

# A Grand Review of Victorious Federal Troops Marked End of Strife

Herewith Are Reproduced for the First Time Lee's Letters to Grant Which Preceded Surrender.

CHRONICLE is a village in the upper part of Mobile County, Ala., about thirty miles distant from the city which bears the same name as the county. Had a curious person been wandering through that hamlet around noon on May 4, 1865, he would have seen and heard a band in the blue uniform of the North playing "Hail, Columbia," and then quickly change the tune to "Dixie."

State, bound, it is generally thought, for the trans-Mississippi country. From this day forth the Confederate President began to realize that he was a fugitive. There were reports, becoming more and more frequent, of the approach of Union cavalry in pursuit. There was also a rumor that a gang of disbanded Confederates purposed to fall upon the small train in the hope of capturing some of the treasure reported to be a part of its baggage. Everything, even the weather, conspired to make the journey a discouraging one. The roads were slow. Several rains made them worse. Sometimes it became necessary to start at midnight and push through the rain and the darkness in order to elude the pursuers.

About 5 o'clock on the afternoon of May 9 the forlorn party came to a little stream a mile and a half north of Irwinville, Irwin County. The tents, including two of the wall type, were set up on either side of the road in the dense, peaceful pine woods through which the stream meandered. The horses and mules were tied where they could eat their fill and the supper was cooked and eaten. The situation was discussed. It was decided that the trans-Mississippi plan was not feasible by overland travel. There was nothing left except to reach the east coast of Florida as quickly as possible, and, boarding the small sailing vessel reported to be in readiness, proceed to the Texas coast in that manner. The President and his special party was to start as soon as night fell and their horses were saddled for the purpose. A rumor reached him that the Confederates who threatened the party would probably make an attack that night. He therefore gave up the plan for leaving his family immediately, but the horses were left saddled, ready for a later departure. The rumor apparently was a false one, for the expected attack did not take place. The deep slumbers of the weary fugitives were not broken in the hours of darkness.

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14<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Army  
9<sup>th</sup> April 1865  
I sent a communication to you today from the picket line whether I had gone in hopes of meeting you in personance of the request contained in my letter of yesterday. Maj Gen Meade informs me that it would probably expedite matters to send a duplicate through some other part of your lines. I therefore request an interview at such time and place as you may designate, to discuss the terms of the surrender of this army in accordance with your offer to have such an interview contained in your letter of yesterday.  
Very resp  
St Gen US Grant  
Comd US Armies.

9<sup>th</sup> April 1865  
General,  
I ask a suspension of hostilities pending the adjustment of the terms of the surrender of this army, in the interview requested in my former communication today.  
Very respectfully  
Your obt servant  
R E Lee  
Gen

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1865  
General  
I received your note of this morning on the picket line whether I had come to meet you and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposal of yesterday with reference to the surrender of this army. I now request an interview in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday for that purpose.  
Very respectfully  
Your obt servant  
R E Lee  
Gen

7<sup>th</sup> April 1865  
Gen  
I have rec<sup>d</sup> your note of this date. Though not entertaining the opinion you express of the hopefulness of further resistance on the part of the Army of N. Va - I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless effusion of blood, & therefore before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender.  
Very resp<sup>t</sup> your obt servant  
R E Lee  
Gen  
St Gen U. S. Grant  
Commander Armies of the U. States

8<sup>th</sup> April 1865  
Gen  
I rec<sup>d</sup> at a late hour your note of today - In mine of yesterday I did not intend to propose the surrender of the Army of N. Va - 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 desire to know whether your proposals would lead to that end. I cannot therefore meet you with a view to surrender the Army of N. Va - but as far as your proposal may affect the C. S. forces under my command & tend to the restoration of peace, I should be pleased to meet you at 10 am tomorrow on the old stage road to Richmond between the picket lines of the two armies - Very resp<sup>t</sup> your obt servant  
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shawl drawn over the head. This infirm person carried a pail. Permission was asked to get some water at the run. Mrs. Davis followed the couple and supplemented the request.  
"For God's sake, let my old mother go to get some water!"  
There appearing to be no objection, they passed out. Several sharp eyed cavalrymen noted the aged person, and, catching sight of a pair of boots, which seemed to be somewhat too heavy for an aged woman, Corporal Munyer exclaimed:  
"That is not a woman! Don't you see the boots?" Spurring his horse forward he raised his carbine and ordered the withdrawal of the shawl. Jefferson Davis was disclosed. Mrs. Davis rushed up and threw her arms around her husband. When his overcoat was removed it was noted that he wore a complete suit of gray, a light felt hat and high cavalry boots. A gray beard of about six weeks' growth covered his cheeks and chin.

Jefferson Davis's own description differs from this in a few details. Owing to the darkness in the tent, he picked up what he thought was his own waterproof coat, but which proved to be his wife's, it being much like his own, and as he started toward the entrance, Mrs. Davis thoughtfully threw over my head and shoulders a shawl. I had gone perhaps fifteen or twenty yards when a trooper galloped up and ordered me to halt and surrender, to which I gave a defiant answer, and dropping the shawl and his rifle from my shoulders, advanced toward him. He leveled his carbine at me, but I expected, if he fired, he would miss me, and my intention was in that event to put my hand under his foot, tumble him off on the other side, spring into his saddle and attempt to escape. My wife, who had been watching, when she saw the soldier aim his rifle at me, ran forward and threw her arms around me. Success depended on instantaneous action, and, recognizing that

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The scene which followed has been variously described by persons present, the tales differing particularly as to the motives and the actions of President Davis when discovered wearing his wife's waterproof light overcoat and a shawl over his head, concealing his features to some extent in the darkness. This is the story told by Captain G. W. Lawton, of Pritchard's command:  
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"Who commands these troops?" asked Mr. Davis.  
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"You may call me what or whomsoever you please."  
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After a moment's hesitation, President Davis drew himself up in a dignified way and exclaimed: "I suppose that you consider it bravely to charge a train of defenceless women and children, but it is theft, it is vandalism."  
The cavalcade, as soon as possible, set out for Macon, where it arrived three days later, on May 13, every reasonable consideration having been shown the prisoners.

Facsimiles of Letters—in Possession of the War Department and Now for the First Time Reproduced—Written by General R. E. Lee to General U. S. Grant with Regard to Surrender of Confederate Army at Appomattox.

WAR DEPARTMENT.  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
MEMORANDUM TO THE TRIBUNE RELATIVE TO CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GENERALS GRANT AND LEE WITH REGARD TO THE SURRENDER OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA AT APPOMATTOX.  
Herewith are copies of five original notes written by General Lee to General Grant with regard to the surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. All these notes, bodies and signatures are in General Lee's own handwriting. They were written with lead pencil; the writing has been somewhat dimmed by age, so that it has been found impossible to make very clear photographic copies of the documents. However, the accompanying copies are as clear and legible as the originals. No other photographic letters of General Lee to General Grant relative to the surrender at Appomattox are in the possession of the War Department. General Lee's letter announcing his acceptance of the terms of surrender offered by General Grant was formerly in the possession of the department, but it disappeared from the files many years ago. It was undoubtedly stolen. The originals of the communications from General Grant to General Lee relative to the surrender at Appomattox of course went into the possession of General Lee, and it is not known what disposition he made of them. The recorded copies of these communications are the only record of them that the War Department has ever had. Full copies of General Grant's and General Lee's letters relative to the surrender at Appomattox, including General Lee's letter of acceptance of the terms offered by General Grant, will be found printed in the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies," Series I, Volume XLVI, Part 3, pages 619, 641, 664, 695 and 696.

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A platform was erected in front of the White House. On this President Johnson, the members of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court and the most eminent generals and admirals of the army and navy took their places on the morning of May 23. It was a morning in itself to make the heart glad. Lafayette Square, across the way, wore that garb of delicate green which so rejoices the heart of the Washingtonian in the spring.  
Shortly after 9 o'clock the sound of martial music was heard down the avenue, beyond the Treasury Building, and then General Meade appeared, riding at the head of the wide, swinging column in blue, the peer of any army in the world. The troop moved with the easy yet rapid pace of the old campaigner in cadence step. The correspondent of The Tribune may be permitted to continue the description of the day's event.  
"This morning the golden sun greeted, as did more than a hundred thousand admiring eyes, the inauguration of the grandest military pageant ever witnessed on the American continent. At 9 o'clock the seemingly interminable lines of brilliant bayonets and flashing sabres, borne by the boys in federal blue, commenced to unfold themselves around the national capital, where, as was met, the children of the city to the number of many thousands had come to greet the battle worn and scarred heroes of the Republic with banners, mottoes, songs of cheer, garlands of flowers and approving smiles."  
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"Every available place where human feet could stand or hands could cling was appropriated long before the foaming steeds of Sheridan's cavalry led the advance up Pennsylvania avenue. Stands, staging, boxes, tables, chairs, vehicles, lampposts, indeed, everything that promised a look-out, was crowded to suffocation with eager people. Windows, balconies and housetops were even more densely packed. Indeed, the masses upon these soldiers coming home from the war was a sight long to be remembered, attaining to the grandly sublime; but when the fiery cavalry steeds, prancing to their well known bugle notes, the long lines of infantry with burnished arms flashing in the sunlight; the thundering rattle of artillery wheels in an unceasing, surging mass, sweep along through the day, how shall I find words to express the fervent emotions stirred within every heart?"  
The following day, May 24, Sherman's Army of the West, at the sound of a signal gun at 9 o'clock, set forth from the Capitol, following the same route. Again the streets were alive with the population of the city and imperishable testimonies many carrying bouquets and wreaths of flowers for their favorite troops or officers. Many persons, who had thought of the Army of the West as a mob now changed their minds as they saw the stalwart men, with fine precision, swinging step, bronzed faces, striding along as one man. The tattered flags, festooned with flowers, were present to tell the tale of the many conflicts of the army, which had just finished a march of two thousand miles, one of the great marches of history.  
In order to give variety to the parade and differentiate it from that of the Army of the Potomac on the day before some of the division commanders had added what might be termed an exhibit illustrative of their division's march through the South. Following the troops were "bummers," with galls, milk cans and pack mules laden with the gamecocks, poultry and hams which comprised a part of the spoil of the forager. Accompanying some of the divisions were families of freed slaves, with women leading their shining-eyed pickaninies. These occasioned much laughter and cheering among the spectators. Each division was preceded by its complement of black pioneers, armed with picks and spades. They marched in double ranks, their presence, coupled with their soldierly bearing and precision of movement, adding much to the interest of the occasion.  
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Two days later, on May 28, Kirby Smith surrendered, and only the proclamation of President Johnson, which was issued later, was required officially to close the war. The return of the citizen soldiery to the ranks of civil pursuits added more than eight hundred thousand men to the working force of the body politic within a period of six months. This transfer was accomplished without a thought on the part of the country of the remarkable character of the incident.  
In the course of the war, in round numbers, two million men enlisted on the Union side and about one million on the Confederate. The total number of deaths in the Northern armies was 360,252, of whom 139,000 were killed or mortally wounded in battle. Of those killed outright on the field of strife the total was 87,658. It is not known how many Confederates gave up their lives, but it is believed to range between 250,000 and 300,000 from all causes, of whom 95,000 lost their lives as a direct result of battle. The cost of the war to the United States government, not including pensions, was \$3,250,000,000, the Confederate government spending perhaps \$1,000,000,000 less than one-half. The total number of soldiers surrendered by the different Confederate commanders in the closing campaign was 175,000. In addition, the North had taken 93,000 other prisoners in the course of the previous year, of whom one-third were exchanged and two-thirds released.

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