The Gettysburg Address

Class Four
Following the battle, a national cemetery is dedicated near the battlefield. The event is celebrated with speeches by Edward Everett and President Lincoln. Michael Shaara writes a fictionalized account of the battle --- *The Killer Angels* which Ted Turner makes into the Movie *Gettysburg*. 
Outline

- Class One – July 1, 1863 – The First Day
- Class Two – July 2, 1863 – The Second Day
- Class Three – July 3, 1863 – The Third Day
- Class Four – The Gettysburg Address
After Pickett’s Charge

- Gettysburg conclusion
- Longstreet’s battle report
- Longstreet on Gettysburg - pp. 299 of General James Longstreet by Jeffrey Wert
Campfire Discussions

- Causes of the War
  - States’ Rights
  - Abolition
  - Preserve Union
- Justification for Secession
  - Gentlemen’s Club – Pickett’s Comments
  - Constitutional Arguments
- England and France Entering Conflict
  - Slavery and the English
  - Both unlikely after Antietam and Emancipation Proclamation
- Friendships – Armistead and Hancock – One of Many
  - Together at West Point
  - Mexican War – Aztec Club and Reports
  - Regular Army
The Gettysburg National Cemetery originated in 1863 as state-owned “national cemetery” with Union re-interments from Battle of Gettysburg graves.

Land preservation began by August 5 with attorney David McConaughy's purchases including “the heights of Cemetery Hill” which he planned for a soldiers’ cemetery where lots could be purchased for reinterring soldiers.

Under the direction of Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin's agent, attorney David Wills, acquired the land for the commonwealth, commissioned the landscape architect, contracted for the re-interments, and planned the November consecration.

The highlight of the November 18 program was to be an oration given by Edward Everett.

Lincoln was invited to present “Dedicatory Remarks.”
Lincoln Prepared for the Address

By Dan Piraro

On the morning of his historic address, Lincoln performed the Gettysburg set-up.
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, 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 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.

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 struggled 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 it can never forget what they did here.

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 from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—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.

Gettysburg Address – As it might have sounded
The New York Times article from November 20, 1863, indicates Lincoln's speech was interrupted five times by applause and was followed by “long continued applause.”

The meaning of Gettysburg – p. 157 of The Civil War by Bruce Catton
Michael Shaara (June 23, 1928-May 5, 1988) was a writer of science fiction, sports fiction, and historical fiction.

He graduated from Rutgers University in 1951, and served as a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne division prior to the Korean War.

Before Shaara began selling science fiction stories in the 1950s, he was an amateur boxer and police officer.

He later taught literature at Florida State University while continuing to write fiction.

His novel about the Battle of Gettysburg, *The Killer Angels*, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1975.

The book’s title – see p. 126 of *The Killer Angels*
Shaara's son, Jeffrey Shaara, is also a popular writer of historical fiction; most notably sequels to his father's best-known novel. His most famous is the prequel to *The Killer Angels, Gods and Generals*.

Today there is a Michael Shaara Award for Excellence in Civil War Fiction, established by Jeffrey Shaara, awarded yearly at Gettysburg College.
The film began life as a miniseries. The producers originally pitched the project to ABC in 1991.

ABC initially agreed to back the project, but when the TV movie *Son of the Morning Star* about George Armstrong Custer received low ratings, ABC withdrew.

Subsequently, media mogul and Civil War buff Ted Turner took up the project and filming began, helped considerably when the National Park Service permitted unprecedented access to Gettysburg Battlefield, including Devil's Den and Little Round Top.
The Making of *Gettysburg* [2]

- However, much of the movie was shot at a nearby Adams County farm.
- Thousands of Civil War reenactors from across the country volunteered to come to Gettysburg to participate in the massive battle scenes.
- When filming was completed, the miniseries was set to air on TNT.
- But during post-production, Turner, who made a cameo as a Confederate officer during Pickett's Charge, was so impressed by what he saw that he decided to release *Gettysburg* theatrically.
The Making of *Gettysburg* [3]

- The film was distributed by New Line Cinema, which Turner had just acquired.
- The film was only shown in 248 theaters at its widest release, and was limited to one or two showings a day because of its inordinate length.
- *Gettysburg* grossed nearly $11 million, but was still considered a box-office flop.
- However, the film became an all-time top grosser in the home-entertainment market, and has become a staple of classroom history lessons.
- Its TV premiere on TNT in June 1994 garnered over 23 million viewers, a record for cable TV at the time.
The Making of *Gettysburg* [4]

- One of the longest films ever released by a Hollywood studio, *Gettysburg* runs 254 minutes (4 hours, 14 minutes) on VHS and DVD.

- A director's cut edition, with several extended or deleted scenes, sold as part of a special "Collector's Edition" on VHS and LaserDisc, which also included a book of Gettysburg paintings by Civil War artist Mort Künstler, an original Civil War lead Minié ball, stock photographs of key officers from the battle, and other items.

- Ron Maxwell's 271-minute (4 hours, 31 minutes) Director's Cut has been shown on Turner's TNT Station regularly and is now available on DVD.

See *Gettysburg* Additional Material