

## LEE'S SURRENDER TO GRANT: APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE - APRIL 9, 1865



### **The site**

- Appomattox Court House is a town, once the county seat of County, Virginia
- The actual site of Lee's surrender to Grant was a house belonging to Wilmer McLean
  - The first battle of Bull Run (the first major battle of the Civil War) had taken place on McLean's land
  - McLean moved from his farm during the war to a former tavern in Appomattox Court House

### **The order of events**

- On April 3, 1865, Richmond fell to Union troops
- Grant and Lee take their troops westward trying to outflank one another
- On April 7, 1865, Grant initiates a series of communiqués with Lee

To read the actual communiqués, click on <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/appomattx.htm>

### **The terms of surrender**

- The officers would individually pledge not to bear arms against the US government of the United States
- Each company or regimental commander would require a like pledge of their men
- Officers would not be expected to surrender their side arms, their horses, or their baggage
- All horses and mules claimed by men in the Confederate Army were to remain theirs

### **The legacy of the McLean home**

- Following the Surrender, McLean lost the fortune he had made running sugar past Union blockades
- He lost the house when he could not keep up the payments
- John L. Pascoe bought the property at auction in 1869
- Nathaniel H. Ragland, his tenant, bought the house in 1872
- Myron Dunlap bought the property in 1891, proposing to exhibit it at the World's Fair in Chicago
- The Panic of 1893 ended that plan, and the house lay in pieces for half a century
- The site was declared a National Historical Monument in 1940 and plans were made to rebuild the house
- World War II interrupted those plans
- On April 9, 1949 (84 years after the Surrender) the house was dedicated
- Performing the ribbon cutting ceremony were Robert E. Lee IV and Major General Ulysses S. Grant III