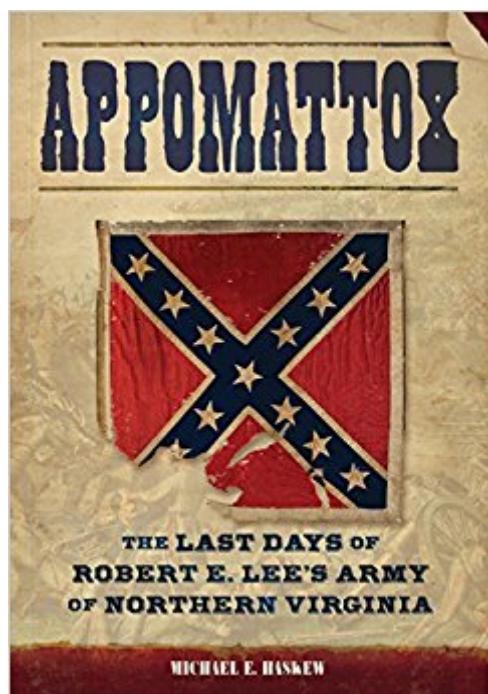


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# Appomattox: The Last Days Of Robert E. Lee's Army Of Northern Virginia



## Synopsis

They endured hardship and deprivation as they fought for their home and ideals - relive the final days of the Army of Northern Virginia. *Appomattox: The Last Days of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia* encompasses the defense and evacuation of the Confederate capital of Richmond, the horrific combat in the trenches of Petersburg, General Robert E. Lee's withdrawal toward the Carolinas in his forlorn hope of a rendezvous with General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee to carry on the fight, the relentless pursuit of Union forces, and the ultimate realization that further resistance against overwhelming odds was futile. The Army of Northern Virginia was the fighting soul of the Confederacy in the Eastern Theater of the Civil War. From its inception, it fought against overwhelming odds. Union forces might have occupied territory, but as long as the Confederate army was active in the field, the rebellion was alive. Through four years of bitter conflict, the Army of Northern Virginia and its longtime commander, General Robert E. Lee, became the stuff of legend. By April 1865, its days were numbered. There are many stories of heroism and sacrifice, both Union and Confederate, during the Civil War, and Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia wrote their own epic chapter. Author Michael E. Haskew, a researcher, writer, and editor of many military history subjects for over twenty years, puts the hardship and deprivation suffered by this Army's soldiers while defending their home and ideals into proper perspective.

## Book Information

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General Lee posed

for this portrait by photographer Julian Vannerson in March 1864. Within days, Lee was in the field with the Army of Northern Virginia countering the offensive thrust of General Ulysses S. Grant's Federal armies during the Overland Campaign, which culminated with the Siege of Petersburg. The siege lasted nearly ten months and significantly eroded the fighting capability of Lee's army. Library of Congress General Ulysses S. Grant took command of all Union armies in the field in March 1864. He chose to make his headquarters on the march with the forces that eventually compelled Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia to surrender. Grant's tactics differed from his predecessors in that he chose to maintain the offensive against Lee even while absorbing staggering casualties. This photo was taken after the Civil War ended, probably during Grant's second term as President of the United States. Library of Congress Delivering his second inaugural address from the Capitol on March 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln stands before a large crowd and urges "malice toward none, charity for all". Later that month, Lincoln traveled to the Union supply base at City Point, Virginia, to confer with Generals Grant and Sherman and remained there for two weeks. During that time, he visited war-torn Petersburg and the Confederate capital at Richmond after the city fell on April 3, 1865. Library of Congress The bustling Union supply depot at City Point, Virginia, served as the distribution point for the men and materiel that defeated the Army of Northern Virginia in the spring of 1865. This image, taken by photographer Andrew J. Russell, depicts the City Point railroad station and a view of the wharf near the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers. The historic meeting between President Abraham Lincoln and Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman took place at City Point in late March 1865. Library of Congress

[View larger](#) [View larger](#) [View larger](#) [View larger](#) A significant section of the business district of Richmond was looted and burned during the chaos of April 2, 1865, as government officials, military personnel, and ordinary citizens fled the Confederate capital city. This photograph by Andrew J. Russell shows Union soldiers amid the ruins of the devastated area. When the first Union troops entered Richmond, many of them were put to work fighting the fires and restoring order. Library of Congress In this photograph by Timothy O'Sullivan, the impressive High Bridge belonging to the South Side Railroad stretches across the Appomattox River near Farmville, Virginia. The failure of Confederate troops to destroy the High Bridge allowed Union troops to cross the Appomattox in pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia without the appreciable delay for which Gen. Robert E. Lee had hoped. Library of Congress Lieutenant

General James Longstreet commanded I Corps, Army of Northern Virginia for much of the Civil War. He was Robert E. Lee's senior corps commander, and Lee's affection for Longstreet was readily apparent, referring to the corps commander as his "Old War Horse". Due to Longstreet's association with the Republican Party and acceptance of government appointments after the war, he became the target of Lost Cause advocates who blamed him for the defeat at Gettysburg and ultimately for the downfall of the Confederacy. Library of Congress The fine brick home of merchant Wilmer McLean was the setting for the meeting between Gens. Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, as the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surrendered to the overwhelming strength and resources of three Union armies arrayed against it.

Grant's terms were generous. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Union officers paid McLean for many of the items in the parlor where the meeting had taken place, including candlesticks, an inkwell, and the tables and chairs used by the commanders. Library of Congress

"If you're an American, whether you're an advocate for the North or the South, all will agree that Appomattox represents one of the hallmarks of the Civil War. Author Michael E. Heskew, a researcher, writer, and editor of many military history subjects for more than 20 years, puts the hardship and deprivation suffered by this Army's soldiers while defending their home and ideals into proper perspective." - HistoryWire.com

Michael E. Heskew has been writing and researching military history subjects for over twenty-five years. He is the editor of WWII History magazine and The World War II Desk Reference with the Eisenhower Center for American Studies. He is the author of West Point 1915: Eisenhower, Bradley, and the Class the Stars Fell On; Appomattox: The Last Days of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia; and Tank: 100 Years of the World's Most Important Armored Military Vehicle, among numerous other publications. He lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Of all the books on America's Civil War I've read, this one presents some personal little stories about the soldiers on both sides, their wives and even the President of the United States. It is fun, and presents details of the war and its participants that add to anyone's knowledge of this great conflict between the states. It focuses on the end of the war and is a must for students and experts as well.

Great read about one of our favorite periods within the Civil War.

Well written. A good read

excellent...

Very Good Book

The last week of the war in Virginia has always been an exciting read. Several good books have been printed which tell the story of that week. Burke Davis' "To Appomattox" being the premier book on this topic. Now comes along Michael E. Haskew and his new book--"Appomattox-The Last Days of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia". Mr. Haskew has made a worthy effort in covering the final week of the war in Virginia. He starts by covering the Overland Campaign of 1864. Grant is given command and in May of that year, he pushes Lee's army southward to Petersburg. The author does a good job of covering the events leading up to April of 1864 by giving good background information on many of the leaders of this campaign. Not only are Grant, Lee, Davis and Lincoln covered but lesser characters are covered as well including Joshua Chamberlain, Philip Sheridan, James Longstreet and several others. The book moves along briskly with good accounts of the days leading up to the surrender. Two things stand out. First, Mr. Haskew writes about what happened after the war to many of the leading figures in the Appomattox Campaign. This is well done and is very informative reading. Second, he hints just briefly at the rivalry between Sherman's army in North Carolina and Grant's own Army of the Potomic. Grant wishs to finish the war without Sherman's help, so the credit doesn't need to be shared. The book falls short in only one regard. There are no maps to help the reader follow the action and movements of the various units of both armies. Long time Civil War buffs probably don't need the maps, as they are already familier with the campaigns, but new students of this campaign could certainly use maps to be able to keep track of the troops movements. Over all, a very good book that even long time die hard scholars will enjoy.

Appomattox by Michael Haskew tells an interesting story about the end of the fighting between the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac and the final meeting that took place between Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The Last Days of Robert E. LeeâfÂçâ "â Á â,çs Army

of Northern Virginia comprises the Overland Campaign, the defense and the evacuation of Richmond, the siege of Petersburg, Lee's attempt to withdraw his army to North Carolina and join with Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee, the constant pursuit of his army by Union forces and the final days of the Civil War. This book has solid anecdotes and interesting facts about the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox. This title does not break new ground but covers well known events and individuals.

Haskew's dynamic, engaging, lucid, readable and informative writing style illuminates the topic and makes the narrative accessible to anyone who desires to learn about the closing days of the conflict in the Eastern Theater. *The Last Days of Robert E.*

*Lee's Army of Northern Virginia* will help introduce this important Civil War topic to interested students. Haskew examines 1864-65 and Appomattox that are familiar to enthusiasts of battles and campaign studies. He is methodical in his descriptions of strategies, tactics and ultimate success of both armies. This title does a nice job enlightening the reader why Lee surrendered at the end of the conflict but is not as in-depth as Elizabeth Varon's *Appomattox: Victory, Defeat, and Freedom At The End of The Civil War*. Zenith Press has published a book for the novice who will learn about the closing moments of the Civil War but without a broad scope of the reasons for the Union success. This treatment fails to include any helpful maps while containing 14 worthwhile photographs. The author has written a balanced account but could have used and included many more primary sources from many common soldiers. Included in this tapestry are endnotes, a bibliography, an index and an epilogue that makes connections to what happened to several of the involved officers in the struggle. This book explains to the reader that peace was won at a terrible price by the Union, the Confederacy and all of the brave and heroic soldiers who participated in this important period in United States history. However, while this title is worth reading, it does not offer anything new to both scholar and enthusiast. Buyers of this \$30.00 work need to be wary of another volume about the end of this conflict.

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