

TALKING HISTORY

150 YEARS OF SPEAKERS
— AND SPEECHES —

WRITTEN BY JOAN HAIG
AND JOAN LENNON
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDRÉ DUCCI

MEET THE SPEAKERS

10



'THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS' 1863

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

14



'FREEDOM OR DEATH' 1913

EMMELINE PANKHURST

42



'STATEMENT FROM THE DOCK' 1964

NELSON MANDELA

46



'THE CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS' 1968

RENÉ CASSIN

18



'AN ABORIGINAL WOMAN AFIK FOR JUSTICE' 1938

PEARL GIBBS

22



'THEIR FINEST HOUR' 1940

WINSTON CHURCHILL

50



'THE HOPE SPEECH' 1975

HARVEY MILK

54



ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS YOUTH ASSEMBLY' 2013

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

26



'A TRYST WITH DESTINY' 1947

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

30



'A TALK ABOUT WOMEN' 1949

FUNMILAYO RANSOME-KUTI

58



'REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES' 2015

BARACK OBAMA

62



'STATEMENT TO THE WHO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA' 2015

ANGELA MERKEL

34



'THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOUIS BRAILLE' 1952

HELEN KELLER

38



'FIRST FLIGHT OF A MAN INTO COSMIC SPACE' 1961

YURI GAGARIN

66



'LET'S GO TO THE CHILDREN 1992 & 'OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE' 2019

FEVEN CULLIS-SUZUKI & GRETA THUNBERG

72



GLOSSARY

... A NEW NATION,
CONCEIVED
 IN LIBERTY, AND
DEDICATED TO
 THE PROPOSITION THAT
 ALL MEN ARE CREATED
EQUAL.

'THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS'

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1863

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was fought between the northern states (the Union) and the southern states (the Confederacy) to decide the future of the nation. Abraham Lincoln was leader of the Union throughout the war.

19 November 1863

It was a cold, bright winter's day, just outside the little town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

A few months before, thousands of soldiers had been killed nearby at the Battle of Gettysburg. Now, with the war still raging, huge crowds were gathering to honour them at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery.



The Battle of Gettysburg began on 1 July 1863 and lasted for three long summer days. It was one of the bloodiest conflicts in the American Civil War.



But why were the Confederacy and the Union fighting? Wars always have more than one cause. The two sides had both been part of the United States of America, until disagreements over economics, politics, attitudes to slavery and different ways of life finally caused a divide. From 1860 to 1861, the 11 southern states of the Confederacy officially withdrew from being part of the country.



For every soldier killed in battle during the American Civil War, two more died of disease.



At the Battle of Gettysburg, the armies of both sides were badly hit. Around 50,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or reported missing.

During the four years of the American Civil War, more than 50,000 amputations were performed. Between operations, surgical instruments were wiped on the surgeon's sleeve.

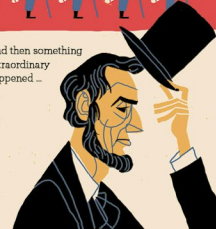
As the fighting continued, medicine and anaesthetics kept running out. Whisky was often the only pain relief available.



The dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg in 1863 was attended by six state governors and 15,000 spectators. Former US Secretary of State Edward Everett was the main speaker. He spoke eloquently about the horrors of the war, describing Confederate conspiracies and atrocities against the Union, and calling angrily for vengeance. After two long hours, he sat down to thunderous applause.



And then something extraordinary happened ...



'THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS'

19 NOVEMBER 1863

President Abraham Lincoln began to speak. A little over two minutes later, he had already sat down again.

The speech was so short, the photographer didn't even have time to take a picture, and yet the words of Lincoln's 'Gettysburg Address' are remembered all over the world to this day.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war ... We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live ...

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 poor power to add or detract ... It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us ... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Lincoln had complicated views on the issues behind the war, but in his speech, unlike Everett, he didn't talk about hating the enemy or abolishing slavery or getting revenge. Instead, with his opening sentence, he invited the audience to look back to 1776, to the Declaration of Independence. This was the document that marked the beginning of the United States of America, describing a new nation dedicated to equality, freedom and democracy. Then, with his closing sentence, Lincoln asked his listeners to look to the future, and to work towards a time when those ideals could be fully realised.

Lincoln's speech was perfectly paced for such a solemn occasion. Read it aloud and you will find you can't hurry. There were pauses built into the sentences to give the words time to sink in.

He used repetition in threes as a way of emphasizing important ideas. We can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground — and government of the people, by the people, for the people.

WHAT DID THE NEWSPAPERS SAY?



HARRISBURG PATRIOT & UNION

"We pass over the silly remarks of the President. For the credit of the nation we are willing that the

well of oblivion shall be dropped over them, and that they shall no more be repeated or thought of."

CHICAGO TIMES

"The cheeks of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat, and dishwatery utterance."

SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN

"President Lincoln's little speech is a perfect gem; deep in feeling, compact in thought and expression, and useful and elegant

in every word and comma ... Turn back and read it over; it will repay study as a model speech. Strong feelings and a large brain are no parents."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"The declamatory remarks by President Lincoln will live among the annals of man."

At the time, opinions on the Gettysburg Address and Abraham Lincoln varied. What the newspapers said about the speech depended on whether the editors — and their readers — had voted for or against Lincoln for President.



DID LINCOLN'S SPEECH AT GETTYSBURG END THE CIVIL WAR?

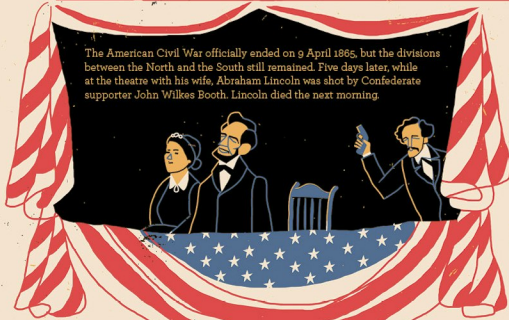
No. The war dragged on for two more years and, by its end in 1865, as many as 750,000 soldiers are thought to have died.

Lincoln was commander-in-chief of the Union for all four years of the vicious conflict. Like any war, nobody knew how it was going to end, or how the deep divisions of the nation could be healed, yet Lincoln held on to his innate kindness and gentleness.

During a major military campaign in early 1865, weeks before the end of the war, Lincoln was distracted at a meeting with a general by the unhappy mewling of kittens. He was heard to remark "Kitties, thank God you are cats, and can't understand this terrible strife that is going on," and as he left, he asked an officer to make sure they were "given plenty of milk and treated kindly".



The American Civil War officially ended on 9 April 1865, but the divisions between the North and the South still remained. Five days later, while at the theatre with his wife, Abraham Lincoln was shot by Confederate supporter John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln died the next morning.



Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg was like a signpost, pointing his listeners back to where they had come from, and forwards to where they wanted to go. It is a reminder and a call to action still worth listening to.

Want to hear more about the legacy of slavery? Visit page 58

Want to hear more about inspiring war speeches? Visit page 22

Want to hear more about divided countries? Visit page 30





... WE WILL PUT THE ENEMY IN THE POSITION WHERE THEY WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN GIVING US FREEDOM OR GIVING US DEATH.

'FREEDOM OR DEATH'
EMMELINE PANKHURST

1913

In 1903, in the city of Manchester, UK, Emmeline Pankhurst and her eldest daughter Christabel founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The organisation campaigned fearlessly for women's right to vote.

THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT

This wasn't the first time that women in Britain had fought for the vote. Since the mid-nineteenth century, female campaigners called 'suffragists' had tried to win rights for women in society through peaceful petitions and, later on, by refusing to pay their taxes.

But this campaign was slow with few results. After years of unsuccessful peaceful protest by the suffragists, the WSPU decided that it was time for action - 'Deeds Not Words', as their motto said. Members of the WSPU took part in 'civil disobedience' to literally fight for their cause. They chained themselves to railings, heckled politicians, placed bombs in empty buildings, and smashed windows in public places, constantly clashing with the authorities. They were so determined to achieve their political aims that they deliberately took part in violence and vandalism to influence the public and the government.

Newspapers began referring to militant WSPU campaigners as 'suffragettes'. By 1909, the WSPU had branches all over the country.

THE CAT AND MOUSE ACT

Around 1,000 suffragettes were imprisoned for their 'nuisance' behaviour. While in jail, some continued to fight by going on hunger strike, refusing to eat or drink. At first, they were released to prevent them from starving, but, by 1909, prison wardens began to force-feed them. Women were badly hurt, prompting public outrage at what was seen as government torture.

The government responded by passing the 1913 Prisoners' (Temporary Discharge for Ill Health) Act. Under this new law, when women on hunger strike became critically weak, they were sent home. As soon as they recovered, they were promptly rearrested to continue their sentence. It was dubbed the 'Cat and Mouse Act', likened to the way a cat plays with its prey, repeatedly letting it escape before catching it again.

Emmeline Pankhurst was imprisoned and released 14 times! It was in 1913, in between prison sentences, that she visited the United States to campaign for support and funding. She addressed a group of women at the Parsons Theatre in Hartford, Connecticut, in a powerful speech attempting to justify the use of militant tactics in the fight for women's rights.

