

Gettysburg Address

April 1 - May 3, 2009

A viewing of the Gettysburg Address will be part of a larger exhibition called *Lincoln Treasures* which will highlight key Lincoln artifacts and documents from the Chicago History Museum's collection that commemorate the life and tragic death of Abraham Lincoln. Visitors will be given background information on the Battle of Gettysburg and then will view one of only five copies of the Address written in Lincoln's hand, on loan from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Though the Address has traveled in the past, this will be the public's last opportunity to see it outside of the Springfield institution.

The Address, known to many as Lincoln's most famous speech, will be explained so visitors can understand the context in which it was delivered. An interactive wall allows visitors to discover what influenced Lincoln to add these phrases into his speech. For example: "Four score and seven" will be explained by drawing the parallel that the word score is a way of counting used in the Bible. One score equals twenty. $4 \times 20 = 80 + 7 = 87$. When Lincoln gave the speech in 1863, he was referring to 1776. This interactive will help visitors of all ages find meaning within the famous speech.

There are five copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's hand because the speech was so moving, his friends and acquaintances asked him for copies. The copy that will be on display was written for Edward Everett, who also spoke at the Gettysburg dedication. A bound version of Everett's Gettysburg oration will also be on view to the public.

