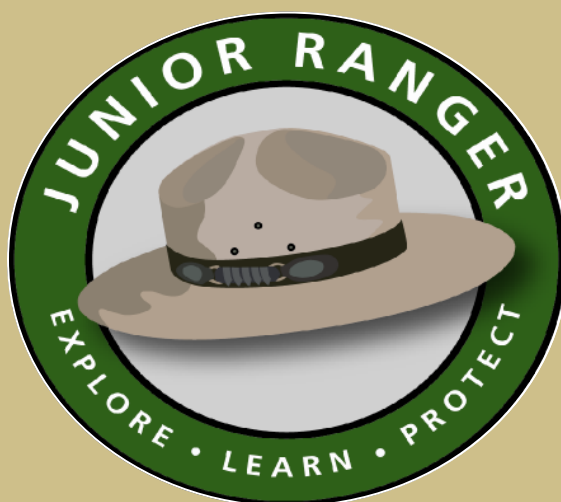


# Appomattox Court House National Historical Park



## Junior Ranger Activity Book



[www.nps.gov/apco](http://www.nps.gov/apco)



## APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

**Check off the activities as you finish them:**

- ☐ What Do You Know?
- ☐ McLean House
- ☐ Enslaved
- ☐ Banjo
- ☐ Village
- ☐ Soldiers' Surrender
- ☐ Paroles
- ☐ Reconciliation
- ☐ Emancipation
- ☐ Living History Program (optional)

**Congratulations** on deciding to become a Junior Ranger!  
Today you will learn many things about our park.  
After completing the activities, you can become a Junior Ranger and earn a Junior Ranger badge!

### How to become a Junior Ranger:

**Step 1:** Complete all the activities in this book  
(it's OK to get help from your friends or family).

**Step 2:** Go to a living history program (if available).

**Step 3:** Bring this book back to the Visitor Center  
and have a Park Ranger check your work.

**Step 4:** Receive your Junior Ranger badge!  
**Congratulations!**



### Helpful Hints:

If you have questions, ask a Park Ranger or volunteer.

Attend programs! You can get lots of answers for this book!

Junior Rangers know it's important to preserve our parks for people today and in the future. You can help us take care of this important place by promising to:

Be a good example and act in a safe and courteous manner.

Treat the park with respect by **not** playing ball, flying kites, or littering.

Enjoy learning about the park and share what you discover with others.



# What Do You Know?



Answers to the questions below may be found by looking through the Visitor Center, watching the park movie, or attending a program.

1. When commanders want to temporarily stop fighting during a war, they send a flag of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Time Out      B. Pause      C. Truce
2. The surrender at Appomattox took place in what month of the year 1865?  
A. March      B. April      C. May
3. Who commanded all the Union armies in 1865?  
General Ulysses S. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who commanded all the Confederate armies in 1865?  
General Robert E. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which army had more soldiers?  
A. Union      B. Confederate
6. When did the Battle of Appomattox Station occur?  
A. April 7, 1865      B. April 8, 1865      C. April 9, 1865
7. There were African-American soldiers in the Union army at Appomattox Court House.  
A. True      B. False
8. African-American soldiers in the Union army were known as:  
A. Black units      B. Freedmen      C. United States Colored Troops (USCT)
9. Confederate soldiers were allowed to keep these when they surrendered.  
A. Flags      B. Cell phones      C. Horses
10. If the Civil War started in April 1861 and ended in April 1865, how many years did it last?  
A. Four      B. Five      C. Six



## What's your story?

Do you have any ancestors who were in the Civil War?

Did any members of your family serve in the military? If so, who?

Have you ever visited a Civil War site before? (battlefield, fort, etc)? If so, where?



# McLean House



Go on a tour of the house and answer these questions.

Is this the same house from 1865?

Where was the McLean family during the surrender meeting?

Why was the surrender meeting so important?

How do you think General Lee felt during the meeting?

How do you think General Grant felt during the meeting?

Circle the words that you think describe how Lee and Grant spoke to each other:

Rudely      Respectfully      Quickly

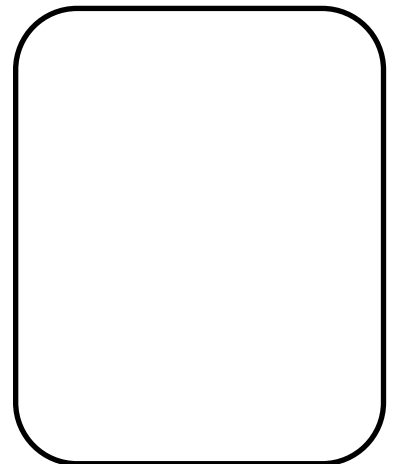
Calmly      Carefully      Loudly



Do you think General Grant was fair to General Lee and the Confederates? Why?

Lula McLean was a seven year old girl at the time of the surrender. She left her doll in the parlor where the generals met. Can you find the doll in the room today and draw it in the box?

Lula's doll *witnessed* what happened here on April 9, 1865. After the surrender meeting ended, soldiers took furniture and even Lula's doll as souvenirs! *Why do you think they did that?*





# The Enslaved



The McLean family owned enslaved people who worked for them.

Visit the kitchen and quarters for the enslaved behind the McLean House.

Enslaved men, women, and children received no pay and were controlled by the owners.

**Write three words that you think describe slavery:**

How many enslaved people were in Appomattox County?

**Read about Hannah Reynolds in the McLean kitchen.**

What happened to Hannah during the battle at Appomattox?



It's sad to think about what happened to Hannah Reynolds.

If Hannah had left with her owners, she probably would not have died.

What would have happened if Hannah had lived and how would her life have changed?

When the Civil War ended, enslaved people became free. As a result, former slave owners like the McLeans had to pay workers and sometimes even do the work themselves.

**How do you think previously enslaved people's lives improved from this change?**



# The Banjo

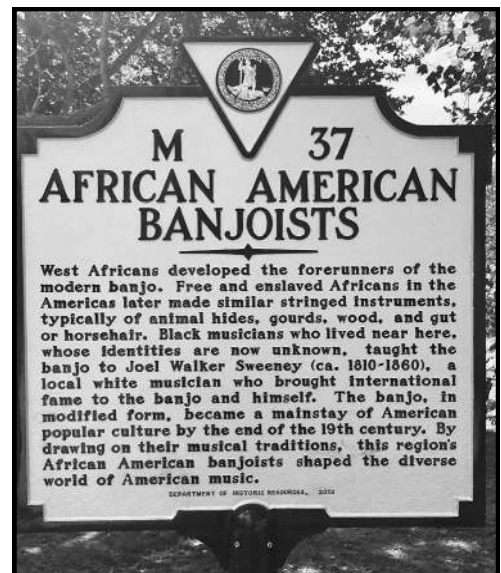
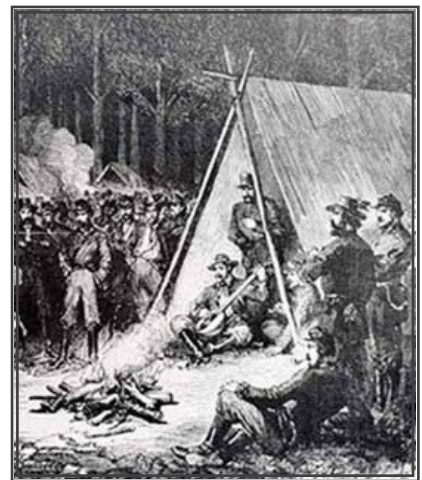


Don't leave the McLean kitchen yet!  
Look for information about Joel Sweeney and the banjo.  
What was the instrument first known as?

Who brought the instrument to America  
and what was it originally made of?

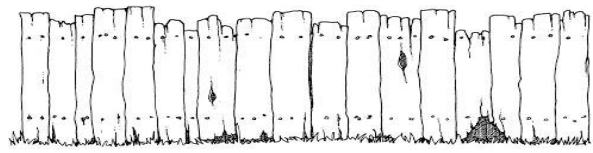
Joel Sweeney had a brother named Sam. ➡  
Sam joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War.  
He played the banjo for soldiers in camp and  
sometimes even while riding on horseback!

Why do you think music was important to soldiers  
and enslaved people?



Grammy Award winning musician and two-time Emmy nominee  
Dom Flemons and family at the 2019 Appomattox Banjo Festival.

# The Village



Use the park map to explore the village of Appomattox Court House.  
Find the Kelley house (pictured below) and read the signs there.



How did the end of the Civil War change life for the Kelley and Robinson families?

Visit at least three other buildings in the village and write what you saw below.

*Building names:* \_\_\_\_\_

*What you saw:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Soldiers' Surrender



Use the park map to find the **Peers House** and walk there.

Read the nearby signs along the road and think about what happened at that place.

Do you think it was strange for the soldiers to see each other and not fight? Why?

Why do you think the Union soldiers were respectful to the surrendering Confederates by bringing their rifles to their shoulders, almost like a salute?

How do you think the Confederates felt when they saw the Union soldiers salute?

Would you salute your enemy? Why or why not?



When the Confederate soldiers handed in their flags, some cried. Others tore up the flags and gave pieces to each member of their group. Why do you think they did these things?

*Painting by Ken Riley  
West Point Museum*



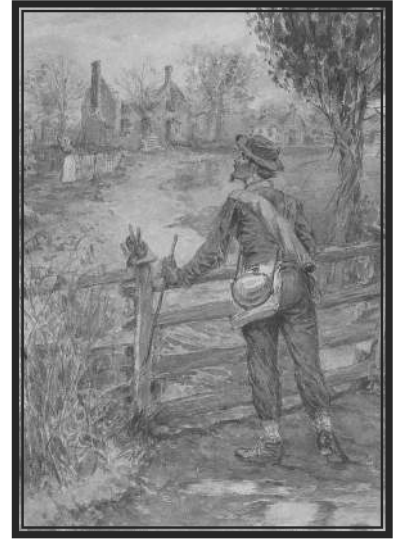
# Parole Passes

Use the park map to find the Clover Hill Tavern. →  
Walk to the building and read the signs outside.  
If the building is open, go inside and explore.



Every Confederate soldier had to get a special piece of paper called a Parole Pass. This document proved the soldier had officially surrendered. The passes also gave them permission to get food and ride on ships or trains for free. Many former Confederate soldiers used these passes as they traveled back to their homes in the south, some as far away as Texas!

*Write three words to describe how the soldiers may have felt when they got home.*



Below is an example of a Parole Pass.  
Fill in your name and the state you are from.

|                                                                                                                               |                              |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
|                                            | Appomattox Court House, Va., |  |
|                                                                                                                               | April 10th, 1865.            |  |
| THE BEARER,..... of Co..... Regt.                                                                                             |                              |  |
| of....., a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed. |                              |  |
| .....                                                                                                                         |                              |  |
| .....                                                                                                                         |                              |  |

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, there are usually “Living History” programs near the Clover Hill Tavern. Park staff wear historic clothing and portray people who lived in 1865. Check to see if there is a living history presentation today, and if so, attend the program. Think of a question to ask and write it below.



# Reconciliation

After the surrender, the soldiers were no longer at war.

Some talked to each other, or even shared food.

Others felt bitter, angry, sad, or boastful.

How might you feel at the end of a four year long war? Why?



Whether the soldiers liked it or not, the country had to come back together and try to get along, or *reconcile*. Some thought this was easy and became friends with their former enemies. Others found it hard and did not want to forgive or forget. Would you be willing to reconcile? Why or why not?

Write how you think the following people felt about *reconciliation*.

Union soldiers:

Confederate soldiers:

Formerly enslaved people:



It's been over 150 years since the Civil War ended and much has changed in the United States. Do you think our country has *reconciled*? Why or why not?

Appomattox Court House is important because it helps us understand how our country has struggled and changed. Do you think what happened here was important? Why?





# Emancipation

When the Civil War ended, 4 million enslaved people in the South were *emancipated* and became free.

However, it took a long time for these new African-American citizens to get the same rights as other Americans.

**Why do you think it was so difficult?**



*Mustered Out*, by Alfred Waud (Library of Congress)

The United States government had to make sure formerly enslaved people could vote, get paid fairly, and go to school. This was called **Reconstruction**. Efforts were led by the Freedmen's Bureau, which created a school for African-American children in Appomattox. *Write two sentences about how you might have felt as a student at this school.*





Artwork courtesy of Keith Rocco and Don Troiani.

The painting below shows Generals Grant and Lee at the McLean House just after the surrender meeting on April 9, 1865.

