

Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial



Resignation of Robert E. Lee

Arlington, Virginia

Date: April 20, 1861

On the eve of the Civil War, Robert E. Lee was offered command of federal troops. While he loved his country, he could not fight against his family in Virginia. In his second floor room at Arlington House, Lee wrote a letter resigning his commission in the United States army on the night of April 20, 1861. He left two days later, never to return, effectively sacrificing his home to serve his native state.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/arho

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