

Appomattox Court House Va

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1865

The Bearer, Priv. J. J. McCargo of Co. "K", 93<sup>rd</sup>  
Regt. of Va. Infantry, a Paroled Prisoner of  
The Army of Northern Virginia, has permission  
to get his horse, and there remain undisturbed

J. P. Fitzgerald, Lt. Col  
Comdy 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt. Va. Infy

The Bearer Private J. J. McCargo of Company "K",  
23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of VA. Infantry, a paroled prisoner of  
the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission

to go to his home & there remain undisturbed

J. P. Fitzgerald, Lieutenant

Colonel

Commanding 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt., VA Infantry

*Readings of the Parole Passes of Appomattox Court House*

**Gibbon, John.** Personal Recollections of the Civil War, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1928

*. . . After talking a little while, Gen. Grant beckoned me forward . . . Gen. Grant said "Gen. Lee is desirous that his officers and men should have on their persons some evidence that they are paroled prisoners, so that they will not be disturbed," upon which Gen. Lee remarked that he desired to do simply what was in his power to protect his men from anything disagreeable. I said I thought that could be arranged, as I had a small printing press and could have blank forms struck off which could be filled in and one given to each officer and man of the army, signed by their own officers and distributed as required. To this he assented. . .*

*. . . My corps press was at once set to work to print off the requisite number of blank paroles but it soon became apparent that our few printers would speedily break down at the task, some 30,000 blanks being required. The Adjutant General reported that the press would have to be run all night and probably all the next day. I, therefore, directed him to send out and make a detail of the necessary number of printers to supply relays for the press until the job was finished. This was done; we obtained all the printers we wanted and the next day the paroles were ready for distribution. If we had needed fifty watch makers or blacksmiths, I presume we could have had them just as readily. . .*

*. . . By the 12<sup>th</sup>, nearly the whole army had been paroled and most of the officers and men had left for their homes. Polls in duplicate had been prepared of the different commands and on the backs of these was placed a printed slip duly filled out and signed by the commanding officer. The statement was then signed by General Geo. H. Sharpe the Assistant Provost Marshal, each party keeping a copy. Such officers as did not belong to any particular organization, signed the parole for themselves.*

*In addition, each officer and man, when he separated from his command, was given one of the paroles to which I have referred after it was properly filled out and signed by his immediate commanding officer. . .*

No. 11.....

Office Provost Marshal,

Charlotte Co August 7<sup>th</sup> 1865.

I John J. McCarso of Charlotte County,  
State of Virginia, do solemnly swear, (or affirm), in presence  
of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support and defend the  
Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder,  
and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all laws  
and proclamations which have been made during the existing Rebellion,  
with reference to the emancipation of Slaves—So HELP ME GOD.

John J. McCarso

I Certify, That the above Oath was administered by, and signed  
before me, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Aug, 1865, in obedience to  
the Amnesty Proclamation of the President of the United States, dated  
May 29th 1865.

Thomas M. Butler  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. & Asst Provost Marshal.