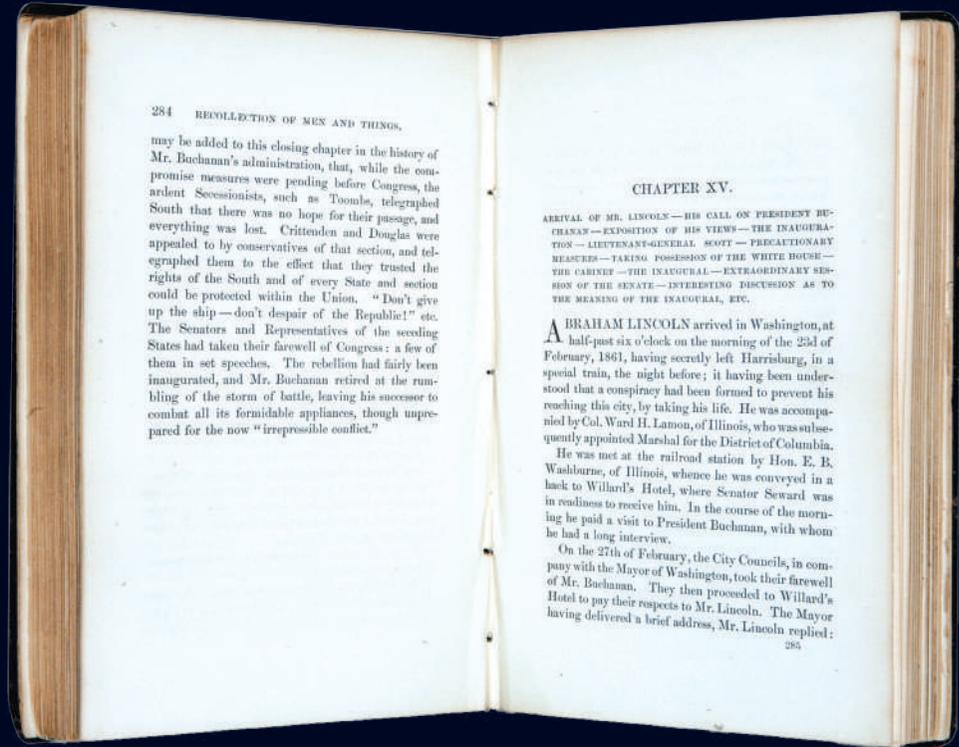
### Two newspaper accounts of the First Inaugural:

*The Chicago Tribune* (left)

*The New York Times* (right)

March 5, 1861

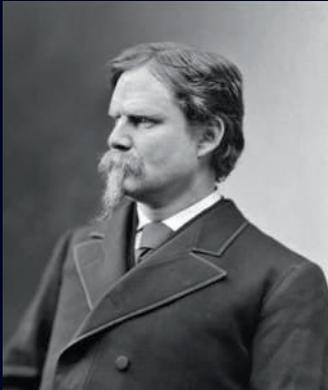
Although the *Tribune* does not credit AP, a comparison shows it used the AP dispatch for its inaugural report. If we disallow errors in telegraph transmission, the Chicago editor made only small changes. For example, Chicago prefers: "As the hand on the dial pointed to 12 o'clock" to AP's "As the dial of the clock pointed to 12 o'clock last night ..." Chicago also dispensed with the Washington weather report offered in paragraph six of the *Times* account.



### *Recollections of Men and Things at Washington During the Third of a Century*

Lawrence A. Gobright  
Philadelphia, 1869  
AP Corporate Archives

Lawrence A. Gobright (1816–1881) arrived in Washington in 1834 and worked as a compositor, editor, and congressional correspondent before becoming the local agent for the New York Associated Press in 1855. During the Civil War, he maintained close relations with the president while contending with the censorship of all dispatches from Washington and the field imposed in early 1862 by Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. His memoir, *Recollections of Men and Things at Washington During the Third of a Century*, begins with the second Jackson administration, follows Lincoln from his election and first inaugural to his assassination, and closes with Johnson's impeachment. Gobright loved being on the House floor, and he provides generous excerpts from the debates there, which became especially heated during the winter of 1860–61 as Congress sought to prevent the states of the Upper South from seceding. He also developed a very good ear for Lincoln's storytelling and conversational style.



### Hon. Henry Watterson of Kentucky

ca. 1865-80

In later years, Watterson recalled that he was “engaged by Mr. L.A. Gobright, the Agent of the Associated Press ... to assist him and Major Ben Perley Poore ... with their report of the Inaugural Ceremonies of the 4th of March, 1861.” Watterson went off to Willard’s Hotel and found the president-elect “pacing to and fro, apparently reading a manuscript. I went straight in ... I told him my errand. ‘Why,’ said he, ‘you have come to the right shop, Lamon is in the next room. I will take you to him, and he will fix you all right.’ No sooner said than done, and, supplied with the press copy of the Inaugural Address, I gratefully and gleefully took my leave.” (*Editorials of Henry Watterson*, Arthur Krock, compiler, Louisville, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 1923)

#### THE INAUGURAL AND THE TELEGRAPH

The manner in which President LINCOLN'S Inaugural was transmitted by telegraph is deserving of especial commendation. The American Telegraph Company, under the able management of E. S. SANDFORD, Esq., its President, placed at the disposal of the Associated Press three wires between Washington and this City. The delivery of the Inaugural commenced at 1½ o'clock, Washington time, and the telegraphers promptly to the minute, began its transmission to New-York. The first words of the Message were received by the Agent of the Press at 1¾ o'clock, and the last about 3¾ o'clock, while the entire document was furnished to the different newspapers by 4 o'clock. Such rapidity in telegraphic communication has never before been reached in this country, and it should be a source of pride to the American Company, its President and accomplished operators, that so notable an act has been accomplished. To Mr. SANDFORD are the thanks of the Press and the public especially due for the kind manner in which he placed the line under his charge at the disposal of the Press.

We understand that a lengthy synopsis of the Inaugural was yesterday evening transmitted to St. Johns, N. F., thence to be forwarded by steam-tug to intercept the steamship *Fulton*, bound to Europe, off Cape Race.

### The Inaugural and the Telegraph *The New York Times*

March 5, 1861

The favors extended to Gobright by the American Telegraph Company during the early days of Lincoln's presidency did not continue. On April 19, the military took control of the company's Washington office, and all telegraphic communication between Washington and Richmond ceased. A few days later, a wire was run from the main telegraph office in Washington to the White House; another connected the War Department with the Navy Yard.



### Newspaper Row in Washington, D.C.

Harper's New Monthly Magazine  
January 1874, No. 284  
AP Corporate Archives

The major Eastern papers had their offices along Fourteenth Street between F Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The Associated Press offices are barely visible on the lower floor of the Western Union Building around the corner. Willard's Hotel, on the northwest corner of Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania, served as an unofficial press club. Lincoln stayed there before moving to the White House.



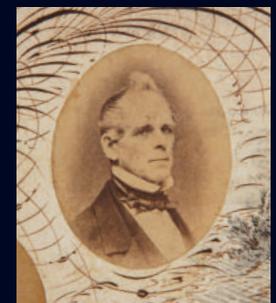
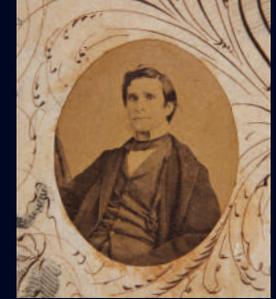
## Associated Press Broadside in Honor of Frederic Hudson

1866

Engraved and hand decorated, with salted paper and albumen prints glued down  
 AP Corporate Archives

At 18 years of age in 1837, Frederic Hudson (1819–1875) joined the *New York Herald*. His early experience gathering the foreign news from arriving vessels in New York Harbor had impressed the paper’s editor, James Gordon Bennett, who soon made him managing editor. When the New York Associated Press (NYAP) was formed in 1846, he joined its Executive Committee, serving with Bennett and Henry J. Raymond, also of the *Herald*. During the Civil War, he put more correspondents in the field than any other editor. In 1866, he retired to Concord, Massachusetts and died suddenly in 1875 when a railroad train hit the buggy he was riding in. The *Herald* lauded him as the “father of American journalism.”

Bordering this broadside are 18 portraits of the members of the Executive Committee of the NYAP, with the mastheads of their papers. The seven papers are: *The New York Journal of Commerce*, *The Sun*, *The New York Herald*, *The New York Tribune*, *The New York Evening Express*, *The New York Times* and *The World*. Portrait photographs (from top) of Erastus Brooks, James Gordon Bennett, Gerard Hallock and Henry J. Raymond were taken by Mathew Brady.





## The Press on the Field

Hand-colored wood engraving after Thomas Nast  
*Harper's Weekly*, April 30, 1864  
 AP Corporate Archives



**New York Herald tent and wagon  
at Bealeton, Virginia**

August 1863

Timothy H. O'Sullivan, photographer

The *New York Herald* was a founding member of the New York Associated Press (NYAP) in 1846. During the war, rather than support the NYAP, the *Herald* and the six other NYAP Executive Committee members sent their own correspondents to the field. This was a costly enterprise, but the papers seized the opportunity to enhance their individual reputations through eyewitness reporting. Long term, their unwillingness to support the NYAP led to its weakening.

Historians estimate that there were over 400 correspondents working in Washington, Richmond and the battlefields during the Civil War, but it is difficult to know the number who worked for the NYAP. In Daniel Craig's annual report of January 1, 1862, he gives surprisingly short shrift to his arrangements for war coverage, mentioning Jesse C. Rome at Fortress Monroe (Virginia), Alexander Fulton at Baltimore and correspondents with generals McClellan and Ranks. At present, he notes, "we have but one correspondent with the army of the Potomac, Mr. T. Barnard, who was formerly one of Mr. Gobright's assistants at Washington. He is paid \$25 per week and necessary expenses."



**Members of the U.S. Military Telegraph Corps at Petersburg, Virginia with Superintendent Maj. Thomas Eckert (seated, left)**

1864

On February 26, 1862, the War Department took “military possession” of all telegraph lines in the United States. This meant that military communications not authorized by the War Department or the commanding generals were excluded from the wires. The corps accompanied every unit into battle to repair severed lines or put up new ones; during the war, it laid 15,389 miles of line. In June of 1862, the corps attached to General George McClellan successfully telegraphed enemy troop movements to Fortress Monroe from a balloon high over the battlefield at Gaines’ Hill near Richmond. “Early in the morning,” wrote the telegrapher, “the battle was renewed, and with more fierceness than the day before. Incessant firing of musketry and artillery was kept up until noon, when I had the extreme pleasure to announce by telegraph from the balloon, that we could see the enemy retreating rapidly toward Richmond.”



**President Abraham Lincoln**

November 8, 1863

Alexander Gardner, photographer



### The Cemetery Gatehouse at Gettysburg

July 1863

Unknown photographer

Pictured here is the gate to the local Gettysburg cemetery, which gave its name to the adjoining Cemetery Hill. Part of Cemetery Hill was chosen as the grounds for the new Soldiers' National Cemetery. David Wills, Burgess of the Borough of Gettysburg, proposed the site, saying, "It is the point where the desperate attack was made by the Louisiana brigades on Thursday evening. It was the key to the whole line of defenses, the spot of the triangular line of battle. It is the spot above all others, for the honorable burial of the dead who have fallen on these fields."

### Scene at the Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg

November 19, 1863

Unknown photographer

Crowds began to arrive in Gettysburg two days before the dedication ceremonies were held. The town could not begin to accommodate the people, many of whom camped out all night. Lincoln departed the house of David Wills at 10 a.m. and joined the procession, which included the press, dignitaries from across the Union and a large group of soldiers who had been wounded in the battle.



### The National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Yesterday, in the presence of a mighty concourse, the President of the United States solemnly dedicated the new National Cemetery on the battle field at Gettysburg. Surrounded by the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio and Indiana, and by officers of high rank in military and civil circles, he said:

Fourscore and seven years ago our Fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (Applause.) Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting-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 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 power to add or detract. (Applause.) The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. (Applause.) It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus so far nobly carried on. (Applause.) It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they here gave the last full measure of their devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; (applause) that the Nation shall under God have a new birth of freedom, and that Governments of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. (Long continued applause.)

*The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*

November 20, 1863

### PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ADDRESS.

The President then delivered the following dedicatory speech:

Fourscore and seven years ago our Fathers brought forth upon this Continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. [Applause.] 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 battle-field of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting-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 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 power to add or detract. [Applause.] The world will little note nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. [Applause.] It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus so far nobly carried on. [Applause.] It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; [applause] that the Nation shall under God have a new birth of freedom, and that Governments of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. [Long continued applause.]

*The New York Times*

November 20, 1863

### REMARKS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers established upon this continent a Government subscribed in liberty and dedicated to the fundamental principle that all mankind are created equal by a good God, and [applause] now we are engaged in a great contest. We are contesting the question whether this nation, or any nation so conceived, so dedicated can longer remain. We are met on a great battle field of the war. We are met here to dedicate a portion of that field as the final resting place of those who have given their lives to that nation that it might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a large sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men lying dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it it far above our poor power to add or to detract. [Great applause.] The world will little heed, nor long remember, what we say here; but it will not forget what they did here. [Immense Applause.]

It is for us rather, the living, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried forward. It is rather for us here to [be dedicated the great task remaining before us; for us to renew our devotion to that cause for which they gave the full measure of their devotion. Here let us resolve that what they have done shall not have been done in vain. That the nation shall, under God, have a new birth. That the Government the people founded, by the people shall not perish.

*The Chicago Tribune*

November 21, 1863

## Reporting the Gettysburg Address

Joseph Gilbert telegraphed the text of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to the New York Associated Press immediately after Lincoln finished speaking. Gilbert's text leaves out the word "poor," in the phrase "our poor power." It has "refinished work" for "unfinished work," which was corrected by the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* editor but not by the *Times*. Gilbert also identifies audience applause, as does the *Tribune*, which indicates that the Chicago reporter heard the same applause. Tradition has it that the crowd was so stunned by Lincoln's oratory that they failed to applaud.

The *Chicago Tribune* had its agent in the New York Associated Press offices, but it chose not to take the AP account and instead used that of its own reporter. He had difficulty getting through on November 19 (he blames this on "occupation of the wires") and had to send his complete copy on November 20 from Harrisburg. The text is garbled in places, suggesting he may not have heard the president well ("government the people founded, by the people shall not perish.") However "poor power" and "unfinished work" got through, as did "Government" in the singular.



### President Lincoln at Gettysburg

November 19, 1863

Unknown photographer

This is the only photograph of the president at Gettysburg, although numerous photographers were present. Lincoln has taken his seat on the platform and is visible at center left, his head slightly lowered. Ward H. Lamon, the president's bodyguard, is standing to Lincoln's left and wearing a top hat. John G. Nicolay, Lincoln's secretary, is seated to his right. The day's main speaker, Edward Everett, is to the right of Lamon's hat with a white shirtfront and white hair.



### Confederate dead at the edge of the Rose Woods, Gettysburg

July 5, 1863

Alexander Gardner, photographer

## Lincoln in 1863

Joseph I. Gilbert

*Nineteenth Annual Convention of the  
National Shorthand Reporters' Association:  
Proceedings of the Annual Meeting*

1917

Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential  
Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois

“When returning to the town on foot I was overtaken, on the rough country road, by the Presidential cavalcade of thirty or more distinguished civic and military officials escorting the President to the railroad station. Lincoln bestrode a spirited animal and controlled it with the skill of an expert horseman. With characteristic self-unconcern he had left his escort behind and was nearly a city block in advance of Secretary Seward, the nearest member of it. His plain black overcoat and much worn high silk hat contrasted oddly with the glittering uniforms of his attendants. As he passed there was an expression of intense gratification upon his usually impassive countenance, as if his participation in making the event of the day worthy of the motive that inspired it had not been merely perfunctory but the performance of a public duty that more than any other appealed to his noble impulses. His grand figure soon disappeared in the distance and an unaccountable foreboding of evil to befall him oppressed me.”



The Associated Press, a not-for-profit cooperative, has been reporting the news since 1846. In the spring of that year, five New York City daily papers accepted the offer of Moses Yale Beach, second publisher of the *New York Sun*, to share the costs of transmitting news of the Mexican War. The war had created a public appetite for news, and the telegraph offered an efficient means to gather it. From the beginning, AP's task has been the same: Get it first, but first get it right. Today, AP distributes news to 1,400 American newspaper members, to broadcasters, international subscribers, social networks, and websites in all formats: text, photos, video, graphics and interactives. On any given day, half of the world's population sees news from AP.

The Associated Press Corporate Archives, founded in 2003, documents the history and operation of the organization. To that end, the Archives acquires, preserves and makes available for research those records that are deemed of enduring value. Supporting these activities are programs in collection development, manuscripts processing, preservation, exhibition and outreach, oral history and reference services. Holdings include governance, executive and bureau records; artifacts, personal papers, photographs, film and video and historic newspapers; and general reference and rare book collections.

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### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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[www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)



# New York Journal of Commerce

MEETING

# EXTRAORDINARY

HELD AT THE ROOMS, 145 BROADWAY, AT 2 O'CLOCK ON

MONDAY MARCH 12 1866

NEW YORK CITY

# Associated Press

# NEW YORK