VIRGINIA

Confederate Flag of Truce To Be Returned to Appomattox

APPOMATTOX, VA., Oct. 16—A flag of truce, sent to the Federal lines at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865, by General James Longstreet, will be returned to Appomattox Thursday for an indefinite stay.

The flag, dispatched on orders of General Robert E. Lee, was received that day by Major-General George A. Custer, then commanding a division of Union cavalry. After Custer's famous Last Stand at the battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana in 1876, the truce flag, one of the general's most prized momentos, was kept by his widow.

In 1940 it was transferred to the newly established Custer Battlefield National Monument in Montano. Recently the National Park Service, with the permission of General Custer's heirs, decided to send the flag to the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Monument on an indefinite loan. With it will come a Virginia battle flag captured near Mamozine Church, in the closing days of the Appomattox campaign, by Major Thomas W. Custer, brother of the general.

The flags, which went on display today at the Washington office of Representative Watkins Abbitt (D-Va.), a native of Appomattox, will be presented by a grandnephew of Genreal Custer, Army Colonel Bryce C. W. Custer. They will be received for the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Monument by Superintendent Hubert A. Gurney.

The truce flag, made of linen "huckaback" towel, was provided by Major R. M. Sims, of General Longstreet's staff. Sims is believed to have bought the towel in Richmond for 40 Confederate dollars, and later tried in vain to get it back from Northern troops. The Virginia battle flag bears the words "Virginia" and the State motto, "Sic Semper Tyrannis."

The presentation program will take place at 10:30 A. M. Thursday at McLean House. Speakers include Colonel Custer; Gurney; Captain Edward S. Luce, superintendent of the Custer Battlefield National Monument; Charles W. Porter, III, of the National Park Service history division; Mrs. Jerry A. Burke, president of the Appomattox chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy; Ivey Holland, commander of Post 104, American Legion; the Rev. D. S. Weinberg, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and the Rev. Herbert Tucker, of St. Ann's Episcopal Church. Calvin H. Robinson, editor of the Appomattox Times-Virginian, will be master of ceremonies.

A Tattered Virginia Battleflag Comes Back Home

A tattered Virginia battleflag, which saw service in the War Between the States, is inspected by (left to right) Col. C. W. Custer, U. S. Army; Rep. Watkins M. Abbitt (D-Va) of Appomattox; and Superintendent Edward S. Luce of the Custer Battlefield National Monument. The flag, captured near the close of the Appomattox campaign, was presented yesterday to the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Monument. It was taken near Namozine Church by Major Thomas Ward Custer, brother of Gen. George A. Custer, and it is being loaned by the Custer National Monument in Montana to the State of Virginia. The Virginia flag, along with the Appomattox flag of truce, was placed in the restored McLean House with appropriate ceremonies yesterday. (Associated Press Photo)