



Descendants of Lee's Surrender Join in Dedicating Civil War Stamps at Appomattox *Ceremony Reenacts Historic Event 150 Years ago to the Minute*

- WHAT** Descendants of two soldiers depicted in the iconic painting that modeled for the final Forever stamp in the Postal Service's Sequential Civil War series will participate in the in the stamp dedication ceremony that takes place nearly 150 years to the minute in front of the McLean house where Lee surrendered to Grant. The event is free and open to the public.
- WHO** Dennis Bigelow, descendant of Lt. Col. Chas. Marshall, Lee's aid at Appomattox surrender (*pictured to Lee's immediate right in stamp image*)
Al Parker, descendant to Grant's Military Secretary Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker (*pictured to Grant's immediate left*)
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Historian Patrick Schroeder
Acting Superintendent Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Robin Snyder
Chief Historian/Chief of Interpretation Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park John Hennessy
Senior Director for the Postmaster General/CEO Pat Mendonca
- WHEN** 1:30 p.m., Thurs., April 9 (note: April 8 overnight encampment on-site; April 9 events begin at 7:30 a.m. There will be a reenactment of Lee surrendering to Grant at the McLean House that starts at 1 p.m.)
- WHERE** Appomattox Court House
111 National Park Dr.
Appomattox, VA 24522 (*Anticipate significant traffic congestion upon entering the Appomattox area April 8-12. The National Park Service will provide shuttles from satellite parking areas.*)

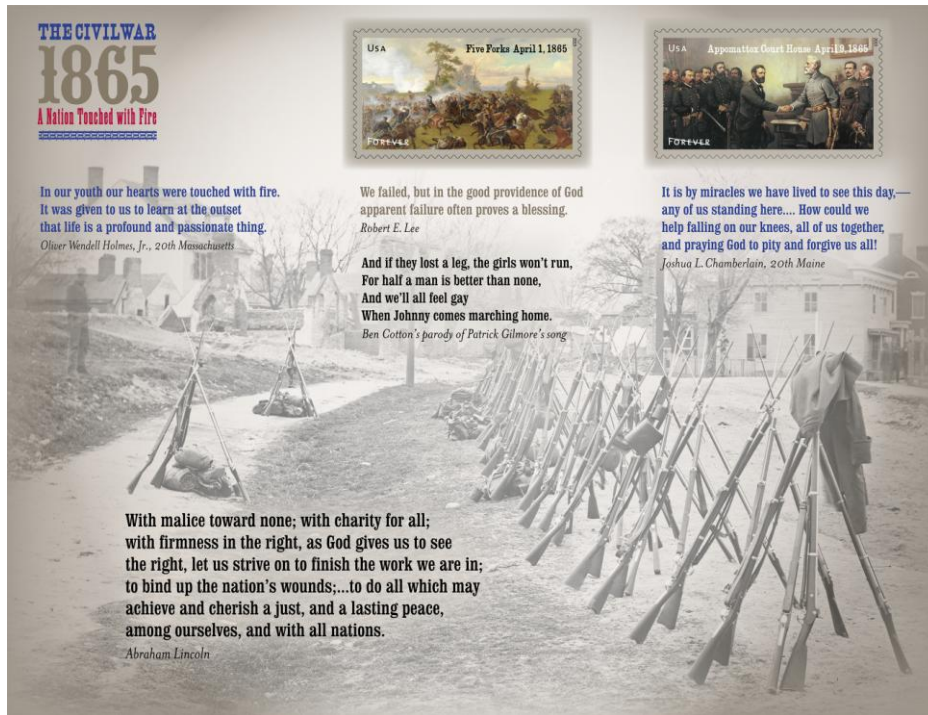
BACKGROUND With these two stamps, the U.S. Postal Service concludes its series of ten stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Pre-order the stamps now at this [link](#) for delivery shortly after April 9.

Since 2011, souvenir sheets with two stamp designs have been issued for each year of the war (1861-1865). On the 2015 souvenir sheet, one stamp depicts the Battle of Five Forks, near Petersburg, VA, on April 1, 1865. The other stamp depicts Robert E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9.

Art director Phil Jordan selected historic paintings for the stamp designs. The Battle of Five Forks stamp is a reproduction of a painting, circa 1885, by French artist Paul Dominique Philippoteaux (1846-1923). The painting is in the [collections of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond](#). Philippoteaux was best known for his massive cyclorama (360-degree circular painting) of the Battle of Gettysburg that drew large audiences when it was first displayed in Chicago in 1883.

The Appomattox Court House stamp is a reproduction of the [1895 painting "Peace in Union"](#) by Thomas Nast (1840-1902), depicting Robert E. Lee's surrender. The 9 x 12 ft. painting is located in the Glenna-Jo Daviess County Historical Society Gallery in Galena, IL. Nast, a political cartoonist for most of his career, devised the donkey as a symbol of the Democratic Party and the elephant to represent the Republican Party.

The background image on the souvenir sheet is a photograph of a number of Federal rifles stacked in the vicinity of Petersburg during the siege. The 12-stamp souvenir sheet includes comments on the war by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Union General Joshua L. Chamberlain. It also includes lines parodying the lyrics of Patrick S. Gilmore's famous Civil War song, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."



Other stamps in the Sesquicentennial Civil War Series include:

- 2011: Ft. Sumter and the Battle of First Manassas <http://about.usps.com/news/national->

[releases/2011/pr11_034.htm](http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_034.htm)

- 2012: Battle of New Orleans and Antietam http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2012/pr12_047.htm
- 2013: Gettysburg and the Siege at Vicksburg http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2013/pr13_054.htm
- 2014: Mobile Bay and Petersburg http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2014/pr14_041.pdf