

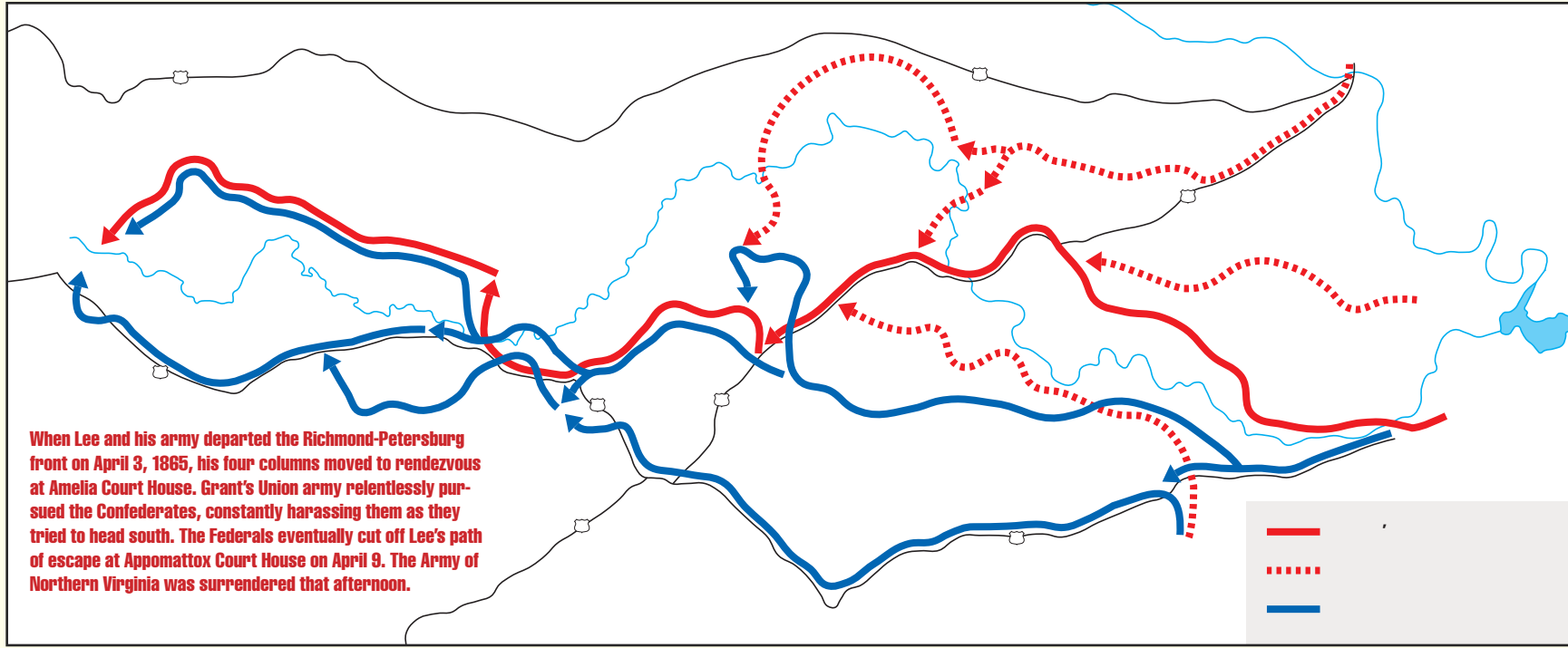
LEE'S RETREAT

Early in 1865, as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant tightened the siege around Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in Richmond and Petersburg, Lee planned for the evacuation of his troops. He determined to march to North Carolina, consolidate his army with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's, defeat Gen. William T. Sherman's army, and then turn on Grant. When the Federals broke through his lines on April 2, Lee put his plan in motion. The wings of his army were to rendezvous at Amelia Court House, resupply, and march to Danville along the Richmond and Danville Railroad.

Little went as planned. High water made crossing the Appomattox River difficult, delaying the rendezvous, and the anticipated supplies were not at Amelia Court House. Lee also lost his day's lead over the pursuing Grant while he waited, allowing Federal cavalry and infantry to block his path down the track at Jetersville. Deciding not to give battle, Lee turned west and began a series of three consecutive night marches. Grant's strategy—to press Lee from the rear while preventing him from turning south, get the cavalry in front of him, and then surround and compel him to fight or surrender—began to take effect.

Fighting by day and marching by night, Lee's exhausted and hungry men trudged toward Farmville, their next supply station. The column stretched for miles, slowed by a voluminous baggage train. At almost every watercourse, the men and wagons bogged down and Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's Union cavalry slammed into Lee's rear guard. On April 6, the Federals brought Lee to bay at Little Sailor's Creek, where in three separate engagements almost a quarter of the Confederate force was killed or captured. Lee, absorbing the magnitude of the disaster, remarked, "My God, has the army been dissolved?"

The survivors crossed High Bridge, the huge railroad trestle over the Appomattox River and the scene of intense combat earlier in the day, and made their way to Farmville. The next day, as they distributed rations from the trains at the depot, the gunfire of Federal cavalry was heard from the east. Lee also learned that Union infantrymen had successfully crossed the Appomattox River on a small wagon bridge below High Bridge and were threatening his line of



Ulysses S. Grant
General-in-Chief, United States Forces



Robert E. Lee
Commander, Army of Northern Virginia

march. He sent his troops across the river to dig in around Cumberland Church and fend off Union probes.

Beginning what would be their last night march on April 7, Lee's men headed for the next destination, Appomattox Station on the South Side Railroad, where supplies sent east from Lynchburg awaited them. Once replenished, the army would continue west to Campbell Court House near Lynchburg. But Union cavalry captured the station and the supplies and positioned itself between Lee and his next objective. With Federal infantry closing in behind him, Lee ordered a breakout attempt for dawn the next morning, April 9. Gen. John B. Gordon led the attack with a combined force of cavalry and infantry and fought his men to "a frazzle." The cavalrymen cut through their Federal counterparts and escaped, but then large numbers of Union infantry arrived in support. Gordon reported to Lee that it was no use. Flags of truce broke out. The shooting died away, and that afternoon, in the little village of Appomattox Court House, the war in Virginia came to an end.

APPOMATTOX

At Appomattox Court House, on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, the slow process of national reunification began after four bloody years. When a final Confederate breakout attempt failed, Gen. Robert E. Lee accepted the inevitable, saying, "There is nothing left me but to go and see General Grant, and I had rather die a thousand deaths." That afternoon, Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, ending the war in Virginia and removing the largest Confederate army from the field. Other surrenders followed, the next on May 3 in North Carolina under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and the last on June 23, when Gen. Stand Watie capitulated in the Indian Territory.

Lee and Grant met in the village residence of Wilmer McLean—who had moved there to escape the war after the First Battle of Manassas had raged around his Northern Virginia home—to sign the surrender documents. The branches of Lee's army formally laid down their weapons and flags over the next few days. On April 12, it was the infantry's turn. As Gen. John B. Gordon led the depleted ranks up the hill to the village, Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, supervising the ceremony, ordered his troops to salute as the Confederates approached. Gordon reciprocated, "honor answering honor," as Chamberlain later put it, and then the Army of Northern Virginia passed into memory.

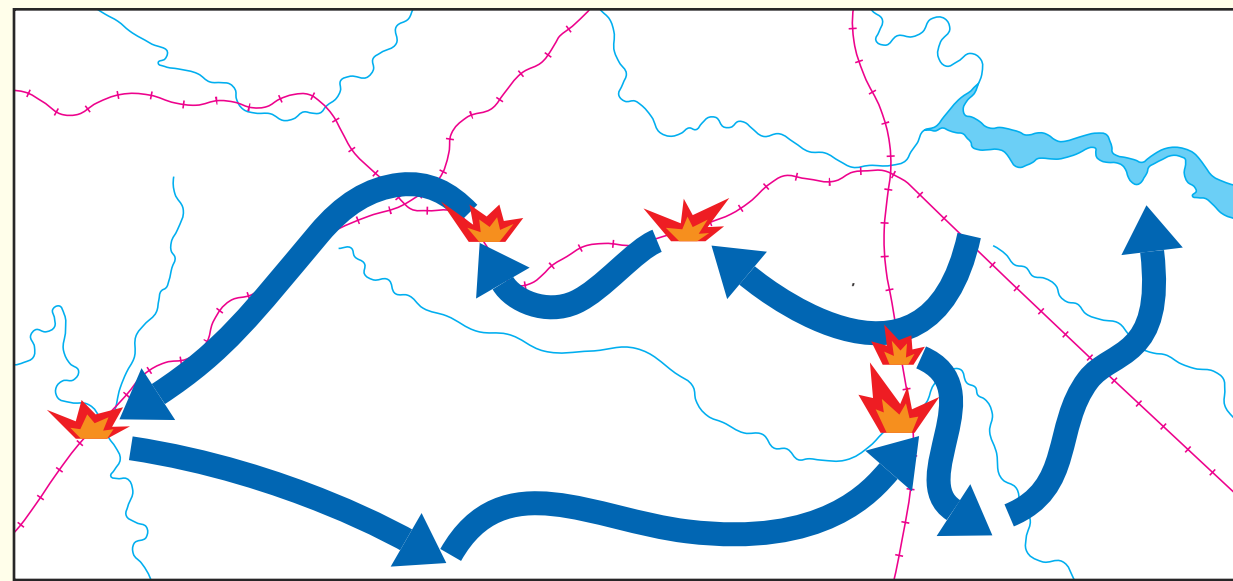


At Appomattox, on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered his men to Ulysses S. Grant and the Armies of the Potomac and the James. Though several Confederate armies under different commanders remained in the field, Lee's surrender signaled the end of the Southern States' attempt to create a separate nation. Three days later, the men of the Army of Northern Virginia marched before the Union army, laid down their flags, stacked their weapons and began the journey back to their homes.

WILSON-KAUTZ RAID

In late spring 1864, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign had ground to a bloody halt outside Petersburg and Richmond, defended by Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. In June, to deny Lee the use of the South Side Railroad and the Richmond and Danville Railroad for supplies, Grant sent Gen. James H. Wilson's and Gen. August V. Kautz's cavalry divisions south of Petersburg to destroy track and rolling stock.

On June 22, the Union cavalrymen marched down the South Side Railroad. Almost at once, however, Confederate cavalry commander Gen. W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee set off in pursuit. For the next three days, the raiders alternated destroying track and depots with fighting rear-guard actions. On June 25, they attacked the Staunton River Bridge crossing of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, where they were decisively repulsed. They then headed back to Petersburg by way of Ream's Station, where Wilson expected to find Union infantry but instead discovered Confederates surrounding him.



He and Kautz cut their way out and finally reached the Petersburg lines on June 30. Although the Federals had destroyed track, buildings, rolling stock, and supplies, they suffered almost 1,800 casualties. The Confederates soon made repairs and kept materiel flowing to Petersburg.

Artist Alfred R. Waud's war-time drawing of the Wilson-Kautz Raid.



General James H. Wilson



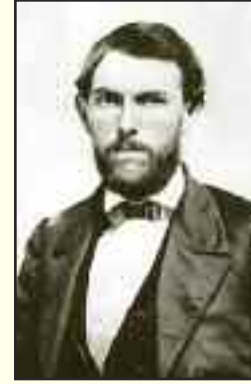
General August V. Kautz

STAUNTON RIVER BRIDGE

When Gen. James H. Wilson and Gen. August V. Kautz began their railroad raid on June 22, 1864, Confederate cavalry Gen. W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee followed. First, however, Lee wired Capt. Benjamin L. Farinholt, who commanded the guard at the Staunton River Bridge on the Richmond and Danville Railroad, the raiders' main objective and an essential part of the Confederate supply line.

There, Farinholt and Col. Henry E. Coleman assembled a ragtag Confederate force of about 950 local defense troops, armed civilians ("old men and boys"), and regular soldiers on leave to defend the bridge against the 5,500 Federals. For two days they dug fortifications and emplaced artillery. When Wilson and Kautz arrived on June 25, their troopers charged several times, but the Confederates drove them back. That night, with Rooney Lee pressing their rear, the Federals began a race for their lines at Petersburg.

Today, Farinholt's fortifications still stand guard over the bridge site. Most of the battlefield is protected and interpreted in Staunton River Battlefield State Park.



Confederate Captain Benjamin L. Farinholt

LYNCHBURG

Lynchburg, the commercial hub of Virginia's western Piedmont, had also become a strategic military center with a huge hospital by 1864. A major Confederate army supply depot as well, it shipped materiel on the Orange and Alexandria, South Side, and Virginia and Tennessee Railroads that radiated from the city. When Gen. Ulysses S. Grant took command of Union forces in March 1864, he sought to occupy the Shenandoah Valley and then Lynchburg to disable the Confederate supply network.

After Union Gen. David Hunter routed Confederate forces at Piedmont on June 5, he soon captured both Staunton and Lexington, then crossed the Blue Ridge to probe toward Lynchburg. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, engaged in countering Grant's advance on Richmond and Petersburg after Cold Harbor, dispatched Gen. Jubal A. Early's corps (a third of his army) to save Lynchburg.

Early's corps arrived by train from Charlottesville in the nick of time on June 17, as Confederate cavalry slowed Hunter's march. While Early's men added to the fortifications erected by Gen. John C. Breckinridge's small garrison, Hunter made his headquarters south of the city at Sandusky. When his attack failed the next day, he retreated into West Virginia. Lynchburg was saved, and Early was free to execute another of Lee's plans, an attack on Washington, D.C.



Union General David Hunter



Confederate General Jubal A. Early

Fort Early in Lynchburg was similar to this earthwork at Winchester. —Western Reserve Historical Society



LEE'S RETREAT

THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

Cover: About a week after the surrender at Appomattox Court House, Lee allowed Mathew Brady to take this picture in Richmond.



Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlottesville, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George and Sussex, and the cities of Danville, Farmville, Hopewell, Lynchburg and Petersburg.



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LEE'S RETREAT

THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

How to use this Map-Guide

This guide highlights more than 70 South-Central Virginia Civil War sites where you will discover the epic stories of soldiers and civilians who experienced triumph and tragedy during the last days of the war.

Follow The Route of Lee's Retreat, Virginia's first Civil War Trail, with 26 stops between Petersburg and Appomattox. Explore Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park and stand at the site of the largest Confederate surrender before Appomattox. Visit High Bridge Trail State Park to see the monumental bridge piers across the Appomattox River. Experience the life of a Civil War soldier at Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier.

Discover the little-known, but important, 1864 Wilson-Kautz Raid Trail. Follow the route of 5,000 Union cavalrymen sent to destroy railroads, supply lines, and rolling stock. Read the fascinating civilian and military stories at more than 30 little-known stops. Explore Staunton River Battlefield State Park, where "old men and young boys" defended the critical bridge from the raiders.

For detailed travel information, visit any Virginia Welcome Center or local Visitor Center, or contact any of the organizations listed in this guide. For additional Civil War Trails information, visit www.civilwartrails.org.



Follow these signs to more than 1,000 Civil War sites.

THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

Contact the following for more travel information and visitor services along the Trails:

Lee's Retreat/
Virginia's Retreat
1-800-6RETREAT
www.varetreat.com

Appomattox Court House
National Historical Park
1-434-352-8987
www.nps.gov/apco

Appomattox Visitor
Information Center
1-434-352-8999
www.historicappomattox.com

Danville Museum of
Fine Arts & History
1-434-793-5644
www.danvillemuseum.org

High Bridge Trail State Park
1-434-315-0457
www.virginiastateparks.gov

Lynchburg Regional Convention
and Visitors Bureau
1-800-732-5821
www.discoverlynchburg.org

Pamplin Historical Park
1-877-PAMPLIN
www.pamplinpark.org

Petersburg National
Battlefield
1-804-732-3531
www.nps.gov/pete

Robert E. Lee's Appomattox
uniform and sword, the
Museum of the Confederacy



Virginia Civil War Trails is a statewide partner of the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission (www.virginiacivilwar.org)

The Civil War Trust, with 200,000 members and supporters, is America's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to saving endangered Civil War battlefields. To help, visit www.civilwar.org or call 1-202-367-1861.



The McLean House, Appomattox Court House NHP

Petersburg Visitor Center
1-800-368-3595
www.petersburgva.gov

Sailor's Creek Battlefield
1-434-315-0349
www.virginiastateparks.gov

South Boston-Halifax County
Visitor Center
1-434-572-2543
www.gohalifaxva.com

South Hill Tourist
Information Center
1-800-524-4347
www.southhillchamber.com



Bihartz, Hall & Co. rising breech carbine.

Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier



DANVILLE



This circa 1900 view of the Sutherland Mansion shows the grounds that were little changed from the war years.

By late in February 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee planned to evacuate the Army of Northern Virginia from Petersburg and Richmond as Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant extended his lines west to cut Lee's supply routes and threaten his avenues of retreat. On April 2-3, as Petersburg fell, Lee led his army west, hoping to turn south to North Carolina and unite his army with that of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. The Confederate government took the Richmond and Danville Railroad to Danville, a major supply, hospital, and prisoner-of-war center. There, President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet occupied Maj. William T. Sutherland's mansion until Davis learned of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9. Davis fled to Greensboro, North Carolina, leaving Danville as the Last Capital of the Confederacy.