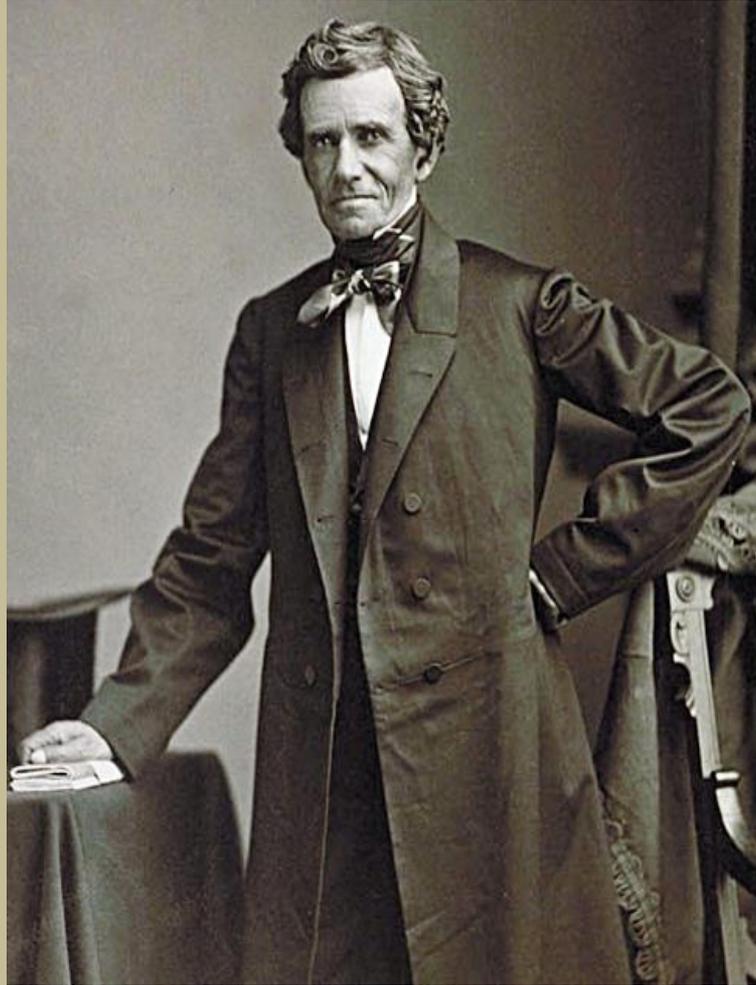
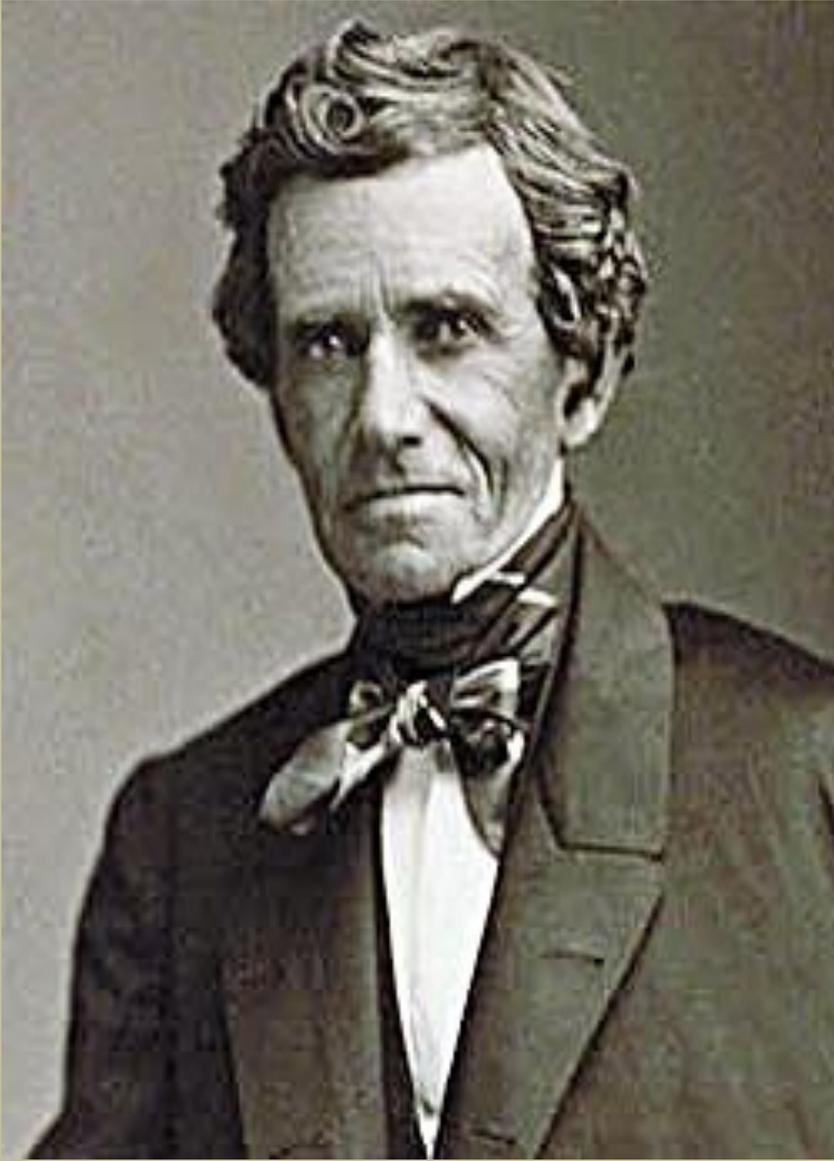


# Samuel Wilkeson's Gettysburg Address



**Samuel Wilkeson  
(1817-1889)**

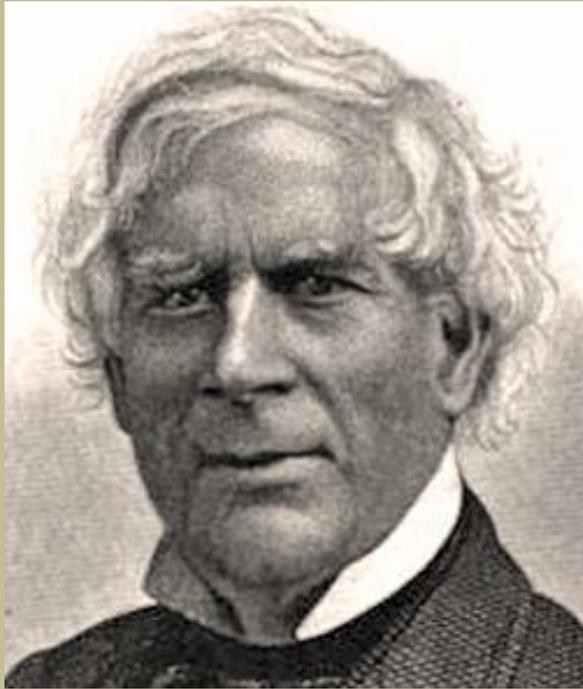


“He introduced the era of the inside operator.”

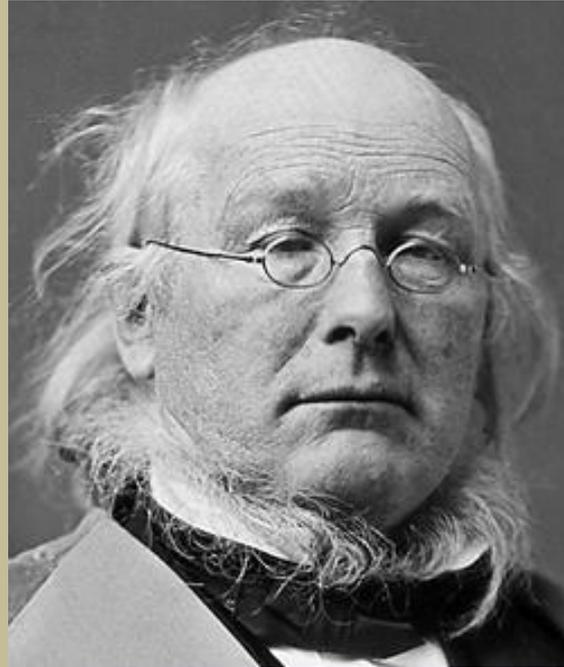
--Louis Starr, *Bohemian Brigade* (1954), p. 67

“a vigorous character of lusty humor with unusual powers of story-telling and description.”

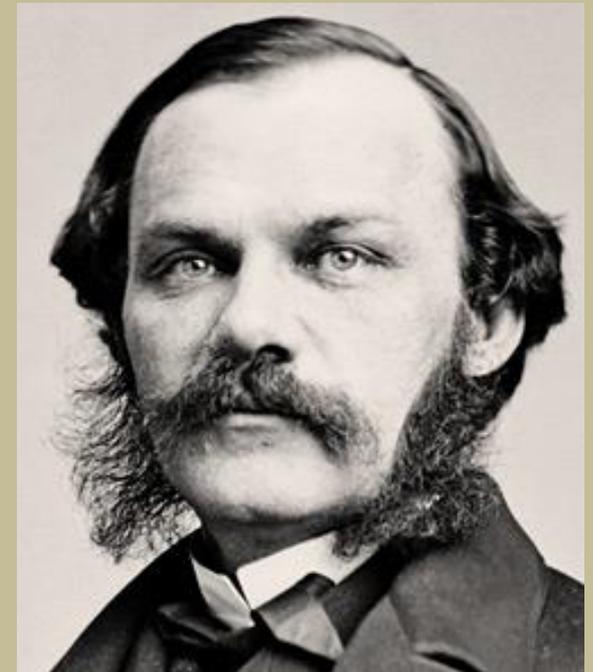
--J. Cutler Andrews, *The North Reports the Civil War* (1955), p. 43



**Thurlow Weed**



**Horace Greeley**



**Henry Raymond**



**BAYARD WILKESON.**



**2 LT Bayard Wilkeson, age 19**

## **Wednesday morning, July 1**

### **Maj. Thomas W. Osborn, Artillery Brigade, Eleventh Army Corps**

About 11 a.m. Lieutenant Wilkeson reached the field, and was ordered to report to General Barlow, commanding the First Division, which was engaged about three-fourths of a mile from the town and on the left of the York pike. The battery was assigned position by General Barlow, and when I reached the ground I found it unfortunately near the enemy's line of infantry, with which they were engaged, as well as two of his batteries, the concentrated fire of which no battery could withstand.

--Report to Gen. Henry J. Hunt, July 29, 1863

**Wednesday morning, July 1**





**Sketch artist Alfred Waud**

**Wednesday morning, July 1**



## Wednesday mid-day, July 1

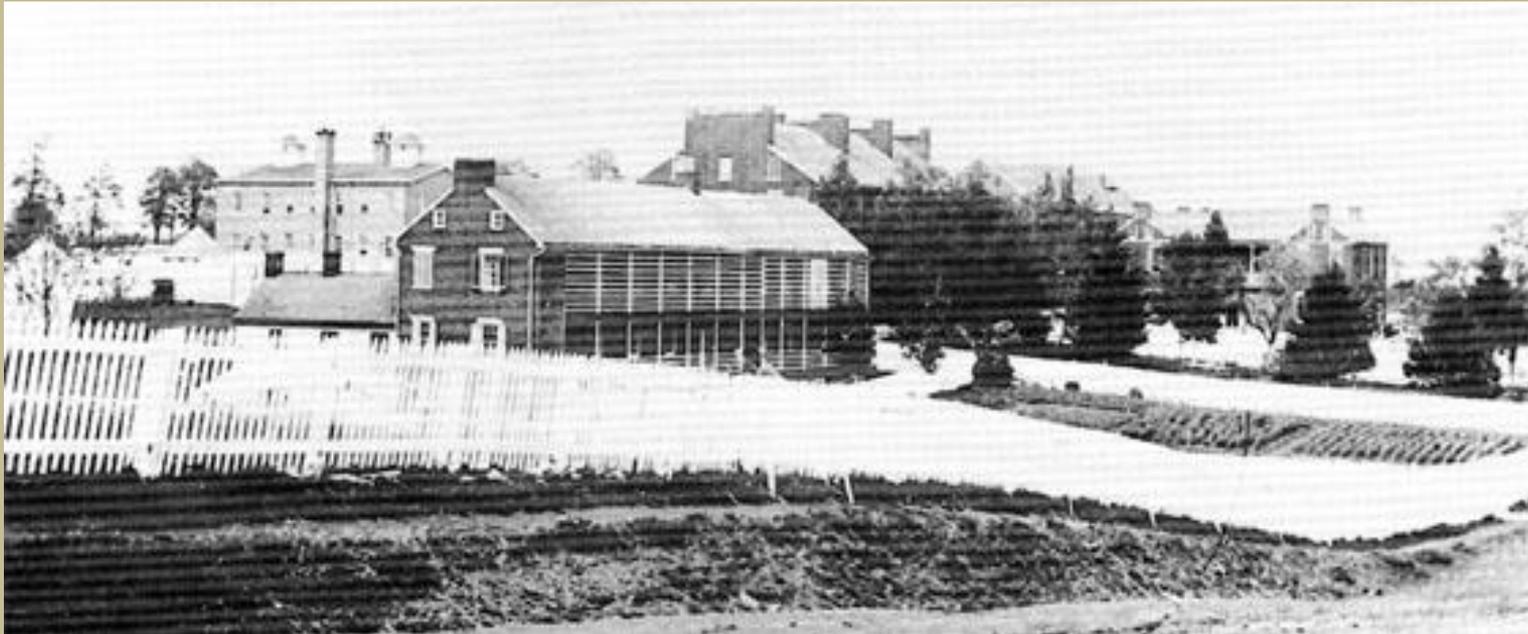
### **Brig. Gen. Henry J. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, Army of the Potomac:**

"About 11 a.m. [on July 1, 1863] Wilkeson's battery (G, Fourth United States, four 12-pounders) came up, and reported to General Barlow, who posted it close to the enemy's line of infantry, with which it immediately became engaged, sustaining at the same time the fire of two of his batteries. In the commencement of this unequal contest, Lieutenant Bayard Wilkeson (Fourth U. S. Artillery), commanding the battery, a young officer of great gallantry, fell, mortally wounded, and was carried from the field."

--Report to Gen. Seth Williams, September 27, 1863

**Wednesday afternoon, July 1**

**Adams County Almshouse**



*Image courtesy of Stuart Dempsey, Gettysburg Daily*

## Thursday afternoon, July 2

### **Whitelaw Reid, newspaper correspondent:**

“Wilkeson, my original companion from Baltimore, was up at last and very sad. His son, a gallant young lieutenant of regular artillery, had had his leg shot off in Wednesday’s disastrous fight, and whether living now or dead, he could not tell; he was a prisoner (or a corpse) in Gettysburg.”

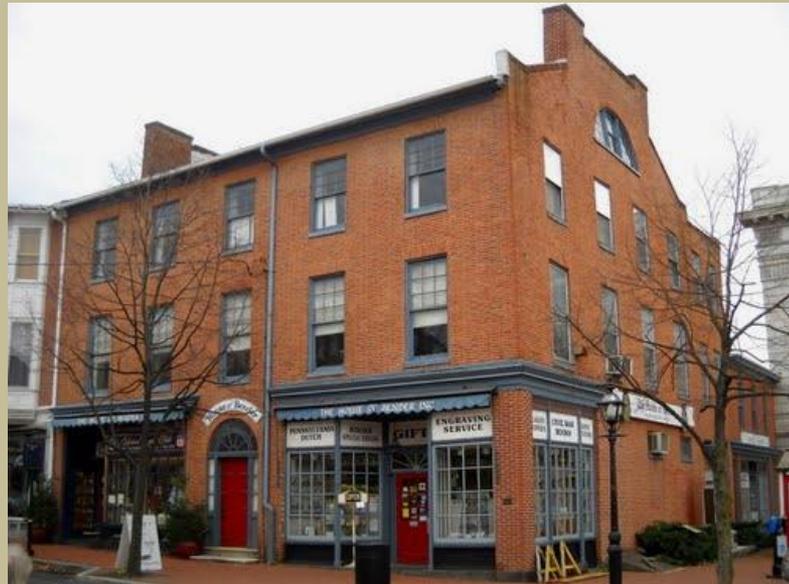
--Dispatch, *Cincinnati Gazette*, July 3, 1863

## Friday evening, July 3

### Louisville Daily Journal:

“The generous man [Prof. Martin Stoeber] encountered Mr. Wilkeson while searching for his son’s body, and overcame him wholly with his tender outpouring of sympathy and offers of service. He subsequently sought him out and compelled him to come to his home and take food.”

-- “Meanness of the Gettysburghers,” *Louisville Daily Journal*, July 17, 1863



## Friday evening, July 3

### Testimonials of the Good Death

“His conduct,” said Gen. Howard, writing to his father, “was so marked, that his brigade commander speaks to me of him in the highest terms.” A sergeant of his company writes that when the young man was wounded he cried out, “Take your men, corporal, and *return immediately to your piece.*” Afterward, when in agonies of thirst, he asked for a drink, and it was brought, he insisted it should first be offered to a wounded man near by before he would drink himself. A brave and noble young man, the pride of his father, the center of a circle of affectionate friends, his death in the morning of his life, in the service of the good cause, is sorrowful but not in vain.”

--(New York) *Independent*, “Bayard Wilkeson,” August 27, 1863

Saturday night, July 4

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**DETAILS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.**

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**HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, }  
Saturday Night, July 4. }**

Who can write the history of a battle whose eyes are immovably fastened upon a central figure of transcendingly absorbing interest—the dead body of an oldest born, crushed by a shell in a position where a battery should never have been sent, and abandoned to death in a building where surgeons dared not to stay?

The battle of Gettysburgh! I am told that it commenced on the 1st of July, a mile north of the town, between two weak brigades of infantry and some doomed artillery and the whole force of the rebel army. Among other costs of this error was

Saturday night, July 4

“the second birth of Freedom in America”

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quick. Their muskets

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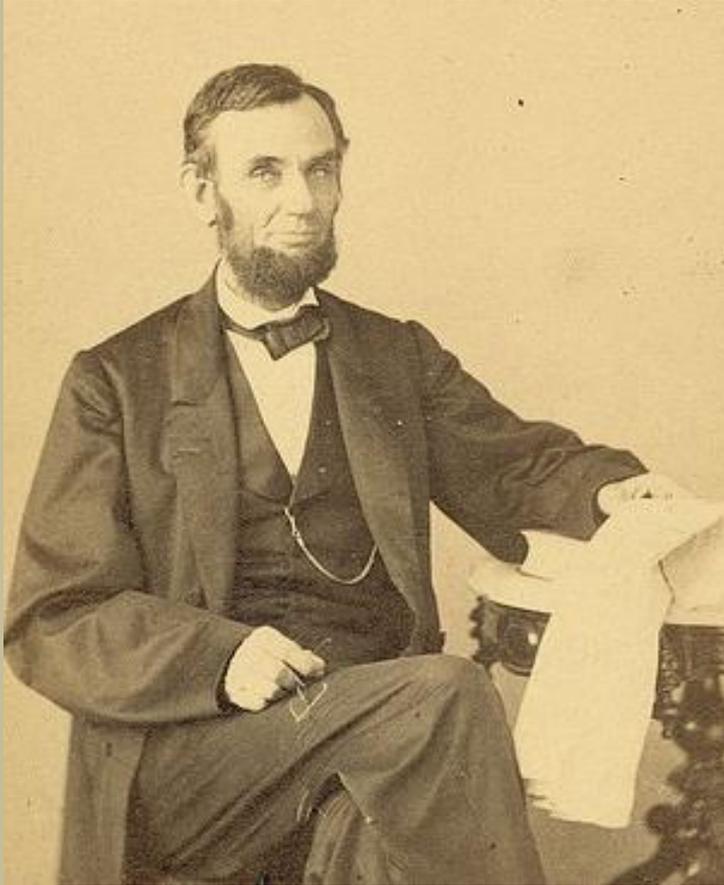
What remains to say of the fight? It staggled  
sarily on the middle of the horse shoe on the west,  
grew big and angry on the heel at the southwest,

I leave details to my excellent friend and associate  
Mr. HENRY. My pen is heavy. Oh, you dead, who at  
Gettysburgh have baptised with your blood the sec-  
ond birth of Freedom in America, how you  
are to be envied! I rise from a grave whose  
wet clay I have passionately kissed, and I look  
up and see Christ spanning this battle-field  
with his feet and reaching fraternal and loving-  
ly up to heaven. His right hand opens the gates of  
Paradise—with his left he beckons to these mutilated,  
bloody, swollen forms to ascend.

**Tuesday evening, July 7**

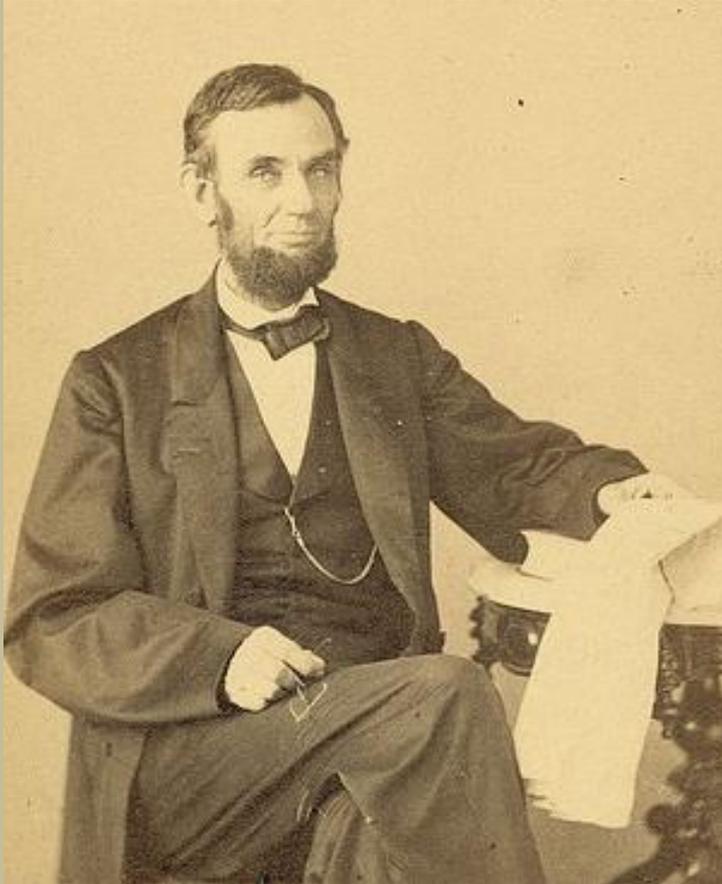
**“How long ago is it? –eighty odd years– since on the Fourth of July for the first time in the history of the world a nation by its representatives assembled and declared as a self-evident truth that “all men are created equal.”**

**--Response to a Serenade,” *New York Times*, July 8, 1863**



Lincoln in August 1863

**Tuesday evening, July 7**



Lincoln in August 1863

**“I would like to speak in terms of praise due to the many brave officers and soldiers who have fought in the cause of the Union and liberties of the country from the beginning of the war ... [but] I dislike to mention the name of one single officer lest I might do wrong to those I might forget. Recent events bring up glorious names, and particularly prominent ones, but these I will not mention.”**

**--Response to a Serenade,” *New York Times*, July 8, 1863**

**“that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, 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.”**

