



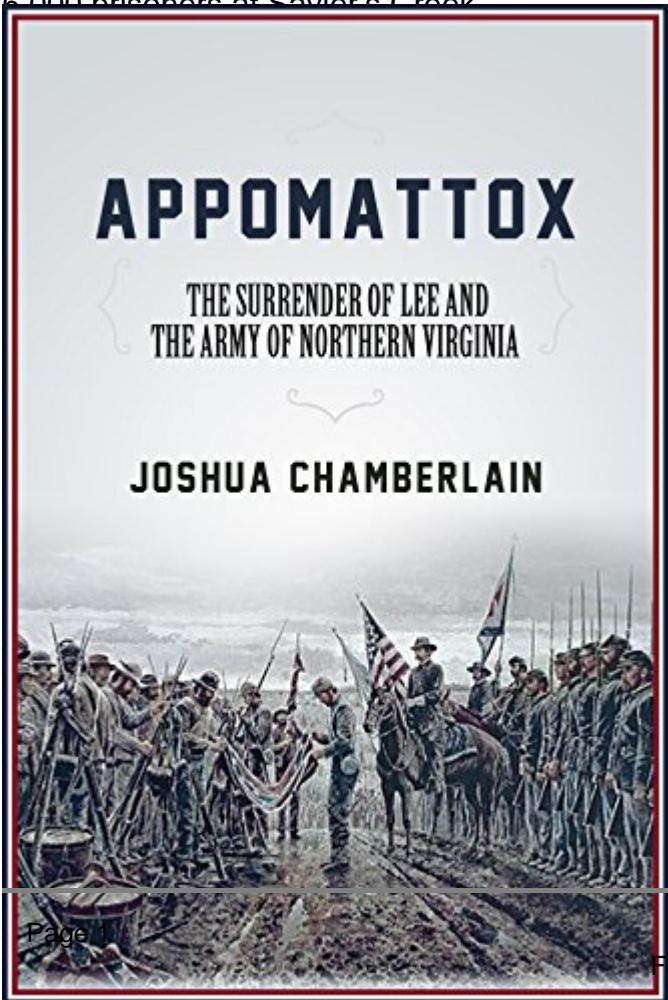
On This Day In 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee Surrenders Ending the U.S. Civil War

Description

USA: In Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, [Robert E. Lee](#) surrenders his 28,000 Confederate troops to Union General [Ulysses S. Grant](#), effectively ending the American Civil War. Forced to abandon the Confederate capital of Richmond, blocked from joining the surviving Confederate force in North Carolina, and harassed constantly by Union cavalry, Lee had no other option.

In retreating from the Union Army's Appomattox Campaign, the Army of Northern Virginia had stumbled through the Virginia countryside stripped of food and supplies. At one point, Union cavalry forces under General [Philip Sheridan](#) had actually outrun Lee's army, blocking their retreat and taking 6,000 prisoners at Sayler's Creek.

the Confederates were surrounded with no possibility of not announcing his willingness to surrender. The two men met at one o'clock in the afternoon.



respective armies, had known each other slightly during the Mexican War and exchanged awkward personal inquiries. Characteristically, Grant arrived in his muddy field uniform while Lee had turned out in full dress attire, complete with sash and sword.

Lee asked for the terms, and Grant hurriedly wrote them out. All officers and men were to be pardoned, and they would be sent home with their private property—most important, the horses, which could be used for a late spring planting. Officers would keep their side arms, and Lee's starving men would be given Union rations.

By Operations Manager

Category

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