

THE PLUNKETT-MEEKS STORE AND HOUSE

by
Ralph Happel

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park

1956

R
Appom.

001479
8

LIBRARY
BRANCH OF HISTORY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THE PLUNKETT-MEEKS STORE AND HOUSE

**An Historical Survey of the
Structure, its Construction
and Alterations, with Notes
on Adjoining Properties**

by

Ralph Happel

National Park Service Historian

**Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park**

1956

LIBRARY
BRANCH OF HISTORY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
REPORT	1
CITATIONS	25
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND NOTES ON SOURCES CONSULTED . .	28
SHORT INDEX	Follows page 30

The Plunkett-Meeks Store and House, according to documentary evidence, was built in 1850. Its first owner-occupant was John H. Plunkett. In 1865, the determining date for restoration at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, this building was owned by Francis Meeks and operated as a store by him. Thus the hyphenated name designates the original owner and the owner in 1865, the date of Lee's surrender to Grant, which gave the village national significance. There have been alterations to this house. The problem is to specify the period of the alterations. Anything added after 1865 will be removed.

The main house had a store on the ground floor. Apparently the store occupied only the front, or east, room, facing the public square. In early 1941, when plaster and lath were removed from this room, the workmen uncovered painted ceiling joists, wherein nails had been driven, obviously for hanging articles of merchandise. These nails, left undisturbed, might again be so used in the proposed restoration. The cellar was doubtless valuable for storage of goods. Mr. W. A. (Bill) Moses, born 1868, formerly county surveyor and familiar with the old village, stated during a tour of the area in 1941 that he understood that Meeks ran a store in the Plunkett-Meeks House, but it was before his time and he did not recall hearing any descriptions. Meeks died in 1869.^(1.)

Any study of the genesis and growth of the Plunkett-Meeks Store

and House is hampered by the burning in 1892 of the Appomattox County Court House building, which stood just a few yards away. All records, except the land tax assessment books, then out for binding, were destroyed. A few original pre-1892 deeds, however, were afterward brought in to be recorded anew. Other original deeds are in the possession of Mrs. E. A. Watson, Lynchburg, Virginia. The personal property tax assessment books may be seen at the State Library, Richmond. The land books are a vital source, both for changes in ownership and values, building additions often being cited; whatever the date of certification each year, these books represent the status as of January first; thus, for example, the 1850 book reflects the situation of 1849.

According to these land books, during 1849, in the village of Appomattox Court House, or Clover Hill, Samuel D. McDearmon owned, among others, lots 12, 13, 14, and 15, listed together and valued at \$325.00. No buildings were listed thereon. These lots later became part of the Plunkett-Meeks tract. McDearmon also held the Tavern: lots 16 and 17, \$6,000.00 for buildings and \$6,500.00 total. (For lots, see appended Peet-Moses copy of town plat. There are some discrepancies in this town plan, but in general the lots are identifiable. Copied 1932 by W. A. Moses from plat in effects of W. S. Peet). During 1850, as listed in the 1851 Land Book, John H. Plunkett held part of lot, 100 feet, from McDearmon, part of 16, as further disclosed. The assessed valuation was \$1,250.00 for buildings and total \$1,260.00.

By the side of McDearmon's lots 16 and 17 there is a notation that part of lot was off to John H. Plunkett. Since McDearmon still had lots 16 and 17 at \$6,000.00 buildings and \$6,500.00 total, Plunkett (2.) occupied a house obviously put on his acquired lot in 1850.

Plunkett may not have built the house himself, however.

McDearmon, the entrepreneur of the new village, may have built it for sale, or to order, and Plunkett may have bought it on the installment plan. This is suggested by a phrase in the deed between McDearmon and his trustees in his bankruptcy proceedings of 1853, wherein is noted his wife's dower right in a house and lot at Clover Hill sold to John H. Plunkett. (3.)

Whoever built the house, 1850 seems to be the date of its appearance on the site.

In the next several years Plunkett's values remain constant. McDearmon's lots 12, 13, 14, 15, and also 18, 25, 23 continue to be listed together, with nothing for buildings. The 1854 list shows a 60 x 56 foot part of McDearmon's lots 16 and 17 as Nowlin property, \$1,200.00 for buildings and \$1,250.00 total. This was the brick building east of the Tavern called the Robertson-Glover store in Park files. The site of this building is marked by the basement excavation. The property change pulled the Tavern down to \$4,800.00 for buildings and \$5,250.00 total. (4.)

In the 1855 list still no structures are indicated for lots 12, etc. The Tavern, unchanged in values from the year before, now

belonged to Samuel Glover, and the brick store values remained the same under Flood and Abbitt. Plunkett remained constant. So it was in the 1856 list, except Plunkett also had part of a lot, no value for buildings, \$25.00 for the land, "From John W. Woodson & wife part of office lot." Woodson held the office lot (20) at \$120.00 for buildings and \$125.00 total: "From McDearmon's Trustees part of lot (5.) to John H. Plunkett by Woodson & wife." Involving no buildings, this transaction of Woodson to Plunkett had no effect on the Plunkett buildings value. According to the Peet-Moses town survey, lot 20 lay across the road from Plunkett and westward, but that would be a mistake of some sort, because the Saddler's Shop deed from McDearmon's Trustees to Moffett (see below) refers to the Saddler's Shop lot as being between the Tavern property and the lot sold to Woodson.

The Tavern property, Glover's part of lots 16 and 17, drops to \$2,800.00 for buildings and \$3,000.00 total in the 1857 list. Plunkett, on the other hand, jumps from \$1,250.00 for buildings and \$1,260.00 total to \$1,400.00 for buildings and \$1,500.00 total. This is all on one line and for parts of two lots, meaning the old 100 foot part of 16 and the piece of Woodson's. (6.) Since the piece from Woodson had no buildings, the jump refers to Plunkett's dwelling. Did he extend or improve? Did he move something off the Tavern area, thus depleting the Tavern values? No notation about improvements or new building, however, occurs in the right hand margin, as is a usual custom. The increase for Plunkett and the Tavern decrease may have represented

reassessment. Whatever the story here, one must stress the lack of a marginal notation about changes in Plunkett's house.

During 1857, Joseph Abbitt, Jr., acquired Plunkett's place,
(7.)
values remaining \$1,400.00 and \$1,500.00.

During 1861, Francis Meeks purchased the Plunkett house and ground from Abbitt, the values remaining unchanged. He also bought lots 15 and 14 from S. D. McDearmon, \$200.00 for land, none for
(8.)
buildings. Thus there still was nothing on lots 15 and 14.

In the 1863 list, Meeks is shown with lots 14 and 15 and part of 16, all lumped together, \$1,400.00 for buildings and \$1,700.00 total. The 1865 list is the same. By the time of the 1866 list he had amassed three tracts: (1.) Lots 14, 15, and part of 16 - \$1,400.00 for buildings and \$1,700.00 total; (2.) Lots 12 and 13 - \$300.00 for buildings and \$435.00 total, from Isbell and Flood, Trustees (of the Union Academy); (3.) Part of Saddler's Shop lot, nothing for buildings, \$40.00 for land, from Wm. H. Trent. The Saddler's Shop property, between Hix and Meeks, enters our story
(9.)
more fully later.

The Meeks property remained unchanged for several years, though lumped in the 1869 list. Francis Meeks died in 1869, the 1870 list showing the property as the Francis Meeks estate.

There are two land books for 1870, one in the 1866-1870 volume, and the other in the 1870-74 volume. The first shows a drop in the Meeks value, but the whole list seems somehow invalid. The second repeats the 1869 values. In the first 1870 list Meeks' estate has

lots 14, 15, part of 16, lots 12 and 13 and part of the Saddler's Shop lot, valued together at \$1,200.00 for buildings and \$1,600.00 total. The "16" of the lot number, however, is overstruck to "11". Lot 11 does figure in later, but the clerk, or somebody, seemingly erred in changing the 16 to 11.

For 1871 Francis Meeks' estate is shown with lots 14, 15, and part of Saddler's Shop lot: \$900.00 for buildings and \$1,067.00 total, with a statement that lots 12, 13, and part of 11 are off to Maria Meeks as dower. Her lots are listed at \$300.00 for buildings (10.) and \$533.00 total. These building values add up to \$1,200.00, the buildings value listed in the first 1870 list. Maria's house, the second Meeks house, was west of the Plunkett-Meeks House, its chimney standing until the 1940's.

The 1872 list marks the Meeks estate property off to Thomas W. Johns, who is shown with lots 14, 15, part of 16, and part of Saddler's Shop lot: \$900.00 for buildings and \$1,069.00 total. (11.)

Whatever the clerk's mistakes or changes and whatever the status of lot 11, lots 14 and 15 evidently stayed with the old 100 foot part of lot 16, whereon the Plunkett-Meeks House is located. The drop in value, however, from the lists 1866 through 1869 can not be explained; it could be a reassessment, but \$1,400.00 to \$900.00 is a sharp fall.

Johns remains unchanged for several years. Then the 1875 list shows a significant change; a rise to \$1,500.00 for buildings and \$1,569.00 total, with the notation: "\$500 added for new building." (12.)

Here we have not merely a rise in evaluation to speculate upon, but also an incontrovertible statement of changes made. Five hundred dollars would buy a great deal in those days and assessments were below actual cost or value; so we may safely assume that a major addition was made on the Plunkett-Meeks House in the year 1874, the year reflected in the 1875 list. This fact and this date of 1874 are to be remembered throughout our studies. If the house were not extant and if no other data were available, this source alone would indicate that the property underwent change after the Civil War.

The 1876 list gives Johns \$1,000.00 for buildings and \$1,250.00 total. No notation occurs about fire or similar loss. The drop could be attributed to reassessment; that list seems to show some downgrading.

James M. Rawlings, of Lynchburg, appears in the 1877 list with an office and lots, \$175.00 for buildings, "from C. H. Jones Est. & from M. E. Woodson". He holds the property at varying values through the next several years.

Johns' values remain unchanged until the 1881 list, where they drop to \$600.00 for buildings and \$800.00 total. This drop is probably the result of another reappraisal; the assessors were perhaps trying to help the taxpayers in the hard times after the war. That same year Rawlings' values, part of lot 16, are \$100.00 for buildings and \$125.00 total. (13.) The Johns and Rawlings values remained the same in the 1882 list.

The 1883 list marks both Johns and Rawlings "off to Trustees

(14.)

Appo. C. H. Pres. Ch."

Thus, during 1882 the Presbyterian Church at Appomattox Court House acquired the Plunkett-Meeks House and a small office, by legal transfer. The office, possibly Woodson's old law office, acquired from his widow, Mary Woodson, may well be the semi-attached structure still standing at the northeast corner of the Plunkett-Meeks House. Later court records show that the use of the complex was for a parsonage.

The period 1883-1910 yields no information on values and therefore no clues about changes, for the reason that church property is not taxed. The 1910 list shows W. D. Browning holding the Parsonage lot: \$300.00 for buildings and \$500.00 total. A notation "not assessed since 1906," means as far as Browning was concerned. It had not been assessed since the 1880's. He had acquired it in 1900, however, the deed being recorded in 1906. (See below). The 1911 list raised his values to \$500.00 and \$680.00. (15.)

Browning also held other property: \$100.00 for buildings and \$200.00 total, and Sackett's office lot, which he had held for some time, nothing for buildings and \$5.00 for land.

Sackett's law office had been on the Saddler's Shop lot. McDearmon's trustees deeded that lot, September 10, 1858, to John T. Moffett. It had actually been sold to him in 1853. The deed fixed it as near the northwest corner of the public square, on the public street, lying between the Tavern lot and the lot sold at the same time to John W.

Woodson. In 1858 Moffett had "long used" the building on this lot as a shop for making saddles, etc., had paid for the property and had made an addition at his own cost. This deed was executed so
(16.)
Moffett could sell to John H. Flood.

William H. Trent bought the Saddler's Shop and lot for \$200.00 from Flood on November 7, 1859. He sold it to Francis Meeks, October 16, 1863, for \$150.00, the deed stating that the office generally termed the Saddler's Shop was then a bar room operated by Thomas A. Landrum. Meeks acted as an agent; he sold it the same day at the same price to Wilson Hix, owner and operator of the Clover Hill
(17.)
Tavern. The deed to Hix mentions the ground as running back with the line of the office chimney.

In 1883 Edward G. Hix conveyed the office and lot to Charles H. Sackett, by deed of December 14, recorded January 11, 1884, recorded
(18.)
anew November 17, 1893. This deed refers to the small office, commonly called the corner office, but formerly called the Saddler's Shop, as being on the lot, this lot fronting 18 feet on the public square and running back westerly 15 feet from the rear of the office chimney, that is to say, the lot was 18 feet north and south and had a depth from its front on the square to a point 15 feet west of the back line of the chimney. There is doubtless a reason for this terminology; it would seem simpler to say the lot was so many feet east to west. It was bounded on the north by Hix, east by the public square, and south and west by the Presbyterian Parsonage lot.

By deed dated June 5, 1889, recorded June 10, 1889, and recorded

again November 17, 1893, J. Walton McKinney, who had acquired the Tavern property, conveyed to Sackett a narrow strip of land, dimensions not given, on the north side of his office, extending east and west the length of the office, extending north to the line of the eaves or roof drip of the shed roof attached to the office, together with the right-of-way along the north side of the shed room over McKinney's land to the door of the small room opening on the north side of shed room. (19.) According to a local tradition, Sackett's privy was involved in this rigmarole. It is clearly indicated that Sackett's office was partly on Tavern property and the deed legalized Sackett's position. The old northeast corner of the lot would have been at the intersection of the hotel fence and the public square line.

The 1860 land book picks up Trent's ownership of the Saddler's Shop: \$150.00 for buildings and \$200.00 total. When Hix had it (not transferred until the 1866 list), the building remained constant, though the land fell to \$160.00. It later became merged with the other Hix values. The fall in land value is explained by the sale of a small part to Meeks, as noted above. (20.)

The 1834 list shows part of lot 16, Saddler's Shop, from Edward Hix to Sackett, no value for buildings and \$50.00 for the lot. We have seen that Sackett bought the lot in 1883 and the deed definitely indicated the old shop still stood. It may have been so dilapidated that Sackett tore it down. If that was the case, he rebuilt immediately. The 1885 tax list shows him in possession of a law office

(21.)
valued at \$100.00, \$125.00 total land and building.

The 1894 list valued Sackett's law office at only \$75.00, and so it remained until the 1903 list, when it went off to Browning, (22.) value of lot \$5.00 and nothing for buildings. Mr. Leonard Smith tore down Sackett's law office and rebuilt it on Dr. W. L. Ould's place at Appomattox Depot. (23.)

Browning had acquired the Parsonage property by chancery proceedings from the trustees of the Presbyterian Church for \$375.00, deed of October 9, 1900, recorded November 22, 1906. (24.) The property was then bounded by George T. Peers' tract, which had been the Maria Meeks dower property, on the west; the old hotel tract, the Sackett law office lot, and the public square on the east. Browning held some eight or nine acres.

Browning proceeded to put together the Francis Meeks estate, plus the whole Saddler's Shop lot, of which Meeks had held only a small part. The Maria Meeks dower property was purchased by Browning from Peers' executor, lots 11, 12, and 13, in 1909. (25.) Therefore when Browning conveyed the Parsonage tract to C. R. Blount in 1930, he had 12.19 acres by survey. The survey, the work of W. A. Moses, (26.) is a valuable aid in the study of this property. (See appended copy). Moses shows the Plunkett-Meeks House, or Parsonage, in its relationship to the ground, but not in floor plan. Also shown is the Sackett lot, and we can see Sackett's exact encroachment, three feet, on the hotel property, the old Saddler's Shop lot being 18 feet north

and south and 32 feet east and west; Sackett's purchase made the north-south extent 21 feet. The fact that Moses went to the trouble of showing the dimensions of this lot enables us to get the east-west length of the Saddler's Shop, since the 1883 deed, Hix to Sackett, stated the back of the lot was 15 feet from the rear of the chimney. If we call the chimney two feet thick, the shop was 15 feet east and west.

Peers, long time clerk of the court, made a map with notations about houses in 1890 for Joseph Burn, an invalid watchmaker of Washington. From this source Burn constructed miniature scale models of the village houses. Various factors, such as Peers' not saying what type of roof an addition or shed might have, made Burn's models of no great scientific value, though of considerable human interest, but Peers' map and notes are quite helpful to anyone knowing the situation. (The Park has the Burn material, models and documents. See appended copy of section of Peers' map).

In the case of the Plunkett-Meeks House, or Parsonage, Peers proves that the additions were made before 1890. He shows the Parsonage as number 6 on his map. The division line for the salt box, or shed addition, plainly shows and also the attached kitchen, i.e., the house pulled up to join the shed at the northwest end. In addition, he indicates a porch on the west side. Off the northeast corner and in a line running northward he puts numbers 7, 8, and 9: "offices."

His description calls the Parsonage "a two story framed house with chimney in the middle - a shed on the north and a small one story Kitchen at the NW corner of shed - a large porch on west end." That porch, adjudged postwar and too decayed to save, was removed in the major rehabilitation program of 1947, on May 21, according to the Park Superintendent's diary of that program.

Peers refers to the offices, numbers 7, 8, and 9, as small one story "Framed offices, chimney to west door in the middle on the east end." The one farthest north, number 9, would be Sackett's law office, the postwar structure which is gone. The middle one would be the law office of Crawford H. Jones, or at least a building on that site, also not extant. The one closest to the Plunkett-Meeks House is, I believe, the one now there, Woodson's old office. Considering that Peers' scale is not exact, that his house situations are not definitive, and that there are only a few feet to spare in that area, the small structure at the northeast corner of the Plunkett-Meeks House could have been either where it is now or in its original position in 1890. Peers does show the offices all of a row, however; so the office may have been moved up by Browning.

I do not know what happened to the Crawford Jones office. The land books of the 1877-82 period are not clear as to whether Rawlings bought one or two offices. Both the Jones estate and the Woodson estate were credited with a building in the 1876 list, \$75.00 and \$50.00 respectively, and Rawlings' 1877 building evaluation of \$175.00 would seem to include the two buildings. The notation in the 1877

list of his acquiring the Jones and Woodson properties would seem to imply that he purchased all of those small holdings. Whatever happened to the Jones office, an office was on the ground there in 1890.

We can tell from Moses' survey for Browning where the Sackett lot was. Archeological investigation of the entire north-south line there might uncover chimney foundations, if not building foundations, giving the location of each office. Office lot dimensions, originally, were 20 feet wide for Woodson and 22 feet wide for Jones, and Plunkett's width was 45 feet. These figures, along with those for Sackett in the Moses survey, should help in any future field work. We remember that Plunkett's original length along the road, given in the land books, was 100 feet. (27.)

Wartime, or earlier, pictorial evidence, if accurate, would augment documentary evidence and settle the matter of the Plunkett-Meeks complex, shed addition, kitchen, separate office, and all. Drawings, however, are not always exact, and no wartime photographs have been found.

An 1865 illustration, the Webber drawing, presents interesting possibilities. The Plunkett-Meeks Store and House is shown twice: once in the general view of the village and again in an inset of the Court House building in the upper left corner of the published lithograph. ("Appomattox Court House, Va. etc." Drawn on the spot by W. Webber, Head-Qrs. 2nd. Brig. 3d Div. 5th A. C. Imp. by J. H. Bufford & Sons, Boston, 1865. Main view and four insets. Size 26.5 x 15.11. See attached copy photograph).

The inset view is from the east. Though the Plunkett-Meeks place is only an incidental part of this view, it is plainly depicted. This drawing is most important for the small gable roofed porch on the east, covering a doorway and facing the public square. That would have been the store entrance. Moses' survey for Browning shows the Parsonage as not quite up to the eastern line of the property, but the old porch probably came right up to the public square line. Since Peers carefully mentioned a west porch and none on the east, it is safe to assume this old porch had gone before 1890.

The Webber inset also shows a smaller gable roofed house at right angles to the main house, which may or may not be the present kitchen wing. The closest examination of the drawing will not really prove whether this structure is tied into or is just behind and overlapped by the main house; it is taller than the wing as it actually exists. A reason to consider it separate is the absence of the salt box, or shed, addition on the north of the main house. Another appendage does appear; it would seem, however, to be the outside covered stairway to the upstairs of the old house. The roof line of the appendage is a fraction below the main roof line, not a direct continuation. Also this appendage is not sided all the way to the ground.

The small separate outbuilding at the northeast corner stands out plainly in the picture, though its exact location would be difficult to prove therefrom; bear in mind its original location would be quite close to its present location.

The main portion of the Webber drawing pictures the village from the west. The McLean House in the middle of the picture is numbered 1. McLean's latticed well house is just in front. The house behind the McLean well is the Plunkett-Weeks House. It is definitely a narrow two story house with no wings or additions to the side. A covered leanto occupies the northern half of the west end of the house and runs up almost a story. This, as evidence on the site indicates, covered outside steps to the cellar. This view further bears out that the wartime house was only the two story one room deep four room house. One thing needs explanation, however, the question of the kitchen, which shows in the inset, whether attached or behind the main house. It does not show at all in the view from the west. Webber may have left this and other small structures off because they would have cluttered his picture. Artists have always taken certain liberties. Webber's Court House building and McLean House, however, indicate he was fairly accurate; they compare favorably with wartime photographs.

The Saddler's Shop shows in this view from the west as a small house with a squat chimney at its west end, just to the left of the double chimney house (old Raine house) in front of the McLean House.

George L. Frankenstein, who painted so many accurate miniatures of Civil War places, made several of Appomattox scenes not long after the surrender. He has a good view of the village from the west, the original being on display at the National Park Service Appomattox

museum, which barely includes an edge of the Plunkett-Meeks place and so does not help us. The picture was taken out of the frame to see if the mat covered any appreciable area; it did not.

Another pictorial source, the Henderson map, seems to show the Plunkett-Meeks House as a narrow tall house in a view of the Court House building from the west. This might well be used to prove a theory, but the chimney at the west end is wrong. Webber was accurate in the main, I believe, but the Henderson picture is not reliable evidence. ("Map of Appomattox Court House and Vicinity." Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1866 by Henderson & Co. in the Clerk's office of the District of Maryland. Map, text, and five drawings. See appended copy).

Another contemporary view of the village from the west, this one in Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, is off considerably in perspective. The house just to the left of the Court House building, however, may be taken as the Plunkett-Meeks House. It is tall, two stories high, and without additions. Unfortunately, it also has two chimneys, one at each end, which is not and was not the case. If one were to use this to prove that the house had no additions in 1865, proponents of an opposite theory could easily point out that an artist who was no more careful about chimneys did not produce acceptable evidence. (Johnson, Robert Underwood and Buel, Clarence Clough, editors, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. The Century Co., New York, 1888. In four vols., vol 4, p. 731. "The village of Appomattox Court House. The McLean House on the right. From a war-time sketch." Sketch by

R. K. Sneden - see p. xvii. See appended copy).

Though I would consider Webber painstaking and the Henderson and Battles and Leaders drawings only sketchy presentations, they all, despite discrepancies, lead one to believe that the wartime Plunkett-Meeks House was the two story one room deep structure and that the additions came after 1865. Thus wartime illustrations support available court records evidence.

The evidence of the court records, previously cited, clearly indicates that the exact year of the changes was 1874, attested by a jump in value in the land books and the definite statement "\$500 added for new building."

Why did changes to the Plunkett-Meeks House take place in 1874? The changes, it would seem, concerned improvements to convert a cramped combined store and home into a more commodious dwelling, for that is about the time the place became a parsonage.

Though Thomas Winston Johns owned the Plunkett-Meeks House from 1871 to 1882, it was not his residence. He lived then at "Waverly", still standing, overlooking the village, acquired from Jacob Tibbs in 1869. By an agreement of 1872, Johns' wife relinquished her dower right in the Plunkett-Meeks property, designated "Certain Houses and lots in the Town of Clover Hill formerly belonging to the estate of Francis Meeks."
(28.)

One might state incidentally that the plural houses in the phrase "certain houses and lots" would indicate the unaltered Meeks

house with separate outbuilding or buildings, since only one major structure was involved in the purchase. But the phrase may be mere legal terminology.

It is likely that Johns bought this town property with the Presbyterian Church in mind. He was a Ruling Elder in the Appomattox Court House affiliation, which he helped found just after the Civil War, and no man was more interested in that congregation's welfare. The interest remained throughout his long life. He was an Elder as late as 1900, when there was no pastor and only one other officer representing the church with him, keeping it alive during the interim between the abandonment of the old village and rebuilding in the new town. The 1892 burning of the Court House building and the removal of the county seat to Appomattox Station caused a general re-orientation. (29.)

The local church was really started by a prominent divine, the Reverend George William Leyburn, Winston Johns' kinsman. This pioneer in the field of foreign missions, discouraged at the animosity of the Greek Government, had temporarily given up missionary work and come to Appomattox about 1865. He began preaching in the Court House building, 1866. He moved his family to the county in April, 1866. His title of 1866 would be supply pastor, the church actually not yet existing. The old Union Academy property on the southeastern edge of the village was purchased for a church building, and the congregation officially constituted in 1867. (30)

Leyburn did not live in the Plunkett-Meeks House which, indeed,

Johns had not bought at the beginning of the pastorate. Clerk of the Session J. H. Featherston, writing in the late 1880's, says that Leyburn "secured a residence three fourths of a mile from the Court House village." (31.) Featherston's indication that Leyburn was a man of some means who helped in the purchase of the church building property is borne out by the Virginia personal property assessment lists. In addition to a fair amount of worldly goods, he possessed for tax purposes investments of \$2,050.00 in the 1866 list. In the 1872 list these investments were only \$700.00. (32.)

Leyburn returned to the Greece-Turkey area with his son, also a Presbyterian minister and missionary, and died at Salonica, August 14, 1875. He left Appomattox in the fall of 1872, the charge remaining vacant several months. The second incumbent was James Minor Rawlings, who had been licensed to preach and into whose hands immediately thereafter a call to Appomattox had been placed at Charlottesville in April, 1873. West Hanover Presbytery was scheduled to meet at Appomattox in June for his ordination and installation. It did not meet until September, however. Featherston says Rawlings came to Appomattox early in 1873; so he may have preached through that summer before being installed. (33.)

The Rev. Mr. Rawlings' ordination sermon, assigned to him for June and presumably the one given in September, was Zechariah, Chapter 4, verse 6:

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but

by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

That was a fitting text for a new and poor Presbyterian church in a village where might and power had triumphed.

Though that church was poor, Rawlings was not. If Leyburn had given freely of his "limited means," as Featherston testified, Rawlings was destined, at Appomattox, and all his life thereafter, to give cheerfully and liberally of his vast means. A rich Southern Presbyterian preacher was most unusual just after the Civil War. His maternal grandfather had invested in real estate in St. Louis, and young Rawlings was easily worth a hundred thousand dollars, a fortune in postwar Virginia. He had enlisted in the Rockbridge Artillery of the Confederate Army while still underage and had been at the Appomattox surrender. The Yankees confiscated his property, but his guardian won it back. Born in Louisa County, Virginia, soon orphaned, and reared in Charlottesville, which he always called home, Rawlings had taken a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Virginia, had married and settled near Warrenton to raise horses. A low church Episcopalian, he left that denomination after disputes between the high and low branches and studied for the Presbyterian ministry, graduating from the Seminary, then at Hampden-Sydney College.

Now in 1873, on his first pastorate, his wife expected a baby. She returned to her father's home, the custom in those days, to be delivered. A daughter, Mary N. Rawlings, was born in Charlottesville, December, 1873. The mother and baby came to Appomattox during early 1874. Miss Mary Rawlings has told me that they lived at the Appomattox

(34.)
parsonage, but she does not recall its appearance.

Rawlings' residence at the Plunkett-Meeks House, its first use as a manse, is the crux of the matter. Johns, the legal or nominal owner, did not live there, nor did Leyburn, the first Presbyterian minister at Appomattox. Rawlings, the second minister, did live there, before the place became legally recorded as Presbyterian Church property. Having established that fact, knowing that Rawlings was wealthy, and realizing that he appeared on the scene in 1873 and that his wife joined or rejoined him there with an infant in 1874, we need not wonder at remodelling work on the Plunkett-Meeks House in 1874, the year that caused five hundred dollars assessment to be added for new building in the Appomattox Land Book. A family accustomed to the best of accommodations was not going to make do with four rooms, one of which was doubtless still fitted out as a mercantile establishment, especially when it was necessary to go outside to get upstairs and perhaps even to go from one room to the other on the same floor. The outside kitchen would be a nuisance too. It was more usable tied into the house. Also, such a couple would spruce up the place in general, ordering new locks and shutters. A man whom the State conservatively assessed \$100 for watches, \$10 for a sewing machine, \$100 for a piano, \$30 for firearms, \$400 for furniture, and over \$9,000 for investments (picking only a few items of a given period) could certainly afford to make an unsuitable and perhaps rundown structure over into a comfortable manse.

(35.)

Of course, Johns, the nominal owner, could have made the improvements. It really does not matter who did the changing, but full understanding of the situation makes the role of Rawlings more logical. I doubt that Johns possessed the ready money. His personal property tax assessments indicate means, but he had no investments, and complicated debt deeds involving "Waverly" and "Mountain View", another Johns farm, show that his finances were tangled. Rawlings may even have helped pay for the Plunkett-Meeks property, if Johns had not finished paying for it in 1873 or 1874. The burning of the Appomattox court records has hidden a lot of things.

Any money spent by Rawlings on church projects would not have been unusual. Miss Mary Rawlings states that he devoted his life to fostering rural churches, among many other philanthropies, and educating boys for the ministry. He never discussed his charities, kept no diaries, papers, or receipts. He always used his salary for charitable purposes. He really did not want to accept a salary in the first place, but the Synod insisted that acceptance was the only proper policy.

After Dr. Rawlings' untimely death in his early 50's, at Charlottesville, various notices attested his philanthropy and his secretiveness about it. Wrote Mr. L. S. Marye to a church weekly: "His charity, like Goldsmith's, 'knew no bounds but his last guinea.' He paused not to enquire of creed where suffering and want made an appeal. He inherited a liberal fortune, of which a generous portion

was spent in helping the needy and candidates for the ministry."

And concerning his charities, reported Marye, Rawlings was "retiring
(36.)
to the point of diffidence."

Rawlings received a call to the Second Presbyterian Church,
Lynchburg, now styled Westminster Presbyterian Church, early in
1877. The Appomattox people let him go with "the deepest regret." (37.)

The Appomattox land list for 1877, cited previously, shows
Rawlings, then of Lynchburg, with an office and ground, \$175.00 for
buildings, "from C. H. Jones Est. & from M. E. Woodson." This means
that transfer took place in 1876, before he left Appomattox. He may
have been renting the office all along. It would be a fine adjunct
to the property for a minister's study.

By 1882, the Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church, nour-
ished by Rawlings' spiritual and financial ministrations, doubtless
was well organized and ready to act as a legal entity, and this would
account for the 1883 land list's marking both Johns' Plunkett-Meeks
property and Rawlings' office "off to Trustees Appo. C. H. Pres. Ch."

I think that available data, and considered deduction, point to
1850 as the establishment date of the Plunkett-Meeks House and 1874
as the date of its alteration.

CITATIONS

- (1.) Ralph Happel, interview with W. A. Moses, on the ground, October 17, 1941.
- (2.) Appomattox County Records. Land Book, 1850-54, p. 36 of 1850 list and p. 41 of 1851 list. The Clover Hill records are at the end of the county list each year, sometimes at the end of the Clover Hill District list. The clerks stopped numbering at the end of the county list and then skipped several pages before putting down the Clover Hill village list. Sometimes they numbered the Clover Hill village pages, but when they did, it was not always the exact follow-up of the blank pages; these practices result in some confusion; the Clover Hill village lists can easily be missed.
- (3.) Prince Edward County Records, Deed Book 26, p. 298.
- (4.) Appomattox Land Book, 1850-54, p. 47 of 1854 list.
- (5.) Ibid., 1855-59, p. 51 of 1856 list.
- (6.) Ibid., p. 53 of 1857 list.
- (7.) Ibid., p. 35 of 1858 list.
- (8.) Ibid., 1860-65, pp. 37 and 38 of 1862 list.
- (9.) Ibid., p. 33 of 1863 list, p. 33 of 1865 list, and Ibid., 1866-70, pp. 1 and 2 of 1866 Table of Town Lots.
- (10.) Ibid., 1870-74, p. 21 of 1871 list.
- (11.) Ibid., p. 23 of 1872 list.
- (12.) Ibid., 1875-1880, p. 20 of Clover Hill District list for 1875.
- (13.) Ibid., 1881-85, pp. 57 and 58 of 1881 list.
- (14.) Ibid., p. 53 of 1883 list.
- (15.) Ibid., 1910-11, p. 81 of 1910 list and p. 75 of 1911 list.
- (16.) Original deed, in possession of Mrs. E. A. Watson, Lynchburg, copied by Park Superintendent H. A. Gurney, 1949.
- (17.) Original deeds, Mrs. Watson.
- (18.) Appomattox Deed Book 1, p. 451.

- (19.) Appomattox Deed Book 1, p. 452.
- (20.) Land Book, 1860-65, p. 51 of 1860 list. Also List for 1866 and following.
- (21.) Land Book, 1881-85, pp. 51 and 52 of 1884 list and 52 of 1885 list.
- (22.) Land Book, 1903-4, p. 121 of 1903.
- (23.) Interview with Ralph Happel, Oct. 28, 1941. Mr. Smith was born in 1864.
- (24.) Appomattox Deed Book 9, p. 68.
- (25.) Appomattox Deed Book 10, p. 330. See also Deed Book 2, p. 540, Deed Book 3, p. 129.
- (26.) Appomattox Deed Book 29, p. 488. The survey occurs on p. 489, and both the survey and the deed itself give specific bounds.
- (27.) Office lot dimensions from abstract amongst old deeds in possession of Mrs. E. A. Watson, Lynchburg.
- (28.) Re-recorded 1894, Appomattox Deed Book 2, pp. 453-55, an involved indenture about debts. Waverly went to Benjamin T. Tinsley by deed of Feb. 6, 1877 - see D. B. 2, pp. 375-77.
- (29.) See for officers in 1900, Manual of West Hanover Presbytery. Whittet and Shepperson, Richmond, 1900, p. 15.
- (30.) Sources: Featherston, J. H., Clerk of the Session, "A Sketch of Appomattox Court-House Church," 1887 (?), nicely handwritten in a composition book, at Union Theological Seminary Library, Richmond, Va. Also at same place, manuscript "Extract from Histories of the churches of West Hanover." Also Gould, S., "Southern Missionaries to Greece," in The Central Presbyterian; Richmond, Va., Wed., May 19, 1875, p. 2. Also Nevin, Alfred, D. D., editor, Encyclopaedia of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Presbyterian Publishing Co., Philadelphia, 1884, p. 426. Also Scott, Rev. E. C., compiler, Ministerial Directory of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., 1861-1941. Press of Von Boeckmann-Jones Co., Austin, Tex., 1942, p. 404. Of lesser importance are McDearmon, C. Lewis, "History of Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian Church," 1932, two and a half page typescript

with no references, in local park files, and Redding, Rev. R. E., "Christmas Greetings, 1940," a printed historical sketch and directory of the local church. The local Session Records do not exist; they were lost when Miss Emma Smith's store at new Appomattox was burned about 1923; she so informed me at an interview of Sept. 11, 1956; Mr. Ragland Featherston, then Clerk of the Session, had inadvertently left them one afternoon and the store burned that night. Redding and even Scott have discrepancies in dates. Though J. H. Featherston is a primary source and apparently correct in his dates, more detail as to months and lapses in tenure may be found in the Records of West Hanover Presbytery, bound manuscripts at the Seminary.

- (31.) Featherston, op. cit., p. 4.
- (32.) Personal Property Tax Assessment Books, Virginia State Library, Richmond.
- (33.) Records of West Hanover Presbytery, vol. 5, 1861-1877, pp. 375, 384-5, 387, 392, 400, at Union Theological Seminary Library. Featherston, op. cit., p. 11. The "Extract from Histories of the churches of West Hanover," op. cit., evidently derived from Featherston's notes, is wrong in stating that Rawlings was installed "early" in 1873.
- (34.) Interview with Miss Mary N. Rawlings at her home 915 E. High Street, Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 18, 1956. She was traced through her mother's will at Charlottesville. Biographical data derived from this interview and from obituaries cited below.
- (35.) For personal property tax lists, see Virginia State Library, Personal Property Books for Appomattox, p. 26 of 1873 list, p. 45 of 1876 list, p. 45 of 1877 list. He is not in regular place under the R's in the 1873 list, but by himself at the end. The 1877 list is the last on which he appears. Remember that such lists do not reflect full values.
- (36.) The Central Presbyterian, Richmond, Va., Wed., Feb. 16, 1898, p. 2. See also same paper, Feb. 2, 1898, p. 8. Also The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Va., Tues. aft., Feb. 1, 1898, p. 1; he died Feb. 1. The News, Lynchburg, Va., Wed. morn., Feb. 2, 1898, p. 3.
- (37.) Records of West Hanover Presbytery. vol. 5, 1861-1877, p. 487.

Acknowledgements and Notes on Sources Consulted

The foregoing citations include contributory sources, but do not indicate effort producing only negative results; nor do they always acknowledge assistance that led to positive findings.

The first acknowledgement should be made to Park Superintendent Hubert A. Gurney. His previous research and other material in the park files lightened the task.

Among Appomattox people who helped in one way or another were Mr. T. DeWitt Evans, Clerk of the Session, local Presbyterian Church; Dr. William Twyman Williams, the minister, who furnished valuable leads and lent me material from his library; Misses Lucy and Emma Smith and Mr. Clarence S. McDearmon, longtime Presbyterians; Mr. Calvin H. Robinson, newspaper publisher; and Mr. Claude W. Smith, Clerk of the County Court.

Out of town people whose courtesy furthered the work were Mrs. E. A. Watson of Lynchburg, who has shown consistent interest in the park; Mrs. B. F. Knight, Westminster Presbyterian Church Secretary, Lynchburg; Mr. E. L. Turner, Trust Officer, Peoples National Bank of Charlottesville, who introduced me to Miss Mary N. Rawlings; Mr. John Cook Wyllie, Librarian of the Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Mr. William H. Runge, of the Alderman staff; Mrs. R. T. Catterall, Librarian, Valentine Museum; Mrs. B. D.

Aycock, secretary to Dr. H. M. Brimm, Librarian, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond; Miss Josephine Cobb and Mr. Joseph Thomas of the National Archives, Washington; Mr. Milton Kaplan, Mr. Hirst Milhollen, Miss Virginia Daiker, of the Library of Congress; and others. Though Miss Mary Rawlings has a prominent place in the citations, I must acknowledge here again the importance of the help given by this charming and learned lady. She is a local historian of note in the Charlottesville area.

Among sources consulted, with or without result, were local park files; local newspaper files; local court records; court records at Charlottesville and Lynchburg; newspaper files and other sources in the Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, and at the Alderman Library, Charlottesville; insurance records and other manuscript sources at the Alderman Library; files of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg; tax records at the Virginia State Library, Richmond; church records at Union Theological Library, Richmond; picture files of the Virginia Historical Society and the Valentine Museum, Richmond; pictorial files of the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

A survey of the various Appomattox sources was made years ago in connection with the McLean House research. The recent check at the Library of Congress and the National Archives was made in case new Appomattox material had turned up in later cataloguing. I personally examined a group of miscellaneous and unidentified photographs at the Archives, but no Appomattox scenes were among them.

A buried illustration or bit of manuscript material could always pop up, but I believe no hitherto unknown wartime or earlier (or slightly later) Appomattox photograph is liable to appear. We can be thankful enough for T. H. O'Sullivan's series of the Tavern, the Court House, and the McLean House.

All of the above represents personal reconnaissance. A certain amount of correspondence also ensued, mainly to no purpose, including reports from Duke University and the University of North Carolina, both strong in Southern manuscript material.

SHORT INDEX

	Pages
Abbit, Joseph	5
Appomattox Court House building, burning of	2, 19
Bleunt, C. R.	11
Browning, W. D.	8, 11
Building, date of erection	1-3, 24
Building, date of alteration	6-7, 18, 22, 24
Building values (tax book assessments)	2-8, 18
Burn, Joseph	12
Clover Hill, as alternate name for village of Appomattox Court House	2, 25
Clover Hill Tavern	2-4, 9-10
Dates of buildings (see under Buildings)	
Drawings, wartime	14-18
Featherston, J. H.	20, 26
Flood, John H.	9
Glover, Samuel	4
Hix, Edward G.	9-10
Hix, Wilson	9
Johns, Thomas W.	6-7, 18-19, 23
Jones, Crawford H. (Law Office)	7, 13-14, 24
Landrum, Thomas A.	9
Leyburn, G. W.	19-21

	Pages
McDearmon, Samuel D.	2-5
McLean House	16
McKinney, J. Walton	10
Manse (see Parsonage)	
Meeks, Francis	1, 5-6, 9, 11
Meeks, Maria (widow) and second Meeks House	6, 11
Moffett, John T.	8, 9
Moses, W. A.	1-2, 11-12
Ownership	1-8, 11
Parsonage, Presbyterian	8-9, 11-13, 18, 21-22
Peers, George T. (and Peers' description of Plunkett-Meeks House & vicinity)	11-13
Plat of Browning property	11, 14
Plat of village, Peet-Moses copy	2
Plunkett, John H.	1-5
Plunkett-Meeks, explanation of double name	1
Porch, Parsonage, removed 1947	13
Porch (east), Plunkett-Meeks, wartime	15
Presbyterian Church, Appomattox Court House	7-8, 11, 19-22, 24, 26-27
Rawlings, James M.	7, 20-24
Rawlings, Mary	21-23, 27
Robertson-Glover Store	3
Sackett, Charles H. (Law Office)	8-11

	Pages
Saddler's Shop	4-6, 8-12, 16
Smith, Leonard	11
Store, Plunkett-Meeks place used as	.1, 15
Tavern (see Clover Hill)	
Tax book assessments (see under Buildings)	
Trent, William H.	9-10
Union Academy property (site of Academy), southeastern edge of village	19
Union Academy property, west part of village	5
Union Theological Seminary	21, 26-27
Virginia State Library	2
Watson, Mrs. E. A.	2
Woodson, John W. (Law Office)	4, 7-9, 13-14, 24
Woodson, Mary E. (widow of John W. Woodson)	7-8

MRS. HENRIETTA
E. SCOTT

W.D. BROWNING
12.19 ACS.

FLOOD + FERGUSON
HOTEL LOT

CHAS HENRY
DINGUID'S EST.
2.88

STATE HIGHWAY
ROUTE 306

OLD COURT HOUSE
SQUARE

APPOMATTOX DEED BOOK
29, P. 489 ~ W.A. MOSES SUR.

TRACED BY R. HAPPEL AUG. 21
1956 RETRACED AND DRAWN BY

Jerome Dean Sager



THE VILLAGE OF APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE. THE M. LEAN HOUSE
ON THE RIGHT. FROM A WAR-TIME SKETCH.

Fence

Fence Row

Fence Row

Fence Row

inch to the foot



Lee's Head-Quarters.

Historical Notes.

On Sunday, the 2d of April 1865, General Lee was holding at Petersburg a semi-circular line south of the Appomattox River, with his left resting on the river, and his right on the South Side Rail Road, fifteen miles from the city. The Federals were pressing his whole line. Sheridan with his cavalry on the right. To save his right flank, General Lee telegraphed to Richmond, that during the night he would fall back to the north side of the river, and ordered that Richmond be evacuated simultaneously.

On the morning of the 3d the retreat commenced in earnest, General Grant hurrying up to get possession of Burkesville—the junction of the South Side and Danville Railroad—in hopes of cutting off General Lee from Danville or Lynchburg. On the 5th a portion of the Federal forces occupied Burkesville, Sheridan with his cavalry being in advance at Jetersville on the Danville Railroad. General Lee at Amelia C. H., 6 miles north of Sheridan's advance. In this situation General Sheridan telegraphed:—"I feel confident of capturing the entire Army of Northern Virginia, if we exert ourselves. I see no escape for Lee." On the evening of the 6th some heavy fighting took place between the Federal advance and Lee's retreating column. Sheridan again telegraphed:—"If the thing is pressed I think Lee will surrender." Lee continued to press for Lynchburg—his men probably anticipating the result, daily leaving him by thousands,—until on the morning of the fated 9th of April, 1865, he confronted the overwhelming forces of Gen. Grant with a little less than 8,000 muskets.

The position of the Confederate army was briefly this: occupying the narrow strip of land between the South Side Railroad and the James River; the only road on which it was possible to retreat, was that marked Lynchburg road on the map. Sheridan with his cavalry having struck the railroad at Appomattox Station, obtaining possession of the Lynchburg road, thus effectually cutting off Lee's retreat. Gen. Lee now had the choice of either cutting his way directly through the Federal forces, or immediate surrender. In view of the immense disparity of forces between the ranks of the half starved Confederates and the overwhelming army of General Grant, he chose the latter alternative.

Generals Lee and Grant met at the house of Wilmer McLane, Esq., and after a brief interview, at 3 1/2 o'clock p. m.



McLane's House.

GEN. LEE'S FAREWELL TO HIS ARMY.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
APRIL 10TH, 1865.

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuation of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless



Appomattox Court House.



Grant's Head-Quarters.

on the 9th of April 1865, the Articles of Capitulation were signed by General Lee. While negotiations were being conducted by the two Commanders-in-Chief, the General officers of either army were mingling socially together in the streets of Appomattox C. H., and drinking mutual healths. Gens. Ord, Sheridan, Gibbon, Michie and others of the Federals, Gens. Longstreet, Heath, Gordon and others, of the Confederates.

At 4 o'clock p. m. the announcement of Lee's surrender was made to Grant's army. The wildest enthusiasm immediately broke forth, and all seemed mad with joy.

As the great Confederate General rode past his gallant little band from his interview with Gen. Grant, whole lines of battle rushed to the beloved old chief, and breaking ranks, each struggled with the other to wring him by the hand. With tears rolling down his cheeks, General Lee could only say, "Men, we have fought through the war together. I have done the best that I could for you."

On the morning of the 12th April the Army of Northern Virginia marched by divisions to a point near Appomattox Court House, and stacked arms and accoutrements. Maj. Gen. Gibbon representing the United States authorities.

On the afternoon of the 12th, with an escort of Federal cavalry as a guard of honor, attended by a portion of his staff, General Lee returned to Richmond.

Thus quietly passed from the theater of the most desperate war of modern times the renowned Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, and the remnants of that once invincible army were quietly wending their way to their long forsaken homes.

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS.

Gen. Lee's Head-Quarters near Conner's House.—Position marked by a flag and No. 1 on the map.

View of Appomattox Court House.

General Grant's Head-Quarters near Coleman's House.—Position marked by a flag and No. 3 on the map.

Place where the arms were stacked. The exact spot is marked No. 4 on the map. In this picture may be seen the famous apple tree. (Position marked with a tree and No. 2 on the map,) near Hix's house, where the first meeting between the Commanders was generally, but incorrectly, supposed to have taken place.

McLane's House, in the village of Appomattox Court House, where the articles of capitulation were signed. The signing took place in the front room, on the right of the door, entering from the porch.

sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

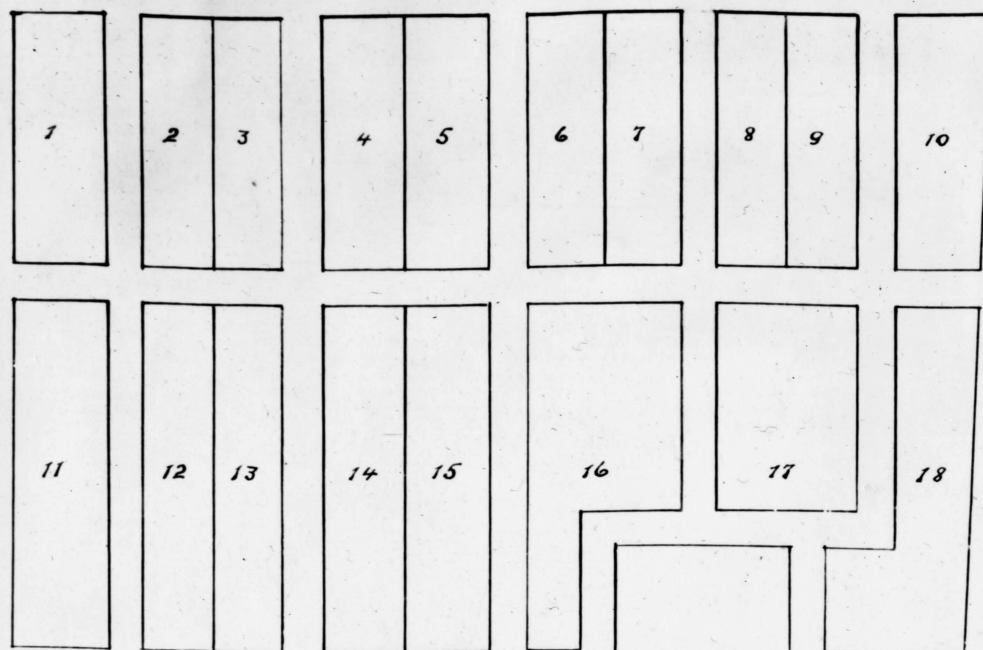
You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

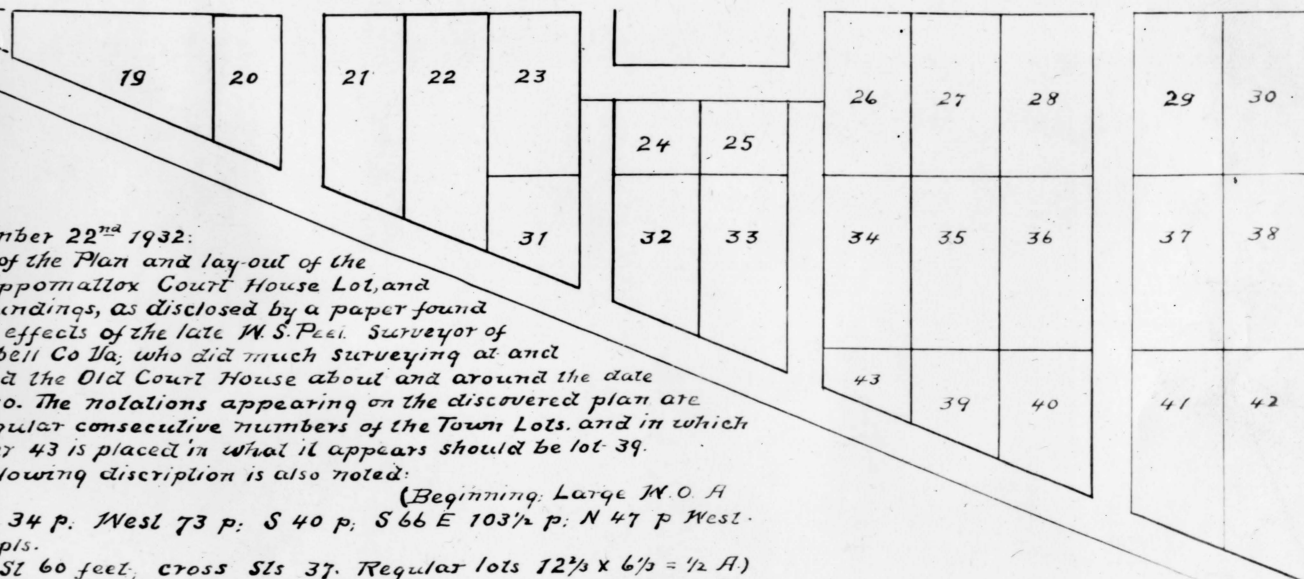
R. E. LEE, General.



Place where the Arms were Stacked.



A Large W.O.



November 22nd 1932:

Map of the Plan and lay-out of the
Old Appomattox Court House Lot, and
surroundings, as disclosed by a paper found
in the effects of the late W.S. Peck, Surveyor of
Campbell Co Va, who did much surveying at and
around the Old Court House about and around the date
of 1890. The notations appearing on the discovered plan are
the regular consecutive numbers of the Town Lots, and in which
number 43 is placed in what it appears should be lot 39.
The following description is also noted:

(Beginning Large W.O. A

N 3 E 34 p. West 73 p; S 40 p; S 66 E 103 1/2 p; N 47 p West.
24 1/2 pls.

Main St 60 feet, cross Sts 37. Regular lots 12 1/2 x 6 1/2 = 1/2 A)

No scale is given on the plan, nor does it appear to work to any
regular scale. The above map is constructed on double the
size of the original.

W. A. Moses Sec