

Chasing the Gettysburg Address

A Pennsylvania Roadtrip with Abraham Lincoln

A DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION AND BOOK PROJECT: OVERVIEW

In 1863, a photograph was made at Hanover Junction, Pennsylvania. A steam locomotive is positioned on the tracks and a small crowd gathers at the railroad station. In the center, stands a tall, bearded man dressed in a long frock coat and top hat. Could this be President Abraham Lincoln at a stop on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address?

Since the 1950s, there has been debate about the photograph and whether this was, indeed, President Lincoln. Certain facts presented seem to dispel this possibility. But, it is known that the President did arrive at Hanover Junction on November 18, 1863, en route to Gettysburg where he made one of the greatest American political speeches in history.

While moving to a new house not far from Hanover Junction, I discovered the historic railroad station and learned about Abraham Lincoln's journey to Gettysburg. Being a documentary photographer who utilizes the large format film camera, I was drawn into the 1950s debate on this photograph.



I found the vantage point from where the 19th-century image was made and set up my camera to photograph the historic railroad station. I ducked under the dark focusing cloth and, as I peered through the ground glass of my camera, I couldn't help but wonder what Lincoln would discover if he traveled along the same route in 2025.

Some of the tracks are gone, but what are the perspectives of individuals living along the route? Do they know they are living on such a historic stretch? Do they revere the values of Abraham Lincoln such as equality, liberty and working toward a more just society for all Americans, even in the face of significant challenges? Are they storytellers like Lincoln on a wide range of topics?

And, like the purveyors who proclaim, "George Washington slept here," are there historic structures that still stand where Lincoln visited or, at least, might have noticed?

Determined to see our history and culture with new eyes, I will journey from New Freedom to Gettysburg. Traveling by car and on foot, I will uncover forgotten historic architecture and meet the people who live along this former historic line.

This will be a road trip through south central Pennsylvania with Abraham Lincoln riding shotgun, his spirit guiding the viewfinder to whatever it will encounter.

"Chasing the Gettysburg Address" is a multi-discipline exhibition and book project to rediscover history and cultural identity in south central Pennsylvania.

Emphasizing the traditions of documentary photography as a way of seeing and interpreting cultural life, the work will be primarily through the lens of large-format, black-and-white, hand-printed silver gelatin film photography. The format is a similar approach to the 19th century camera that President Lincoln would have been photographed by Mathew Brady and others. Using this unconventional photographic approach in a digital-driven age gives the

project a distinctive visual aesthetic (the unusual photographic methodology of the project will reach a broad audience).

The methodology will also provide an opportunity to listen deeply and slow down in today's highly technical, fast-paced, complicated world. This is a project to explore stories that matter to residents of Pennsylvania

The focus of the project is through the perspectives of individuals and their comments that reveal social identity. The project also highlights historic architecture and the passion and preservation of history. The project is not a record of then and now vantage points but photographs and voices personifying Pennsylvania along President Abraham Lincoln's route to Gettysburg.

SPONSORSHIP

I'm excited to present a unique sponsorship opportunity for *Chasing the Gettysburg Address*—a photography-based exhibition and book project retracing Abraham Lincoln's 1863 journey through south central Pennsylvania. Using large-format, black-and-white film photography, the project reexamines cultural identity, historic preservation, and American ideals in today's world.

Your brand can become a key partner in bringing this compelling story to life—connecting with a broad and engaged audience through art, storytelling, and cultural exploration.

Project Overview

- Exhibition + Book: Touring gallery exhibition (regional museums and art centers), accompanying limited-edition photo book.
- Medium: Large-format silver gelatin film photography + narrative storytelling.
- Theme: Rediscovering Lincoln's route through a modern lens.

Audience Demographics

- Primary Age Range: 30–65
- Interests: Art, history, culture, photography, Americana, civic identity
- Education: College-educated, culturally engaged

Projected Reach:

- 70,000 - 100,000+ impressions via social media, digital campaigns and national press outreach targeting photography, culture, and history publications.
- 10,000+ projected in-person exhibition visitors

Artistic Approach:

The large format camera is integral to this project. Each exposure demands time, intention, and connection with the subjects. This slower process yields finely detailed portraits and environmental scenes that reveal texture, gesture, and presence in ways digital mediums often overlook.

Sponsorship Tiers

Legacy Partner – \$10,000

- Logo placement on all printed and digital materials
- Full-page ad in exhibition catalog
- Named sponsor at exhibitions + speaking events
- 5 signed limited-edition photo books
- Customized content for your brand's channels

Heritage Sponsor – \$4,000

- Logo on website and exhibition signage.
- Half-page ad in exhibition catalog.
- 2 signed limited-edition photo books
- Brand mentions in press releases + digital promotions

Community Supporter – \$1,500

- Logo on website and printed postcards.
- Social media thank-you post.
- 1 signed photo book

This is more than a tribute to Lincoln—it's a timely reflection on where we've been and where we're going. I'd love to connect and explore how we can partner to bring this vision to a wide, engaged audience while showcasing your brand's commitment to history, culture, and creativity.

Project assistance has been provided by:

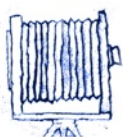


Initial project support has been provided, in part by:



PHOTOGRAPHER

Eric Dusenbery (B.A. Cinema & Photography, Southern Illinois University), is a photographer, an award-winning journalist, author/photographer of two books and is the recipient of several grants and sponsorships to produce documentary projects that tell stories to preserve the human spirit and to educate and promote an appreciation for the rich cultural identity of the United States. He frequently uses the traditions of the large format film camera for documentary and commissioned projects that harken back to the Farm Security Administration photographers of the mid-20th century. His photography has been widely exhibited and his work has appeared in numerous national publications. Research and documentary interests include: rural and small town cultural studies; Industrial diversity; ethnography; historic architecture; large-format environmental portraiture; human interest; analog photography.



4036 Palmer Ave.
York, PA 17408
e.dusenbery@gmail.com
www.ericdusenbery.com

Past projects, books and exhibitions have been supported by the following, to name only a few.

