PAROLED PRISONER'S PASS.

Appomattox Court House, Va.,

April 10th, 1865.

THE BEARER, Jno. D. Steven Surgeon and ~~of Co. & Inspector~~ Regt. of 2nd Corps, Army., a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

R. E. Lee

Maj. Genl. Comd'g. Inf. Corps.

Appomattox Court House, Va.

April 10th. 1865.

THE BEARER, Private C. H. Watson of Co. A, Wagon Regt. of Aoly, a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

T. C. Jordan Maj. Comdg. &c.

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 12th, 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. . .