

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Teacher Packet

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 - I. **THE APPOMATTOX CAMPAIGN**
Events from Petersburg to Appomattox

March 29 - April 9, 1865



Siege Trenches around Petersburg

What was to become the final campaign for Richmond began when the Federal Army of the Potomac crossed the James River in June 1864. Under Lieutenant General U.S. Grant's command, Federal troops applied constant pressure to the Confederate lines around Richmond and Petersburg. By autumn, three of the four railroads into Petersburg had been cut. The South Side Railroad remained as the only means of rail transportation into Confederate lines, and once severed,

the Army of Northern Virginia would have no other choice but to evacuate the capital city.

However, General Robert E. Lee's concern stretched beyond the Confederate Capitol to Federal actions elsewhere in the South. By February of 1865, two Federal armies, one under Major General William T. Sherman and the other under Major General John M. Schofield, were moving through the Carolinas. If not stopped, they could sever Virginia from the rest of the South, and if they joined Grant at Petersburg, Lee's men would face four armies instead of two. Realizing the danger, Lee wrote the Confederate Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge on February 8, 1865: "You must not be surprised if calamity befalls us."

By the time he wrote this letter, Lee knew he would have to leave the Petersburg lines, the only question was when. Muddy roads and the poor condition of the horses forced the Confederates to remain in the trenches throughout March.

Once again, Ulysses S. Grant seized the initiative. On March 29, Major General Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry and the V Corps began moving southwest toward the Confederate right flank and the South Side railroad. On the 1st of April, 21,000 Federal troops smashed the 11,000 man Confederate force under Major General George Pickett at an important road junction known locally as Five Forks. Grant followed up this victory with an all-out offensive against Confederate lines on April 2.

With his supply lines cut, Lee had no choice but to order Richmond and Petersburg evacuated on the night of April 2nd. Moving by previously determined routes, Confederate columns left the trenches that they had occupied for ten months. Their immediate objective was Amelia Court House where forces from Richmond and Petersburg would concentrate and receive rations sent from Richmond.

Once his army was reassembled, Lee planned to march down the line of the Richmond and Danville railroad with the hope of meeting General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee in North Carolina. Together, the two armies could establish a defensive line near the Roanoke River, and assume the offensive against Sherman.

The march from Richmond and Petersburg started well enough. Many of the Confederates, including Lee, seemed exhilarated at being in the field once again, but after the first day's march signs of weariness and hunger began to appear.

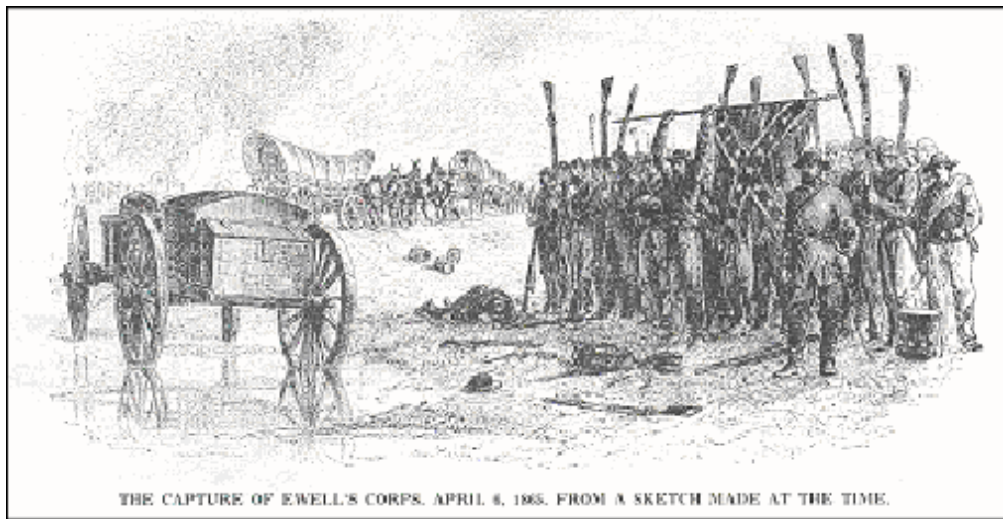
When Lee reached Amelia Court House on April 4, he found, to his dismay that the rations for his men had not arrived. Although a rapid march was crucial, the hungry men of the Army of Northern Virginia needed supplies. While awaiting the arrival of troops from Richmond, delayed by flood condition, Lee decided to halt the march and send wagons into the countryside to gather provisions. Local

farmers, though, had little to give and the wagons returned practically empty. The major result of this effort was a lost day of marching. This delay allowed the pursuing Federals time to catch up and proved to be the turning point of the campaign.

Leaving Amelia Court House on April 5, the columns of Lee's army had traveled only a few miles before they found Union cavalry and infantry squarely across their line of retreat at Jetersville. Rather than attack the entrenched Federal position, Lee changed his plan. He would march his army west, around the Federals, and attempt to supply his troops at Farmville along the route of the South Side railroad.

The retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia was under constant Federal pressure. Union cavalry attacked the Confederate wagon train at Painesville destroying a large number of wagons. Tired from lack of sleep (Lee had ordered night marches to regain the day he lost) and hungry, the men began falling out of the column, or broke ranks searching for food. Mules and horses collapsed under their loads.

As the retreating columns became more ragged, gaps developed in the line of march. At Sailor's Creek (a few miles east of Farmville), Union cavalry exploited such a gap to block two Confederate corps under Lt. Generals Richard Anderson and Richard Ewell until the Union VI Corps arrived to crush them. Watching the debacle from a nearby hill, Lee exclaimed, "My God! Has the army been dissolved?"



Nearly 8,000 men and 8 generals were lost in one stroke either by death, capture, or wounds. The remnants of the Army of Northern Virginia arrived in Farmville on April 7 where rations awaited them. However, the Union forces followed so quickly that the Confederate cavalry had to make a stand in the streets of the town to allow their fellow troops to escape.

Blocked once again by Grant's army, Lee once more swung west hoping that he could be supplied farther down the rail line and then turn south. Just north of Farmville, Lee turned west onto the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. The Union 2nd and 6th Corps followed. Unknown to Lee, the Federal cavalry and the 5th, 24th, and 25th Corps were moving along shorter roads south of the Appomattox River to cut him off.

While in Farmville on April 7, Grant sent a letter to Lee asking for the surrender of his army. Lee, in the vicinity of Cumberland Church, received the letter and read it. He then handed it to one of his most trusted corps commanders—Lt. General James Longstreet who tersely replied, "Not yet."

As Lee continued his march westward he knew the desperate situation his army faced. If he could reach Appomattox Station before the Federal troops he could receive rations sent from Lynchburg and then make his way to Danville via Campbell Court House (Rustburg) and Pittsylvania County. If not, he would have no choice but to surrender.

On the afternoon of April 8, the Confederate columns halted a mile northeast of Appomattox Court House. That night, artillery fire could be heard from Appomattox Station, and the red glow from Union campfires foretold that the end was near. Federal cavalry and the Army of the James -- marching on shorter roads -- had blocked the way south and west.

Lee consulted with his generals and determined that one more attempt should be made to reach the railroad and escape. At dawn on April 9, General John B. Gordon's Corps attacked the Union cavalry blocking the stage road just west of the village. After initial success, Gordon sent word to Lee around 8:30 a.m. "...that my command has been fought to a frazzle, and unless Longstreet can unite in the movement, or prevent these forces from coming upon my rear, I cannot go forward."

Receiving the message, Lee replied, "There is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

The Death-Knell of the Confederacy

The Final Battles at Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House, Virginia

April 8 - 9, 1865



On April the 8th, General Robert E. Lee and the remnants of his once-proud Army of Northern Virginia arrived in Appomattox County. Lee's hope was to reach Appomattox Station on the South Side railroad where supply trains awaited. Having moved ahead of the rest of Lee's army, Gen. R. Lindsay Walker led a detachment of reserve artillery (100 guns) to bivouac near the station. It was not long after their arrival -- around 4:00 p.m. -- that Federal cavalry, riding hard from the south, attacked the waiting supply trains and then assaulted Walker. This cavalry, under command of Gen. Philip Sheridan, was merely a harbinger of the fast approaching Federal columns. Sheridan's horsemen repelled Walker's detachment. Lee's much-coveted supplies were now in enemy hands.

In the meantime, the majority of Lee's forces were setting up a temporary camp one mile northeast of Appomattox Court House, the small town lying between the Confederates and the station. Word of the victorious Federal advance soon reached the camp. The beleaguered Confederates realized that Grant's men had the upper hand. A Confederate trooper reflected: "I felt myself now to be near physical collapse... expecting to go into battle in the morning."

The expectation was validated when, at 2:00 A.M. on the morning of April 9th, Lee ordered General Gordon's 2nd Corps to move into line of battle west of Appomattox Court House. Lee had met with Generals Gordon, Longstreet, and his nephew, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee earlier that evening and decided to throw a portion of his infantry against Sheridan's men. He certainly did not expect to have to fight Federal infantry, believing that he had out marched most of Grant's troops moving west from Farmville.

At 9:00 that morning, as a heavy fog lifted, Gordon's 2nd Corps was ordered forward to break through the Federal cavalry and proceed to the west — with the hopes of recapturing the station. Protecting Gordon's right flank was Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry. Gordon's Corps, "fought to a frazzle" during the previous week, was a mere shadow of its former strength. The combined force of the infantry and the cavalry numbered no more than 9, 000 men. "Fitz" Lee's cavalry spearheaded the advance, and the lines of scattered, grey-clad infantrymen lurched forward; most men were somnolent from their early rising yet nervous with the anticipation that

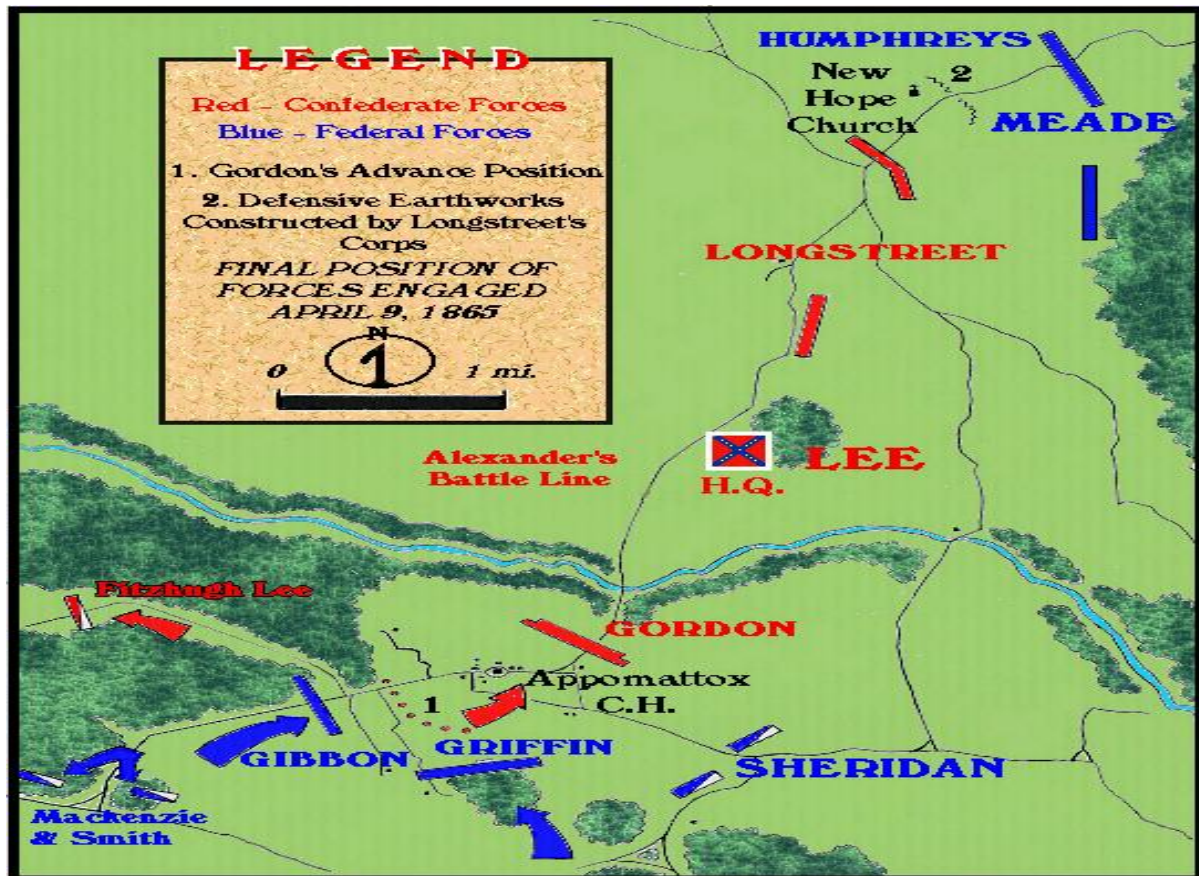
manifests itself before an impending battle. As the line moved up the sloping ridge along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage road, the enemy came into view.

Situated on the crest of the hill and beyond were two cannon of Federal artillery and a brigade of cavalry under General Charles H. Smith. Smith had been ordered by his division commander, Gen. George Crook, to hold his position as long as possible. The Confederates, as exhausted as they were, advanced through the artillery and Smith's men fled in their wake—only to be supported at the last moment by Mackenzie's and Young's cavalry brigades. The combined force once again slowed the Confederate advance, but most of "Fitz" Lee's cavalry skirted the Federals and escaped westward toward Lynchburg.

It now became apparent to Gordon that Lee had underestimated the Federal strength. In truth, Grant had not only positioned more cavalry in front of Lee during the night, but had also force-marched almost three entire corps of infantry along the South Side railroad to arrive at Appomattox Station during the night. Most of the Army of the James (under Gen. Edward Ord)—the 24th and elements of the 25th (United States Colored Troops)—had moved to block Lee's western escape route with the Army of the Potomac's V Corps in tow. Gordon and his battle-worn foot soldiers now faced advancing lines of Federal infantry of the 24th and 25th Corps. As Gordon's men began to skirmish with the Federal infantry, two cavalry divisions converged on the Confederate lines alongside infantry of Griffin's 5th Corps. It was only a matter of time before Gordon's men broke. The Confederates withdrew from their advanced positions and General Lee ordered truce flags sent out at about 11:00 that morning.

Meanwhile, back at his camp, Lee was deep in decision. Not only had Gordon been defeated to his front, but Federals of the 2nd and 6th corps had pinned Longstreet's rearguard in from the north. Grant had nearly surrounded Lee on three sides, leaving the northwest as his only unimpeded route. Lee knew that there was no hope of supplying his army by retreating in that direction. He was in "checkmate" and had no other options left. The disconsolate Lee sent word to Grant that he was prepared to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia.

Casualties of these two battles have been estimated at nearly 500 total dead and wounded.



Appomattox Court House N.H.P. Staff

II. The Gentlemen's Agreement

On the morning of April 9, while General realized that the retreat of his beleaguered army had finally been halted, U. S. Grant was riding toward Appomattox Court House where Union Cavalry, followed by infantry from the 5th, 24th, and 25th Corps had blocked the Confederate path.

Lee had sent a letter to Grant requesting a meeting to discuss his army's surrender and this letter overtook Grant and his party just before noon about four miles west of Walker's Church (present-day Hixburg). Grant, who had been suffering from a severe headache, later remembered that upon reading Lee's letter the pain in his head had disappeared. He stopped to prepare his reply to Lee, writing that he would push to the front to meet him. The location of the meeting was left to Lee's discretion.

Lt. Colonel Orville E. Babcock and his orderly, Capt. Dunn, took Grant's reply and rode ahead. Babcock found Lee resting under an apple tree near the Appomattox River. After reading Grant's letter, Lee, his Aide-de-Camp Lt. Colonel Charles Marshall, and Private Joshua O. Johns rode toward Appomattox Court House

accompanied by Federal Officers Lt. Col. Babcock and Capt. William McKee Dunn.

Marshall and Johns rode ahead of Lee in order to find a place for the generals to confer. As Marshall passed through the village he saw Wilmer McLean in the vicinity of the courthouse. He asked McLean if he knew of a suitable location, and McLean took him to an empty structure that was without furniture. Marshall immediately rejected this offer. Then McLean offered his own home. After seeing the comfortable abode, Marshall readily accepted and sent Private Johns back to inform General Lee that a meeting site had been found.

Lee arrived at the McLean house about one o'clock and took a seat in the parlor. A half hour later, the sound of horses on the stage road signaled the approach of General Grant. The generals presented a contrasting appearance. Lee was in his finest uniform and wearing a sash, sword, fine boots and gauntlets. Grant was in a mud-spattered field uniform after a long ride around the entire Confederate Army to reach Sheridan's lines. He didn't want to keep Lee waiting and rode directly to the McLean House without changing. Grant, who remembered meeting Lee once during the Mexican War, asked the Confederate general if he recalled their meeting. Lee replied that he did, and the two conversed in a very cordial manner, for approximately 25 minutes.

The subject had not yet gotten around to surrender until finally, Lee, feeling the anguish of defeat, brought Grant's attention to it. Grant, who later confessed to being embarrassed at having to ask for the surrender from Lee, said simply that the terms would be just as he had outlined them in a previous letter. These terms would parole officers and enlisted men but required that all Confederate military equipment be relinquished.

The discussion between the generals then drifted into the prospects for peace, but Lee, once again taking the lead, asked Grant to put his terms in writing. When Grant finished, he handed the terms to his former adversary, and Lee—first donning spectacles used for reading—quietly looked them over. When he finished reading, the bespectacled Lee looked up at Grant and remarked "This will have a very happy effect on my army."

Lee asked if the terms allowed his men to keep their horses, for in the Confederate Army, men owned their mounts. Lee explained that his men would need these animals to farm once they returned to civilian life. Grant responded that he would not change the terms as written (which had no provisions allowing private soldiers to keep their mounts) but would order his officers to allow any Confederate claiming a horse or a mule to keep it. General Lee agreed that this concession would go a long way toward promoting healing.

Grant's generosity extended further. When Lee mentioned that his men had been without rations for several days, the Union commander arranged for 25, 000

rations to be sent to the hungry Confederates.

After formal copies of the surrender terms and Lee's acceptance had been drafted and exchanged, the meeting ended. In a war that was marked by such divisiveness and bitter fighting, it is remarkable that it ended so simply. Grant's compassion and generosity did much to allay the emotions of the Confederate troops. As for Robert E. Lee, he realized that the best course was for his men to return home and resume their lives as American citizens. Before he met with General Grant, one of Lee's officers (General E. Porter Alexander) had suggested fighting a guerilla war, but Lee had rejected the idea. It would only cause more pain and suffering for a cause that was lost. The character of both Lee and Grant was of such a high order that the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia has been called "The Gentlemen's Agreement."



The Surrender at Appomattox,
by Keith Rocco

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Lt. Col. Charles Marshall | 9. Lt. Col. Theodore S. Bowers |
| 2. Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker | 10. Maj. Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan |
| 3. General Robert E. Lee | 11. Brig. Gen. John Rawlins (back view) |
| 4. Lt. Col. Orville E. Babcock | 12. Brig. Gen. Rufus Ingalls |
| 5. Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant | 13. Lt. Col. Adam Badeau |
| 6. Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord | 14. Brig. Gen. George H. Sharpe |
| 7. Lt. Col. Horace Porter | 15. Brig. Gen. Michael Morgan |
| 8. Capt. Robert T. Lincoln | 16. Brig. Gen. Seth Williams |



The End of Hostilities

The surrenders following Appomattox Court House

Many have been led to believe, quite erroneously, that the surrender at Appomattox Court House marked the end of the Civil War. This belief overlooks the fact that Grant only accepted the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. There were still other Confederate forces in the field; some still ready to continue fighting at their commanders' orders. What happened to these forces, which were not included in Lee's surrender of April 9?

On April 14, five days after the surrender of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant, on the day of President Lincoln's assassination, General William T. Sherman received a request for cease-fire from Confederate opponent Joseph E. Johnston. On April 17 and 18, General Johnston, commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, met with General Sherman to discuss the surrender of Johnston's army. The Army of Tennessee—weakened after their March defeat at Bentonville—had no hope of continuing the fight with Lee and his army now gone. The two commanding generals met at the Bennett place—a modest farm house near Durham Station, North Carolina. The terms that Sherman dictated to Johnston were similar to the terms under which Grant had released Lee, but Sherman had added points which would effectively declare the war over and would allow for state governments to remain in power. Sherman had proposed, in a sense, a "peace treaty." Secretary of War Stanton denied Sherman's petition to make these broad-reaching decisions, and would

allow Sherman to grant Johnston only a military surrender. The two met again on April 26th to finalize the terms, and by April 28, Johnston's Army had surrendered. Many of the men in his dissolved command were as crestfallen as Lee's troops, but the terms allowed them the dignity of leaving their arms behind as they struck their camps. There was no "Stacking of Arms" as there had been at Appomattox Court House.

After the surrender, Sherman was not lauded as Grant had been. Following the assassination of President Lincoln, many in the North had grown angry and vengeful at the rebellious states (which is exactly what Lincoln did not want). Many in the government and the press had felt Sherman's initial "peace terms" to be too lenient on the South, and thus reflected a mindset that was too forgiving and mild.

On May 4, Major General Edward Canby accepted the surrender of General Richard Taylor and the Department of Alabama at Citronelle, Alabama. Taylor, son of former president Zachary Taylor and brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis, was released with his men under similar terms as Grant presented to Lee. The men received parole passes and were allowed to utilize military transportation to return to their respective homes.

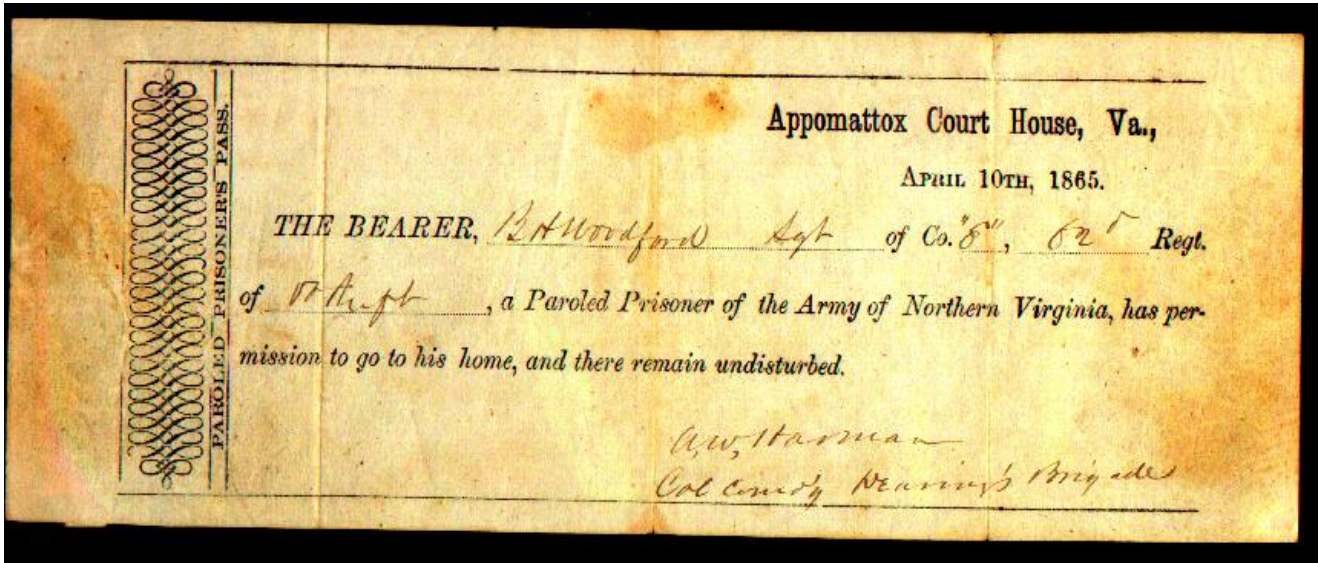
On May 10, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his entourage were captured near Irwinville, Georgia, while fleeing south. Three days after Davis' capture, Confederate forces under Colonel John "RIP" Ford defeated Federal forces under Colonel Theodore Barrett at Palmito Ranch near the Texas-Mexico border. This was the last battle of the Civil War.

The Confederate victory at Palmito Ranch was all for naught, for on the June 2, General Edmund Kirby Smith and his Confederate Trans-Mississippi Army succumbed to Federal forces under General Canby. The terms were set by Canby and a representative of Smith, General Simon Bolivar Buckner, in New Orleans on May 26. The final surrender was discussed on a paddlewheel steamer off the coast of Galveston, Texas seven days later. Smith and his men promised not to take up arms again. Some of his men fled across the Mexican boarder without receiving proper paroles. Once again, similar terms to General Lee's were presented to and accepted by Smith.

The last surrender was to occur on June 23 in what is presently Oklahoma. At the time, it was a territory especially for the relocation of American Indians. The last Confederate land forces to surrender were the men of the Cherokee Rifle brigade, under Brigadier General Stand Watie, the only American Indian to ever hold the rank of General in either army during the conflict. His men were all American Indian; represented in the brigade were men of the Cherokee and Seminole nations — two of the tribes relocated to Indian Territory. Watie had been sent to the Indian Territory during the infamous "Trail of Tears."

On November 6, the last active Confederate Naval vessel, the C.S.S. Shenandoah, steamed into port at Liverpool, England. Lieutenant James Waddell was commanding, and he and his men sought asylum with the British government. Their ship, however, was turned over to the United States government. By now, the war was well over, and both the victors and the defeated were beginning the long process of picking up the pieces and putting the country back together.

The Printing of the Paroles



28,231 parole passes such as the one above were printed and issued to Confederate Soldiers.

As stated in the April 9, 1865 surrender terms, "The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly exchanged and each company or regiment commander sign a like parole for the men of their commands... ." This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by United States Authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they reside."

On the morning of April 10, 1865, Generals Lee and Grant had their last meeting at Appomattox Court House. General Lee requested that his men be given some type of evidence that they were paroled prisoners to protect them from arrest or annoyance.

General Gibbon was ordered to arrange for a small printing press to print blank parole forms. General George Sharpe supervised the operation, which was carried out at the Clover Hill Tavern. Printing began the afternoon of the 10th and continued from daylight to a late hour each night through the 15th. The total number of officers and men paroled was 28,231.



General Gibbon reported, "Rolls in duplicate had been prepared of the different commands and on the backs of these was placed a printed slot duly filled out and signed by General George 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."

III. McLean House

Site of the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia



The Mclean home in the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia was used on April 9, 1865 for the surrender meeting between General Robert E. Lee, C.S.A. and Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant, U.S.A. The house was also used on April 10th for the Surrender Commissioners meeting in which all the details of the surrender were finalized. Consisting of Union Generals John Gibbon, Charles Griffin and Wesley Merritt and Confederate Generals James

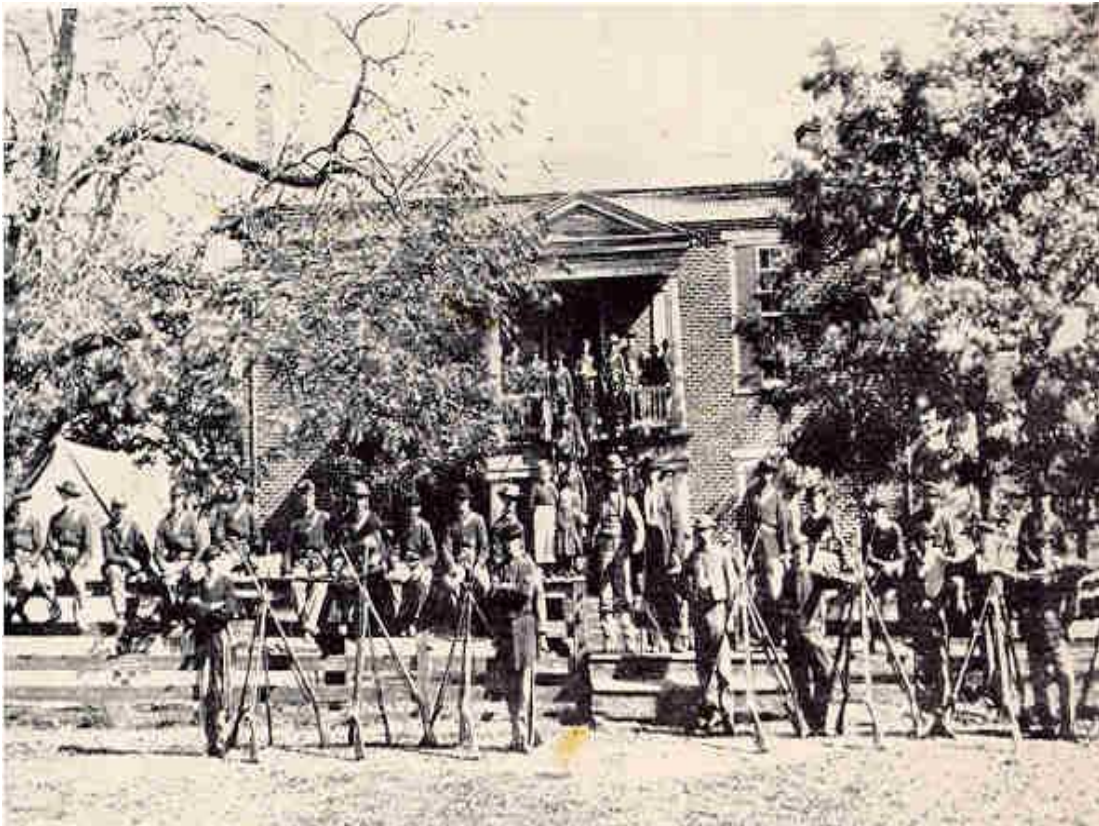
Longstreet, John Gordon and William Pendleton, these six men settled any unresolved issues regarding the surrender. Over the next few days Major General John Gibbon, U.S.A. used the McLean House as his headquarters.

The McLean's left Appomattox Court House and returned to Mrs. McLean's Prince William County, Virginia estate in the fall of 1867. When Wilmer McLean defaulted on repayment of loans, the banking house of "Harrison, Goddin, and

Apperson" of Richmond, Virginia brought a judgment against him, and the "Surrender House" was sold at public auction on November 29, 1869. The house was purchased by John L. Pascoe and apparently rented to the Ragland family formerly of Richmond. In 1872 Nathaniel H. Ragland purchased the property for \$1250.00.

On January 1, 1891 the property was sold by the Widow Ragland for the sum of \$10,000 to Captain Myron Dunlap of Niagara Falls, New York. Myron Dunlap and fellow speculators went through two or three plans intending to capitalize on the notoriety of the property, one idea was to dismantle the home and move it to Chicago as an exhibit at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Measured drawings including elevations and materials specifications lists were produced, the house was dismantled and packed for shipping, but due to cash flow and legal problems the plan was never brought to fruition. The home sat dismantled in piles prey to vandals, collectors, and the environment for fifty years.

Growth and Decline of Appomattox Court House



Company D, 188th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry serving as Provost Guard at Appomattox Courthouse - August 1865

The county of Appomattox was created in 1845 when Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, and Prince Edward counties were divided. Citizens who lived in the hinterlands of the aforementioned counties had been discouraged by the great

distance to the seats of the large counties. Of course, distance hampered their ability to vote and conduct other business, and thus after the application of sufficient pressure, the state authorized the formation of Appomattox County. The fledgling jurisdiction would take its name from the stream whose headwaters emanated therein—the Appomattox River. The river itself was named after one of the villages of Chief Powhatans' Confederacy, known in the 1600s as Appomattox, and being located at the mouth of the river.

The small community of Clover Hill, with a population fewer than one hundred, was named as the county seat for Appomattox and was officially made a town. Previously, it had been a mere stage stop along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. Most of the activity in Clover Hill centered around the tavern, which provided lodging to travelers and fresh horses for the stage line since its construction in 1819. Much of the Clover Hill area had been owned by Hugh Raine, until he sold the property to Colonel Samuel D. McDearmon. Upon acquiring the land, he had thirty acres surveyed for the town with two acres to be used by the county to build a courthouse and other official buildings. The courthouse was to be built across the stage road from the Clover Hill Tavern with the jail nearby. McDearmon divided the remaining land surrounding the courthouse into acre lots, feeling that with Clover Hill's new status as a county seat he would find lawyers and tradesmen anxious to trade cash for deeds.

Into the 1850s, the growth of the town seemed imminent. Since most county seats in Virginia by then were called 'Court Houses', the name of the town was changed to Appomattox Court House. The growing village boasted two stores, numerous law offices, a saddler, wheelwright, three blacksmiths, and other miscellaneous businesses. Another tavern had been built by John Raine in 1848. This would later become the home of the Wilmer McLean family and would be used for the surrender meeting between Generals Lee and Grant on April 9, 1865.

The growth of the town was ultimately hampered by the very thing that gave most towns life - the railroad. In 1854, a section of the railroad from Petersburg was extended from Farmville to Appomattox Depot, three miles west of the county seat. Eventually, the line extended to Lynchburg. The railroad was too far from the town, so many businesses moved to the depot area where commerce was more lucrative. About this time stages stopped running, and following the Civil War the Clover Hill area continued in decline.

In 1892, the courthouse burned down in what is believed to have been a chimney fire. Influential citizens of the county decided to transfer the county government to the depot, where many businesses had already relocated. By 1894, the depot village had become the county seat and the name was changed to Appomattox.

Commerce and Society

The population of the county declined during the decade of the 1850s. The U.S. census shows that in 1850 there were 9,193 people living in the county, but in

1860 the populace was 8,889. Despite the decrease in population, Appomattox County fared quite well economically. The output of tobacco almost doubled from 964,100 pounds in 1850 to 1,777,355 pounds in 1860. The cash value of farms increased from \$1,008,889 to \$1,902,558. These increases reflected the benefit of the railroad to the local farmers, as well as the more traditional means of transportation, such as the James River and Kanawha Canal.

Wages changed with the constant economic flux. In 1850, the daily wage for a laborer (with bed and board) was 25 cents. By 1860, the average worker's salary had doubled to 50 cents a day. A skilled laborer—such as a carpenter—had a wage increase from 62 cents a day to one dollar (without board).

By 1870, the economic boom of the late antebellum era had reached an abrupt halt. Tobacco output dropped to 656,944 pounds. The labor intensive leaf crop that had spurred the boom was also greatly responsible for the development of the slave labor system in Virginia and was notorious for robbing the soil of nutrients. Local farmers were forced to increase production of corn, oats, and wheat (which had previously been grown on a much smaller scale than tobacco.)

Industry however, was growing dramatically during these years. In 1850 there were only ten industries operating in the county. By 1870, the number had grown to fifty-three, employing 167 people. The annual industrial production value reached \$158,530—a pittance compared to the money the tobacco trade had once brought in, but a start at diversification none the less.

The centers of social activity in the county, as in much of the South, were the churches. In the mid-1800s, the county had 24 churches, mostly Baptist. The large Scotch-Irish population of the area founded a number of Presbyterian churches. Ministers were quite often the school teachers too, so there was a close tie between churches and education.

With the formation of the county, "Court Day" was established as the first Thursday after the first Monday of each month and was quite a social event. Civil and criminal cases provided entertainment for spectators. Auctions of cattle and slaves were held next to the courthouse, and farmers set up stands where produce such as corn, apples, peaches, and figs could be purchased. Sometimes, political speeches would be given. On occasion, the men of the local militia could display their soldierly bearing while marching around the town.

Over the years Senators, Congressmen, judges, attorneys, and musicians have all called Appomattox County their home, but the county has produced only a handful of people who would rise to national prominence. Prior to the war Thomas Bocock was a U. S. Congressman, and would become the only Speaker of the Confederate Congress. Joel and Sam Sweeney were noted musicians. Joel performed for Queen Victoria and popularized banjo playing in the United States and Europe. Sam was a violin and banjo player during the Civil War—playing for

cavalry General J.E.B. Stuart. Joel died in 1860 and Sam in 1864.

Blacks in Appomattox County

The black population of Appomattox County saw dramatic changes during the 1800s. In 1860, there were 4,600 slaves and 171 freedmen living in the county, accounting for more than 53% of the total population. There were about thirty black households. One family, the Humbles, was so large that they created a small settlement between the Court House and the Depot.

Prior to the Civil War, the major fear for Virginia slaves was to be sold and sent further south to what was referred to as "cotton country." During times of good crops, few slaves were sold, but if times were bad, there was an increase in slave sales. Most blacks stayed in the county after the war—evidenced in the 1870 census—which shows the black population at 4,536. Many freedmen worked as servants. Others were farmers owning land, or tradesmen with their own businesses (such as blacksmiths, shoemakers, wheelwrights, and coopers).

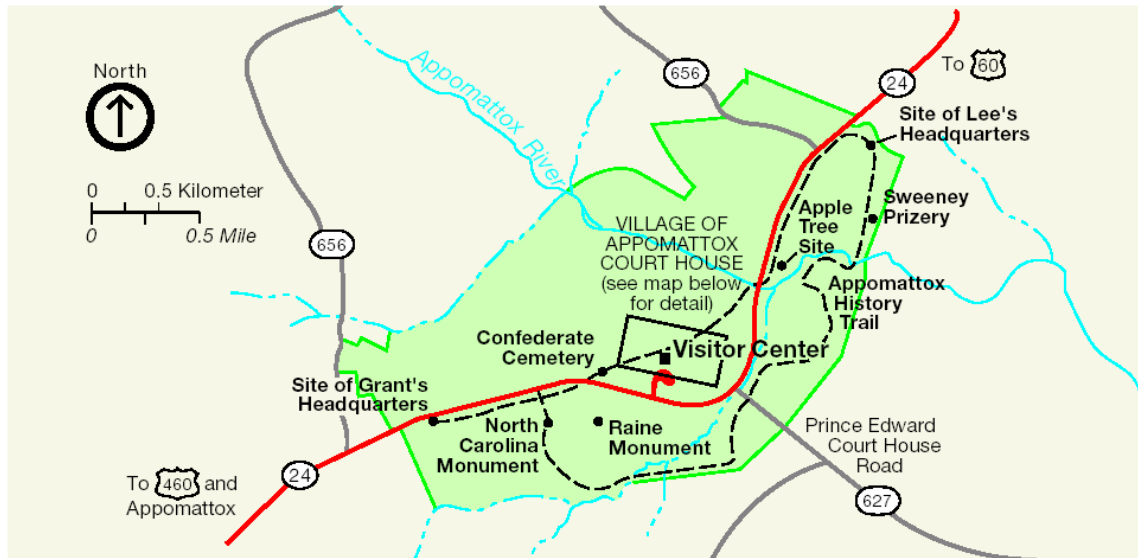
Before the Civil War, educating blacks was illegal. By October 1866, though, a few black schools were opening in the county. Near the Court House was Plymouth Rock School House. By 1870 the county boasted a black man certified to teach, William V. James.

In 1871, records indicate 352 black students attending six schools. After World War I, Mrs. Mozella Jordan Price became supervisor of black schools and is credited with making many improvements. Under her administration, buildings and teachers were added, and salaries increased for educators.

The first permanent black church building was Galilee, built around 1913, with several more quickly following: Mt. Airy, Jordan, Mt. Obed, Promised Land, and others.

Appomattox County Today

The population of the county has remained largely stagnant since the 1860s, increasing less than 34% in 140 years. The silver lining is that the slow growth has done much to preserve the sylvan setting for the reunification of a war torn country. The 2000 census shows a population of about 13,705—with an 11.4% increase since 1990. Schools are now integrated; churches flourish; small businesses abound. Due to the establishment of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park on the site of the surrender, the county sees a large influx of tourists, especially during the summer months.



Map of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park as it is today.

The Park Service Years - 1940 to Present

On April 10, 1940, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument was created by Congress to include approximately 970 acres. In February 1941 archeological work was begun at the site, then overgrown with brush and honeysuckle. Historical data was collected, and architectural working plans were drawn up to begin the meticulous restoration process. The whole project was brought to a swift stop on December 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces causing the United States entry into World War II.

On November 25, 1947, bids for the reconstruction of the McLean House were opened and on April 9, 1949, 84 years after the historic meeting reuniting the country, the McLean House was opened by the National Park Service for the first time to the public. Major General U.S. Grant III and Robert E. Lee IV cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony on April 16, 1950, after a speech by Pulitzer Prize winning historian Douglas Southall Freeman in front of a crowd of approximately 20,000.

Documents Related to the Surrender

1. The first document is a facsimile of the original draft of the surrender terms given to Lee for review by Grant on the 9th of April, 1865. In this draft Lee added the word “exchanged” after “properly”, which Grant had left out.

2. This is the final version of a letter written by Lieutenant Colonel George Marshall for Lee. This is Lee's acceptance letter to Grant's terms of surrender.
3. "General Order #9" is Lee's farewell order given to his soldiers.
4. Facsimile of a parole pass given to a Confederate, and a blank reproduction of a parole pass.

Appomattox Co. Va.

Apr. 9th 1865-

Gen. R. E. Lee,

Comd. U. S. A.

Gen.

In accordance
with the substance of my letter
to you of the 8th inst. I propose to
receive the surrender of the Army of
N. Va on the following terms: to wit:

Rolls of all the officers and
men to be made in duplicate.

One copy to be given to an officer
designated by me, the other to be
retained by such officer or officers

as you may designate. The officers
to give their individual paroles
not to take up arms against the

Government of the United States, ^{until properly exchanged} and
each Company ^{or regimental commander} ~~officer~~ sign a like
parole for the men of their
~~own~~ commands.

The Arms, Artillery and public
property to be parked and stacked
and turned over to the officer
appointed by me to receive them.
This will not embrace the side
Arms of the officers, nor their
private ^{or baggage} horses. This done
each officer and man will be
allowed to return to their homes
not to be disturbed by United
States Authority so long as they
observe their parole and the
laws in force where they may
reside.

Very respectfully
G. H. Lovant H. C.

Appomattox C.H. Va.
Apl. 9th 1865

Gen R.E. Lee
Comd'g C.S.A.
General,

In accordance
with the substance of my letter
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designated by me, the other to be
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as you may designate. The officers
to give their individual paroles
not to take up arms against the
Government of the United States until properly

exchanged and

each company or regimental commander sign a like
parole for the men of their
commands.

The arms, artillery, and public
property are to be parked and stacked
and turned over to the officer
appointed by me to receive them.

This will not embrace the side
arms of the officers, nor their
private horses or baggage. This done
officers and man will be
allowed to return to their homes
not to be disturbed by United
States authority so long as they
observe their parole and the
laws in force where they may
reside.

Very respectfully,
U.S. Grant, Lieutenant-General.

Headquarters Army N. Va.
April 9th, 1865.

Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant,
Commanding Armies of the U.S.
General:

I have received your letter of this date containing the terms of surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th inst., they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant
(Sgd) R. E. Lee
General

Officially
R. E. Lee
General

Headquarters Army N. Va
April 9th, 1865

Lieut-Gen. U.S. Grant,
Commanding Armies of the U.S.
General:

I have received your letter of this date containing the terms of surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th instant, they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. E. Lee
General

Head Quarters, Army of North Va.
10. April. 1865.

General Order }
No 9 }

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.

But feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes, and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

R. Lee
Genl

Hd Quarters Army of Nor: Va.
10, April. 1865.

GENERAL ORDER
NO. 9

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.

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By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous considerations for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

R.E. LEE
Genl.

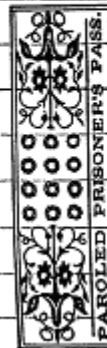


Appomattox Court House, Va.,

April 10th, 1865.

THE BEARER, *Major Genl. F. H. Lee* of ~~the~~ *the Army* Regt.
of *Northern Va.* a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has per-
mission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

By Command of Lieut Genl. Grant
George W. Sapping
Adj. Marshall



Appomattox Court House, Va.,

April 10th, 1865.

THE BEARER, of Co. Regt.
of a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has per-
mission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

Appomattox Court House NHP

Student Adventure Sheet

This sheet is to be filled-out during your visit to the Park. The Teacher may wish to create teams who try to find the answers to the questions. Make copies as needed.

- 1) What time of the year was the surrender? What was the weather like?
- 2) What were some of the characteristics of the two famous generals who met to determine the terms of surrender?
- 3) Why did the generals meet in the parlor of the Wilmer McLean's house?
- 4) Why was there a battle the morning of the surrender meeting?
- 5) Why are the terms of the surrender considered generous? Were the Confederate soldiers allowed to go home after the surrender?
- 6) The Confederates were issued pieces of paper called parole passes so they could travel home safely. Where were these passes printed?
- 7) What was the purpose of the stacking of arms ceremony?
- 8) How many days after the surrender did the stacking of arms take place?
- 9) What did the Union soldiers do at the start of the ceremony that surprised the Confederates?
- 10) What happened to the other Confederate Armies after Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia?



11) What was used as a flag of truce?

There is a child's doll in one of the glass cases.

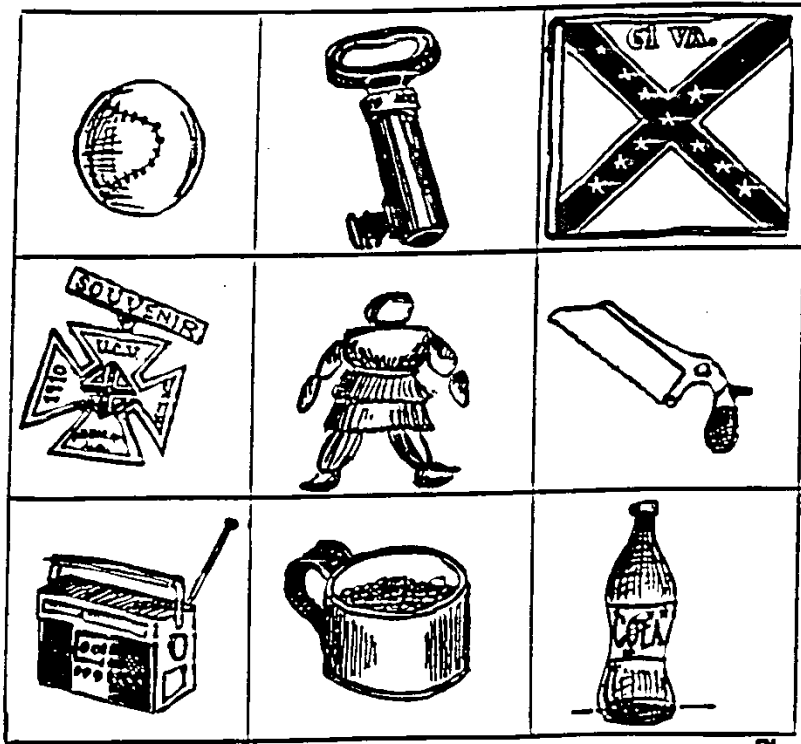
12) What is her nickname?

13) Who did she belong to?

14) Can you find something a soldier would wear? Describe it.

15) Do you see anything that can be used in a kitchen? Describe it.

There are 9 pictures below. Put an X through the 4 items that are not on display. Name the other 5 items.



There are over 390 National Park units in the country. Can you name two (not counting this one)?

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