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# *Appomattox Court House*

## *National Historical Park*

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**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS GUIDE



April 8 - April 12, 2015



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# Hours

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	Park Grounds	Visitor Center
April 8	8:30 am - 8 pm	8:30 am - 7 pm
April 9	6 am - 6 pm	7 am - 6 pm
April 10	8:30 am - 9 pm	8:30 am - 9 pm
April 11	8:30 am - 6 pm	8:30 am - 5 pm
April 12	8:30 am - 5 pm	8:30 am - 5 pm

# Program Descriptions

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**After Appomattox** - What happened at Appomattox reverberated across the nation. Veterans returned home to new lives; a re-established and redefined Union confronted an uncertain future. Dr. David Blight of Yale University will join others in exploring the aftermath and legacy of Appomattox.

**Battle of Appomattox Court House** - (April 9, “real-time”) Park Historian, Patrick Schroeder, will explain how and where the last fighting happened around the village. This was the last battle of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and would lead directly to General Lee’s decision to surrender later that day. The program will include tactical information, but also stories about the last soldiers to die in the Eastern Theater of the War, and the role played by approximately 5,000 United States Colored Troops in the final scene. Re-enactors will conduct firing demonstrations (small arms, artillery, and cavalry) during the real time programs from 7:30 am – 10:30 am at which time the guns will go silent, signifying the end of the fighting.

**Battle of Appomattox Station (3 Phases)** - (April 8, “real-time”) This is a three phase interpretive program that is designed to interpret the battle at three key places at three key times to better understand why the battle was fought and how its outcome contributed to Lee’s decision to surrender the next day. *Phase 1* will occur at Liberty Baptist Church, in the modern town of Appomattox and very near the railroad tracks where Confederate supply trains were captured. *Phase 2* will occur on the battlefield property (owned by the Appomattox 1865 Foundation). *Phase 3* will be in the park and will end about dusk.

**The Battle of Five Forks** - For one afternoon this tiny isolated crossroads beyond the end of the Confederate defenses of Petersburg was the focus of 30,000 soldiers. The result of the fighting led to the fall of Petersburg and Richmond and launched the Appomattox Campaign.

**The Battles of Sailor's Creek** - On the afternoon of April 6, 1865, three days prior to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, disaster struck his army in the rural fields of Amelia County. Learn about the events of that day and how those events directly influenced the ultimate fate of the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Bells Across the Land Ceremony** - The ringing will coincide with the moment, just after 3 pm on April 9, that the historic meeting between Grant and Lee in the McLean House ended. After the ringing at Appomattox, bells will reverberate across the country. Churches, temples, schools, city halls, public buildings, battlefields, historic sites, and others will be ring bells precisely at 3:15 pm (Eastern Standard Time) for four minutes (each minute symbolic of a year of war).

**Caring for the Wounded at Appomattox** - There were approximately 95,000 soldiers in the vicinity of Appomattox Court House on the morning of April 9, 1865 at the conclusion of the second battle fought in the area in as many days. Explore the subject of medical treatment for the hundreds of sick and wounded as a result of the last battles fought by the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Confederados to Brazil** - Casey Clabough, author of *Confederado: A Novel of the Americas* discusses the Virginians who immigrated to Brazil both during and after the war. Why did they go? Why Brazil?

**Confederates Going Home** - Once the arms were stacked and the parole passes were issued, what happened to the men that used to make up the Army of Northern Virginia? Some of these men were Virginians, but every Confederate state had men in this army, including Texas. How did they get home, and what challenges did they face?

**Ely Parker, A Warrior in Two Camps** - Ely Parker was U. S. Grant's friend and aide-de-camp and he wrote the final draft of the Appomattox surrender terms. This program will cover Parker's military accomplishments, and his civilian accomplishments, including being a Seneca Sachem and a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), which launched his engineering career. The program on April 9 will be delivered by Al Parker, his great, great, nephew, and on April 11 by David Wooldridge of the National Park Service.

**Footsteps to Freedom** - This program invites us to think about emancipation as one of the significant outcomes of the war. Unlike the theoretical ideas that inspired the Emancipation Proclamation, Lee's surrender led to Emancipation Realized. Hannah Reynolds was the only known civilian casualty of the fighting in the village on the morning of April 9, 1865. She was an enslaved woman who was mortally wounded just hours before emancipation. This ceremony will take the form of a funeral for Hannah Reynolds and provide the opportunity to eulogize her life and the institution that died with her. The program will end with the lighting of 4,600 luminaries representing each emancipated person in Appomattox County as a result of the surrender.

**Grant After the War** - In many ways the war brought Ulysses Grant out of obscurity and into the national spotlight. Grant lived for 20 years after the war and in addition to serving two terms as President, he had other accomplishments including his well-written memoirs that contain perhaps the most thorough account of the surrender meeting.

**Grant and Lee as Peacemakers** - A program by William C. Davis who wrote, "The maneuvers of their armies brought Grant and Lee to Appomattox. Once there, fate cast them in the roles of peacemakers, yet each had conceived a silent personal agenda for achieving it for months, and coincidentally with similar goals. Their little known and underappreciated efforts to end the war quietly add dimension to the lives of men who were already deservedly national icons."

**Joel Sweeney, Indeed a Wonder** - The banjo has become the quintessential American musical instrument. It combines the traditions of the simple stringed gourd from African slaves with the ballads and tunes of the Scotch-Irish and English who settled Virginia. Appomattox was the birthplace and home of Joel Sweeney, the man who popularized the 5-string banjo.

**Johnston's Surrender at the Bennett Place** - John Guss, Site Manager of Bennett Place State Historic Site (N.C.) will discuss the final collapse of the Army of Tennessee and share the events and the controversial surrender negotiations between Major General William T. Sherman and General Joseph E. Johnston at the small farm of James and Nancy Bennett just outside Durham Station, North Carolina on April 17, 18, and 26, 1865.

**Lee After the War** - Unlike Grant, Lee only lived 5 years after the war. He spent most of the remainder of his life as president of Washington College (now known as Washington & Lee University). The years following the war were difficult for the South and seem also difficult for Lee to witness. Find out if Lee and Grant ever met after they left Appomattox.

**Lee and Grant's April 10th Meeting** - The often forgotten second meeting between the two generals took place on horseback at the eastern edge of the village. What was Grant's motivation to ask for this meeting? Why did they meet in this obscure place, and what did the Confederate soldiers receive as a result of this meeting?

**Local Units and Impact of the War** - Aside from the last week, Appomattox County and its residents were far removed from the bloodshed and destruction of the war. This quiet home-front community was nonetheless heavily impacted by faraway battles long before April 1865. Appomattox County raised four companies of Confederate soldiers, representing the infantry, cavalry and artillery. Where did these men fight? What casualties did they suffer? And what impact did the seemingly endless war have on the folks back home.

**Paroling Confederates** - After the surrender terms were agreed to, including the Lee and Grant meeting on April 10, there was much work to do to implement those terms. In exchange for laying down their military equipment, each Confederate soldier would receive a paper parole pass and begin their journeys home, some short, some quite long. This program examines why paroles passes were needed, how they were created, distributed, and how they aided the former Confederates.

**Slavery and Memory: The Recollections of a Present Day African American descendant** - Dr. Roger Davidson, a professional historian and Isbell descendant (Appomattox Court House family), will discuss oral traditions, the historical memory of slavery, and its relevance to his personal and professional journey. Other Isbell and Diuguid descendants will provide additional perspectives.

**The Battles of Appomattox** - This program explores how opposing forces met on the afternoon of April 8 that resulted in one of the most unusual battles of the war, the Battle of Appomattox Station. It will also show how this set the stage for the final battle of the Army of Northern Virginia, the Battle of Appomattox Court House and the strategies that played out on the morning of April 9 that led to surrender. The casualties of these battles were the last of the war for these armies.

**The Commissioners Meeting** - Many people know that Lee and Grant met in the McLean House on April 9 to agree on the terms of the surrender. What is much less known is that not all of the details of the surrender were settled in that meeting. Grant and Lee agreed that three generals from each army would meet the following day to finalize details. These six generals are known as the “Commissioners” and they met on April 10, in the McLean Parlor, which by that point contained little furniture. Find out who they were, and why and what details were settled as a result of this meeting.

**The Confederate Cemetery** - Learn about the creation of the small Confederate Cemetery west of the historical village. Learn about the Appomattox Ladies Association, the community’s efforts to establish the cemetery, and intriguing biographical sketches on the soldiers buried there. Get a unique glimpse on some of the last soldiers to die in battle, some who enlisted in the spring of 1861.

**Fall of Richmond and Petersburg** - After almost 10 months of fighting around the Capital of the Confederacy and its major supply hub in Petersburg, both cities fell in to Union hands on April 3, 1865. The events of those last days started the armies on a campaign that eventually led them to Appomattox Court House.

**The Power of Appomattox** - Spend some time with Park Historian Patrick Schroeder as he shares primary source descriptions and reactions to the surrender, and discover surprising and unrealized facts about the timeless story of Appomattox.

**The Stacking of Arms** - Many historians have felt that the Surrender Parade on April 12, 1865 really held the true meaning of what transpired at Appomattox. Relive that day as you stand along the Stage Road where “honor answered honor” as both armies would face each other one last time. Their conduct that day signaled a dignified end to our nation’s bloodiest four years.

**The Surrender Meeting** - At about 1:30 pm on April 9, 1865, Lt. General Grant arrived at the McLean House and his meeting with General Lee began that resulted in magnanimous terms of surrender for Lee's army. It is a surreal moment when the two top field commanders of the war met face to face. What was the tone of the meeting? Did they only talk about the surrender? Who else was there besides Lee and Grant?

**The Village of Appomattox Court House** - The small village of Appomattox Court House was an unlikely scene for high drama during the Civil War, and for four years neither ever came close to it. But on April 8, 1865 the unlikely happened and the little town was immortalized in American History. How long had this town been here when the war came? How long would it be here after the war was over? What can the remains of this small town teach us about Southside and Central Virginia during the mid-1800s and how the war impacted it?

**U. S. Colored Troops at Appomattox** - African American soldiers fighting for the Union, many of them former slaves, were officially known as United States Colored Troops (USCTs) and made up nearly ten percent of all Federal forces during the Civil War. Seven regiments of USCT's, nearly 5,000 men, fought in the Battle of Appomattox Court House on the morning of April 9. Who were these soldiers who risked all for the preservation of the Union and the Emancipation of the enslaved?

## **War and Emancipation: The African American**

**Experience in the Civil War** - Dr. Roger Davidson will discuss the connection between the outbreak of war and the destruction of slavery. More specifically, he will highlight the wartime experiences of African Americans during the war and their role as agents of emancipation.

**Why Appomattox / The Campaign** - A look at why Lee and Grant's armies were in and around Richmond and Petersburg for 9 ½ months and why Lee made the decision to evacuate and what he was trying to do when he left. We'll look at the daily challenges that the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia faced on the campaign and how Grant was eventually able to not only block Lee to the south but also gain his front (west) bringing about the surrender. We'll answer the question: Why did the surrender take place in Appomattox?

# Event Map



Triangle ★

★ Food & Concessions

★ Youth & Education

★ Bookstore

★ Parole Printing

Visitor Center  
Appomattox County Courthouse

★ U.S. Postal Service

★ Wet Plate Photo

Demo Field ★

★ McLean House  
April 9

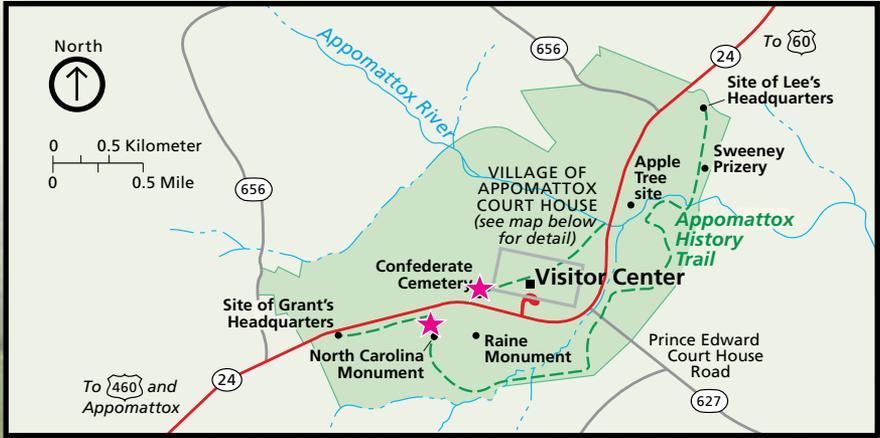
McLean House  
(surrender site)

★ Tibbs  
Just Off Map

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## Other Program Sites

- ★ Confederate Cemetery
- ★ North Carolina Monument



- ★ Program Sites
- ★ Tent Sites

# Schedule of Events

## Wednesday, April 8

- 9:00 Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Tibbs)  
10:00 The Fall of Richmond / Petersburg (Triangle)  
11:00 The Surrender Meeting (Tibbs)  
12:00 Battle of Five Forks (Triangle)  
1:00 The Village of Appomattox Court House (Tibbs)  
2:00 Battle of Sailor's Creek (Triangle)  
3:00 The Battles of Appomattox (Tibbs)  
3:30 Battle of Appomattox Station, Phase 1  
(Liberty Baptist Church)  
4:00 Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Triangle)  
5:00 Battle of Appomattox Station, Phase 2  
(Battlefield Property)  
6:30 Battle of Appomattox Station, Phase 3 (Tibbs)

## Thursday, April 9

- 7:30 - 10:30 **Battle Demonstration** (field west of village)  
7:45 Battle of Appomattox Court House (Tibbs)  
8:00 Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Triangle)  
9:00 Battle of Appomattox Court House (Tibbs)  
9:00 Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Triangle)  
10:00 The Surrender Meeting (Triangle)  
11:00 - 12:30 Appomattox 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Program  
(Main Stage)  
1:00 The Stacking of Arms (Triangle)  
1:30 - 3:05 Surrender Meeting Commemoration Program  
(McLean House)  
3:10 Bells Across the Land Ceremony (McLean House)  
4:00 The Surrender Meeting (Triangle)  
4:00 Ely Parker, A Warrior in Two Camps (Tibbs)  
5:00 **N.C. Monument Ceremony** (NC Monument)  
5:00 U.S. Colored Troops at Appomattox (Triangle)  
5:00 The Confederate Cemetery (Confederate Cemetery)  
6:30 - 9:00 **Lantern Tours** (Tours Begin at Flagpole)

## Friday, April 10

9:00	Paroling Confederates (Triangle)
9:00	The Village of Appomattox Court House (Tibbs)
10:00	Lee and Grant's April 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting (Triangle)
10:00	The Commissioners Meeting (Tibbs)
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Confederate Rifle Demo</b> (Demo Field)
11:00	Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Triangle)
11:00	War & Emancipation: The African American Experience In the Civil War (Tibbs)
11:30 - 12:00	<b>U.S. Artillery Demo</b> (near Confederate Cemetery)
12:00	Paroling Confederates (Triangle)
12:00	Caring for the Wounded at Appomattox (Tibbs)
1:00	Grant and Lee as Peacemakers (Triangle)
1:00	The Surrender Meeting (Tibbs)
1:30 - 2:00	<b>Confederate Artillery Demo</b> (Demo Field)
2:00	The Stacking of Arms (Triangle)
2:00	Confederates Going Home (Tibbs)
2:30 - 3:00	<b>Cavalry Surrender Demo</b> (Demo Field)
3:00 -3:30	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony</b> (Stage Road)
3:45 - 4:15	<b>Confederate Artillery Horse Drawn Maneuver</b> (Demo Field)
4:00	Local Units and Impact of the War (Triangle)
4:00	Why Appomattox/ The Campaign (Tibbs)
4:30 - 5:00	<b>Cavalry Surrender Demo</b> (Demo Field)
5:00	Slavery and Memory of an African American Descendant (Triangle)
5:00	Paroling Confederates (Tibbs)
6:30	<b>Footsteps to Freedom / Luminary</b> (Main Stage/Village) - <i>Rain Date: April 11</i>

*\* Programs in Bold denote  
Living History Programs*

## Saturday, April 11

9:00	Paroling Confederates (Triangle)
9:00	Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Tibbs)
10:30 - 11:00	<b>U.S. Rifle Demo</b> (Demo Field)
10:00	U.S. Colored Troops at Appomattox (Triangle)
10:00	The Surrender Meeting (Tibbs)
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Confederate Artillery Surrender Demo</b> (Demo Field)
11:00	Johnston's Surrender at the Bennett Place (Tibbs)
11:00	Battles of Appomattox (Triangle)
12:00	Paroling the Confederates (Triangle)
12:00	The Village of Appomattox Court House (Tibbs)
12:30 - 1:00	<b>Cavalry Demo</b> (Demo Field)
1:00	Why Appomattox / The Campaign (Triangle)
1:00	Confederados to Brazil (Tibbs)
1:30 - 2:00	<b>U.S. Artillery Demo</b> (near Conf. Cemetery)
2:00	The Stacking of Arms (Triangle)
2:00	Joel Sweeney, Indeed a Wonder (Tibbs)
3:00 - 3:30	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony</b> (Stage Road)
4:00	The Power of Appomattox (Triangle)
4:00	Ely Parker, A Warrior in Two Camps (Tibbs)
4:30 - 5:00	<b>Artillery Surrender Demo</b> (Demo Field)
5:00	The Village of Appomattox Court House (Triangle)
5:00	Why Appomattox/ The Campaign (Tibbs)

## Sunday, April 12

9:00 - 9:30	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony</b> (Stage Road)
10:00	The Stacking of Arms (Triangle)
10:00	Grant After the War (Tibbs)
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony</b> (Stage Road)
12:00	The Stacking of Arms (Triangle)
12:00	Lee After the War (Tibbs)
1:00 - 1:30	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony</b> (Stage Road)
2:00	After Appomattox - David Blight (Main Stage)
3:00	<b>Stacking of Arms Ceremony - Open Invitation</b> (Stage Road) <i>See page 16 for more information</i>
4:00	Confederates Going Home (Triangle)
4:00	Johnston's Surrender at the Bennett Place (Tibbs)

APPOMATTOX 1865 FOUNDATION



### MISSION

To enrich the understanding and appreciation of the heritage and significance of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. The foundation focuses on education efforts to preserve the past, augment support, commemorate history and enhance the visitor's experience at the park.

### OBJECTIVES

- To preserve, honor and protect the natural and cultural resources associated with the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.
- To excite visitors about the significance of the site where our nation reunited and to inspire them to want to learn more about the events that have shaped America.

[appomattox1865foundation.org](http://appomattox1865foundation.org)  
434-660-9184

## Carver-Price

LEGACY MUSEUM

The mission of the Carver-Price Legacy Museum is to utilize interactive exhibitions and presentations to depict the experiences and progression of Black America from slavery to equality, with intentions to foster a better understanding and respect for the diversity of all Americans, and to explore and preserve the legacy of Carver High/Carver-Price High School.

The Footsteps to Freedom program is a result of the vision and passion generated by a partnership between the Carver Price Legacy Museum and the National Park Service

[carver-price.com](http://carver-price.com)  
434-352-7880

## April 12, 3:00 pm

# Stacking of Arms Ceremony, Open Invitation

On April 12, 1865 the most tangible part of the surrender took place, when Confederate infantry marched into the village. Waiting silently was a line of Union troops. The Confederates stacked their weapons, though many didn't have them, and also surrendered their musical instruments and flags. Today the public, and re-enactment groups, have the opportunity to march into the village and be part of a special ceremony commemorating the Stacking of Arms, in the place and on the date when it happened, exactly 150 years later.

Union re-enactors should arrive at the Confederate Cemetery by 2:00 pm. Members of the public wishing to stand with the Union troops should assemble along the Stage Road by 2:30 pm. Members of the public bringing a weapon must go the re-enactor assembly area (Confederate Cemetery) to be inspected. The Union re-enactors will march in and mix with the public along the road at 3:00 pm.

Those re-enactors and members of the public wishing to march in with the Confederates should assemble at the Appomattox River crossing by 2:00 pm. This can be approached either from the village or the one-mile trail from the Horseshoe Road Parking Area. Weapons will be inspected here. Note the trail is over hilly terrain. Confederate troops will march in by division, following the historic order.

Just after 3:00 pm (once the Union line is in place) the Confederates will march in until the head of their column reaches the far end of the village. They will turn, face the Union troops, and stack arms. Upon stepping back, we will observe a moment of silence. The ceremony will close when the Federal City Brass Band plays Auld Lang Syne. The Confederates will then retrieve their weapons, concluding the 150<sup>th</sup> event.

We expect a high turnout for this event, so please plan to arrive early. We also would appreciate the cooperation of all participants by noting the following:

- All weapons should be checked to be unloaded before being brought onsite.
- All weapons brought to the park will be inspected by an NPS Ranger.
- No cartridges will be allowed -all haversacks and cartridge boxes will be inspected.
- The event will be done with an air of dignity and respect. As during the actual event, we request silence during the march, stacking, and aftermath.

Please no waving of flags, no cheering, or other distractions.

# Web and Social Media Sites

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Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is pleased to bring you the most up-to-date coverage during our anniversary so that you can follow all the events and activities no matter where you are! Be sure to visit, like, and follow all of our web and social media sites.



[nps.gov/apco](https://nps.gov/apco)



[facebook.com/AppomattoxNPS](https://facebook.com/AppomattoxNPS)



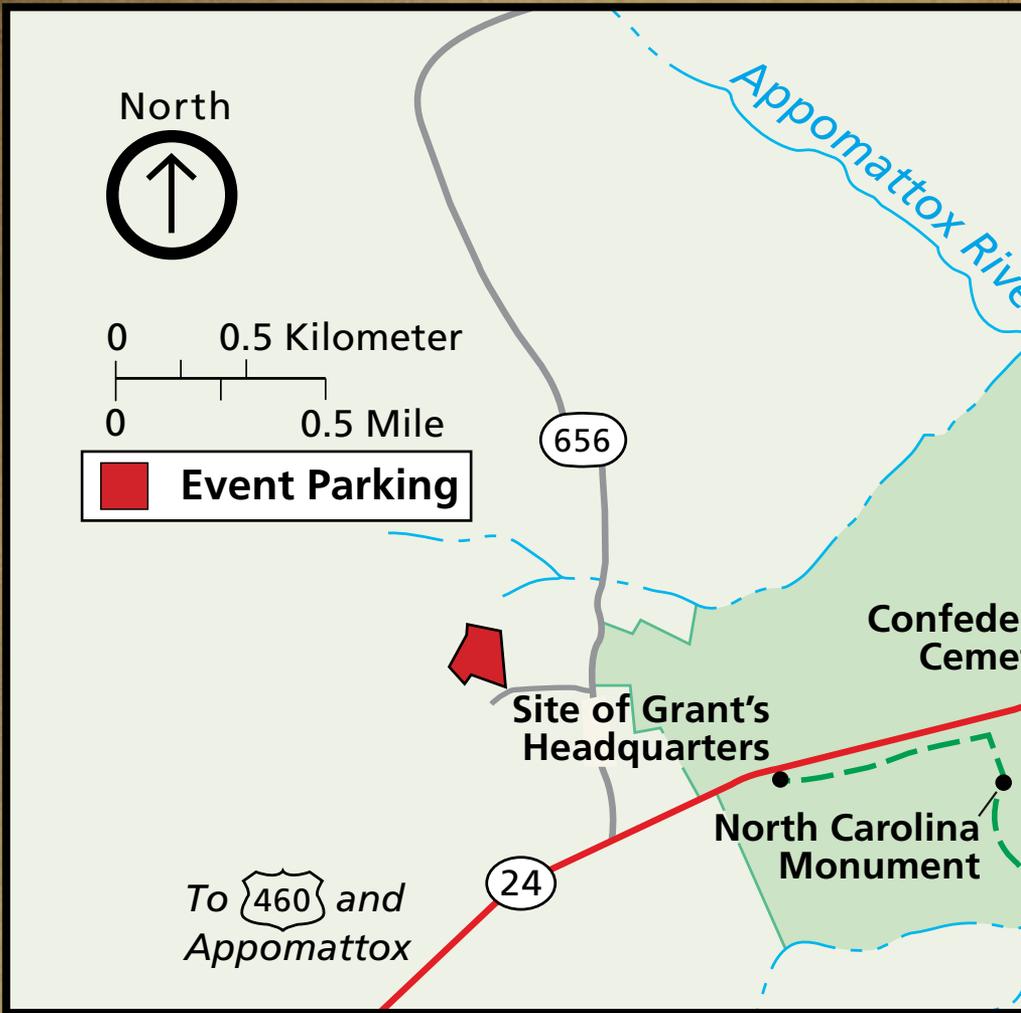
[twitter.com/AppomattoxNPS](https://twitter.com/AppomattoxNPS)



[instagram.com/AppomattoxNPS](https://instagram.com/AppomattoxNPS)



[AppomattoxNPS.tumblr.com](https://AppomattoxNPS.tumblr.com)



## Event Parking

**General Parking:** Visitors will be directed to one of two free remote parking lots where free shuttle buses will take visitors to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

**ADA Parking:** Individuals with state-issued handicapped plates/placards will be able to park at the Visitor Center parking lot. See map on pages 10/11.



## Shuttle Bus Hours of Operation

April 8	8 am - 7:30 pm
April 9	5:30 am - 8:30 pm
April 10	8 am - 10 pm
April 11	8 am - 7:30 pm
April 12	8 am - 6 pm



#APX150th

