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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF APPOMATTOX

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The Significance of Appomattox

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On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, Gen. R. E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to U. S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va. From that day and from that event stemmed a new and stronger America. The surrender of Lee's army, sealing the doom of the Confederacy's main force, marked the end of the War Between the States and thus decided the direction of America's destiny.

The surrender of Cornwallis' British troops to the Colonials at Yorktown, 1781, led to the establishment of American freedom. Six years later, the Constitutional Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, drew up the Constitution to replace the unwieldy Articles of Confederation and to create a true union of the states.

From 1787 until 1861, Americans, North and South, discussed the form of that union with increasing bitterness. The first decades of the nineteenth century had brought a heightened divergence in the economic interests of the two sections, the North rapidly expanding in industry and commerce, the South, after the invention of Whitney's cotton gin, founding a new and powerful agricultural economy based directly on slave labor.

With the westward expansion of the nation, North and South raced to settle the new land. In the earlier period of expansion, the advantage lay with the South. A vast system of inland waterways flowing south formed the natural outlet for the products of the new West. Joined by commerce and trade, the South and the Northwest found mutual interest in controlling the policies of the federal government.

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But the era of railroad construction in the 1840's and '50's, linking Northwest to Northeast, gradually turned the western trade and interests to the eastern seaboard, while Southern statesmen at Washington ever mindful of the South's early supremacy, fought to stem the power accruing to the industrial North.

In the 1850's, as the margin of control narrowed and the struggle to balance the shift in power by admission of new states became intensified, the breach between the sections widened.

Finally war, the last resort, burst over the nation like a rocket, set off by the first shot against Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861.

Slavery, states' rights, the right to secede, issues which had brought North and South to war, were of secondary importance, as one man, Abraham Lincoln, clearly saw. In his mind a single purpose - preservation of the Union - burned; the others but fed the flame.

Today the guiding light of unselfish unity is a beacon to all Americans. The only important question at any time has been that of union. "Divided we fall", said Benjamin Franklin in the time of the nation's birth, and "united we stand" was echoed by the outcome of fratricidal strife when the young republic hovered near death.

After Appomattox, the destiny of America, a vast and powerful democracy extending three thousand miles from ocean to ocean, could be fulfilled by the reconciled brothers, magnanimous in victory and proud in defeat, both sharers in the same heritage.

Thus the result of the American Civil War, proving to the world that a great democracy can survive internal dissention and rise above disaster to larger strength, makes the date 1865 the third most important date in American History. First, 1781, the establishment of freedom. Then 1787, the organization of union. And finally, 1865, the birth of a new freedom and a surer union, on April 9, in the village of Appomattox Court House.

The Road to Appomattox

In March, 1864, Ulysses S. Grant was called to Washington to receive his commission as Lieutenant General in the United States Army and to assume the duties of General-in-Chief of all Federal armies. His was the task of co-ordinating the spring drives of the Federal forces on all fronts, east and west, to bring the war to an end. Meade's Federal Army of the Potomac faced Lee's Army of Northern Virginia across the Rapidan river in Northern Virginia. At Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sherman stood poised for the attack on Atlanta in the campaign to cripple the Deep South.

Grant chose to remain with Meade and to direct Sherman from afar. In May, the Virginia Campaign of 1864 was launched with a hammering attack which was to continue until the Army of Northern Virginia had been pounded away. First of these great blows were the Wilderness and Spotsylvania.

In June, after inflicting terrific losses on the Federals at Cold Harbor, Lee retired to a defensive line of earthworks covering Richmond, the Confederate capital, and Petersburg, twenty-two miles south, its backdoor.

When direct assault tactics failed, the Federal commander extended his left flank around Petersburg, throwing up a strong system of intrenchments with each advance. The consequent necessary extension of Lee's right stretched the Confederate lines ever thinner. Grant had unlimited supplies and men. Lee had neither. Road by road, throughout the fall and winter, Grant cut off Lee's supply lines from the south.

By March, 1865, a year after the launching of his Grand Campaign, Grant had stretched the Confederate line to the breaking point.

A desperate but shortlived offensive against Federal Fort Stedman failed, March 25, and the Confederate right flank crumbled at Five Forks, April 1.

Forced to abandon Richmond and Petersburg, though not yet contemplating surrender, Lee moved westward on the night of April 2 in an attempt to reach Danville, Virginia. From that point he might possibly reinforce Joseph E. Johnston, whom Sherman, following the successful Atlanta and Savannah campaigns, was driving up the coast through the Carolinas.

On April 4, retarded by high water in the Appomattox river, Lee's scattered forces from the lines around Petersburg and Richmond assembled at Amelia Court House, forty miles west of Petersburg. There, the first disaster of the retreat faced them. Through mischance, rations ordered to Amelia had gone on to Richmond. A day was lost in foraging for supplies.

Meanwhile, the Federals had begun their vigorous pursuit. As one column marched on the Confederate rear, another swung around to the southwest to cut in ahead of the retreating Confederates.

The following morning, at Jetersville, seven miles southwest of Amelia, the Confederate advance force found the way blocked by Sheridan's cavalry and Griffin's V infantry Corps. Flanked from the Richmond-Danville Railroad, Lee turned west, towards Farmville, where rations awaited on the Southside (now the Norfolk and Western) Railroad.

On April 6, at Saylor's Creek, about ten miles east of Farmville, Anderson's and Ewell's Confederate Corps halted their march to assist Gordon defend his wagon train. Sheridan, entering a gap in the Confederate column, isolated Anderson and Ewell. Struck by Sheridan on one side and Wright's VI Corps on the other, the two Confederate corps fell before the onslaught. Virtually the entire force, over 4,000 men, was lost, the prisoners including Ewell, Kershaw, and General Lee's son, Custis Lee. Gordon's command escaped with a loss of some 1700.

At Farmville, on April 7, rations had hardly been issued to Lee's shattered and hungry army when the relentless Federal pursuit again forced the resumption of the retreat. Lee once more turned west, though an ultimate move southward was still his purpose.

From Farmville, Gordon and Longstreet, Lee's remaining corps after the disaster of Saylor's Creek, took up the march along the old stage roads, past the hamlets of Sheppards, Curdsville, and New Store, final milestones in the road "from Manassas to Appomattox", and then down the Lynchburg road (now Virginia Highway 24) toward Appomattox Court House.

In pursuit were Humphreys' II Corps and Wright's VI corps of the Army of the Potomac.

To the south, Sheridan's cavalry, Griffin's V Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and Gibbon's XXIV Corps of Ord's Army of the James advanced on Appomattox Station (the present town of Appomattox).

As darkness deepened on the evening of April 8, the light of Federal campfires warned the Confederates encamped around Appomattox Court House that the Federal pursuit was closing in on their rear and flank. Then, through the night, from the direction of the station, three miles in their front, came the crash of cannon. There could be no mistaking its meaning.

Even now, however, Lee did not consider surrender inevitable. The situation for the Army of Northern Virginia was critical but not hopeless. At a last council of war, Lee and his officers decided that Gordon's infantry and Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry would attempt to break through toward Lynchburg if the force in front were cavalry or cavalry not heavily supported by infantry.

At daybreak on the morning of April 9, the Confederate cavalry attack brushed Sheridan's cavalry aside, and Gordon's infantry fought handsomely, capturing two Federal cannon, only to find the road blocked by blue-coated infantry.

"There is nothing left me to do but to go and see General Grant", said Lee, "and I would rather die a thousand deaths. . . . The question is, is it right to surrender this army. If it is right, then I will take all the responsibility".

The Ninth of April

Since April 7, when Grant first suggested surrender to Lee, notes had been passing between the two generals regarding terms. "Not yet", Longstreet had said when the first note came.

On April 9, "Now" was the only answer. Ringed about by Grant's forces, steadily pressing up to the outskirts of the village, Lee's army faced destruction or surrender. Longstreet, heavily threatened, held the rear and could send no aid to Gordon. Realizing the utter impossibility of a breakthrough, Lee dispatched a note to Grant requesting an interview to arrange terms for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

While an informal truce kept precarious peace on the field and staff officers rode busily to and fro, Lee rested on a pile of fence rails under an apple tree in an orchard just across the Appomattox river from the village.

About noon, a Confederate escort and a Federal officer rode up. The officer was Col. Orville E. Babcock, of Grant's staff, bearing a note from his chief. Grant stated that he was riding to the front for the interview.

General Lee, his military secretary Col. Charles Marshall, an orderly named Tucker, and Colonel Babcock crossed the little river and rode up the hill to the village. There they met Wilmer McLean, in whose Prince William County fields the first great battle, Manassas, had opened. He had moved southward to escape the war. Now it was to make his name immortal. When asked about a house suitable for a meeting between Lee and Grant, McLean first showed Colonel Marshall a house considered unsatisfactory by Marshall. He then offered the use of his own comfortable brick dwelling.

Sitting with Marshall and Babcock in McLean's parlor, Lee doubtless heard the hum of conversation from the yard where several Federal officers had gathered, awaiting events. Grant had not yet arrived.

At about 1:30 o'clock, a group of horsemen rode up from the west. A bearded man in a mudspattered uniform was directed to the McLean House. He entered the parlor and Lee rose to meet him. In the center of the room they shook hands. Lee wore the dress uniform of a Confederate general. Grant had come straight from the field as he was rather than inconvenience his adversary by delay.

They seated themselves quietly, like Sunday visitors to the McLean household, and talked for some moments of old army days and the Mexican War, Babcock meanwhile ushering in various high ranking Federal officers, who stood respectfully behind Grant.

It was Lee who turned the conversation to the business at hand.

"I suppose, General Grant", he said, "that the object of our present meeting is fully understood. I asked to see you to ascertain upon what terms you would receive the surrender of my army".

Discussion followed and Grant wrote out his terms: rolls of Lee's army to be made in duplicate, a copy for the Federals and a copy for the Confederates, all Confederates to be paroled prisoners and all materials of war to be turned over to officers designated by Grant except sidearms, horses, and personal baggage of Confederate officers.

Lee expressed his pleasure at Grant's generous terms, but said that in his army all cavalymen, including privates, owned their horses, needed now for spring plowing at home.

Grant, reluctant to change the wording of the terms, suggested that he would instruct his parole officers "to let all the men who claim to own a horse or mule take the animals home with them to work their little farms".

"This will have the best possible effect upon the men", said Lee, "it will be very gratifying and will do much toward conciliating our people".

Grant handed his rough, pencil draft of the terms to his Indian aide Col. Ely S. Parker for copying in final form, and Lee requested Marshall to write an acceptance.

Grant now introduced the various Federal officers to Lee, and, at Lee's request, ordered rations for the Confederate soldiers.

The signing of the two letters and their exchange completed the negotiations.

Then came more brief conversation and Lee shook hands with Grant, bowed to the other officers, and went outside.

As he stood on the steps of the house, waiting for the orderly to bring him his horse, he looked out over the valley and smote his gloved hands together.

Whatever his thoughts, the solid substance of faithful old Traveller standing before him brought him back to the present. He sighed and mounted.

Grant, just leaving the house, raised his hat. So did the other Federal officers standing about. Lee returned the salute and rode from the yard, back eastward, through the village and over the river to his waiting men.

His hardest task lay before him.

"Are we surrendered?" rose the cry.

The men filled the road, shouting and crying, clutching at the horse and rider.

Lee halted. He spoke a few words, expressing his efforts to do all he could for them and told them they were to be paroled and free to go home.

"We'll fight 'em yet", they answered, crowding up to take his hand, or, failing that, to touch him or his horse.

Finally he made his way back to the apple orchard.

There he walked among the trees alone.

Toward dark, he rode to his headquarters, a mile to the rear. A solid wall of his old soldiers lined the road on either side, weeping and cheering their leader, bringing the tears to his own eyes.

Before going into his tent, he spoke briefly again, bidding farewell to the veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia, a name forever to be linked with his own.

The Surrender of the Arms

Details of the surrender of the Confederate army, arms, and artillery were arranged by three commissioners for each side. Lee's committee consisted of Generals Longstreet, Gordon, and Pendleton. The Federal commissioners were Generals Gibbon, Griffin, and Merritt.

Meeting first in the Tavern at Appomattox Court House on April 10, they later adjourned to the McLean House and completed their discussions in the parlor where Lee and Grant had agreed on the general terms the day before. The final agreement for the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia was signed in McLean's parlor by these six officers at 8:30 p. m., April 10, 1865.

Meanwhile, during the forenoon, Grant and Lee had met on a knoll just east of the village and discussed informally the South and her problems, parting never to meet again except for a short courtesy call paid by Lee to Grant at the White House in 1869.

That same day, April 10, 1865, Grant broke up his field headquarters, a mile west of Appomattox Court House, and left for Washington.

An army printing press turned out paroles as quickly as possible, the Tavern, according to a news dispatch of the time, being the parole officers headquarters.

On April 11, the Confederate artillery officer General M. P. Alexander formed his guns and caissons, as directed, in single column along the road.

On the morning of April 12, 1865, the day appointed for the surrender of the arms, General Chamberlain (later governor of Maine) formed a Federal division along the old stage road. Facing north, the Federal infantry at order arms were drawn up along the road from a point near the river to within the village. As the Confederates marched up from across the river, Chamberlain's men shifted to carry arms. General Gordon, leading the Confederates, dropped the point of his sword to his toe in acknowledgment and gave the order to carry arms to his own men. The head of the column halting in the village, the Confederates stacked their muskets and tattered battleflags in the road.

It was the anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter, when southern hearts were gay and the puffs of cannon smoke floated lazily in the spring air. Charleston beaux and belles had crowded the waterfront to see the fun, April 12, 1861.

And now in a far off Virginia county, in a wet Virginia April, some eight thousand arms stood stacked in the mud. The total number of Confederates paroled at Appomattox was 28, 231.

On the afternoon of April 12, 1865, General Lee set out for Richmond. He had not witnessed the surrender of the arms, but had remained on the field until the ordeal for his soldiers was over.

In North Carolina, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate army was on the verge of surrender to Sherman,

Mr. Lincoln's house was no longer divided.

On April 14, weary, seeking the respite of relaxation, he went to Ford's Theater in Washington to see "Our American Cousin". There, an assassin's bullet mortally wounded the man who had harbored malice toward none and struggled his lifelong for justice for all.

In Virginia, in Fowhatan County, Robert E. Lee, almost home, was spending his last night under canvas.

The Old Village

The General Assembly of Virginia by act of February 8, 1845 established the county of Appomattox, created from portions of Buckingham, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Campbell counties.

"Clover Hill", the residence of Captain John Raine in the upper end of Prince Edward County, was chosen as the area for the new county seat. Local organization took place at John Raine's residence in May, 1845. The act of the General Assembly establishing the county of Appomattox authorized creation of a township at the county seat as follows:

"And be it further enacted, that not exceeding thirty acres of land, now occupied by Captain John Raine, in the now county of Prince Edward, lying on the stage road leading from or through said county to the town of Lynchburg, at the place called and known as Clover Hill, the proposed seat of justice for the said new county, so soon as the same shall be laid off into lots, with convenient streets and alleys, with back and cross streets if necessary, shall be and the same is hereby established a town by the name of Clover Hill".

The year 1846 saw the completion of the court house, a square two story brick building, set in a green bounded by the road. During the late 1840's the town began to take shape.

Some of the houses, however, already existed, notably the Tavern, the home of Captain Raine.

This tavern had been built in 1819 by Alexander Patten as a stop on the stage line, owned by Alexander and his brother Lilburne Patten, between Cumberland County and Lynchburg.

One of the houses erected after the formation of the village of Clover Hill was the Bocock House, home of Henry Flood Bocock, clerk of the court, and Thomas S. Bocock, a brilliant Southern statesman, who missed being Speaker of the United States House of Representatives by only one vote and later became the Speaker of the Confederate House of Representatives.

At the time of the Civil War, the village, according to a Federal writer, consisted of about "five houses, a tavern, and a court house, all on one street, and that was boarded up at one end to keep the cows out", which shows how the village impressed an outsider. There were several more dwellings, however, some off the main street, and quite a number of cabins and outbuildings.

The house which brought this obscure hamlet to fame and made its name a symbol is known by the name of a stranger, McLean, a refugee who came to the quiet village to escape a war; only to find it following him into his very parlor. Charles Raine built the house in 1848. The estate of Eliza D. Raine sold the dwelling to Wilmer McLean in 1863.

Upon the termination of the conference between Lee and Grant in the McLean House, in the afternoon of April 9, 1865, Federal officers bought several pieces of McLean's furniture whether or not he wished to sell. Many of his possessions found their way off the premises without benefit of sale.

After the war, McLean sold pictures of his house, but failed financially, and in 1869 his property at Appomattox Court House was sold at public auction by his creditors. He returned then to Manassas, leaving his name forever in Appomattox.

In 1891, Capt. M. E. Dunlap of Niagra Falls, N. Y., bought the McLean House with a view to removing it to the Chicago World's Fair. After acquiring the house, Dunlap altered his plans and entered a contract with a local builder to raise the house for re-erection in Washington, D. C., as a war museum.

Though the building was torn down (February, 1893), the plan to remove the structure to Washington did not materialize, and the brick and wood, never moved from the spot, lay on the ground, prey to souvenir hunters. A dense thicket of honeysuckle and locusts took over the site, gradually covering the piles of moldering debris.

A year before, in 1892, the court house had been destroyed by fire. The county elected to re-establish the court house and county seat at Appomattox Station, three miles west, on the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

From then on the old village declined. No longer the judicial and social center of the county, it became truly a "deserted village".

Over and above the great historic event which occurred there, Appomattox Court House, or Clover Hill, represents a significant development mirroring the social and economic life of the middle nineteenth century in rural Virginia. It is all the more interesting that the Southern culture reflected in this village was terminated when Lee surrendered to Grant.

This culture, not to be confused with the pattern of great riches exemplified in portions of the Deep South, was one of quiet pattern, a "lawyer" culture, stemming directly from the early days in Virginia.

Appomattox Court House was thus typical of other Virginia villages founded to further the judicial procedures of the state and differing from the larger towns, founded, usually in relation to some geographical situation, for purposes of trade. In villages like Appomattox trade followed the law.

Appomattox differed from eighteenth century Virginia court house towns, however, in that the village did not just grow around the house of law, but was laid out by official act.

Even so, the seat of law was here placed on a trade route, the Richmond-Lynchburg stage road. When the chance for the ^{removal} ~~removal~~ came in 1892, the station on the railroad was chosen for the county seat to take advantage of the transition to rail communication.

Thus a whole period, the middle period in America's economic life, is compressed in the history of Appomattox Court House, where a new era for America and the world was ushered in by Lee and Grant.

April 9, 1865.

Establishment of the Monument and Administration

Authorized by Act of Congress, August 13, 1935, Appomattox Court

House National Historical Monument was established April 10, 1940. Embraced in the Monument are the old village grounds on Virginia Highway 24 and a large tract of land to the south of that road, a total of 970 acres.

Existing historic structures at the time the Monument was established were the Patteson-Hix Tavern, the Tavern Kitchen or Guest House, the Law Office Building, originally an outbuilding of the Tavern, the Boccock-Isbell House, the Plunkett-Meeks Store and House, and several other residences just outside the limits of the original township. The brick Jail, still standing, was under construction in 1865 and was completed shortly after the termination of the war.

Points of interest on the field, some of which are identified by markers erected by the War Department in 1893, include the sites of Lee's and Grant's headquarters, the apple tree where Lee rested while waiting for Grant's reply, during the morning of April 9, the line of Chamberlain's Brigade to receive the Confederate arms, April 12, 1865, and the marker identifying the position of the last cannon fired by the Confederate artillery on the morning of April 9.

A monument and two tablets, erected by the State of North Carolina, describe the last engagement of the armies on the morning of April 9.

Other points of interest for the visitor are the State Highway Wayside and Memorial Briadge at the Appomattox River, a half mile west of the village, and the Confederate Cemetery, just west of the village where rest some of the last casualties of the war, eighteen Confederates and one unknown Union soldier, buried side by side on a little hill overlooking the site of the

McLean House.

Information concerning the Monument may be secured at the National Park Service Office at the Old Court House on Virginia Highway 24. Address all communications to the Superintendent, Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, Appomattox, Va.

How to Reach the Monument

The village of Old Appomattox Court House is located on Virginia Highway 24, ninety miles west of Richmond by way of U. S. Highway 60, and 180 miles southwest of Washington, D. C.

Two miles west of the old village, Virginia Highway 24 runs into U. S. Highway 460 at the outskirts of the present town of Appomattox. From there, west to Lynchburg, the distance is twenty-four miles and east to Petersburg, 100 miles.

A visitor desiring to follow the approximate route of the Confederate retreat and Federal pursuit from Petersburg through the Battlefield of Saylor's Creek leaves Petersburg by way of U. S. Highway 460 and Virginia Highway 38 to Amelia, going from Amelia on U. S. Highway 360, Virginia Highway 307, and U. S. Highway 460 to Farmville. From Farmville to Appomattox, U. S. Highway 460 is the approximate route of the Federal "cutting off" column in the last phase of the pursuit.

The Norfolk and Western Railroad runs through the new town of Appomattox with connections at Lynchburg and Petersburg. Bus service to the town from Richmond to Lynchburg and points west is also available.

Service to the Public during the Period of Development

During the period of development of the Monument, services to the public will necessarily be incomplete, although every effort will be made to render assistance to visitors.

Developmental plans for the Monument contemplate reconstruction of the McLean House and the Court House Building, extensive repairs to existing historic structures and replacement of original fences and roads in the village. The village of Old Appomattox Court House, restored to its appearance in April, 1865, will constitute the Nation's memorial to the termination of the War Between the States and establishment of lasting internal peace in the United States.

Plans of the McLean House, prepared in 1893 when the structure was razed for removal to Washington, have been acquired by the Department of the Interior as the main basis for reconstruction of the house. As a means of insuring absolute accuracy in restoration plans for the McLean House, and other structures in the village, an archeological program, designed to uncover evidence from ground remains, has been initiated.

To still further insure absolute restoration of the village to its wartime appearance, the present road through the village (Virginia Highway 24) will be rerouted south of the village. When ~~this~~ this development is completed, the old road through Appomattox Court House will be restored to a dirt road of the 1860's.

When present National Park Service plans are achieved, the restored village of Old Appomattox Court House will not only portray the historical significance of the area in American History but will also typify the economic and social life of the period in rural Virginia of the 1800's.

Correspondence Between Grant and Lee

(Farmville, Va.)
April 7, 1865.

General R. E. Lee:

General: The result of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood, by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the U. S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.

U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General.....
April 7, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant:

General: I have received your note of this date. Though not entertaining the opinion you express on the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the Army of Northern Virginia, I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless effusion of blood, and therefore, before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender.

R. E. Lee,
General.....
April 8, 1865.

General R. E. Lee:

General: Your note of last evening, in reply to mine of same date, asking the condition on which I will accept the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, is just received. In reply I would say that, peace being my great desire, there is but one condition I would insist upon, namely, that the men and officers surrendered shall be disqualified for taking up arms against the Government of the United States until properly exchanged. I will meet you; or will designate officers to meet any officers you may name for the same purpose, at any point agreeable to you, for the purpose of arranging definitely the terms upon which the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia will be received.

U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General.....
April 8, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant:

General: I received at a late hour your note of to-day. In mine of yesterday I did not intend to propose the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, but to ask the terms of your proposition. To be frank, I do not think

the emergency has arisen to call for the surrender of this army, but as the restoration of peace should be the sole object of all, I desired to know whether your proposals would lead to that end. I cannot, therefore, meet you with a view to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia, but as far as your proposal may affect the U. S. forces under my command, and tend to the restoration of peace, I should be pleased to meet you at 10 a. m., tomorrow, on the old stage road to Richmond, between the picket-lines of the two armies.

R. E. Lee,
General

April 9, 1865.

General R. E. Lee:

General: Your note of yesterday is received. I have no authority to treat on the subject of peace; the meeting proposed for 10 a. m. to-day could lead to no good. I will state, however, general, that I am equally anxious for peace with yourself; and the whole North entertains the same feeling. The terms upon which peace can be had are well understood. By the South laying down their arms they will hasten that most desirable event, save thousands of human lives, and hundreds of millions of property not yet destroyed. Seriously hoping that all our difficulties may be settled without the loss of another life, I subscribe myself, &c.,

U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General

April 9, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant:

General: I received your note of this morning on the picket-line, whither I had come to meet you and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposal of yesterday with reference to surrender of this army. I now ask an interview in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday for that purpose.

R. E. Lee,
General.

(McLean House)
Appomattox Court-House, Va., April 9, 1865.

General R. E. Lee:

General: In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 5th instant, I propose to receive the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit: Rolls of all officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be 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 sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be parked and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by U. S. authority so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside.

U. S. Grant,
Lieutenant-General.

.....
(McLean House)

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia,
April 9, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant: *your letter*

General: I have received 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.

R. E. Lee,
General.

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Photographs and Captions

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Cover - Peace and Re-union

No. 1 - Robert Edward Lee, General-in-Chief of the Confederate Army in 1865.
Born 1807, West Point 1829, died 1870.

(Courtesy Review of Reviews)

No. 2 - Ulysses S. Grant, General-in-Chief of the United States Army in 1865.
Born 1822, West Point 1843, died 1885.

(Courtesy Review of Reviews)

No. 3 - The McLean House, where Lee surrendered to Grant, April 9, 1865.

(Courtesy of Library of Congress)

No. 4 - Chair in which General Grant sat during the surrender conference

(Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

No. 5 - Table on which the terms of surrender were drafted

(Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

No. 6 - Chair in which Lee sat at the conference

(Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

No. 7 - Federals sharing rations with Confederates after the surrender.

(From a wartime sketch, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War)

No. 8 - (No caption required)

(Courtesy of Library of Congress)

No. 9 - Appomattox Court House, 1865

(Courtesy of New York Public Library)

No. 10 - The last cannon shot fired by the Confederates

(From a wartime sketch, Harper's Pictorial History
of the Great Rebellion)

No. 11 - Lee leaving the McLean House

(From a wartime sketch, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War)

No. 12 - Clearing work in progress at Crawford Jones' Law Office, 1940

No. 13 - Architect's sketch of Jones' Law Office, 1865

No. 14 - Citizens and Soldiers at Appomattox Court House, 1865

(Courtesy of U. S. Army, Signal Corps)

No. 15 - View of Old Village, 1940. Tavern on the right.

No. 16 - Architect's sketch of Tavern group in 1865

No. 17 - Old Appomattox Court House, 1940

No. 18 - Confederate Cemetery

No. 19 - Appomattox Wayside Park and Memorial Bridge, maintained by the
State of Virginia.

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