



CIVIL WAR
INSTITUTE
at Gettysburg College

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
17325-1486

www.gettysburg.edu

confidential

January 19, 2007

Mr. Brian Lamb
CEO, C-Span
400 North Capitol Street, NW
650
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Brian,

First, thank you very much for **After Words**—it was great fun. The only downside to it came from going up against terrific football games on both nights. All too many Civil War buffs are also sports fans. Even some of my closest friends flipped back and forth between the Patriots winning a great game, and the ball James Swanson and I were having. Still, [REDACTED] got a nice bump on both Amazon and Barnes&Noble. Again, thank you very much for this and all that Cspan does.

I wonder whether you would consider also putting me on a three hour program. I know that this is a once in a life time event but, at the risk of sounding overdramatic, it is open to question how much time I have left. I do have major health problems and recently Ted Kooser, the former Poet Laureate of the US, was kind enough to send addressed to each of my three boys his poem, "Father." That's what I want them to find when I'm gone. I enclose a copy, in case you don't know the poem.

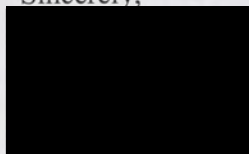
I also enclose: 1. [REDACTED] my first book; 2. a paragraph long resume; 3. a summary of life time accomplishments; 4. DVD trailer, 5 mins, for the film being made about my life; 5. Q&A about [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. *U.S. News and World Report* cover story (1 of 7 magazine stories, 3 cover stories); 7. A copy of the letter Doris Kearns Goodwin wrote to you recommending me for just such a show. Sending all this to you is a bit uncomfortable since it makes me look like a conceited fool. I like quoting Lincoln: "I find quite as much material for a lecture on those points wherein I have failed, as in those wherein I have been moderately successful." (*Notes for a Law Lecture*, 1850).

The only other point I can make is that I would put on a good show for you, especially if I could have you do the interview. Connie Doebele seemed quite pleased with *After Words*. Cspan would have loads of people calling in—forgive the arrogance—I have quite a fan club developed from all over the world, not just from my writing, but from the ranks who attended the Gettysburg Civil War Institute sessions over the past 25 years. There is even a group calling itself the FOG Society, friends of Gabor. And for Lincoln February is a good month.

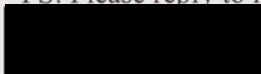
This letter is very personal in nature and I would like to ask that it be handled with confidentiality. Perhaps I'll surprise some folks and be around for a while yet. I certainly feel full of life.

Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

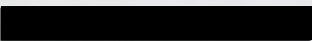


PS: Please reply to my home address:



Gettysburg, PA 17325

Encl.. 

Brief resume
Longer resume
5 min DVD
Q&A about 
U.S. News and World Report
Doris Kearns Goodwin letter
"Father"

In fairness, to show the other side of this letter: there are many good people out there and I hope to be around, too

Doris' letter

Dear Brian:

I so enjoyed being on CSpan discussing my book about Abraham Lincoln, *Team of Rivals*, and am writing now to recommend that this coming November or December, or possibly in early 2007, you invite Gabor Boritt to speak about his new book [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Much has been written about the Gettysburg Address--many would call it the best known speech in the world-- but what [REDACTED] has done is startlingly new and moving. David Herbert Donald calls it the "definitive study" and I think it is a masterpiece.

[REDACTED] is a fine story teller, has a wonderful, wry sense of humor, and his accent makes his performances all the more memorable. He is a native of Hungary, participated in their Revolution as a boy, went to Vietnam as a teacher during that war and, unlike most historians who write about it, actually knows war. A documentary film about his life will premier early next year. He has appeared frequently on radio and TV, from the Today show to Australian radio. He played cameo roles in two Civil War films for which he also served as an advisor, *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, and even shows up as a memorable character in the hilarious 2005 novel of Brad Smith about Gettysburg today: *Busted Flush*. The novel's [REDACTED] "knows more about Lincoln than Carl Sandburg and Ken Burns and Doris Kearns Goodwin put together." And I agree. Above all, for a powerful intellectual, he is utterly down to earth.

He lives on a Gettysburg farm where with his wife and their three sons reconstructed an abandoned 1700s Pennsylvania stone house with their own hands. The story will be featured in a forthcoming issue of the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Incidentally, one of his sons, [REDACTED] is a top set designer on Broadway (he did [REDACTED] among others,); one, [REDACTED] is a successful young documentary filmmaker [REDACTED] and is doing the film about his father; and [REDACTED]

one, [REDACTED] is at the National Zoo in Washington, soon to go on a Smithsonian expedition to Antarctica. I could go on at length. [REDACTED] is passionate about his work and America, an interesting man, full of stories, with a great new book. But find out for yourself. I recommend him highly.

Sincerely,

Doris Kearns Goodwin

PS: Please contact [REDACTED] assistant [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or his PR rep at
Simon&Schuster, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What Next in Iraq • New Rules on Breast Implants

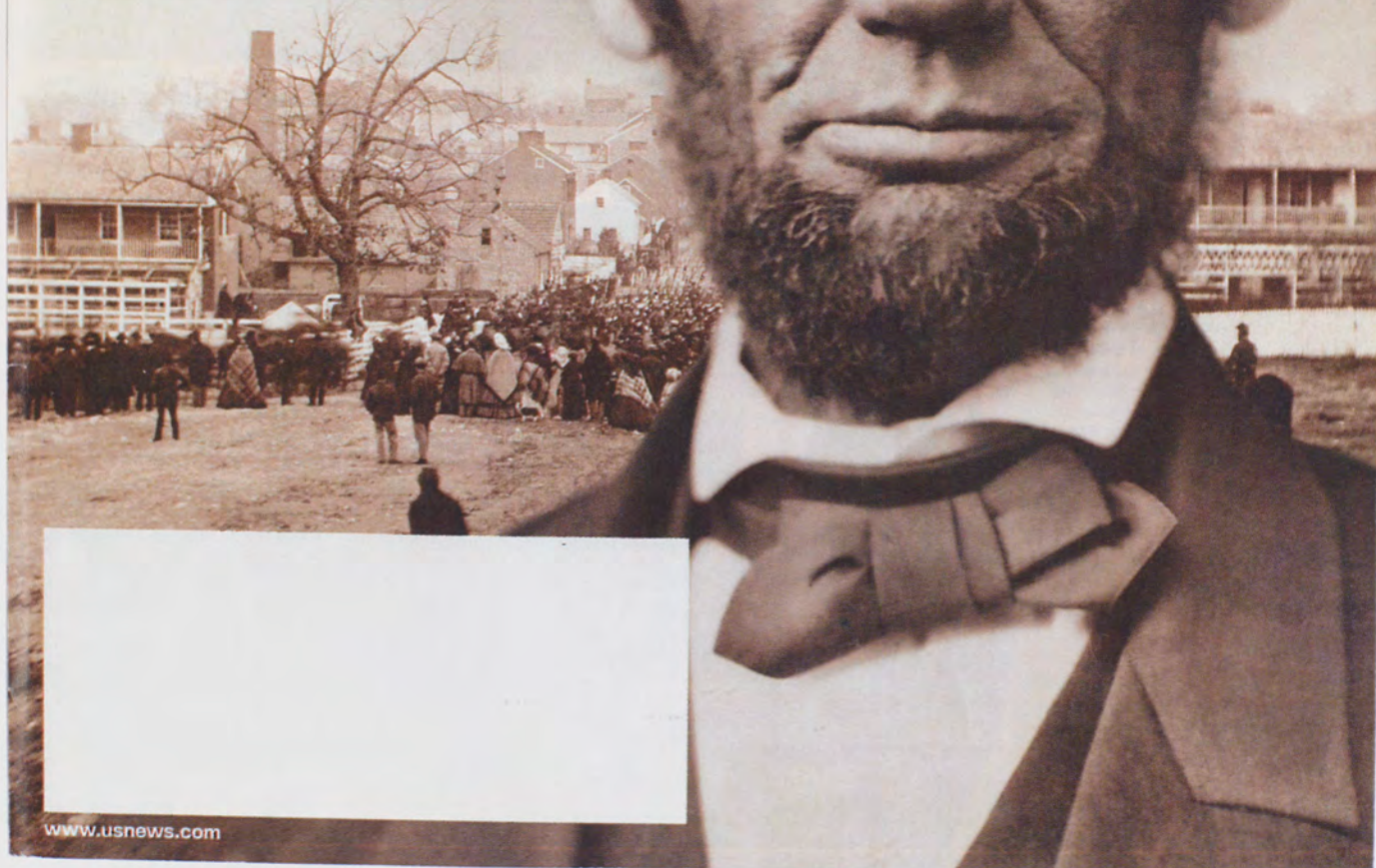
U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

DECEMBER 4, 2006

Lincoln at Gettysburg

A NEW LOOK
AT AMERICA'S
GREATEST
SPEECH

Exclusive Book Excerpt



Letters 8**The Art of Diplomacy 12**

Pope Benedict visits Turkey amid Muslims' anger and anticipation

Washington Whispers 14

Pat Boone does D.C., Don Quixote style; a real Kansas conservative; Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack's hard sell; poaching from the *Post*

White House Week 18

Losing ground in Iraq; battling for the political center; the fury of an angry GOP

Cross Country 20

More school \$\$\$ for New York; a bus tragedy in Alabama; crooked in Chicago

The World 22

Lebanon lurches toward civil war; Iran's new nuke move; a poisoned Russian spy

Q&A: Fatou Bensouda 24

Prosecutor tries one, blames many in Congo

NATION & WORLD**Reign Clouds 27**

The president is fighting a multifront war, both at home and abroad, with allies in increasingly short supply

Generation Y Turns Left 28

Will the Democrats be able to hold its allegiance down the road?

A Texas Mess Over Coal 29

Proposed new power plants have stirred up a furious uproar over clean air

Gloria Borger: The Lady of the House Will Be Held to a Higher Standard 32**Letter From Hiroshima 34**

A potential shift in Japan's pacifism worries those who remember the atomic bomb

SPECIAL REPORT**Getting Out 38**

It won't be quick or easy, but, surprisingly, there are at least some ideas for stopping the bleeding in Iraq. And James Baker may be part of the solution

Fouad Ajami: We Can Never Return to the Old Order in the Mideast 47

Contents continued on Page 6

COVER: PHOTO MONTAGE BY USN&WR WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY CORBIS (LINCOLN) AND MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION / CORBIS (CROWD)

**COVER STORY****Lincoln at Gettysburg 56**

With more than 10,000 dead and more than twice as many wounded, it was America's greatest man-made disaster. With 272 words, Abraham Lincoln sought to heal a wounded nation. A new look at the Gettysburg Address. By [REDACTED]



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Gettysburg's Good News

Schoolkids learn Lincoln's words at the scene of the epic battle by heart. But what did they really mean?

The meaning of the Gettysburg Address has changed, generation after generation. It has become one of the most revered texts, even as historians and public figures have puzzled over its meaning. In a new book,

_____ takes a fresh look at the 272 words written by President Abraham Lincoln, probably in a 36-hour period, partly in Washington, partly at the scene of the battle, the greatest man-made disaster in American history. The word "gospel" suggests spiritual rebirth. When Lincoln's words are best understood, they bring that potential to Americans, indeed to people everywhere.

GETTYSBURG, JULY 4, 1863. DREADFUL SILENCE. It rains. People crawl out of their cellars, blinking in the gloomy light, trying to find their neighbors, food, news—life. The battle is over, but the smell of putrid animal flesh mingles with the odor of human decay. It extends into the spirit of the people. War had come to them. Now it had gone and left the horror behind. No toasts are offered today, no fireworks, no parades, no services in the churches filled with grievously wounded men.

But Sally Myers, 23, full of life, forges ahead. The sun comes out, and the schoolteacher writes in her diary: "I never spent a happier Fourth. It seemed so bright." The Union had retaken the town. A soldier will later add: "The Glorious Fourth and we are still a Nation, and shall most likely continue to be for centuries to come." Prof. Michael Jacobs of Gettysburg's college comes out of his house on Middle Street with his son Henry. So do others. A band marches down Baltimore Street, fife and drum breaking the noxious grip of

stillness. People move toward the square. Life begins again.

It is Independence Day, after all, the day of victory in 1776, four score and seven years ago. The armies are leaving. But the wounded and dead remain, on the fields, in houses, in barns, and in hospital tents. Twenty-one thousand wounded; perhaps 10,000 dead.

Dead everywhere. Day follows day. Disinfectant powder spread over the muddy streets turns them white for a little while and adds to the odors. Snow in July. Must try "to extinguish, as far as possible, the sense of smelling," one woman writes. Must try to control disease. Pour kerosene on the bodies of horses and mules. Three to five thousand of them. Light the fire over them. Let them go up in smoke. The smell of burning flesh dissipates after a while; the smell of rotting carcasses stays around for months.

Many days are stiflingly hot. Even the nights. Most people don't open their windows to keep the stench out. Hard to keep the stench from their spirits. Sarah Broadhead, wife, mother, and now nurse to the wounded of the battle, writes in a diary about her fears that "we shall be visited with pestilence." Yet among the town's population there is no increase of disease and death. A resilient folk.

"God pity us!" When people approach the town, "the odors of the battle-field" attack them long before they get there. But the visitors come, many to help, some to gawk,

some to plunder, most looking for their lost loved ones. Visitors are "compelled to roost in the barns, or upon the steps of dwellings." A man feels lucky when he gets a chair to sit through the night in front of a hotel; better than wandering till daybreak. On July 13, the small Broadhead house, in addition to a family of three, has three wounded soldiers, and 20 visitors. The strangers "are filling every bed and covering the floors." But these problems shrink in the face of



If history remembered him for anything, Lincoln believed, it would be for freeing the slaves. But that was before Gettysburg.

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, testi-
fying 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. We ^{have}
~~come~~ ^{or} to dedicate a portion of it as ~~the~~ final rest-
ing place ^{for} 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 cling-
ged 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
can never forget what they did here. It is
for us, the living, rather to be dedicated
here 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 their
 honored dead we take increased devotion
 to ~~the~~^{that} cause for which they here gave ~~you~~
 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.

the suffering of the wounded and the dying.

Pvt. George Frysinger arrives with an emergency militia unit sent to help maintain order.

"We had a severe trial for young soldiers," he writes home to his father. His unit had limped into town on "blistered feet" and got placed in a church. The sacred structure reminded him of his home, which now felt "like a distant Jerusalem to the ancient Jews. . . . Perhaps we will not deface it much," this church, Frysinger writes to his father, adding: "Gettysburg can not be called a town, but a large collection of hospitals."

Eliza Farnham, a volunteer nurse from Philadelphia, writes the same. "The whole town . . . is one vast hospital . . . avenues of white tents . . . But, good God! What those quiet-looking tents contained! . . . Dead and dying, and wounded . . . torn to pieces in every way." Moans, shrieks, weeping, and prayer fill the houses, the barns, the tents, the fields and woods, the whole area. The land itself seems to wail. Hell on Earth.

Red and some green flags sprout everywhere, identifying places housing the wounded. Nothing like this has ever happened in the United States. Looking back in September, a private commission will report "a scene of horror and desolation which humanity, in all the centuries of its history has seldom

The second draft of the address was written in Lincoln's own hand.

witnessed." The more measured tones of an Army medical officer's report are blunt: "The period of ten days following the battle of Get-

tysburg was the occasion of the greatest amount of human suffering known in this nation since its birth. . . ."

So it remains to this day: the country's greatest man-made emergency ever. The two armies, expecting another battle, took most of their medical personnel away. The doctor in charge likens this to engaging in battle "without ammunition." "What! Take away surgeons here where a hundred are wanted?" a civilian exclaims. "But so it is." Of 106 medical officers the Union Army left behind, perhaps 35 could actually operate.

Six days after the Battle of Gettysburg, nurse Ellen Orison Harris writes home about wounded men drowning in flash floods and thousands who are "still naked and starving. God pity us! God pity us!" This is the place where Abraham Lincoln will have to come and explain why the blood-letting must go on.

"A vision." The president speaks in a firm voice. This is the first speech that he wrote out ahead of delivery in 2½ years, the first since his inaugural address. *Four score 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. Looking back to the Revolutionary War reminds people that the birth of the nation had cost great sacrifices. July 4, 1776, has been much on the minds of Americans for decades, and for most, “created equal” now meant the right to rise in life. But quoting the Declaration of Independence in 1863 also defended the Emancipation Proclamation that had drastically changed the character of the Civil War. It presented a strong message about liberty without speaking of slavery outright and so alienating those who only wished to fight for the Union and not the ending of bondage.

died in vain,” Lincoln says, and the crowd interrupts with applause as he conjures words that had been hidden inside of so many since their childhood. The applause quiets and Lincoln finishes: *“that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”*

Silence—has the president finished?—then long, continued applause. The dedication of the first national cemetery of the country combined the two major cultural activities of the period: politics and religion. Lincoln’s words carried no touch of stridency or self-righteousness. Though this was a funeral, he

AFTER GETTYSBURG, A “GREAT TASK” REMAINED BEFORE THE COUNTRY: CARRYING THE WAR TO VICTORY.

Lincoln believed that if history would remember him at all, it would be for his Emancipation Proclamation. He invited painters to the White House for months at a time; they portrayed him with broken chains or with the Liberty document in his hand. As an ambitious young man, he had announced that “towering genius” could reach great renown in America by either “emancipating slaves, or enslaving freemen.” When his oldest friend, Joshua Speed, came to visit in the White House, Lincoln recalled his youthful fear that his moment of life would be gone without a trace. Well, Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Now he would be remembered for doing something for “his fellow man.”

But here was Gettysburg, the bloodiest of American battles, in the bloodiest war of her history. A “great task” remained before the country: carrying the war to victory. *“We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have*

made no overt reference to religion. He gave no indication of being aware of the religious aspect of the occasion, or if he was, he considered it improper to participate. The rowdy night before the ceremonies, when thousands of visitors with few places to sleep rocked the town with an all-night party, provided no edification in this regard. Only after imbibing the atmosphere at the cemetery with its uncovered heads, prayer, and funeral hymns did Lincoln add, in the moment’s inspiration, “under God.” One can almost hear him coming in his speech to *“that the nation shall,”* pausing for a second, then adding a little awkwardly *“under God, have a new birth of freedom.”* (Later he would revise the word order to make the sentence read better.)

And yet, whatever expectations he may have taken to Gettysburg, however reluctant he was to make a personal profession of Christian-

The bodies of the dead, perhaps 10,000 in all, lay where they fell. The stench of death extended well beyond the littered battlefield.



TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN—CORBIS



THE ART ARCHIVE / CULVER PICTURES

ity, much of what Lincoln said carried the sounds of the Bible. This was the music of the ancient Hebrew turned into King James's English. This was the language he was raised on. "Four score and seven years ago." Psalm 90:

"The days of our years are three score years and ten"; one of the best-known sentences of the Book. "Brought forth" is not only the biblical way to announce a birth, including that of Mary's "first born son," but the phrase that describes the Israelites' being "brought forth" from slavery in Egypt.

Birth, sacrificial death, rebirth. A born-again nation. At a less-than-conscious level, Lincoln weaved together the biblical story and the American story. "Fathers." "Conceive." "Perish." "Consecrate." "Hallow." "Devotion." The devout in the cemetery heard Lincoln speak an intimately familiar and beloved language.

Union cavalry before the action: The two armies, expecting a battle elsewhere, removed most of their medical staffs from Gettysburg.

ing the country toward black citizenship.

If God loomed ever larger in Lincoln's thought as the war went on, if his words at Gettysburg spoke deeply to the devout, they spoke also to a more secular people, for in some part

he remained one of them. He would not join a church, could not embrace the Christian conception of sin and redemption, kept mostly silent about Jesus, and showed no inclination to build a personal relationship with God. The secularists could understand his Gettysburg speech largely on their own terms. Lincoln spoke from the heart to them, too.

A lesser person might have foundered on such bifurcation. Christians might have rejected him for not being sufficiently committed; the more secular minded for being too religious. Instead, the majorities embraced him as one of their own. His

"THE WHOLE TOWN...IS ONE VAST HOSPITAL...AVENUES OF WHITE TENTS...DEAD AND DYING, AND WOUNDED."

His words pointing to rebirth went even deeper than the Christian message, reaching the primeval longing for a new birth that humankind has yearned for and celebrated with every spring since time immemorial.

Lincoln's words came from the heart. The blood bath of the war, and the loss of his own second child, Willie, in 1862, had slowly changed his religious outlook. The secular fatalist of old began to turn into a religious fatalist. He jotted down for himself perhaps in 1862: "The will of God prevails." Something of the Calvinism of his parents that he rejected, even ridiculed, in his youth, started to reclaim him. In his Second Inaugural Address he would explain his course: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. . . ." God helped Lincoln "to see the right" of abolishing slavery and lead-

words at Gettysburg show how he did it. "Inauguration" is how the printed "Programme" described the ceremonies. In his own copy, Edward Everett, the main orator of the day, crossed out the word and replaced it with the religious "consecration." As for Lincoln, he stayed in the middle, and so reached out to all. His success depended in no small part on the beauty of his language. But with all the fresh graves around, the beautiful words would not hide the fact that the war had to go on. It had to—until victory was won.

The rationalism of the Enlightenment combined with Protestant conscience. Lincoln's nine sentences had been welcomed by applause, interrupted by applause five times, and followed by applause. His perhaps 2 1/2-minute speech grew into something like three minutes. The people loved him. Lin-



coln had both voiced the beliefs of mainstream America and urged it on toward a "new birth." He reflected the oratory of the ancient Greeks, especially Pericles, whose speeches appeared in the McGuffey readers that educated America's children. His conclusion echoed not only those of Parson Weems's bestselling *Life of Washington* but words memorized by generations of children from their readers—some of the best-known words of American history, and of Lincoln's youth—the conclusion of Daniel Webster's 1830 reply to South Carolina's Robert Hayne in the Senate, denying that the U.S. government was a "creature" of the states. It was "the people's government," Webster said, "made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people." In the Bible, Lincoln had read many times the book of Proverbs: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." He was providing a vision "for us, the living."

"The Good News." The telegraph, a new invention, spread the news across the land rapidly. Lincoln quickly understood that he had a tool to bind the nation together. But the opposition press considered it the start of his re-election campaign. No president had been re-elected in a generation, not since Andrew Jackson, and Democrats now intended to keep it that way. Even in Lincoln's own party, very few saw anything special about his Gettysburg remarks. The front page of the *New York Times* illustrated the press coverage. It reported the various speeches given at Gettysburg including, without comment, Lincoln's. Within an inch of the president's remarks the paper reported at much length on an address of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. The headline: "A GREAT SPEECH."

All too often when the president's words reached the public, they did so in hilariously misprinted forms. In Lincoln's home state of Illinois, the citizens could read that the Gettysburg "ceremonies were the most solemn and impressive

The devout hear Lincoln speak a familiar language. His words about rebirth went deeper than religion, but he spoke to the secular, too.

ever witnessed on this continent" and that Lincoln made a few "remarks," to wit: "Ninety years ago our fathers formed a Government consecrated to freedom." The *Chicago Times* started with "Four score and ten

years ago." "Now, we are engaged in the greatest civil war," wrote the *Detroit Free Press*, "testing whether that nation or any nation so consecrated and so dedicated can stand for many years." "Can longer remain," said the *Chicago Tribune*. "The dead will little heed. Let us long remember what we have," the *Sacramento Daily Union* went on, reporting "immense applause." "We owe this offering to our dead," seemed to appear everywhere. The *New York Times*, as many others, reported dedication to "the refinished work." "Refinished," as in a piece of furniture. None of this was Lincoln's poetry. But the papers printed what they could or would.

And then Lincoln's speech largely disappeared from American memory. During the first two decades after his death, people erected 20 statues to him; 18 showed him holding the Emancipation Proclamation. Not until the 20th century would Lincoln begin to hold the Gettysburg Address in his hand. By then the country had abandoned its attempt to provide civil rights to black people, and the "new birth of freedom" got whitewashed to refer to whites. The meaning of the Address continued to shift from generation to generation, even as the beauty of the speech got carved into every schoolchild's memory. The speech grew into American Gospel, the good news of a free people, and how that happened is quite a story by itself. Not until the civil rights era would the direction of its original meaning come to the fore again. ●

██████████ serves as the ██████████ and also as Chairman of the ██████████. He was born and raised in Hungary, and educated in South Dakota and Massachusetts and lives with his wife, ██████████ on a farm outside of Gettysburg where they have raised three sons. The first, ██████████ is a stage designer in New York (his next show is ██████████); the second, ██████████ is a prize-winning filmmaker based in NY; the third, ██████████ is a biologist at the National Zoo in Washington and has just returned from a three months research trip from Antarctica.

██████████ has held visiting appointments at the universities of Cambridge, London, Harvard, Michigan (Ann Arbor), and Washington (St.Louis). He is author, co-author, and editor of sixteen books on Lincoln and the Civil War, some of them Book of the Month Club and History Book Club selections. His work has been translated into five languages. Among other places, he has lectured at the Universities of Budapest, Belfast, Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford, and the Sorbonne, as well as at the Carter Library, National Geographic, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Nobel Institute, and the White House.

He serves on several boards, most importantly on the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (Congressional appointment), the Gettysburg Battlefield Museum Foundation (both on Board of Directors and Scholars' Advisory Board) and as a co-chair with Yale's David Davis of the Gilder Lehrman Institute that they had helped establish.

His articles have appeared from professional journals to the *New York Times*, *New York Times Book Review* (front page), the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, and perhaps a dozen magazines. He has appeared on the cover of various magazines, on NBC, CNN, CSpan, Arts and Entertainment, the History Channel, as well as in cameo roles in the films *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*. He had served as a historical advisor to both films and was sometimes listened to. His interviews have appeared in various countries around the globe in print, on radio, and on TV.

██████████ has received various awards and fellowships, honorary degrees, and has been selected distinguished alumnus of his undergraduate institution, Yankton College in South Dakota, and his graduate school, Boston University. Most recently he received an invitation to Bellagio by the Rockefeller Foundation to work on his book, ██████████

██████████ *Lifetime Achievements*: He holds at ██████████ the first fully funded chair in the country, hence the world, for the study of the American Civil War. He is the author, editor, and co-author of 16 books. All are important, but at least three are intellectual milestones. ██████████ first book, ██████████ was selected in a mid-90's survey of major historians as one of the ten most important books on Lincoln ever published. It was ranked fifth, after the reference works ██████████ and after Herndon, and Donald's biography. Only four living historians were included in the top ten: in addition to ██████████ and Donald, Don Fehrenbacher and Mark Neely. ██████████ you are all familiar with—the result of 25 years of work and a life time of study. Less well known is the book ██████████ co-authored with ██████████ which, nearly two decades after its appearance, a retrospective review by the University of Minnesota's Karal Ann Marling, labeled “a major source of inspiration for what would become today's fascination with the mechanism of popular art and culture.”

██████████ founded the ██████████ now in its 25th year. Its summer session's openings fill up a year ahead, and bring the finest historians of the Civil War to speak to the literate general public. He devoted much energy over the years to editing seven volumes of lectures that came out of CWI sessions and published them with Oxford University Press. Many of these books are standard staples of both undergraduate and graduate courses on the Civil War and were Book of the Months Club and History Book Club selections. Indeed some of these books might also be considered seminal, such as ██████████ now in its 10th printing, a book that was first to propose that North v. South was a misleading designation, since at least half of the Confederacy's population was on the side of the Union, most of the one-third that was African American and put close to 200,000 men into the Union military, and a minimum of 15-20% of the white population that had 100,000 soldiers fighting for the Union. Slowly but surely ██████████ contributions are spreading through the culture.

At ██████████ took an unknown and grossly under funded lecture named after Professor Fortenbaugh, and turned it into the premier Civil War lectureship in the nation. A lecture that barely attracted 30 people when he came to Gettysburg, today might attract 900. He has been in charge of the Dedication Day speakers that bring important Americans to speak at the Gettysburg National Cemetery on the anniversary of the Address. This year's speaker was Tom Brokaw. He helped significantly in the start up years of Gilder Lehrman Institute. He originated the idea of the ██████████ that has reshaped the study of the American Civil War era, though of course it was Dick Gilder and Lew Lehrman who gave it life. ██████████ continued with the more modest eLincoln Prize and, this year, brought to ██████████ the Michael Shaara Prize for Civil War fiction: the first award went to E.L. Doctorow for his novel *The March*.

Before coming to ██████████ taught at major universities but has spent the past 25 years in a place where, as he likes to say, the “land speaks to him.” At ██████████ he has lovingly mentored a generation of undergraduates. Last year his first year seminar on ██████████ attracted over sixty applicants for 16 openings, was the first class to close out,

and when it was finished, the seminar had mentored the number 1 and number 2 ranked students of the Class of 2009.

His personal story is soon to be a documentary film epic created by his son, [REDACTED] whose [REDACTED] that premiered on public television is on its way to become a classic. His film about his father marvels at a child of "Nazism and Communism," to quote the late Peter Jennings from the film, who became a major interpreter of the apostle of Democracy. Or to cite President Bush, who has met with [REDACTED] repeatedly, "his is an inspiring and unique story." [REDACTED] has also been a guest in the Clinton WH)

I have a lot
of earlier bills
but at least
this seems
organized

Father

By Ted Kooser

*Today you would be ninety- seven
If you had lived, and we would all be
miserable, you and your children,
driving from clinic to clinic,
an ancient, fearful hypochondriac
and his fretful son and daughter,
asking directions, trying to read
the complicated, fading map of cures.
But with your dignity intact
you have been gone for twenty years,
and I am glad for all of us, although
I miss you every day - the heartbeat
under your necktie, the hand cupped
on the back of my neck, Old Spice
in the air, your voice delighted with stories.
On this day each year you loved to relate
that at the moment of your birth
your mother glanced out the window
and saw lilacs in bloom. Well, today
lilacs are blooming in side yards
all over Iowa, still welcoming you.*