

ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

001469

PART I

5

Administrative and Historical Data

FIELD FENCES

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

James N. Haskett, Park Historian
March, 1962

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORTPART IFIELD FENCESAPPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

RECOMMENDED Thomas F. Norris, Jr. Date 11/5/62
Superintendent (By Telephone)

RECOMMENDED Robert G. Hall Date 10/23/62
Chief, EODC

RECOMMENDED Elbert Cox Date 11/6/62
Regional Director

APPROVED:  Date 11/15/62
Assistant Director

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

Administrative

and

Historical Data

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Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

By

James N. Haskett, Park Historian

March, 1962

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- a. STRUCTURE NAME Field Fences
BUILDING NUMBER M-9-2 (PCP)

b. PROPOSED USE

It is proposed that these fences will be reconstructed on their original locations where necessary. They will add to the historic scene and control visitor use patterns.

c. PROVISION FOR OPERATION

Funds for the operation and maintenance of these fences will come from the grounds account.

d. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

It is estimated that \$16,100 will be required for the reconstruction of the necessary fences.

FOREWORD

Park Historian Happel's, Research on Historic Fences, a part of this Park's 1942 Master Plan, and Architect Orville Carroll's Report on the Village Fences, contain much of the basic data used in this study. Though both reports are adequate, it was necessary that information be extracted concerning the field fences and research pursued on information secured subsequent to their completion. This will allow differentiation between the fences within the Village Area and those without.

These studies were consulted frequently and provided much valuable data and I am deeply indebted to their authors.

James N. Haskett
Park Historian

PART I - DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF SURVEY

With development scheduled or proposed in the areas beyond the limits of the village proper, additional research becomes necessary on these areas. The most widespread and prominent feature throughout these areas was the fences. Therefore, an investigation of the field fences is in order. These are defined as those fences within the boundaries of the Park, but beyond the limits of Appomattox Court House proper.

In the absence of any but limited pictorial evidence the research techniques used here are somewhat unique. Primarily contemporary pictorial material is first evaluated with the greatest significance being allowed to it. In the absence of this type of material, contemporary written material is next evaluated. In the absence of both primary sources, pictorial data from the late nineteenth century is used. This is used on the premise that there had been few basic changes in this area during this period. The evidence of this period is used to provide a transitional link with the present.

To make this study more useful for reference purposes it is broken into several sections or categories, each to be evaluated separately.

This is as good a point as any to clarify the fences to be described as to type. Basically, there were three types of

fences which might be used to enclose a field. These were the "post and rail," "post and plank", and the "snake", "zigzag", or "worm" fence. The most common was the latter type. These were constructed of split logs (mostly chestnut) placed in interlocking piles to form a barrier. Unless otherwise specified, whenever the term "rail fence" is used, it describes this type of fence.

PART II: CONDITION OF FENCES (April 9, 1865)

The presence of so many soldiers in the confined area near Appomattox Court House seems to have been disastrous to nearby fences. From late on the 8th with the arrival of troops in the area until after the 13th when the majority of the troops departed, no piece of wood was safe. The rails from the "rail" fences were particularly coveted by "Johnny Reb" and "Billy Yank". These well seasoned chestnut rails could be converted into campfires with a minimum of time and effort. They could also be used as a lever when needed or as the basic ingredient in a temporary shelter. In battle or when one was imminent, temporary barricades of rails were the simplest and fastest form of field fortifications to construct.

There are a number of contemporary sources which support these conjectures. For example, George T. Peers, who lived in the Peers House at the time of the surrender noted, "There was not a single fence rail left except a few boards around the Court Green Every piece of loose wood that could be found had been used to make fires over in the camps."¹ Dr. Herbert

1 "Peers Eyewitness Account", Washington Evening Star, April 5, 1890. (No page number available; copy in Park files).

Claiborne was taken prisoner during the fighting and upon being removed to an area of confinement noted, ". . . details were permitted and ordered to bring in fence rails for fires, or for

constructing temporary shelter"² I. O. Abbitt who lived in Appomattox during the reconstruction period remembered his parents saying, "The Union Army soldiers burned for camp fire-wood many thousand chestnut fence rails . . ."² These and many

2 I. O. Abbitt, Ninety Years of Historical Facts, (Published Privately, 1951), p. 10.

other accounts picture the many depredations of both sides on the fences of the area. In all probability few fences survived that could be easily dismantled. This would account for the almost total absence of rail fences and the continued existence of some post and rail and picket fences in the Court House area.

No account more graphically describes the destruction wrought by the armies here than that of General George W. Mumford, CSA. General Mumford passed through Appomattox on his way to Richmond on April 30. He described the battlefield area in a letter to his wife: "For thirteen miles both sides of the road as far as the eye could reach - one eternal scene of desolation & destruction . . . not a sprig of grass & not a rail left".³

3 George W. Mumford, "Letter George W. to Lizzie Mumford, April 30, 1865." Original Copy Duke Library, Durham, N. C. (Photostat in Park Files)

PART III: LEE'S HEADQUARTERS

The first section to be defined is that of the vicinity of Lee's final headquarters. This area is located on the southside of Virginia Route #24 at the northeastern boundary of the Park. In 1865, the roadbed of the Lynchburg Stage Road at this point was approximately 50 yards south of its present location. However, from this point it angled northward to rejoin the present roadbed in the vicinity of the Poplar Tree site. According to contemporary accounts, this area was heavily forested with deciduous trees.⁴ This being the case, there is little reason to believe that there were fences immediately adjacent to the

4 Douglas S. Freeman, R. E. Lee (New York; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941), IV, p. 113.

headquarters site. However, there must have been fences around the open field pictured as nearby on contemporary maps.⁵ This

5 Army Engineer's Map of Appomattox Court House, drawn by Major J. E. Weyess, for Survey under the direction of Brevet Brigadier General N. Michler, Major of Engineers, by command of Brevet Major General A. A. Humphreys, Brigadier General and Chief of Engineers, 1867.

theory is partially substantiated by fences being used for campfires at headquarters. Longstreet's autobiography states that he was summoned to join Lee at what is presumed to be the headquarters site. He states that Lee . . . "stood near the embers of some burned rails . . ."⁶ Additional evidence of a more recent origin

6 James Longstreet, From Manassas to Appomattox, Philadelphia; J. B. Lippincott Company.

comes from the circa 1893 Plecker photograph of the nearby
Poplar Tree Site.⁷ Conspicuously situated in this photograph
is a typical rail fence. Even today remains of a similar fence
may be found on the site.

7 From an original photograph in Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park files.

PART IV: THE APPLE TREE SITE

The next section to be designated is that of the Apple Tree. This is defined as the area along the Lynchburg Stage Road between the Poplar Tree Site and the Ford of the Appomattox River. The first point reached when traveling westward from the vicinity of Lee's Headquarters is the area of Alexander's line-of-battle. It was on the ground commanding the slope that E. Porter Alexander, under General Longstreet's direction assembled artillery and troops to form a line-of-battle to support General Gordon, if successful, or to serve as a point for regrouping in the event of failure. One of the officers in this formation was Captain W. T. Hill, Fifth Texas Regiment. He stated:

This took it to within a mile of Appomattox, where, after facing, in turn, east, west, and north in the effort to meet the threatened but never-coming attacks, we formed in a semi-circle across a road, and began building a breastwork of such material, as was at hand—the Fifth Texas—I remember, appropriating a rail fence for the purpose.

- 8 J. B. Polley, Hood's Texas Brigade, Its Marches, Its Battles, Its Achievements. (New York and Washington; The Neale Publishing Co., 1910), p. 277.

A short distance to the west in an old orchard just east of the Ford, several events pertinent to the Surrender occurred. Rails were frequently mentioned in these accounts confirming their presence in this area. For example, Colonel Charles Marshall, Lee's Military Secretary, who accompanied Lee during most of the 9th stated:

Then we went down the slope of the hill on the other side of which stands Appomattox Court House. There was a bridge across a stream that ran at the foot of the hill, and we stopped on our side of the bridge, and down near the foot of the hill, we made a little couch for General Lee under an apple tree. We put some rails down there, spread some blankets over them ⁹

- 9 Major General Sir Frederick Maurice (ed.), An Aide-de-Camp of Lee, Being the Papers of Colonel Charles Marshall sometime Aide-de-Camp, Military Secretary, and Assistant Adjutant General on the Staff of Robert E. Lee, 1862-1865. (Boston. Little, Brown, and Company, 1927), p. 267.

Horace Porter's account differed little from that of Marshall. In this he stated, "He was lying down by the roadside on a blanket which had been spread over a few fence-rails placed on the ground under an apple tree which was a part of an old orchard".¹⁰

- 10 General Horace Porter, Campaigning With Grant (New York; The Century Co., 1897), p. 470.

These are only two of many contemporary accounts which¹¹ mention the presence of rail fences in this area.

- 11 See Bibliography.

In addition to written sources, there are several contemporary sketches which are somewhat helpful to the researcher. One depicts General Lee's return to his lines after the Surrender. From the presence of Confederate troops this must be in the area.¹² It shows a rail fence on the north side of the road.

- 12 Clarence Clough Buel & Robert Underwood Johnson (ed.), Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, (New York; The Century Company, 1884), IV, p. 747. (Lee's Return to His Lines After the Surrender, a wartime sketch, by M. Jones).

13

Frankenstein's sketches of the area, a few weeks after

13 Original in Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Collection.

the Surrender show no evidence of any fences in this area. But the aforementioned proclivity of the soldiers of both sides to appropriate rails could easily account for this absence.

A somewhat less valuable source is a circa 1893 Plecker¹⁴ photograph. In this the observer is able to clearly see rail

14 Original photograph in Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Files.

fences on both sides of the road from the Ford to the vicinity of the headquarters site. This is of little value within itself, but certain factors add to its value. One is the stable or almost stagnant economic condition which existed here for some time. Another is the absence of any changes in fencing techniques.

Therefore, it seems reasonable to assume that the original fence¹⁵ had not been replaced with one of a different Nature.

15 Note taped interview with F. A. O'Brien, February 1961. Park tape files.

PART V: LEE-GRANT MEETING SITE (APRIL 10)

The next defined sector is that from the ford of the Appomattox west to the Peers House and Village limits. Little has been discovered to either place or bar fences from this area. The two Frankenstein sketches which picture this area contain limited evidence of a razed fence or at least a fence row in this area.

- 16 Originals in Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Collection. Pertinent pictures from this collection will be pictured in the Illustrations section.

The Plecker Photograph (circ 1893)¹⁷ of this same area also

17 Original Photographs in Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Collection. Pertinent photographs will be shown in Illustrations section.

contains a bare evidence of the previous existence of a fence.

Despite a lack of evidence the very existence of open fields in 1865 would be a strong indication of some form of fence.

PART VI: THE PEERS HOUSE

The most important structure within the Park but outside of the village limits is the Peers House. Its builder, George T. Peers, occupied the house in 1865. Twenty-five years later, Peers, who served as County Clerk for more than forty years, described his activities at the time of the Surrender as follows: "I was standing on the porch . . . I stepped down in the road . . . There was not a single fence rail left except a few boards around the court green,¹⁸ so I was not put to the trouble of opening any gate." This agrees
18 Peers, loc. cit.

with the Frankenstein sketch which shows no fences around the house
19 or its outbuildings. These sources, however, can not be taken as
19 Frankenstein, Ibid.

a positive refutation of the presence of fencing in this area at the time of the Surrender. The fences could easily have gone the way of the majority of the fencing in the area.

A circa 1893 Plecker photograph pictures a picket fence of considerable age and of poor repair around the front yard of the house. Portions of a post and plank fence are also visible around the barn-
20 yard.

20 Plecker, Ibid.

Though little can be found to support it, there is much to say of the assumption that there was a fence around the Peers House. In a period where fowl and livestock wandered with little restraint,

a fence around the front yard to keep them out was desirable. The Court House had a fence which was more practical than decorative. The McLean House had a picket fence. All of these known facts do much to support the theory that the Peers House did have a fence at the time of the surrender.

PART VII: THE PRINCE EDWARD COURT HOUSE ROAD

This section is that portion of the Park along the Prince Edward Court House Road (Virginia #627) from the Lynchburg Stage Road at the northeastern corner of the Village to the southern boundary of the Park. From the Stage Road to Back Lane, it forms the eastern boundary of the Village. At this point, it heads southeastward crossing Plain Run and then over the hills which rim the southern edge of the Valley. Beyond these hills, it joins the LeGrand Road and then stretches on to Walker's Church (present day Hixburg), Prospect, and finally Prince Edward Court House (present day Worsham).

There is evidence of only one fence adjacent to the road. Happel's study stated:

We are certain of at least one fence in the east end of the village, however. That fence was along the west side of the Prince Edward Court House road as evidenced by a statement by Captain R. M. Sims, C.S.A., bearer of the flag of truce that stopped the last engagement. He does not mention the road by name, but the military dispositions derived from official records, and his mention of crossing a small stream make identification positive. The Prince Edward Court House Road (also called Walker's Church-Evergreen Road--today No. 627) is the only "lane" that fits the description. He says 'I believe there was only a fence on my right intact', speaking of his ride south from the Village toward the enemy lines thus meaning the west fence.²¹

- 21 Ralph Happel, "Historic Fences", Master Plan Narrative, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, 1940, citing History of the Corn Exchange Regiment, 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers, From their First Engagement at Antietam to Appomattox, (Philadelphia, Penna.; J. L. Smith, Publisher, 1888), pp. 590-591. (Letter to J. L. Smith from Charleston, S. C., May 22, 1886) (Typed).

A similar version of the same basic story was recorded in an article by E. Porter Alexander. In this account he noted:

He called upon Longstreet for help and Longstreet sent his Inspector-General Major R. M. Sims, to suggest a flag of truce to the Federal Commander in his front, to ask a suspension of hostilities pending Lee's interview with Grant. Gordon requested Sims to bear the message, but cautioned him not to let our men know of his errand. Sims rode out to the left flank, where a line of our cavalry dismounted behind a fence, were exchanging a hot fire with the enemy along the edge of a wood some two hundred yards off.²²

- 22 Edward Porter Alexander, "Lee at Appomattox", The Century Magazine, LXIII (1902), pp. 921-931.

These limited sources add little of value as to the fencing in this area. If there was a fence on the right and the evidence seems to corroborate it, what type was it? How far did it go? In the absence of further evidence only an assumption can be valid. The most logical pattern would be the presence of a post and plank fence along the eastern limits of the village and rail fences at any point beyond.

PART VIII: THE CONFEDERATE CEMETERY

As to historical significance, that area along the Old Stage Road from the western limits of Appomattox Court House to the Confederate Cemetery has a great deal to offer. This contains the largest area of battlefield within the present Park. Because of the fighting here it is better described in contemporary accounts. There are frequent references to fences in these. One account describes the movement of troops through the village and into position along the Tibbs Lane. It reads as follows:

Our command (Grimes' Division) passed through the town of Appomattox Court House between day-break and sunrise, when upon the opposite side of the town and within a few hundred yards of the courthouse we were put in skirmish line on a road and a rail fence.²³

- 23 Five Points in the Record of North Carolina in the Great War of 1861-5/ Report of the Committee Appointed by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association-1904, (Goldsboro: Nash Bros., Printers and Binders, 1905), by Mr. J. P. Leach, of Littleton, . . . of Co. C., 53rd North Carolina Regiment) (Hereafter cited as Five Points).

An excellent description of the fences in the area between the McLean House and the Red Oak Road comes from a soldier in an Alabama Brigade. His story of that final day states:

"Early on the morning of the 9th. the command was aroused, and marched through the village to the verge of the open fields beyond . . . On inspecting the open fields in our front, we discovered a rail fence running through their centre, almost parallel with our position. Behind this fence (which had been almost thrown down), lay a line of battle of Federal infantry. . .²⁴

- 24 Lewellyn Adolphus Shaver, A History of the Sixtieth Alabama Regiment, Gracie's Alabama Brigade (Montgomery, Alabama: Barrett and Brown, 1865), p. 104-105.

Another mention of fences comes from the official report of Brigadier General William N. Pendleton, Lee's Chief of Artillery. Pendleton rode ahead of the main column to contact Brigadier General R. Lindsay Walker. Walker commanded the surplus artillery train of the army. This had left the main column at Amelia Court House and was traveling by a circuitous route to Lynchburg. Lee, having been thwarted in moving south, was now moving in the same direction on the same road. Now the train instead of being far from the scene of activity was in reality the head of the column. Not fully aware of its position or danger, the train was camped in the vicinity of the intersection of the Lynchburg Stage and Appomattox Depot Roads. Pendleton arrived in time to witness Custer's attack upon the train. When a lull occurred in the fighting, he thought the attack over and started back to Lee's column. He was overtaken by Union troops who had broken through and were firing upon everyone on the road. His report notes, "I only escaped being shot or captured by²⁵ leaping my horse over the fence".

- 25 The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894), Series I, Vol. XLVI, Part I, p. 1282. (Hereafter cited as O. R.).

A care evaluation of circumstances leads the researcher to conclude that this was in the general vicinity of the Tibbs House. This, then, confirms the existence of a fence on the north side of the Stage Road. It does not mention the type of fence. Clues to the type are provided by other contemporary sources. Most of these involve the immediate vicinity of the present Confederate Cemetery. It was along this ridge that Union troops took up a line to seal off the Lynchburg Stage Road to Lee's Army. Brevet Brigadier General Charles H. Smith, commanding the First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, was given the task of holding this line. He strengthened this commanding position by means of hasty fortifications; his report gives an explanation of their components. He stated in his official report, "I encountered and drove in the enemy's pickets within a half mile of the Court House . . . dismounted three regiments . . . threw up breastworks of rails, and waited until daylight, without blankets and fires".²⁶ Numerous other accounts also

²⁶ Ibid., p. 1159.

attest to the presence of rails in this area, and their use in fortifications. Tremain described these fortifications as²⁷ "hastily constructed rail barricades".

²⁷ Harry Edwin Tremain, Last Hours of Sheridan's Cavalry (New York: Bonnell, Silver & Bowers, 1904) p. 245.

Clark's work refers to them as "hastily constructed breastworks
of rails and brush," and "partial protection from rail piles." 28

28 Walter Clark (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and
Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-65
(Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell, Printer and Binder, 1901), Vol. 250;
I, 651.

This would seem to give a strong case for a rail fence on the
north side of the Stage Road along the Tibbs property. This is
further strengthened by the existence of a circa 1893 Flecker photo-
graph of this area. In it a definite rail fence is pictured on the
north side. This takes the form of a ridge, loose rails and seem-
ing connection with another decaying fence.

PART IX: GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS

This section runs along the Stage Road west from the Confederate Cemetery to the western boundary of the Park.

Unfortunately, there is no specific information pertaining to the existence or absence of fields in this area. The very presence of field and a farm in this area presupposes fences; there is no source material available to substantiate this.

PART X: FENCES, GENERAL

The preceding sectors have been defined by roads (either the Lynchburg Stage or Prince Edward Court House Roads). This particular pattern does not, however, adequately cover all areas of the Park. These miscellaneous areas will be covered under this general topic.

One area is the Tibbs property which is not a part of the Park at present, but is proposed for inclusion. A somewhat confused narrative by Lt. E. J. Holt, 7th N. C. Regt. places the last charge of the Regiment here in this area. The narrative does not locate the area but an accompanying map does. In this narrative Lt. Holt speaks of a fence. The report states:

About the time we got in order again, one of the men in the 75th called my attention to a small force of the enemy going Southeasterly down a rail fence between the woods and fields, . . . I called to General Roberts and pointed them out, . . . he ordered the 75th to charge and capture them. We at once drew sabres and charges in columns of four. The field was intersected by ditches and my idea was to charge in columns of fours and, when we had passed the last ditch, to deploy into line and then give them the sabre. But when we had crossed, as I thought, the last ditch and begun our movement to get into line, I discovered a large ditch just inside the field and saw at once that our horses could not get over the ditch and the rail fence built upon the earth taken from the ditch.²⁹

29 Five Points, p. 72.

This would place a rail fence along the western edge of the field due north of the Stage Road in the vicinity of the Confederate Cemetery. As most fences have four sides, this adds to the theory that the fence on the southside of this field along the road was also of the rail type.

In the area south of the Lynchburg Stage Road near its intersection with the Red Oak Road is the area of the Trent, Wright, and Sears Houses. It is an open area, broken by lanes and paths. The very presence of open fields and several owners would build a strong case for worm fences in this area. There is no negative or positive information concerning such except the official report of Brigadier General Thomas C. Devin, commanding First Cavalry Division. This report states: "The Third Brigade having come in the whole line was now dismounted and horses retired; barricades were being erected, and every preparation made to hold the crest in rear, when the Fifth Corps arrived and advanced in line of battle." An evaluation of the terrain, units

30 O. R. 46, I, p. 1126.

involved, etc., leads the researcher to conclude that this was in the Sears-Trent area. The erection of hasty fortifications would also lead to the conclusion that rails were available in the area. Another account places rails in this, and possibly the Grant's Headquarters Area. An account by Lieut.-Colonel Johathan P. Cilley, who commanded the First Maine Cavalry at Appomattox, described his unit's part in the final fighting. This outfit was a part of Smith's Brigade, Crooks Division, which had the task of holding the Stage Road against the advance of Lee's Infantry on the morning of the ninth. In the latter phases of the fighting this unit had to fall back to avoid encirclement. The story states:

Slowly they rolled us back. We received and we inflicted loss . . . We were too sleepy to move rapidly. We were too cross to be shoved by bullets.

Back from the wooded crest of Clover Hill; back over an open field and a little rise; back down a long sloping incline straightening our line at its foot by the aid of a rail fence, and with our men in hand we charged up the incline or hill, to be driven again back, and losing one of our battery guns at its foot. Back up a long rise of ground, covered with woods at the top--and the curtain of cavalry covering the last scene of the rebellion was fully up and back, . . . A colored division of the latter (Twenty-Fourth Corps) stepped into the place of our regiment.³¹

- 31 Henry Edwin Tremain, Last Hours of Sheridan's Cavalry (New York: Bonnell, Silver & Bowers, 1904), p. 425, citing unidentified article by Jonathan P. Cilley, September 15, 1875.

Another sector which could have contained fences is that area south of the Village and west of the Prince Edward Court House Road. This contains the Mariah Wright home, the John Rosser Homestead and Tannery buildings. The very presence of this many structures in these areas indicates the presence of fences here. No evidence of such exists save at the Mariah Wright house. The historic structures report on the house cites evidence³² of the existence of a yard fence at this structure. This gives

- 32 Orville W. Carroll, Architect and Marvin W. Schlegel, Historian, "HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT," Part I, Administrative, Historical and Architectural Data, Mariah Wright House (Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Nov. 1959), p. 7. (Typed)

no evidence of the type.

PART XI: SUMMARY

From the diversified data available, it is evident that too little concrete data exists as to the presence and types of fences here in 1865. However, an evaluation of the period and latter evidence supplements this to sufficient extent that a satisfactory deduction can be made as to existence and type.

The general evidence points to the existence of the following types of fences in the defined areas. In the Lee Headquarters Area, the only area where there is definite evidence and need for a fence is in the vicinity of the Poplar Tree. Here there is proof of a rail fence on the west side of this plot. This gives strong support to the existence of a fence on the south side of the Stage Road from this point westward. There is also some proof of the existence of a rail fence on the north side of the road.

In the vicinity of the Apple Tree there is evidence of a rail fence on at least one side of the Stage Road with some evidence that there were fences of this type on both sides.

At the site of the Lee-Grant Meeting April 10, 1865, there is limited evidence of a rail fence on the south side of the field along the Stage Road.

The Peers House presents little evidence of any fence in 1865, but later sources are quite definite that it had a picket fence around the main house and a post and plank fence around its barnyard. In view of a lack of definite negative knowledge as of 1865, the later sources should be accepted.

The Prince Edward Court House Road area is known to have had at least one fence on the west side of the road. This probably in the area of the John Rosser Homestead. In view of the overall situation, there could easily have been fences of differing sorts on both sides of the road. This is true south of the Peers House-Kelly House Area. Several homes and lots bordered on the road at this point leading to the conclusion that there were fences of some sort in this area. These could be picket fences or post and plank fences.

The area between the Village and the Confederate Cemetery is described frequently in contemporary accounts. According to best information, there was a rail fence along the western edge of the Tibbs Lane. There is also definite proof that there was a rail fence along the north side of the Stage Road and some limited proof that there was a similar fence on the south side of the Road. And, there is also evidence of a north-south rail fence from the Confederate Cemetery area south.

The Grant's Headquarters Area has an almost total lack of information about it. The references contain almost no hint as to actual information. They are, however, sufficiently detailed where the type is concerned. The few reference are to rail fences.

In the light of the preceding research, a pattern emerges. The rail (worm or snake or zig-zag) fence was used for normal fencing. Where something more ornate or pretentious was needed a post and plank fence was used for barn lots or for semi-town lots; picket fences for houses.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Included below are the sources investigated in this report. Many are of limited or repetitive nature and are not included in the body of the narrative.

Part I: Primary Sources

1. Collections, Maps

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Map, Army Engineer's, of Appomattox Court House, drawn by Major J. E. Weyess, for Survey under the direction of Brevet Brigadier General N. Michler, Major of Engineers, by command of Brevet Major General A. A. Humphreys, Brigadier General and Chief of Engineers, 1867.

2. Letter

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(Photostat in Park Files).

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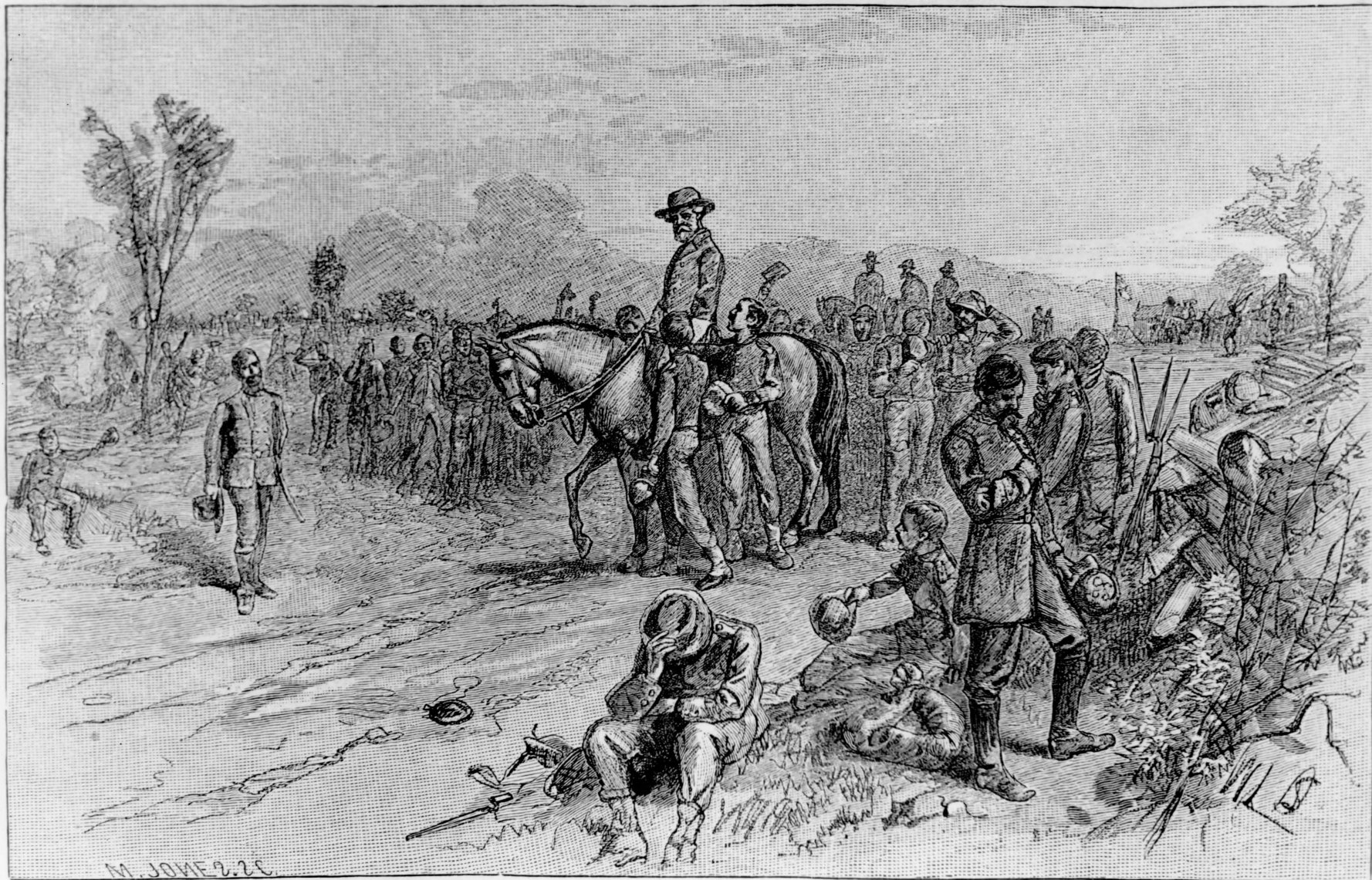
ILLUSTRATION #I

This is a Plecker Photograph (circa 1893) of the Poplar Tree Area. Note the typical rail fence at the right hand side of the photograph. Remnants of a similar fence exist on the spot today.



ILLUSTRATION #II

M. Jones' war-time sketch, "General Lee's Return To His Lines After the Surrender". Note rail fence on the north side of the Stage Road. This being within the Confederate Lines, it would be between Lee's Headquarters and the Apple Tree Site.



GENERAL LEE'S RETURN TO HIS LINES AFTER THE SURRENDER. FROM A WAR-TIME SKETCH.

In his "Memoirs of Robert E. Lee" (J. M. Stoddart & Co., New York), General Lee says of this scene: "When,

he rode slowly along the lines hundreds of his devoted veterans pressed around the noble chief, trying to

ILLUSTRATION #III

A circa 1893 Plecker Photograph taken from the vicinity of the Lee-Grant April 10th Meeting Site, looking towards the Site of Lee's Headquarters. Note that there were rail fences on both sides of the Stage Road from the Ford of the Appomattox River until it disappears from site in the vicinity of the Connor Farm.



ILLUSTRATION #IV

Water color sketches by Frankenstein done shortly after the Surrender in April. The lower sketch was drawn from the same general locale as the preceding photograph. No fences are visible at this point. These could have been destroyed by troops during their stay here.

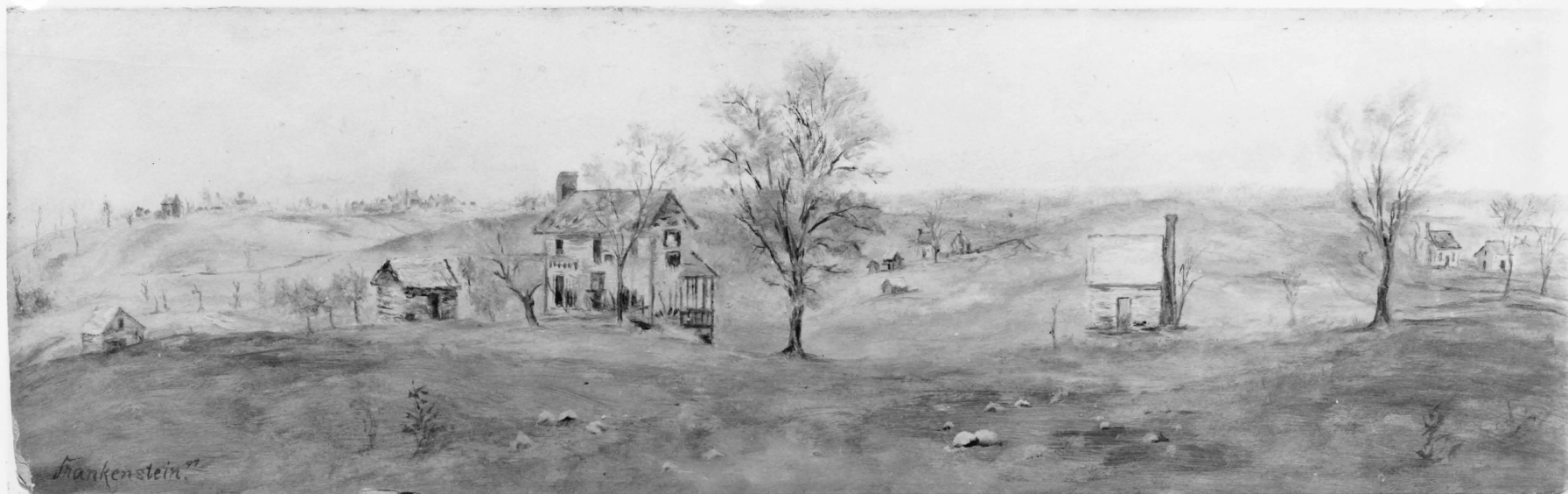


ILLUSTRATION #V

A circa 1893 Plecker Photograph of the Peers House. Note the picket fence around the front yard and the post and plank around the barn yard.



ILLUSTRATION #VI

Frankenstein water color sketch of Peers House from rear. No fences are shown, again all could have been used by the troops. There is some indication of a fence and fence row on the north side of the Stage Road at this point.



ILLUSTRATION #VII

Plecker Photograph (Circa 1893). Taken from locale of the present Confederate Cemetery looking eastward upon Appomattox Court House. Note a complete fence on the north side of the road and an occasional indication of a previous fence on the south side of the road (rails, fence row, seeming connections, etc.)

